

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Poetry from the comfort of your couch

My Muse Lies on the Settee

WIDE VERCNOCKE

Every chapter of 'My Muse Lies on the Settee' opens with a short poem that is depicted in an accompanying illustration. This is followed by a comic strip, usually wordless, of a few pages, which builds on the same theme.

Hard to beat in originality and artistic skill

VOLKSKRANT

Wide Vercnocke does not opt for adventurous themes, but instead explores the world of the couch potato. Although the idle protagonist wallows comfortably in the security of his lazy existence, the repeated and powerful depiction of his biceps suggests that his passivity is only a temporary phase, the silence of a resting volcano.

Vercnocke's poetic ode to laziness allows him to go to town with his narrative and graphic skills, making 'My Muse Lies on the Settee' both narcissistic and ironic, lazy and virtuoso, literary and visual. In spite of the apparently limited subject – a man and his favourite piece of furniture – this is a multifaceted book and a most impressive debut.

The most daring comic-book debut in Flanders in recent years

KNACK



AUTHOR



Wide Vercnocke (b. 1985) describes himself as a 'writer and illustrator of tear-jerkers'. In his graphic novels, he combines a fascinating drawing style with often abstract but poetic stories, in which physicality plays an important role. Language and image are given equal weight, and Vercnocke plays deftly with both. He is building an oeuvre that is impressively unique and unconventional. *Photo © Athos Burez*

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TRANSLATION RIGHTS Ria Schulpen - ria@bries.be

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