

The fear of failure, being yourself, creativity and daring

The Pigeon That Couldn't Dive

ALAIN VERSTER & EDWARD VAN DE VENDEL

Telemarcus dares not dive. When all the young pigeons have to take a gruelling diving test to receive their diploma, he anxiously awaits his turn. Each has to dive down from the eaves, land next to the people below, pick up a crumb and carry it back up again. One pigeon after another is awarded his diploma. As the painfully slow countdown continues, images of earlier failures haunt Telemarcus.

And then it's his turn. His mind empties, he flies up to the eaves and lets himself fall like a lump of lead. The spectators fear a fatal accident, but he lands on a table in the middle of a bowl of salad. The people take to their heels and Telemarcus continues sitting amidst the most delectable food on earth. All the pigeons join in the feast. This is the moment Telemarcus invents 'salad falling', a discipline practised to this day by pigeons the world over.

A tender story offering a glimmer of hope for all the frightened little outsiders

DE LEESWELP

With his soft-hued illustrations incorporating old photographs, Alain Verster evokes a nostalgic atmosphere. The absence of colour heightens concentration on the prints without boredom setting in. And if you manage to look through this tranquil world, you'll discover hidden jokes everywhere. A highly successful and amazingly illustrated book about the fear of failure.

The illustrator transforms soberness into art

JAAPLEEST



AUTHORS



Alain Verster (b. 1984) makes collages that have a very distinct nostalgic feel to them. By using old photographs combined with crêpe paper tape, pencil, acrylic paint and oil paint, he creates sober and humorous illustrations, containing lots of little details. **Edward van de Vendel** (b. 1964) has an award-winning oeuvre that consists of over fifty titles that are remarkable in their variety: picture books, nonfiction titles, young-adult novels and poetry. *Photo © Lona Aalders*

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