

## Unfathomability and vulnerability

# I Wish

INGRID GODON & TOON TELLEGEN

From behind a transparent end-board with 'I wish' written on it in big letters, a boy's face stares out at the reader. It is the first of 33 portraits that take you back to a bygone age. Ingrid Godon was inspired by an old photo album of family portraits, at a time when it was not yet permitted to smile openly at the camera. We see children and their parents looking stiffly straight ahead. Godon adapted them in her own typical simple style. And so the working-class families from around the turn of the twentieth century were again immortalised, this time with pencil and gouache.

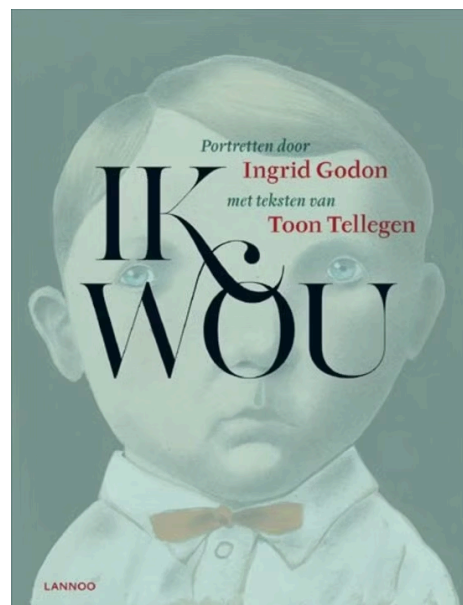
### An extraordinary book

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

Toon Tellegen wrote accompanying fragments of thoughts, almost all of which begin with 'I wish'. Little reflections with a philosophical character from the heads of the sitters. Idiosyncratic and witty but mainly often rather sad. These people do not always have it easy in life. They are uncertain and frightened and full of vague longings. The texts reflect a feeling of futility and impotence which suits the melancholy atmosphere of the prints. 'I wish' is a unique and personal document on 'la condition humaine', which reveals great sensibility. A book that is perfectly suited to go on leafing through.

### The ideal gift book. Both recognisable and surprising

DE STANDAARD



## AUTHORS



**Ingrid Godon** (b. 1958) enjoys international renown as an illustrator. With 'Waiting for Sailor' she found her own style: stripped down and distilled to the essence. Godon's bestknown characters are perhaps 'Nelly & Caesar': this series of picture books was made into cartoons that have been broadcast all over the world. Photo © Margot Krizsa

**Toon Tellegen** (b. 1941) became famous primarily for his poetic, philosophical animal stories. His many works include fairy tales, children's books, and poetry and prose for adults. Photo © Chris van Houts

**ORIGINAL TITLE** Ik wou (2011, Lannoo, 96 pp.)

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**AGE** 10+

**PRIZES** Prix Libbylit, nominated for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis

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