

Humorous and brave

My Father Says That We Save Lives

DO VAN RANST

The nameless fifteen-year-old protagonist lives with her parents 'at the end of the world': on a hairpin bend that ends on an unfinished bridge. Drivers are regularly caught unawares by the bend in the road, and crash into the front of the house, where they are nursed back to health. As general apathy descends on the place, young Zack literally drives into the protagonist's life. A cautious first advance confuses her, though, as she does not want to damage her relationship with her lesbian friend Sue. Do Van Ranst explores his character's boundaries with sensitivity and with a high degree of empathy.

An extraordinary and intriguing setting

DE MORGEN

Fantasy and reality flow seamlessly together in this gripping novel, plunging the reader into an almost surrealistic world. Van Ranst combines understated, poetic language with a powerful eloquence, where a great deal is left hidden between the lines, and very little is as it appears. The book's cinematic style increases the narrative pace, and it is no surprise that it was adapted for the screen in 2014.

Do van Ranst suggestively interweaves reality and fantasy, providing his extraordinary and original décor with a sultry atmosphere, similar to the compelling work of Bart Moeyaert.

TROUW



AUTHOR



Do Van Ranst's (b. 1974) books often deal with serious themes, and yet he succeeds in keeping the depressing aspects at a distance. He is working steadily to create a very personal and diverse oeuvre of children's books and YA novels. Atmosphere and structure are crucial aspects. With a great sense for details and vivid and striking dialogue, Van Ranst brings them to life. His work has earned him several prizes, including the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis.

ORIGINAL TITLE Mijn vader zegt dat we levens redden (2004, Davidsfonds, 80 pp.)

AGE 15+

PRIZES Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, Knokke-Heist Prize for the Best Youth Novel

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