

All together and still alone

Wolves

WARD ZWART & ENZO SMITS

A fictional village amidst the woods, maybe somewhere in America, with a lot of past glory: that is Hazenberg, the setting for 'Wolves'. The book kicks off with a gallery of portraits and scenes that immerse the reader in the right atmosphere, as if they were the opening credits of a TV series. Houses seem neglected and untidy; young people look as if they do not feel completely at home in their own skin. And that turns out to be true.

By occasionally colouring outside the lines, Ward Zwart and Enzo Smits evoke the atmosphere of endless boredom in which teenagers sometimes find themselves.

The poetry of triviality

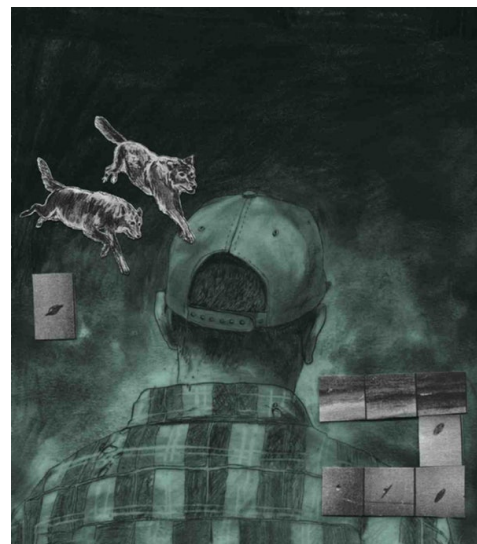
CUTTING EDGE

One hot summer, a group of teenagers go into the forest in search of a strange creature, but they find something else, something unexpected. A loner is persuaded by a friend to go to a party, but he really should have stayed away. A young skater has a head injury that makes him lose his grip on reality. In an unconscious state, he has visions of himself with film legend James Dean.

Ward Zwart creates fabulous things with a pencil. His dreamy and accurate drawings of joyless details and gloomy faces create a slightly nostalgic universe. The design of the book, printed on very thin paper and with a lot of extras, fits perfectly with the subject and with the artist's fascination with pulp and counterculture.

As a physical object one of the most surprising comic books of the last few years

KNACK



AUTHORS



Ward Zwart (b. 1985) lives and works in Antwerp. He has been a successful illustrator for newspapers and magazines at home and abroad for quite some time, but always on the small press circuit. *Wolves* is his debut as a graphic novelist. *Photo © Ward Zwart* **Enzo Smits** (b. 1988) studied audiovisual arts in Brussels. He has made two short films: 'All We Ever Wanted Was Everything' and 'It Won't Be Long Now'. *Wolves* is the first graphic novel he has written.

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