

A Puss in Boots with his own agenda

Cat with a Capital 'C'

SEBASTIAAN VAN DONINCK & SISKI GOEMINNE

In this adaptation of 'Puss in Boots', Siska Goeminne and Sebastiaan Van Doninck revitalise the old tale of the faithful cat who brings his master wealth and a wife through trickery and deceit. The Cat (with a capital 'C') is so devious and cunning that by the end of the story, he has cleverly talked his master into going to prison, so he can take his master's place and marry the mayor's pretty daughter himself.

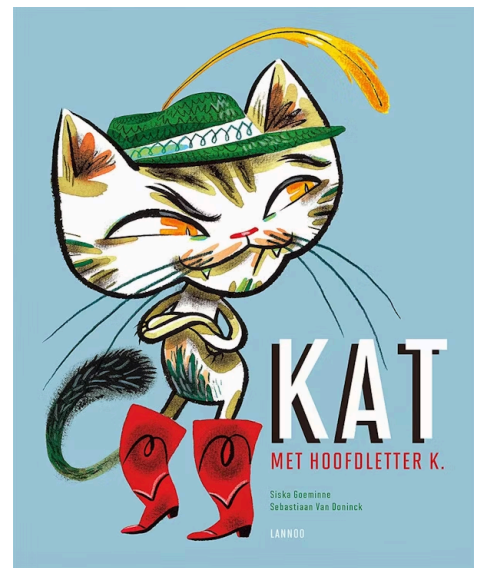
Van Doninck has captured Cat masterfully

DE LEESWELP

The story is set in 1940s' New York, where Fiorello Henry La Guardia rules the roost. Van Doninck evokes the city beautifully with his colourful paintings. The Cat's furtive glance instantly reveals his less-than-honourable intentions with regard to Johnny, the youngest son of the deceased biscuit maker. He gets dumb Johnny to dance to his tune like the Marquis of Carabas, ultimately talking him right to the gallows. Van Doninck brings tension and life to the story with his powerful compositions, beautiful watercolour tints and bright colours as needed. This classic tale-with-a-twist is a veritable feast for the eye.

There's plenty to see and a lot left unsaid in the text

NBD BIBLION



AUTHORS



Sebastiaan Van Doninck (b. 1979) is a master at drawing animals with human characteristics, capturing them on paper with humour and graceful elegance. He aims for a personal, honest style: content and emotion come first. His pictures look fresh and have a cheerful, rather nostalgic atmosphere. But there's always something lurking in the shadows; his cheerfulness has a dark edge.

Siska Goeminne (b. 1968) has written and translated children's literature for over ten years. Her style has been termed poetic and limpid, yet also philosophical, with a touch of humour. *Photo © Andy Huysmans*

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