

A painful search for the meaning  
of absence

# Adrift

SHAMISA DEBROEY

A girl sits in a bar waiting for someone who does not come. Meanwhile she thinks about her childhood, most of which she spent with her grandparents. Her father is absent and her mother is rarely at home. In associative images, Shamisa Debroey forms her own interpretation of her father. He is always on the road, searching for happiness and complete freedom. That both he and her mother abandoned their children to do so is clearly a major source of pain in the protagonist's life. Loneliness surrounds the girl, but gradually light appears at the end of the tunnel.

## Unique visual language

CUTTING EDGE

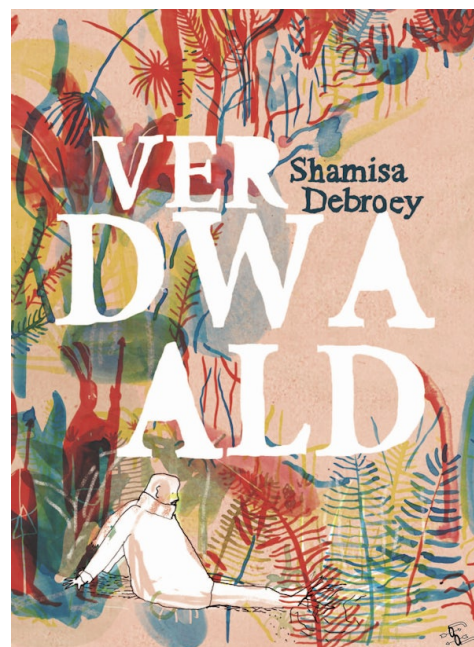
In this highly acclaimed debut, Shamisa Debroey displays a graphic maturity that is unexpected for such a young author. Her relaxed page layout, fine, sweeping lines and use of watercolours lend her work its own distinctive look. This poetic and nuanced portrait of a difficult parent-child relationship is a strong and exceptionally self-assured first step.

## A deceptively light story about absent parents and a lonely child

KNACK

## Unexpected and magnificent

ENOLA



## AUTHOR



**Shamisa Debroey** (b. 1989) graduated with a degree in comics at Sint Lukas Brussels in 2011, under the supervision of Johan Stuyck, Oogachtend's publisher. Debroey finished top of her class. Her first graphic novel *Adrift* came out in 2013, merging the autobiographical with her lively imagination. She works as an illustrator and comic artist for newspapers and television shows, and for clients such as Apple and Samsung. *Photo* © Shamisa Debroey

**ORIGINAL TITLE** Verdwaald (2013, Oog & Blik, 128 pp.)

**FORMAT** 264 x 194

**TRANSLATION RIGHTS** Marijke Nagtegaal - m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl

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