

Hilarious first readers series about a boy and a bird

Job and the Pigeon

EVELIEN DE VLIAGER & NOËLLE SMIT

The 'Job and the Pigeon' books are a series of first readers about a quick-tempered boy and an assertive pigeon. As the books' level of difficulty gradually increases, a tentative friendship develops between the two spirited characters and Job thinks up a rescue plan to liberate the pigeon from her long journeys. Any six-year-old will immediately identify with the story, and the book is also packed with original ideas and surprises. The hilarious discussions between Job and Pigeon, who are often in bad moods, are little gems: these two loveable but headstrong characters tease, challenge and insult each other for all they are worth.

First readers deserve a story that will make them forget they are learning. That is exactly what De Vliager achieves.

TROUW

De Vliager presents her readers with a delightfully comical story using simple, mostly monosyllabic words. Yet 'Job and the Pigeon' provides pleasure for all ages, as do its sequels 'Job and the Pigeon Save Chicken' and 'A Big Surprise for Job and Pigeon'. The advanced reader will enjoy the layer beneath the text, which often has a poetic touch. Noëlle Smit's illustrations are irresistible: colourful, funny and clever.

So enthralling that you want to get other people to read the book - all the greater an achievement as it is written for first readers.

NRC HANDELSBLAD



AUTHORS



Evelien De Vliager (b. 1969) creates fictional worlds that feel familiar but are always unpredictable, that captivate without being melodramatic. She writes quirky stories set in the here and now, with plenty of subtle humour. *Photo © Iris Beeckman* **Noëlle Smit** (b. 1972) strikes a fine balance in her illustrations, which are both classic and humorous, melancholy and lively.

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