

A story and illustrations that will give you goose bumps

# Maia and What Matters

KAATJE VERMEIRE & TINE MORTIER

In 'Maia and What Matters', Maia and her grandmother have a ball whenever they are together. They are both equally greedy, impatient and restless, whether they are eagerly scoffing biscuits or telling each other stories. But then Grandma suddenly falls ill and when she wakes up she has lost her words. The grown-ups give up on her, but Maia 'reads in Grandma's eyes what she wants to say' and 'plucks the letters from her mouth'. When Grandpa passes away, Maia and Grandma sail away on a sea of tears. They visit Grandpa's coffin and calmly say their farewells together.

## Breath-taking

THE NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

Tine Mortier tells a sensitive story that makes you smile, but gives you goose bumps too. Far from the realms of cliché, she shows how a sharp young girl copes with difficult themes like ageing and death. The emotions are reinforced by Kaatje Vermeire's stunning illustrations. In contrast to earlier work, Vermeire uses an abundance of colour, and playfully accompanies this with a good eye for detail and incredible texture.

## Vermeire shows her most emotional, atmospheric and versatile side.

DE STANDAARD



## AUTHORS



**Kaatje Vermeire** (b. 1981) combines collage, painting, drawing, graphic and digital techniques. She is an internationally successful illustrator. *Photo © Eveliene Deraedt* **Tine Mortier** (b. 1970) teaches creative writing and drama and writes picture and children's books.

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