

A warm portrait of an average dysfunctional family

Forty-four Years Later

MICHAËL OLBRECHTS

Following a stroke, Louis can no longer live at home with his wife. Before he has to leave for the care home, the whole family wants to give him one last unforgettable day. Everyone desperately tries to come up with nice memories so that they can give him the send-off he deserves. But all of the guests are wrapped up in their own problems and frustrations, so not everything goes as planned.

A true storyteller

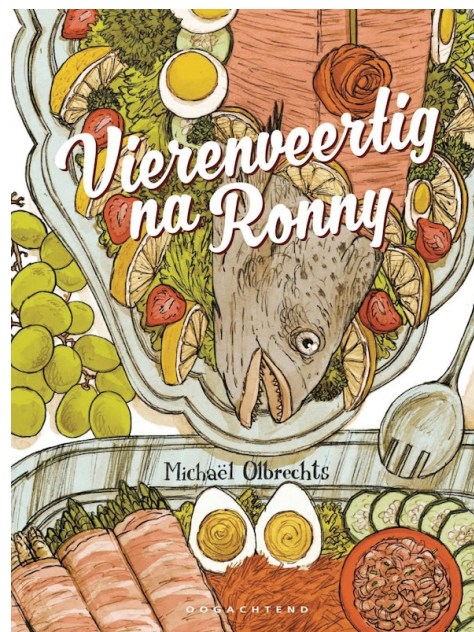
ENOLA

Michaël Olbrechts takes plenty of time to relate the events of the weekend, which allows him to develop the main characters and their problems with one another very nicely. The planned highlight of the weekend, a performance by the Front Soldiers, a re-enactment group founded by Louis, goes completely wrong and an old family tragedy surfaces. Who is Ronny? That's the question.

Olbrechts once again sketches a very convincing family portrait. With his cleverly chosen lines and colours, he knows how to make facial expressions hugely believable. But it is not only his drawings that radiate authenticity and humanity: the subtle emotions that Olbrechts incorporates in the story demonstrate a maturity that is generally reserved for old hands.

A top author

CUTTING EDGE



AUTHOR



Michaël Olbrechts (b. 1987) is a comic artist and freelance illustrator who won the Silvester Debut Award for his first book. His stories centre on the frequently awkward dynamic between people. His figures are cute in some ways, yet Olbrechts always manages to capture their expressions with great precision. Both his characters and his narratives are quintessentially human. *Photo* © Bart van der Moeren

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