

A nuanced and captivating revolution

El Mesías

WAUTER MANNAERT & MARK BELLIDO

On the threshold of master craftsmanship

ENOLA

In 'El Mesías', Wauter Mannaert and writer Mark Bellido merge two storylines based on actual events. On the one hand, we have El Pocero, a filthy rich estate agent who loses everything overnight when the property market collapses. The other story is that of Marinaleda, a Spanish village organised as a cooperative and led by an extremely left-wing mayor. As a result of the economic crisis in Spain, his village becomes the centre of attention. The bankrupt estate agent ends up in Marinaleda, where he becomes the mayor's chauffeur. The interaction between these two characters is the axis around which the whole book revolves.

A small tour de force

CUTTING EDGE

The authors seize their chance to explore what life could be like if the 'one percent' were condemned to a passive role in society. As is often the case with utopias, everything does not go as smoothly as the leaders initially promise. Personal ambition, the urge for control, love: these can be an uneasy match with ideology. 'El Mesías' tells, in uninked pencil drawings, the tale of people who are searching for something, in a story that actually keeps hope alive.



AUTHORS



Wauter Mannaert (b. 1978) works as a graphic novelist, illustrator and cartoonist in Brussels. He worked for years as a youth worker in one of Brussels' most deprived neighbourhoods, and this social involvement makes itself felt in many of his books. After several publications featuring stories by other writers, Mannaert has now shown himself to be not only a talented draughtsman, but a gifted writer as well. **Mark Bellido** (b. 1975) is the author of books including the novel 'Venus vestida de azul', and some graphic novels in collaboration with Wauter Mannaert and Judith Vanistendael. He spent four years protecting Basque politicians against ETA.

ORIGINAL TITLE El Mesías (2015, Ballon, 288 pp.)

FORMAT 170 x 240

RIGHTS SOLD French (Vide Cocagne)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Kim Sanders - kim.sanders@standaarduitgeverij.be

TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos - lien.d@flandersliterature.be