

Harsh circumstances, but hope for the future

Tomorrow Is Another Country

MICHAEL DE COCK & TRUI CHIELENS

A girl is hiding in the back of a lorry. She's sharing the space with a horse, her mum, and Captain Compass, her best friend. They're on their way to another country, where the walls don't dance and the houses don't fall, and where the sky doesn't rumble like thunder when there's not a cloud to be seen. The girl has to be silent. Luckily, she's a world champion at silence.

A poetic and important story

JAAPLEEST

As the girl tries to stay awake, so that she can keep an eye on her sleeping mother, she thinks about space travel, hiding places, and her city, where everything is broken and she had to choose which cuddly toy to take. "We're only taking ourselves," said Dad. "You can't leave yourself behind." But he was so wrong.'

With poetic turns of phrase, Michaël De Cock follows the girl as she seems to go off at various tangents. The harsh reality and the girl's boundless imagination keep each other in balance. 'Tomorrow Is Another Country' is a light book about a weighty subject, enchantingly illustrated by Trui Chielens.

Impactful, but never too weighty. Shows shameful current realities that get deep under the skin.

DE MORGEN



AUTHORS



Michael De Cock (b. 1972) writes plays and novels for both children and adults. He carefully builds up his stories and puts strong characters on the page with just a few words. In a language and style that are clear and to the point, mixed with powerful imagery, he deals with deep philosophical themes. De Cock often adapts myths and stories of creation for children and has a great sense of social engagement. *Photo © Danny Willems* **Trui Chielens** (b. 1987) made her debut in 2011, shortly after graduating. Her style appears cheerfully childlike but a deeper reading leaves a dark and melancholy impression. Her illustrations hover between dream and reality. *Photo © Alex Vanhee*

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