

A magical night at the circus

Circus Night

MATTIAS DE LEEUW

When a little girl sees a jet-black puppy in her bedroom window, it marks the beginning of an exceptional night. The puppy turns out to be a veritable circus performer: it jumps through hoops with verve, plays the drums like a consummate musician and balances fearlessly on the curtain rod. The little girl practices eagerly alongside him. The clown on the bedroom wall also comes to life and transports the little girl to the circus. There she experiences the night of her life, meeting acrobats, taking part in the horse dressage, marvelling at the trapeze act and relishing the clowns' antics. After the final act, the journey home begins. When she awakens, it's as if it had all been a dream, though there's a hint that dreams – just this once – aren't merely an illusion.

The picture book of your dreams, in which De Leeuw consolidates his talent

CUTTING EDGE

In 'Circus Night', De Leeuw plays with imagination, reality, dreams and fantasy. His visual language is characterised by dynamic zest, elegant lines, delicate figures, exuberant colours – in warm blue, fiery red, and yellow and white tints – and playful, humorous intermezzos. The absence of text gives full rein to the prints, leaving you to feel like a spectator yourself at the circus.

A book without words but teeming with stories

DE STANDAARD



AUTHOR



Mattias De Leeuw (b. 1989) has a smooth style with spontaneous, flowing lines. This fluidity means that his illustrations are often full of whirling motion, which works well in the large format he often uses. He employs a cheerful colour palette with striking touches of colour, using thick spontaneous brushes to make rough strokes and adding the details with a pen. His pictures convey as much magic as the text, and are packed with details, visual jokes and little side stories that appeal to both young and old. *Photo © Noortje Palmers*

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