



Les
fourmis
rouges

SPRING 2024

The Ghost in Briefs

Marion Puech

Eddie, the most fashionable ghost in the town of Rince-on-Jitters, finds himself in briefs after a disastrous incident with his washing machine. How will Eddie manage to go on scaring people when he looks like this?

Eddie lives in Rince-on-Jitters. His unique position, as a ghost, is of utmost importance to him. He is the leader of a horrific show, along with Bermuda, the giant bat, with whom he terrorises every night a bunch of tourists eager to watch their performance! But this Tuesday is washing day... oh horrors! His ghost sheet comes out of the washing machine completely torn, on the very day he decided to wear his briefs with Sauerkraut prints...

Marion Puech delivers a hilarious picture book, a mixture between a savory text and illustrations filled with details and lovely little people. Rest assured... this story is not just about briefs! It tackles much more meaningful topics such as self-acceptance and friendship.

STRONG POINTS:

- A HILARIOUS picture book, a hysterical text, rib-tickling illustrations!
- A story deeper than it seems, as is often the case with *Les Fourmis Rouges*! This book celebrates friendship, tolerance, and self-worth.
- As usual, a very neat, elaborate production: a big format, with fluorescent colours.



20 x 28.5 cm • 32 pages
978-2-36902-186-5 • 16 €



Marion Puech

Marion Puech was born in 1980 in Toulouse, in the south of France, where she lives today. She studied a three-year course in the Arts décoratifs of Strasbourg. She has published comics trips with French publisher Misma, and children's books with Actes Sud junior, Bayard and Sarbacane. *The Ghost in Briefs* is her first picture book with *Les Fourmis rouges*.





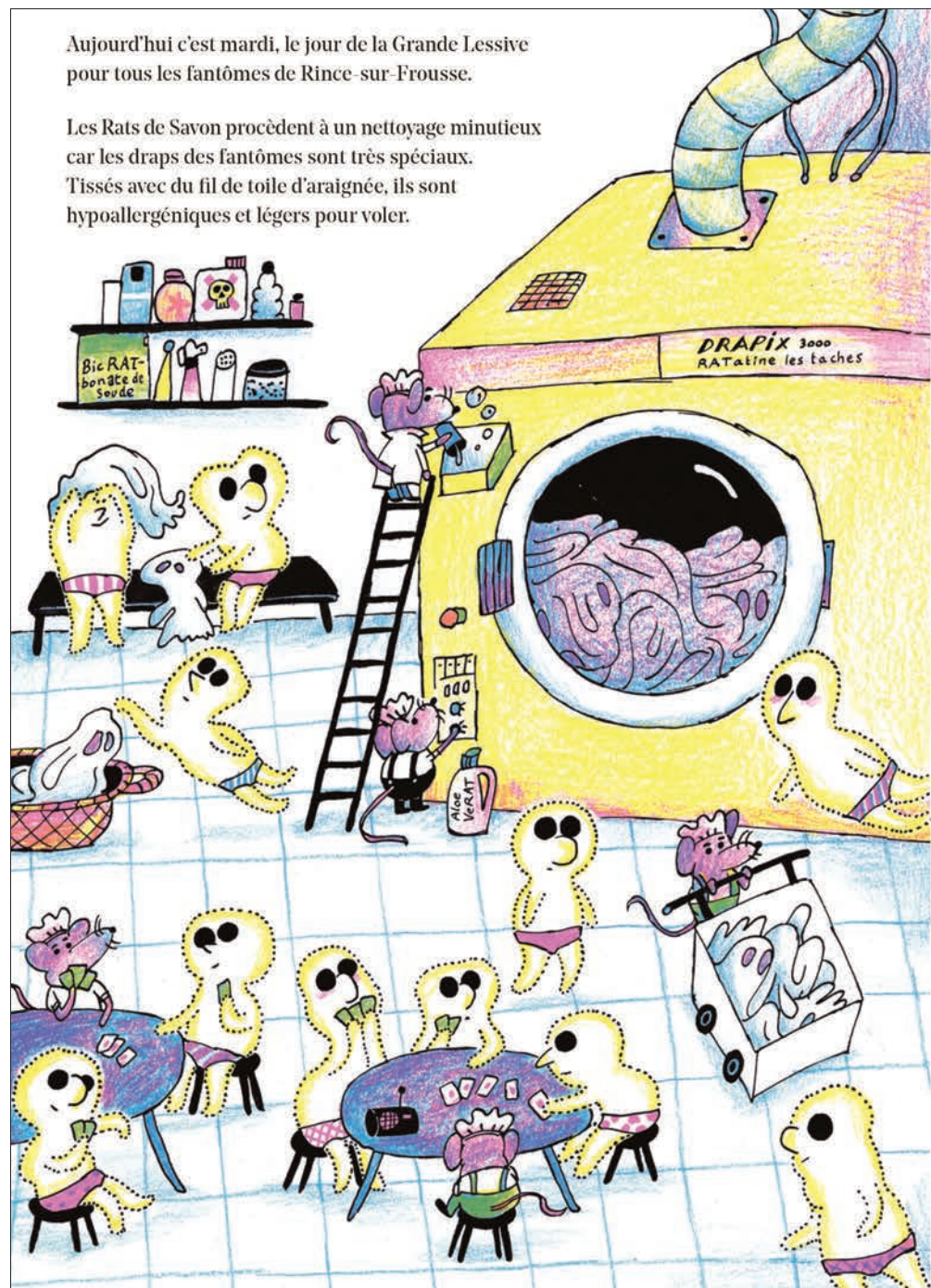
À 22 heures, le Petit Train démarre sa course.

Très vite, c'est la panique dans les wagons.
Quelqu'un est déjà en train de faire pipi
dans son pantalon !

Une fois franchie l'épaisse toile d'araignée
qui obstrue l'entrée de la « Galerie des Bestioles »,
les voyageurs plongent dans un pur cauchemar.

Aujourd'hui c'est mardi, le jour de la Grande Lessive pour tous les fantômes de Rince-sur-Frousse.

Les Rats de Savon procèdent à un nettoyage minutieux car les draps des fantômes sont très spéciaux. Tissés avec du fil de toile d'araignée, ils sont hypoallergéniques et légers pour voler.



Eddie?
Nous avons eu un petit souci avec la machine à laver et... comment dire...

Ton drap est ressorti entièrement déchiqueté...

DÉ-CHI-QUE-TÉ?!



Pas de panique!
Les Rats de Couture sont sur le coup!
Ils t'en confectionnent un tout neuf pour dans un mois!

En attendant, qu'est-ce qu'on va bien pouvoir lui mettre sur le dos?...

Oskar and the Count

Jean-Baptiste Drouot

The terrible, horrendous Count Darkula has cast a spell on the village of Klopek. Oskar, the cheesemaker cat almost out of business, has been elected to try to kill the Count. But, oh my! Darkula is, in fact, a mouse...

A dark and wet curse has fallen upon the small village of Klopek. Because of Count Darkula, rain falls continuously on its inhabitants. To put an end to the spell, the wise men of the town have commissioned the most competent people to leave to defeat Darkula: strong, intelligent, they have all tried... and failed. None of them came back. In a last glitch of hope, they send Oskar the cat, the village cheesemaker, to confront the horrible Count Darkula! Oskar discovers to his own astonishment that Darkula is just a tiny little mouse! But be careful: Darkula is not just any mouse, but a lady mouse determined to subdue all these cats – including Oskar, her last visitor...

A crazy, caustic story inspired by traditional tales and vampire stories, for a fun, savory story for young and old readers!

STRONG POINTS:

- A picture book with a classical feel, horrendously effective!
- A biting sense of humor with a very unexpected twist at the end, that will enchant young readers (and their parents!)
- How to overcome cheesy stereotypes about love, with the help of Raclette cheese (and a few other types)!
- An author-illustrator well known by professionals, Jean-Baptiste Drouot has published renowned titles such as *Les animaux qui existent peut-être du professeur O'Logh* with French publisher Little Urban, and *Rendez-vous à la piscine* with hélium amongst others.

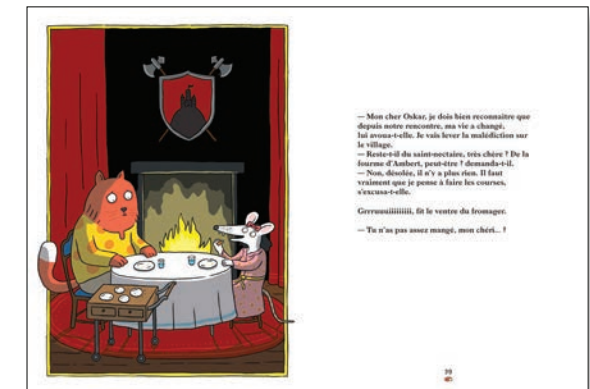
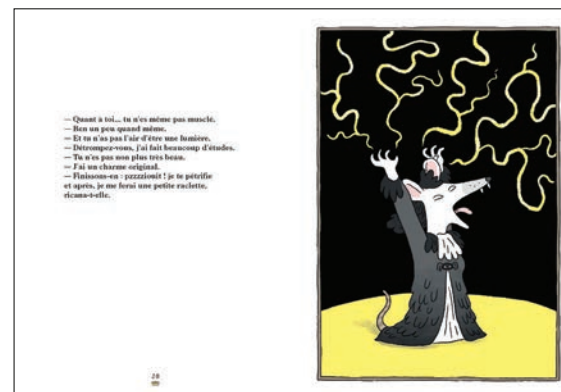


17.4 x 24 cm • 48 pages
978-2-36902-184-1 • 14.90 €



Jean-Baptiste Drouot

Jean-Baptiste Drouot is a French author and illustrator. He used to work as a graphic designer and in the field of video games before writing and illustrating picture books. He has published around fifteen children's books. *Oskar and the Count* is his first book with Les Fourmis Rouges. He lives in Clichy, near Paris.





Dans une contrée lointaine, réfugié dans son château, le terrifiant comte Krokula avait jeté un sort sur le petit village de Klopek. Il y pleuvrait nuit et jour jusqu'à ce qu'un courageux ose l'affronter et finisse par le battre, avec les armes de son choix. Alors, chaque année à la même époque, les habitants choisissaient l'un des leurs qui gravissait la montagne jusqu'au château.



Et c'est le nom d'Oskar qui sortit du chapeau.
Il était le candidat idéal.
Il habitait le village depuis peu, n'avait
ni qualités connues, ni famille et son commerce
ne fonctionnait pas. S'il parvenait à terrasser
le comte, ça serait un miracle. S'il ne revenait pas,
il ne manquerait à personne.



Turtle, Big Reed and Little Nail

Anne Terral & Géraldine Alibeu

A tender yet joyful picture book about the peculiar time of grief and loss

On the island, Turtle, who is very, very old, has the feeling her life is coming to an end. She brings together all her friends, Beaver, Otter, Toad and Po, Toad's son, who adores Turtle, to let them know. Then, before closing her eyes for the last time, Turtle gives each of her friends a loving handmade souvenir. Little Po inherits a large reed and a small, mysterious nail. Simple objects which will nevertheless allow, when the time has come, to gather and celebrate Turtle.

An infinitely sweet picture book to talk to little ones about grief. A magnificent and subtle text, dynamic and joyful illustrations: a superb duo of two true artists, who bring to life an exceptionally powerful story... which is not even sad.

STRONG POINTS:

- There are many picture books about death, but only a few manage to tackle such a complex topic in such a subtle manner.
- A beautiful first collaboration between Anne Terral and Géraldine Alibeu, both renowned artists.
- Géraldine Alibeu's illustrations, a mixture of collage and painting, illuminate the striking tale by Anne Terral.
- A beautiful, joyful book about death.



17.4 x 24 cm • 40 pages
978-2-36902-187-2 • 15.90 €



Anne Terral

Anne Terral was born in 1970 in Toulouse. After French studies and training courses in the book industry, she is now a free-lance author and editor. She has written novels, radio fictions for French station *France Culture*, fiction and nonfiction books for children. She lives in Paris.



Géraldine Alibeu

studied at Arts décoratifs of Strasbourg. She is now a full-time writer and illustrator and has published more than thirty books. She lives in Crest, in the South of France.





Pô pleurait et serrait fort entre ses pattes son grand roseau et son petit clou.

Crapaud, qui serrait fort son fils contre lui, murmura à son oreille :

– Tu vois, quand quelqu'un meurt, c'est un peu comme un bateau qui s'éloigne vers l'horizon. Il y a un moment où il disparaît. Pourtant ce n'est pas parce qu'on ne le voit plus qu'il n'existe plus. Tortue sera toujours là, dans nos cœurs.

Pô écouta son père.
Mais ce matin-là, le chagrin noyait tout.



... un concert sous les palmiers.
Quel rythme joyeux, quel orchestre harmonieux !
Devenus musiciens, les amis souriaient, le cœur soudain ravi.
Sur le sable, la joie au bout des pattes, on se mit à danser.
Léger, Pô ne cessait plus de jouer de son roseau.

What if Nono

Inbar Heller Algazi

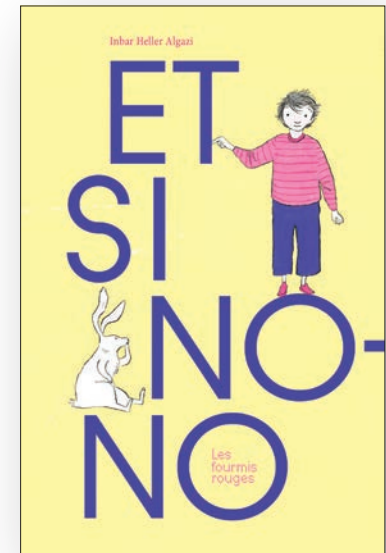
Darn, it looks like Nono stuck his finger in your book's fold!
What if things get out of hand and Nono is stuck forever in the book?

Oh, no! Poor Nono, having to stand in the middle of nowhere, right here on the page of your book: he's stuck. We'll have to find ways to help him pass the time. But what if... What if his finger gets stuck there all night? And what if Nono becomes a grown-up with a moustache... a dad, then a grandpa? What if Nono must spend his whole life stuck in the book? What will happen then? The ideas race throughout the pages, and so do we. Until the moment an off-camera voice calls Nono and brings us all back to reality and the present! "Nono, what are you doing? I'm waiting for you!"

Inbar Heller Algazi, interacting with her readers, invents a whole series of scenarios, starting with "What if..." Nono goes through many stages of life, without ever having... to lift a finger! A wacky and playful story built around the book itself, which says a lot about children's imagination and literature.

STRONG POINTS:

- An original, fun book toying with the idea of the book as an object, becoming the place of all possible, with the idea of "getting stuck in the book".
- A fluorescent tint on the page where Nono is stuck: a smart, efficient manufacture.
- A very talented illustrator, with a big following on social media.

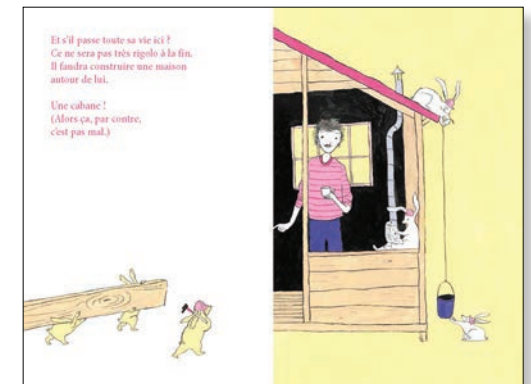
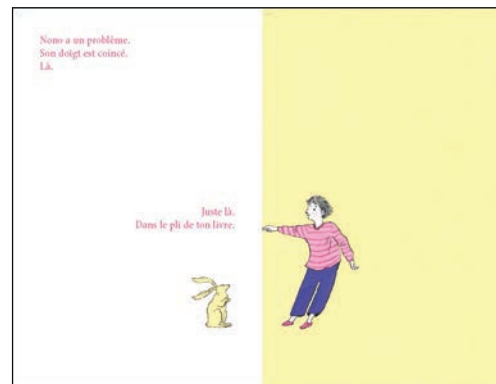


13.5 x 20.5 cm • 32 pages
978-2-36902-188-9 • 13.50 €

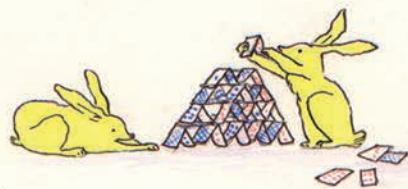


Inbar Heller Algazi

Inbar Heller Algazi was born in Berlin. She is an Israeli author and illustrator, today based in Toulouse. She studied at École de Condé (Toulouse) where she got her Bachelor in Illustration. She uses many techniques, from monotype to calligraphy, whilst trying to capture poetic moments and little stories, before transcribing them onto paper. After *Le Livre de Gill et Flop*, *What if Nono* is her second title with *Les Fourmis Rouges*.



S'il reste là, il faudra
lui trouver un jeu pour l'occuper.



Et s'il y passe la nuit ?
Il risque d'y avoir des animaux sauvages,
des monstres. Ou, pire, des moustiques.



This Does Not Hold Up!

Élisa Géhin

The Babies Handbook for the other (people who used to be babies and forgot all about it!)

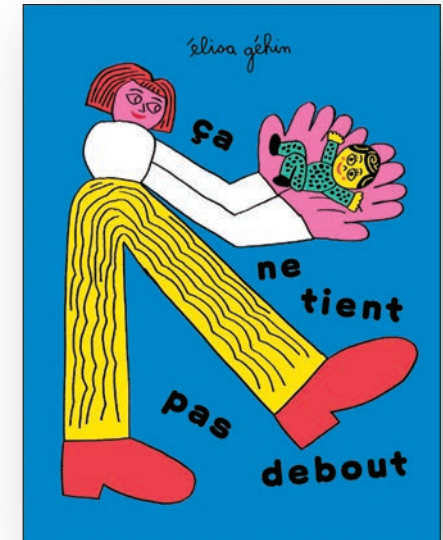
“It doesn’t hold up; it talks gibberish, and it is up much too early...”

Welcome to the world of Babies! Babies are these little beings we adore but don’t always understand. In three chapters, as sparkling and mischievous as babies, Élisa Géhin studies babies. How they can’t stand up, the way they don’t talk like us, and the way they wake up long before the night is over!

Three chapters on three essential elements: language, motor skills and sleep. Three different mini-worlds with colourful, graphic universes, in short, three mini-books in one... Élisa Géhin introduces us to the world of babies as a world of its own: all it takes is a little imagination and love to enter. A joyful, funny, and tender book to share between the baby and the grown-up, to laugh together and get closer.

STRONG POINTS:

- A talented artist well known in her professional field.
- UNESCO has designated Strasbourg as the World Book Capital for 2024. Élisa Géhin will act as an ambassador for artistic events for children, and will have a show, *Around Babies*, in the spring of 2024 in the city.



17 cm x 22 cm • 56 pages
978-2-36902-185-8 • 15.90 €



Élisa Géhin

Elisa Géhin is the last child of a large family. For a long time, she didn’t know anyone younger than herself. But since little ones always intrigued her, she decided to work with them whilst creating children’s books. She studied at the École Estienne, then the Arts décoratifs of Strasbourg, and has published many books with several publishers. After living in Paris for about ten years and engaging in several artist-residencies, she moved back to Strasbourg.



Abababa

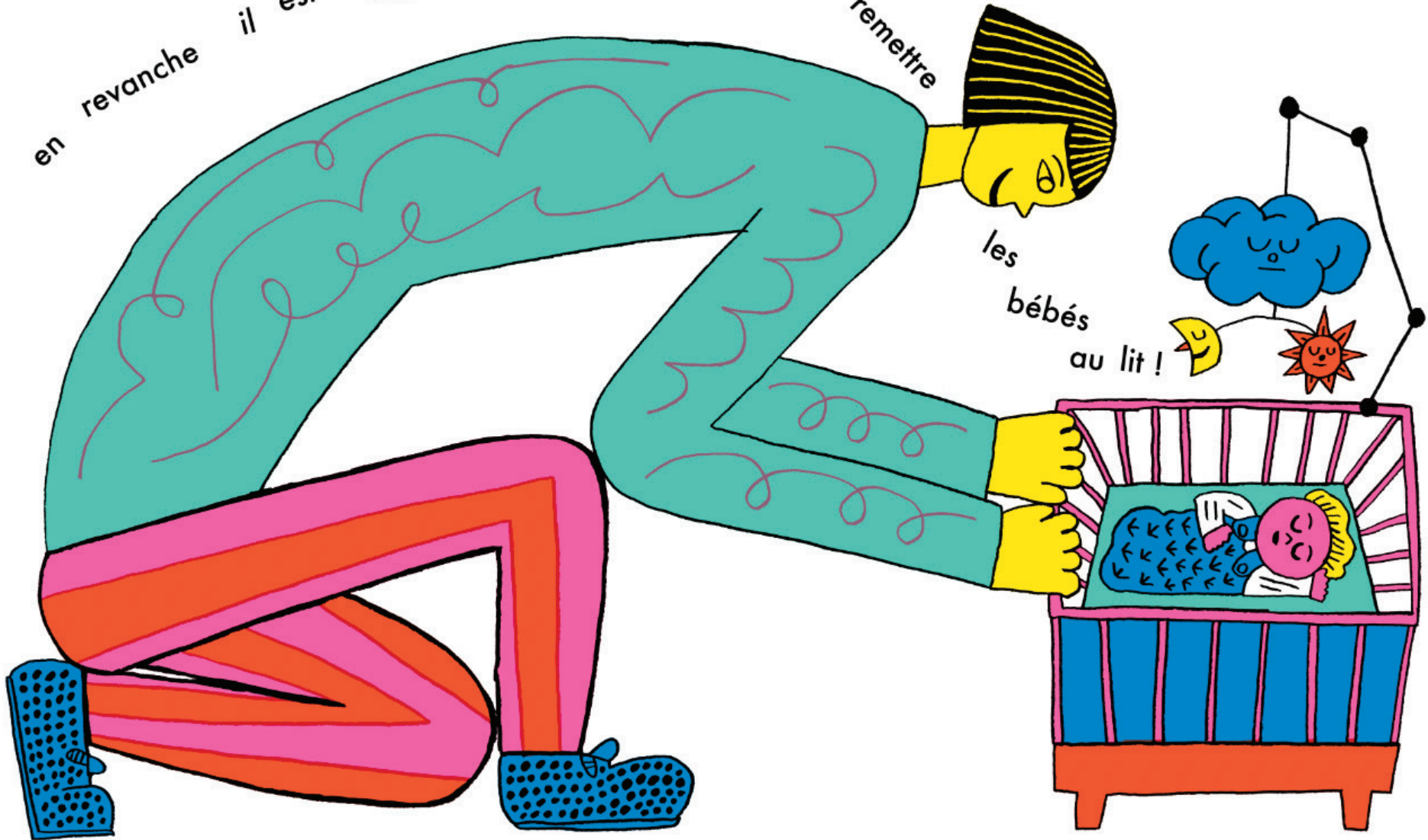
un bébé
ça raconte
n'importe quoi

mais bien souvent
ça veut les bras.
voilà



en revanche il est vraiment l'heure de remettre

les
bébés
au lit !



Buttfish

Pauline Pinson & Magali Le Huche

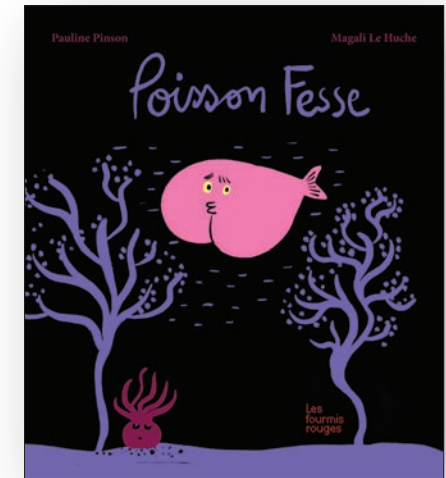
Buttfish has a head that looks like a... butt. Everyone tells him that! But a head shaped like a butt... looks a lot like a head shaped like a heart! To find that out, you must just look at life from the right side!

Buttfish laughs with the others at his own butt face, but deep down he would like to be an ordinary fish. Tired of clowning around, he decides to swim right to the bottom of the abyss, where he meets Roundcheesefish, whose head is even weirder than his - but who is so original and witty! This is where Buttfish will discover that a 'butt head' really does look a lot like a 'heart head'.

Pauline Pinson and Magali Le Huche have been friends for a long time, and it just shows in this book. They have created an ode to difference, bizarre beauty, and friendship. But above all, they offer a good laugh to little ones... in fact, to everyone! Because to love yourself and be happy, laughing is mandatory!

STRONG POINTS:

- A hilarious story that celebrates the art of friendship and being different.
- Magali Le Huche is a very renowned author and illustrator with many successful titles such as *La Tribu qui pue* (20 000 copies sold) and *La Grande Course des Jean* with *Les Fourmis Rouges*. Her comic strip *Nowhere Girl* received an award at the Montreuil Children's Books Fair in 2021, and her comic strip *Les Petites reines* was awarded the special Jury Price at the Comic strip Festival of Angoulême in 2024.



19.5 x 22 cm • 40 pages
978-2-36902-193-3 • 15.50 €



Pauline Pinson

Pauline Pinson is a filmmaker and screen writer for animation. She has directed series for French networks Canal+ and France Télévisions. She is also a writer for children's books. *Buttfish* is her first title with Les Fourmis Rouges.



Magali Le Huche

Magali Le Huche was born near Paris in 1979. After studying for five years at the Arts décoratifs in Strasbourg, she started working for the press and in publishing. She has written and illustrated many, many children's books, and comic strips (for children and grown-ups) and won several literary prizes.







I am the Jellyfish

Béatrice Fontanel & Alexandra Huard

Jellyfish, fascinating yet scary creatures, are seldom given a voice. French author and illustrator Béatrice Fontanel and artist Alexandra Huard bring to life this beautiful animal, in an enthralling picture book.

A young jellyfish tells her story. One day, she crosses paths with a little girl and accidentally stings her. The father takes the jellyfish out of the water and leaves it stranded on the sand. In agony, the young jellyfish will be saved at the last minute by the little girl, who decides to throw her back into the sea. Having become an adult jellyfish, the sea creature will meet the child again, now a young woman, and will recognize her thanks to the scar left on her wrist by the sting. She will then begin a sublime and silent underwater dance for her.

The jellyfish, as fascinating as it is frightening, comes to life in this deeply moving ecological and poetic tale. Alexandra Huard wonderfully illustrates the paradox of this animal, repulsive and scary when out of its element, but so gracious and luminous in the water.

STRONG POINTS:

- An ecological and contemporary tale, to reconcile Humans and Nature.
- Alexandra Huard sublimates the story of the jellyfish with her mesmerizing images filled with undersea details and various points of view. A most beautiful picture book printed with a fifth fluorescent colour.
- Béatrice Fontanel, who has written around fifty children's books, is a real storyteller. Her writing navigates between poetry and nonfiction.
- A new edition for this successful picture book (more than 6000 copies since its release in 2016).



NEW EDITION Rights sold: Korean
21.6 x 30.6 cm • 36 pages
978-2-36902-194-0 • 16.50 €



Béatrice Fontanel

Béatrice Fontanel is an author and a poet. She has published numerous children's books. Everyday life, Nature, History and Arts are her privileged fields. She has tackled them for the past 25 years.



Alexandra Huard

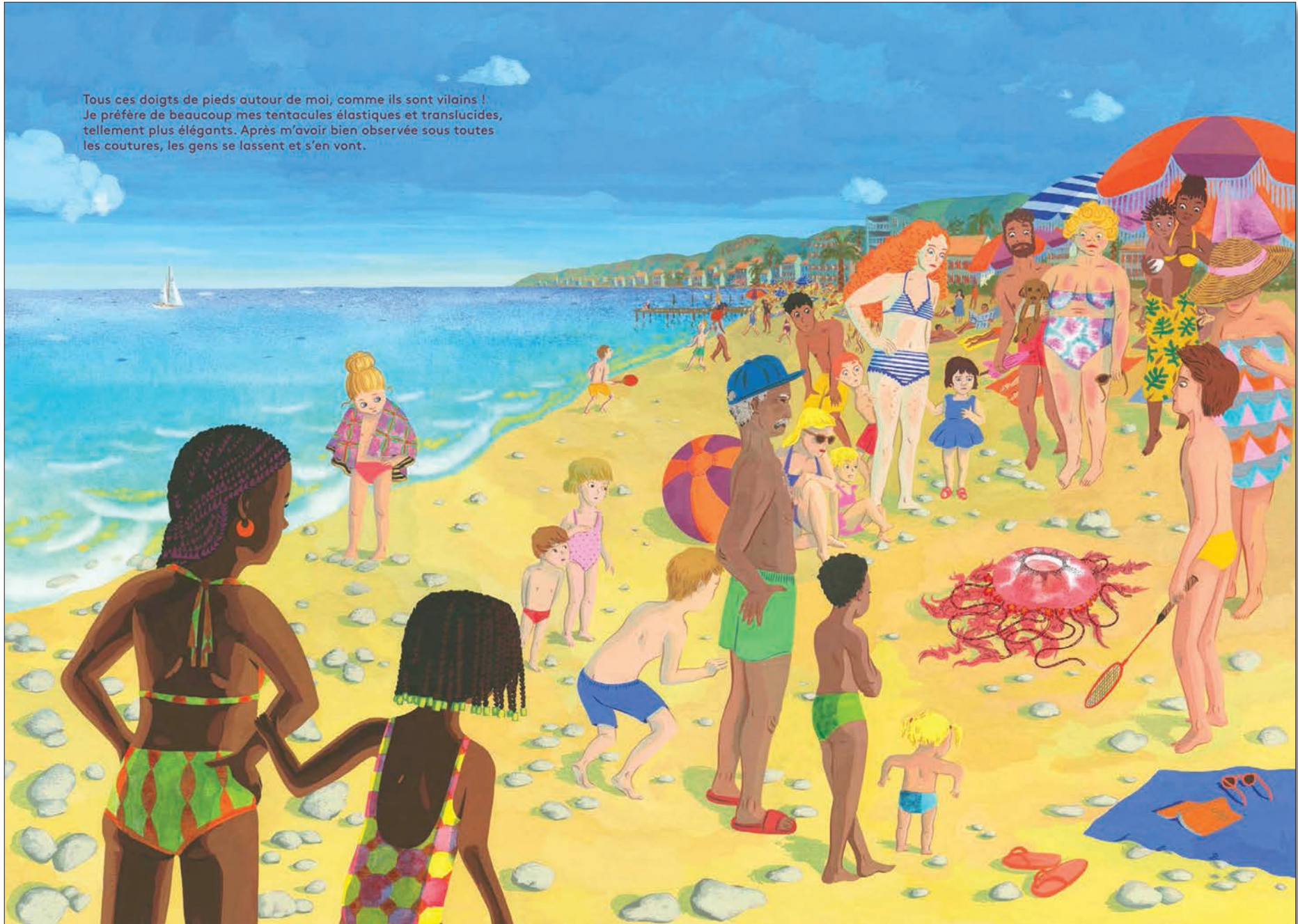
Alexandra Huard studied at the Arts Émile Cohl School in Lyon, France, and her work was awarded by the Bologna Book Fair. She has published several children's books using gouache painting, a very demanding technique – but she is perfectly up to the task.



Pourtant, il m'arrive d'embrasser les gens, mais ils n'en sont pas très contents. Mes tentacules leur font de gros baisers brûlants. Les nageurs se sauvent et s'éloignent de moi ? Ouille ! dit une petite fille qui se met à pleurer en sortant de l'eau.



Tous ces doigts de pieds autour de moi, comme ils sont vilains !
Je préfère de beaucoup mes tentacules élastiques et translucides,
tellement plus élégants. Après m'avoir bien observée sous toutes
les coutures, les gens se lassent et s'en vont.





Rights sold: Korean

What Binds Us

Anne Laval

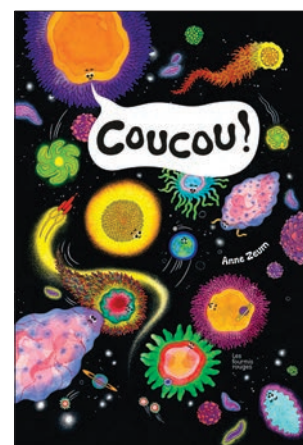
"Flowers, fruit, leaves, puddles, seeds, and trees. Life is a circle," says Granny.

From Spring to Winter, the reader follows the everyday moments shared between a little girl and her grandma, the little one's questions, and the elderly's answers. One's height can be measured according to trees and flowers – everything grows.

The mum is close by, appearing from time to time. Three girls then stand together, among the living and whilst time passes by. The grandma is a bit of an artist; at the heart of the book, she weaves a rug; attachment and love are woven every day, too.

Anne Laval beautifully tells of "the bond between" one generation to the next, a girl to the other. She also evokes the bonds between tiny human beings and the rest of the world.

17 x 22 cm • Hardcover picture book • 72 pages
Four colour printing + one pink fluo colour



Hi There!

Anne Zeum

A hilarious, exhilarating book where the invisible becomes visible! Or when the infinitely small encounters the infinitely large...

– Bertie, you still haven't had your breakfast?

Jean-Claude, a small green cell, is not able to finish his sentence before he is eaten up by Gilbert, a large blue microbe which itself is swallowed by a thick pink virus who in turn becomes the lunch of a large green amoeba! Throughout the book, the reader zooms out from panel to panel and scales evolve from one page to the next, until we find ourselves... right in the middle of the palm of a child's hand.

The child himself is in a schoolyard in a city which is in a region which is part of a country which is on a planet which belongs to a solar system which is in the infinitely large. Wait – doesn't the infinitely large look surprisingly like the infinitely small? Bam, Bertie, and Jean-Claude pop up again! And just like that, the circle is complete.

19 x 26.8 cm • Hardcover picture book • 32 pages



Ulysse

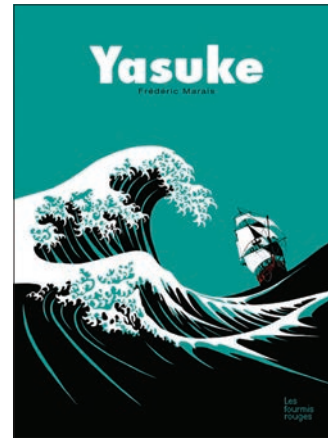
Alexandra Pichard

A snowman wonders what he's going to do whilst he waits for the little boy who built him. Should he go to the movies, meet the love of his life, have an amazing evening... and melt ?

In a snow-covered city garden, a child builds a snowman and names him Ulysse. But things don't start off too well for our snowman: first, snow in town never lasts.. Second, the child abandons him, leaving him all alone in this freezing town. So, he escapes in his thoughts, daydreaming about the high life. Ah, to be able to stroll into town, to discover the cafes, to go to the cinema, to the hairdresser's, and even to find the love that will melt his heart (but, alas, not only his heart...)

Once again, Alexandra Pichard has produced a book that is smart, beautiful, and witty. There are a ton of picture books featuring snowmen. But none of them featured such a modern one, able to live such a romantic and swinging evening!

21.5 x 26.1 cm • Hardcover picture book • 48 pages



Yasuke NEW EDITION

Frédéric Marais

Embark on the exceptional destiny of Yasuke, the first Black Samurai, in this powerful initiatory tale written and illustrated by the talented Frédéric Marais.

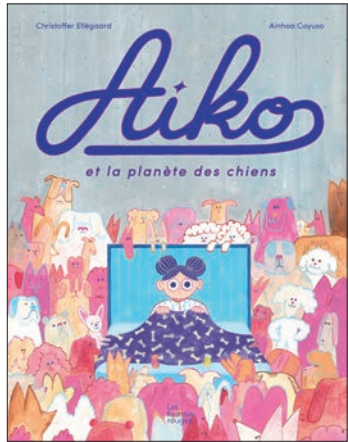
At the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Africa, lived a young slave without a name. No one ever gave him one. The slave manages to escape from his village and embarks as a sailor on a ship to Asia. In Japan, he will fulfil his exceptional destiny.

Frédéric Marais tells with great literary and graphic skills, the true story of Yasuke, the only Black-skinned Samurai. From Kilimanjaro to Mount Fuji, this young African became a hero in the 16th century. The short and rhythmic sentences, almost melodic, bring great strength to this story in a simple and bare style, within the reach of young readers. Combining black and white with an intense turquoise blue and a dark brown, the author gifts us with an initiatory tale inspired by a true story.

21.6 x 28.8 cm • Hardcover picture book • 32 pages

Rights sold: Portuguese (Brazil), Amharic

Toutou passe le reste de la journée avec Aiko. Il lui fait découvrir l'incroyable village de ces curieux chiens de l'espace.



Aiko

Ainhoa Cayuso & Christoffer Ellegaard

Take off on board of rocket B-Root besides Aiko, and discover a planet inhabited by former cosmonaut dogs!

Aiko, a brave astronaut trained to face the extreme conditions of space, lands on a mysterious planet inhabited by descendants of valiant cosmonaut dogs. Gifted with incredible intelligence and freed from all human influence, these space dogs have become their own masters, and are rather welcoming. But the mood is spoiled when Aiko rejoices aloud at how famous she will become when she tells all about her discovery back on Earth. On the dog's planet, one doesn't really want to see the human species again – they did not leave the best memories the last time. Which will prevail, scientific prestige or the happiness of fulfilled dogs? Aiko will choose to keep the secret and will be able to return to Earth.

21 x 27 cm • Hardcover picture book • 32 pages

Rights sold: English (World)



The Strange Collection of Mamita

Thomas Medard & Lisbeth Renardy

Behind each collection, there's a collector. And behind each collector, there's a story to tell!

To collect stuff is the action of gathering a whole lot of objects belonging to one group or family: take Yvette, for instance, who collects all pieces of wood shaped as a Y. And there are as many collections as there are collectors! That's what Mamita, Yvette's grandma, explains to her on the way back from school.

Throughout the woods, Mamita tells the story of each collectors she knows: Luigi and his rocks, Peter and Pete Junior with their Christmas decorations, Sasha and his lights... But how about Mamita? Well, Mamita collects... other people's collections.

20 x 28.5 cm • Hardcover picture book • 40 pages



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La peau du