

A plea for mutual understanding

Higher than the Mountains and Deeper than the Sea

LAURA JANSSENS & LAÏLA KOUBAA

Grandpa Monji tells his granddaughter and grandson the story of how he, a Tunisian, ended up in Belgium. As a little boy, he lost his mother, and was placed in a foster home, together with his big brother. When he was a young man, he seized the chance to go and work with some friends in northern France for six months, where he fell in love with a Belgian woman and decided to stay in Belgium.

Warm and universally human anecdotes laced with subtle humour

DE MORGEN

In this warm story, the young reader learns about another time, a time when people moved thousands of kilometres for work, and a marriage between a Belgian woman and an 'outsider' encountered a great deal of suspicion. The children in the frame story ask questions that children of all backgrounds will be keen to hear the answers to. This is a story that will trigger a great sense of recognition for children and grandchildren of migrants.

A sensitive book about respect, with a dash of humour. Laura Janssens captures the story in inventive compositions, with expressive drawings in her beautiful colour palette.

The wave of migration in the 1960s and 70s in a child-size format

KNACK FOCUS

**FLANDERS
LITERATURE**



AUTHORS



Under the name 'Not now, Laura', **Laura Janssens** (b. 1990) has made a name for herself as a web cartoonist dissecting the daily lives of thirty-somethings. Self-mockery and familiarity are central to her work. She also works as a freelance illustrator and T-shirt designer. **Laïla Koubaa** (b. 1977) has a master's in Eastern Languages and Cultures. She assists schoolchildren with special needs and writes picture books and comics. Koubaa is the daughter of a Tunisian father and a Belgian mother and grew up in a Flemish polder village.

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