

Harrowing yet life-affirming

# When David Lost His Voice

JUDITH VANISTENDAEL

David is diagnosed with cancer of the larynx, a terminal form of cancer that means he will soon be unable to speak. In 'When David Lost His Voice', Judith Vanistendael zooms in on David and the three women who surround him: Paula, his wife; Miriam, his grown-up daughter, who has just had a child; and Tamar, his young daughter. David has difficulty sharing his feelings with Paula and Miriam, who are angry and don't know what to do with themselves. The only comforting and honest relationship is the one between Tamar and David.

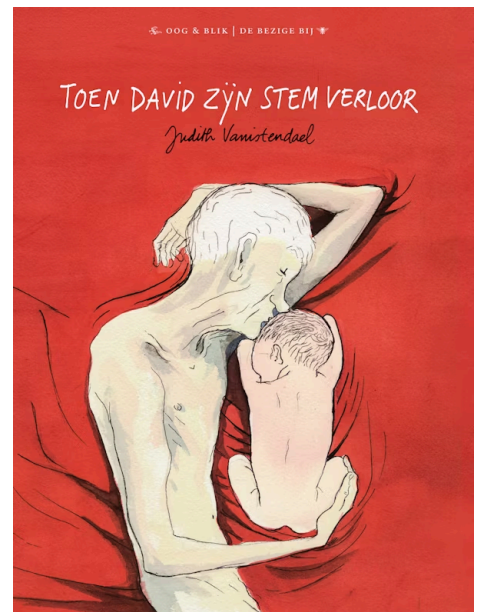
## A quietly overwhelming portrait

PAUL GRAVETT

For a book in which everyone is trying to cope, in their own ways, with loss – or rather, trying to avoid the issue of loss – 'When David Lost His Voice' is full of unexpected solace. Vanistendael's illustrations are sensitive, intimate and successfully express the changing moods through the use of subtle watercolours and strong contrasts. A touching and subtle book that compassionately depicts the fruitless struggle to find the meaning of life.

## Delicate, intimate and extremely beautiful. A worthy addition to the canon of graphic gems

THE GUARDIAN



## AUTHOR



Judith Vanistendael (b. 1974) is both a graphic novelist and a children's book illustrator. Her work in both genres is lauded and widely translated. Her deeply human stories and her elegant style with its judicious use of watercolour and pencil have earned her a solid reputation. She has been nominated for three Eisner Awards as well as the Grand Prix in Angoulême and was the recipient of the Jenny Smelik-IBBY Prize and the Willy Vandersteen prize. In 2022, she won the Bronzen Adhemar for her body of work.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** Toen David zijn stem verloor (2012, Oog & Blik, 256 pp.)

**FORMAT** 260 x 197

**PRIZES** 3 Eisner Award nominations: Best Writer Artist, Best U.S. Edition of International Material and Best Painter

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