



Les
fourmis
rouges

SPRING 2023

The Gathering Season

Fleur Oury

Fleur Oury creates a couple of squirrels who are determined to rethink the way they gather provisions for their winter stocks. A poetic picture book about sharing, with Nature as the main character, shown as it is: alive, diverse, and generous.

During wintertime, Tawny and Daffodil, the squirrels, wake up absolutely famished. They start looking around for the stocks of food they buried last year, but their hazelnuts are nowhere to be found! Alas, the poor little creatures go to bed on an empty stomach.

When they wake up again, Spring is here! Nature all together is burgeoning. Tawny and Daffodil stuff themselves with flowers, seeds, and nuts, until

they're completely full. But this time, they do not remain nonchalant. They remember too well how hungry they felt last year, and there's no way it will happen to them this time again. They do have three full seasons to get ready.

A picture book that is an invitation to sharing as well as an ode to Nature, between Naturalism and utter creativity, in this space the artist keeps on exploring with huge talent.

- Strong and filled with messages about ecology, beauty, diversity of the living and its preservation, sharing and solidarity.
- Each new book by Fleur Oury is an event! *Premier matin* (2015) sold 8000 copies, *Dimanche* (2019) 5000.
- A perfect match between fiction and non-fiction, where the young reader will discover a lot about fauna and flora. A cheerful way to start observing Nature!



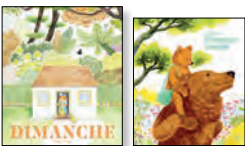
24 x 32 cm • 40 pages

Hardcover picture book • 18,50 €

Four colour printing + one orange fluo colour



More from this Author:



Fleur Oury

Fleur Oury spent her school years drawing in the margins of her notebooks, but her passion for science led her to study it. Once she had obtained her diploma, she went back to her first love, drawing, and studied it in Arts décoratifs de Strasbourg.

She is now an author and illustrator. Nature still has a big place in her universe.

Fleur Oury lives in Marseille.





Les perce-neiges ont fleuri. Le printemps est là !



À table !

Fauve et Jonquille s'empiffrent.





Jonquille est pensive, ce soir.

— Il a fait trop froid cet hiver.

— Nous n'avions pas caché assez de noisettes.

— Et de toute façon on ne les retrouve jamais.

— Il faut que l'on s'organise autrement.

— Cette fois, on fait les choses en grand : on cueille, on glane, on collecte et on cuisine !

— Et on garde tout au nid ! Comme ça, plus besoin l'hiver de se geler les pattes à chercher.

Fauve et Jonquille s'endorment ravis.

From a Tiny, Grey As a Mouse Birdy

Mathias Friman

When a small being, born as a mousekin, dreams of becoming a bird... and actually ends up flying. But is it for better or for worse?

He was born a mouse,
But dreams himself as a bird.

He tries to come up with a beak, to flap its paws in order to fly, to sing like that magpie, to walk on two legs like this wading bird, but nothing works. He was born a mooseling, not a bird.

Until one day, he gathers feathers in the wind and tells the whole world that with those, he may well become a bird.

All this hustle attracts a prey bird flying nearby, who delicately swoops the mousekin in the skies.

And our mousekin is finally as happy as a clam to be flying high, so high, thanks to the prey bird.

A happy ending for the optimistic young readers.

And by the way, are old pessimistic readers always right?

Mousekin or not, one is always allowed to dream.

A book to be read from top to bottom, at the height of a mouse dreaming to become a bird

- This picture book is meant to be read out loud, with gestures and “choruses” to repeat. This conception is based on Mathias Friman’s experience with kids. He meets a lot of them in schools, and also gives drawing classes (live streams) or on social media.

- An astonishing and unique picture book, as funny as it is rhythmic, about the unyielding will to be oneself and different at once.

- Each of the author’s previous titles (*D’une petite mouche bleue*, *D’une petite graine verte* et *D’un grand loup rouge*) have sold more than 5000 copies each.



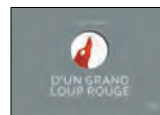
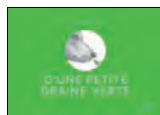
Mathias Friman

Mathias Friman is a writer and illustrator for children’s books. He has published many of them, much appreciated in classes by pupils and teachers.

From a tiny, grey as a mouse birdy is his fourth book published with Les Fourmis Rouges.

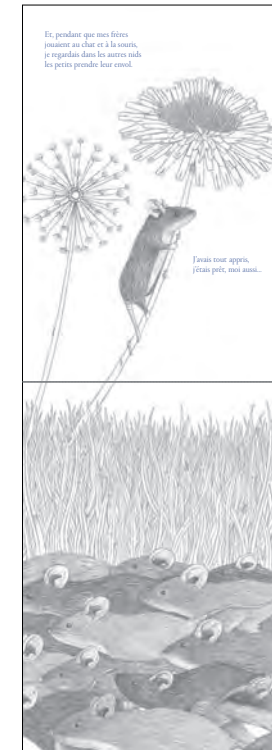
Mathias Friman lives in Troyes, France.

More from
this Author:



24 x 17 cm • 32 pages

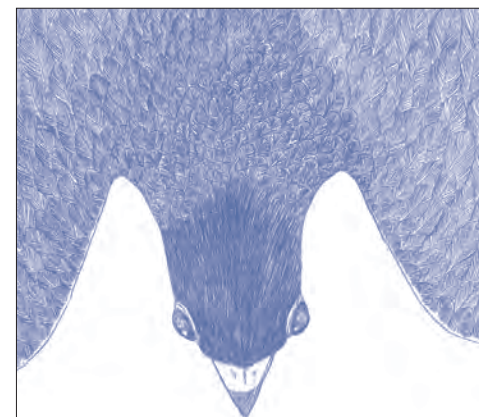
Hardcover picture book • 14,90 €





Pour m'envoler haut, très haut,
je devais donc changer de peau,
ne plus être une souris,
mais un oiseau.

Et j'ai aperçu, flottant dans les airs,
des plumes portées par le vent.
C'est là que j'ai compris, moi souriceau,
qu'elles feraient de moi un oiseau.



J'ai crié au monde entier
le bonheur de les avoir trouvées.
J'ai crié au monde entier
que j'allais enfin voler.

Prêt à les accompagner,
prêt à voler dans ce ciel si bleu.
Mais les poils sur mon dos,
ma moustache et mon petit muscau
faisaient de moi un souriceau.

Mais comment ?
En mimant son bec et en imitant son chant ?
Piou-piou...
Ce n'était pas suffisant.
Piou-piou...



Tous m'ont entendu.
Même ce rapace qui m'a pris
pour son petit tombé du nid.



The Skin of the Bobcat

Mathilde Poncet

A choral picture book filled with the typical ingredients of classic tales that suddenly jumps into a very contemporary telling, filled with humour and uplifting!

At the heart of the forest, a bobcat is being tracked by a hunter. The animals of the forest are scared but intend on saving the bobcat. "We're off to see the seamstress, she will know what to do!" The seamstress will sow for the bobcat a coat of scenery, that will make him totally invisible to the hunter. The hunter will then lose the beast he was about to kill and will go whine about all the animals hating him to his sister... the seamstress! Our sad, disappointed

hunter will cheer up whilst sowing and knitting.

With enchanting images that sometimes evoke medieval bestiaries, Mathilde Poncet allows us to immerse ourselves in the magic landscapes where she lives, fighting to protect the Nature dear to her heart.

- The hot topic of hunting is here dealt with in a subtle manner.
- A strong woman character whose powers are beneficial and comforting, who masters the hunter's violence by teaching him how to knit.
- A tale filled with classical images, with a twist throughout its original and contemporary construction.



22 x 27 cm • 48 pages
Hardcover picture book • 17 €



Mathilde Poncet

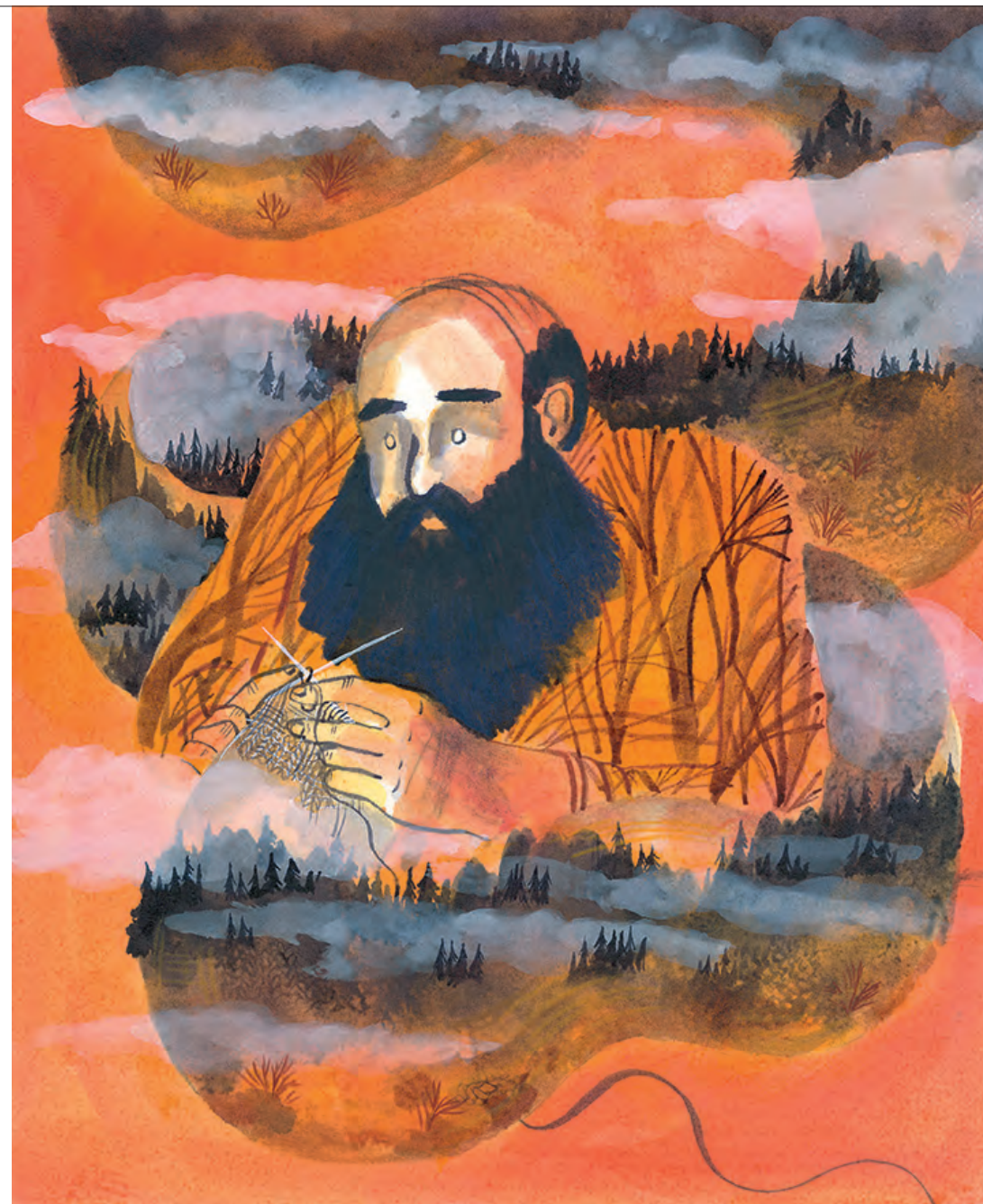
After graduating from Art School in Lorraine, then Metz, **Mathilde Poncet** became an author and an illustrator. She is passionate about wood engraving and old presses she loves using to making the characters from her imagination come alive. Her first picture book with Les Fourmis rouges, *Des vacances timbrées*, was much appreciated by book sellers. She lives in Jura, eastern France.

More from this Author:





Pourquoi pas après tout, cela me changera les idées.
Je me lance dans le tricot.
Un point à l'endroit, un point à l'envers.
Les aiguilles tintent, quelle douceur cette laine,
c'est apaisant.
Un point à l'endroit, un point à l'envers.



Aiko

Christoffer Ellegaard

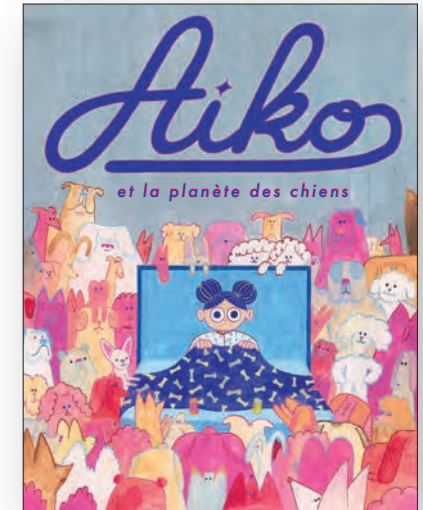
Take off on board of rocket B-Troot besides Aiko, and discover a planet inhabited by former cosmonaut dogs, clearly not thrilled to meet with a member of the human species once again...

Propelled at several million kilometres per hour, the B-Troot rocket explores the Universe in search of extra-terrestrial life. 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.

Beware! Only the readers who have sworn to secrecy will be able to read this book.

With its striking, colorful images from outer space and his uncanny sense of humour, Christoffer Ellegaard questions our relationship with animals... and the Universe as a whole. Dogs, humans, it's the same story: to live happily, let's live in seclusion.



TEMPORARY COVER

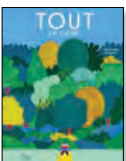
21 x 27 cm • 32 pages

Hardcover picture book • 16 €

- A galactical world with stunning and multivitamin images.
- Nonsensical, comical situations.
- A strong theme, toying with politics, about our place in the world.
- Aiko is the second picture book published by the artist with Fourmis Rouges. *Tout en ordre*, published in 2018, already dealt with our surroundings and Nature.



More from this Author:



Christoffer Ellegaard

Born in Helsingør in Denmark, **Christoffer Ellegaard** arrived in Switzerland when he was five years old. Since graduating from HEAD, the Art and Design School in Geneva, he's been working both on personal projects and on commission. Drawing is for him an endless language in which characters and stories retell his own philosophy and perception of the world.

Christoffer Ellegaard lives in Geneva.





Aiko s'en sort, mais la capsule d'exploration est en mille morceaux.
 – Y'a pas un chat ici ! Je suis fichue, se dit-elle après plusieurs heures à déambuler dans un labyrinthe de roche.



Découragée et exténuée par tant de sillons sans issues, elle finit par s'endormir.
 Pendant son sommeil, de mystérieuses silhouettes apparaissent.

Les jours passent et Aiko déprime. De mauvais poil, elle traîne la patte lors de sa balade quotidienne. Malgré tout, ces sorties loin de la meute, sont le meilleur moment pour négocier son sort auprès de Toutou.



En pleine discussion, ils ne réalisent pas qu'ils sont observés.



– Nom d'un chien ! Hurlé Toutou. Une énorme créature surgit de l'eau et d'un coup de nageoire les emporte dans les profondeurs du lac.

Iggy

Alex Cousseau & Janik Coat

Under pouring rain, he disappears, and in front of a plate of spaghetti, it's hard to tell who's eating what. It's certainly not easy living with an Afghan Hound...

Duke, the cat, tells us all about this everyday life with Iggy, his pet, an actual Afghan Hound. About the way Iggy always pees under the weeping willow, his love of spaghetti, all the long hours he spends in the bathroom or at the hairdressers... And how crazy he is about balls!

As usual, Alex Cousseau's text is perfect. But this time, he wrote it for Janik Coat to go back to pencil drawing and get a kick out of this beanpole covered in long stripes (we're talking about the dog, not about Alex Cousseau with his striped jersey from Brittany).

Nothing is more graphic and comical than an Afghan Hound. Especially when he runs at 90 km/hour after

a ball, all hair up. Can you visualize the scene, or do you need a drawing? Just open the book and marvel in front of Janik's!

Janik Coat, a graphic designer and illustrator, is madly in love with dogs. Alex Cousseau is an author, and he's madly in love with dogs, too. They form a marvellous duo who has great fun working together and allow us to join the fun with each one of their picture books.

Duke, the black cat and "his" dog Iggy will make you laugh out loud!

- The previous titles of these two authors, *Slip* and *Olive et Léandre*, have sold well and been translated abroad.
- A hair-raising yet elegant book, just like Afghan Hounds!
- Dogs have never been more fashionable... so this book is it!



Alex Cousseau

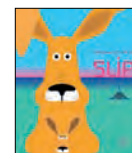
Alex Cousseau was born in Brest, Brittany. He studied Art and Audio-visual. He has published many picture books and novels for young readers. He lives near Brest.



Janik Coat

Janik Coat studied Art in Nantes. She has been publishing books as an author and an illustrator since 2005. Her world is mainly made of stylized animals, served by a graphic sobriety filled with joyous and humorous stories and colours. She lives in Nantes.

More From
these Authors:



TEMPORARY COVER

18,5 x 25 cm • 32 pages

Hardcover picture book • 14,80 €





Mon ami adore se faire remarquer.
Au petit-déjeuner, pendant que je mange.
Mes croquettes, monsieur réclame une
pleine assiette de spaghettis sauce caviar.
La ressemblance est telle entre son assiette
et lui, qu'on ne sait plus qui mange qui.



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 her friend Luigi's collection, who loves collecting rocks because they help him remembering each moment past. These pretty houses, so nicely decorated, belong to brothers Peter and Pete Junior, who, since an old brother's spat, compete to show off the best Santa's and garden gnomes. Sasha, Yvette's cousin, is crazy about all kinds of luminescent objects, because he's scared of the dark.

How about Mamita? Well, Mamita collects... other people's collections.

Children have mastered the art of collecting. But many artists, too, have collections (some of the collectors mentioned in the book are real, especially the "low art" or Art brut artists.) This poetic relationship between childhood, creation and collectors is what authors have wanted to explore here. Collecting is not just about gathering. It is also a way of thoroughly looking at the world and making a meaning out of it.

In one word, it's about imagining.

And that's exactly what we're invited to do throughout the coloured, teeming with details paintings by the Belgian illustrator Lisbeth Renardy: to imagine.

- A tender story, that makes us realize what may be really precious, beyond the material stuff.
- The art of storytelling of a grandmother, who passes on her love of collecting, but also some stories, to her grandchild.
- A unique picture book already gathering notice by foreign publishers.



Thomas Medard

Thomas Medard is a multidisciplinary artist. As an author, a musician, a singer, a composer, and a videographer, he keeps discovering and reinventing his relationship to creation. *The Strange collection of Mamita* is his first text for children.

He lives in Liege (Belgium).



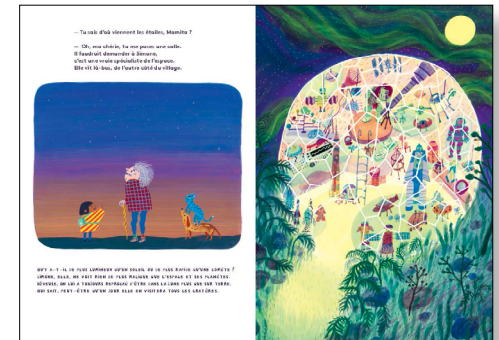
Lisbeth Renardy

Lisbeth Renardy studied Illustration at the St-Luc Institute in Belgium. Her inspiration comes from Nature and its living beings. She uses a whole range of tools and skills such as China ink, crayons, acrylic...

She lives in Liege (Belgium).



20 x 28,5 cm • 40 pages
Hardcover picture book • 16 €



MAMITA SE RACLE LA GORGE ET PROCLAME D'UN TON THÉÂTRAL :



— LUIGI CULTIVE UNE ÉTRANGE HABITUDE DEPUIS DE NOMBREUSES ANNÉES.
DE CHAQUE MOMENT PASSÉ, IL GARDE EN SOUVENIR UNE PIERRE OU UN GALET.
TANT DE CAÏLOUX DEVENUS SES COMPAGNONS LES PLUS PROCHES.
JAMAIS IL N'OUBLIERA CAR ILS SONT LÀ, TOUT AUTOUR, GRAVÉS DANS LA ROCHE.



— MAIS NON ! C'EST JUSTE LE CHAT ET LE CHIEN
DE MES VOISINS. S'EXCLAME MAMITA SOULAGÉE.

— ILS M'ONT FAIT PEUR CES DEUX-LÀ,
CONFIE YRIS.



— SACRÉS PACHA ET TOUFU !
OU EST-CE PLUTÔT CLÉO ET POÏLDOUX ?
OU BIEN CHAPRISTÌ ET SAUCISSE ?
JE NE ME SOUVIENS PAS.
ILS EN ONT TELLEMENT,
DIT MAMITA.





2022 Titles



The jacket
becomes a lovely
poster when
unfolded

Little Sister Is a Diplodocus

Aurore Petit

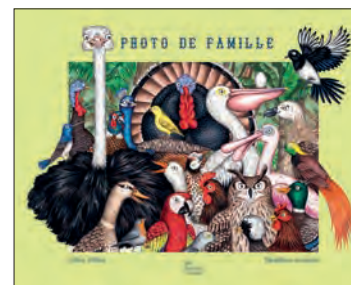
The encounter between a big brother and his young sister is often, if not always, a whole new story. A story about a tyrannosaurus and a story about a diplodocus, but above all, a love story.

When Little Sister arrives home, her big brother is delighted at first to be able to share his toys and hobbies with the newcomer. But when he realizes that this tiny human being is taking up a huge space, and that he cannot do anything fun with her, Big Brother's heart fills with deceit and anger. He suddenly turns into a tyrannosaurus, ready to fight with this giant dinosaur, tiny Little Sister.

A subtle, sweet story, that will appeal to many parents and children, especially to the readers who have read the two previous picture books by Aurore Petit and have grown with them.

24,8 x 17,8 cm • Hardcover picture book • 48 pages

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The Family Picture

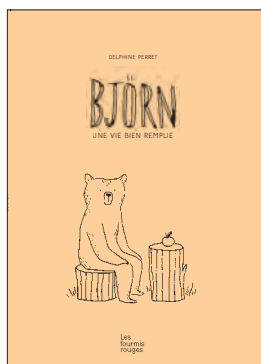
Chloé Millet & Delphine Jacquot

Today is Diego's birthday! Along his feathered cousins, he is planning a big party in the rainforest. But first, the traditional family photo shoot must take place, and that's not an easy task...

Let's meet Diego, an Ara Macao Parrot, a species known for breaking longevity records. In the Amazonian Forest, a gigantic banquet offering tons of seeds and maggots has been set for the occasion, and all the birds gathered are getting impatient: the party can soon begin! But first, the traditional family photo must be taken! Athena, the owl photographer, calls everyone to get in place, but nothing goes as planned.

The poultry grumble, the cuckoo does not stay still, the ostrich stands in front of everyone, the nocturnal birds doze off... a total mess!

29 x 23 cm • Hardcover picture book • 32 pages



Björn - A Busy Life

Delphine Perret

Summer is here! In the forest, Björn and his friends are back for six stories, as funny as they are delicate. The animals try out human activities, and Björn chooses the one he likes most: doing nothing.

The weather is mild outside, summer has come. In the forest, Björn the delicate and lazy bear and his friends – the hare, the owl, the badger, the tit... – try out human activities. They manufacture tickets to go see an exhibition, collect trash left behind by the humans, play hide and seek with an ornithologist, open a restaurant, and even think about writing a book! But when the unexpected arises, such as the fall of a beautiful red leaf or the arrival of rain, Björn stops everything he's doing. Because the most important thing to do is to contemplate those tiny things in which all the beauty of the world resides.

Björn, the endearing bear is back to make us appreciate the little details that will bring us great joy, in black fine illustrations on full yellow pages.

15 x 21 cm • Hardcover picture book • 64 pages



Where Is It?

Marie Mirgaine

The story of a man who looks everywhere for his wig that has flown away. Along the way, he encounters a cat, seaweed and even covers himself in cow dung...

A wig flies off. "Here it is!" exclaims its owner when he spots a mass of hair on the ground. Alas, it is only a poor cat that he tried putting on his head. The man will go on being mistaken with seaweed, cow dung, a mop... Until the owner finds it serving as a cozy nest. Right before his eyes, the eggs hatch. He will leave them the wig, which has become much more useful to the young family

The relief of the owner on each page believing he sees his wig, then his disappointment, is a classic in toddlers' books. An eternally repeated skit is then played between the pages, funny and reassuring for the child, since he knows in advance what is going to happen.

19,5 x 22 cm • Hardcover picture book • 40 pages

— Punaïse !
 — Une punaise ? demande Flop. C'est peut-être
 Charline, la voisine. Elle est gentille, Charline.
 — Mais non, gémit Gill. C'est encore un marathon
 de fourmis ! Ce n'est pas possible ! Ça bloque
 le chemin à chaque fois.



The Book of Gill and Flop

Inbar Heller Algazi

A story of friendship carried by a duo of whimsical and endearing characters! The first picture book of a very promising young artist.

Gill and Flop, little hybrid creatures – one third butterfly, one third centipede, one third something else – have been planning their visit to Mister Hops for weeks. After carefully preparing their luggage, they set off on their big adventure.

On their way, they will meet Charline the bug, a marathon of red ants, but also... not much else, besides the changing landscape that flows by. It then becomes necessary, in order to pass time, to invent stories and games. The most perilous mission of all: bring in one piece the delicate and precious gift made for Mister Hops. A mission that seems even more complicated to Gill with a creature like Flop by his side, so joyful but also so restless...

18,5 x 25 cm • Hardcover picture book • 48 pages





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