

A made-to-order child

Twig Child

GERDA DENDOOVEN

One cold winter's night, a man goes out looking for a child because his wife so desperately wants one. But he has doubts about every child he meets in his search. Until he finds a branch that looks like a baby. His wife doesn't react too well at first and refuses to hold the twig child. But then, the next morning, she sees leaves on its little twig hands. A fairy tale about having children and loving them.

A new highlight in Dendooven's impressive body of work

ZILVEREN PALET JURY

In this beautiful book, Gerda Dendooven tells a tale about having children, and she does so with a subtle layer of humour. The story takes the reader to various locations – from an ice-cold winter night to a warm moment beside the heater – where the illustrations capture the emotion and atmosphere of the moment again and again. You can almost feel the cold snow on your nose and the warm heater at your feet. Parents' love for their children, however different it can be from what you might expect, is magnificently rendered in this heart-warming tale.

Without a doubt one of the most beautiful books of the year

DE MORGEN



AUTHOR



Gerda Dendooven (b. 1962) is highly regarded both as an author and as an illustrator. She often employs archetypes and absurd humour. Dendooven's pictures are direct and emotional, sometimes almost confrontational. Her characters are distinctive and often almost like caricatures. She creates a bizarre, imaginative world that is funny and playful, but which can also be disturbing and frightening. Unique and intriguing: that is Gerda Dendooven's signature style. *Photo © Rika Vanhove*

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