

Learning to count in a playful way

The Counting Book of Prince Hayo the Happy

MATTIAS DE LEEUW & EDWARD VAN DE VENDEL

When Prince Hayo is one year old, he is given two dogs. One to sleep against and one to crawl beneath. When he is two years old, he is given three rabbits. On Prince Hayo's sixth birthday, he has a video party for six royal children. For his ninth birthday, he has a magic show. Prince Hayo just thinks it's boring. He feels lonely. For his tenth birthday, he doesn't want anything. But his mum has made a special present: a little sister. And, because of her, even the boring things are only half as boring.

Strongly composed, full of beautiful sentences, funny jokes and original ideas

JAAP FRISO

Edward van de Vendel has not just written a counting book: this story is cleverly constructed around the increasingly complex list of presents and characters. Van de Vendel depicts Prince Hayo as a prince with his own ideas, which develop and become even stronger as he gets older. Mattias De Leeuw's illustrations beautifully complement the story. The imaginative fun bursts off the pages. You don't know where to look first – it's so much fun discovering all those new details and storylines. De Leeuw uses fine, spontaneous lines to draw and paint characters of flesh and blood within stunning settings full of colour and life. This is a collection of sparkling scenes that completely absorb the reader's attention.

A very original book about counting and looking

FRIESCH DAGBLAD



AUTHORS



Mattias De Leeuw's (b. 1989) illustrations are characterized by spontaneous brushstrokes in fresh colours, which he combines with sweeping lines. His pictures convey as much magic as the text, and are packed with details and little side stories that appeal to both young and old. Photo © Noortje Palmers **Edward van de Vendel** (b. 1964) has written over fifty titles that are remarkable in their variety: nonfiction titles, YA novels and poetry. The award-winning Dutch author has also produced several picture books with Flemish illustrators. Photo © Lona Aalders

ORIGINAL TITLE Het telboek van prins Hayo de Gelukkige (2016, De Eenhoorn, 88 pp.)

FORMAT 265 x 205

AGE 5+

PRIZES White Raven

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