

Les  
fourmis  
rouges

**AUTUMN 2023**



# What Binds Us

Anne Laval

Over a year, throughout all seasons, a little girl growing as fast as a flower spends time with her grandmother, ageing slowly like a tree. The little one asks questions. The one who is not so tall answers...

*"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 "what binds" 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.

- **The way the child thinks and speaks is highly accurate: with snippets of observations and questions that come up naturally throughout the pages, simple and yet philosophical, the way children truly are.**
- **A very personal book where the author-illustrator narrates the genuine tenderness of mundane family moments shared throughout the seasons.**
- **Here, Nature is given great space. The human being is put back in its rightful place: not at the centre of the living, but with the living.**



**Anne Laval** was born in Tahiti. She studied illustration in Strasbourg and graduated from the Arts Décoratifs in 2005. Her techniques are pastel and painting as well as risography printing. Her work is regularly shown in festivals or art centres. Anne Laval does drawings for the press (*Télérama*, *The New Yorker*, *La revue XXI...*) and has already published numerous picture books for many publishers (Le Rouergue, Actes Sud, Sarbacane...) *What Binds Us* is her first book with Les Fourmis Rouges. She lives in Strasbourg, Alsace.



17.5 x 22.5 cm • 72 pages

Hardcover picture book • 15.90 €

With a pink fluo





Près de la rivière il y a le coin des mûres,  
à côté de l'école c'est les noisettes et derrière  
le terrain vague, les pommiers sauvages.





Dans ma cabane, j'ai mis tout ce qui est doux.  
Mon coussin-chat, l'écharpe de maman,  
mon pyjama en pilou.

Elle est juste à ma taille, ma cabane.

# Hi There!

Anne Zeum

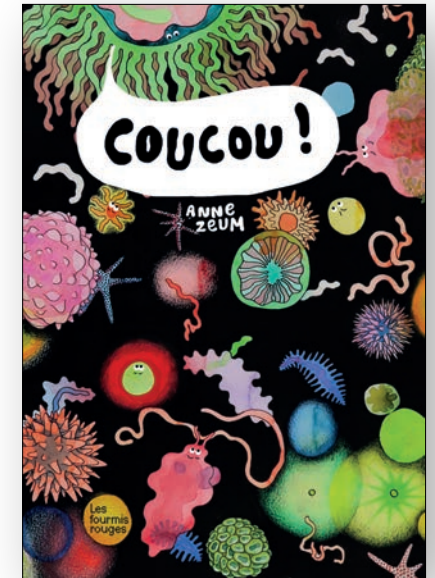
A hilarious, exhilarating book where the invisible becomes visible! Or when the infinitely small encounters the infinitely large...

- Bertie, you haven't had your breakfast yet?

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 Claude pop up again!

And just like that, the circle is complete.



21 x 25 cm • 32 pages

Hardcover picture book • 16 €

• **Anne Zeum is back! The first picture book of this multi-talented author and illustrator, *Greedy Frogs and Fatty Slugs* (Les Fourmis Rouges, 2020), was a hit with readers and professionals.**

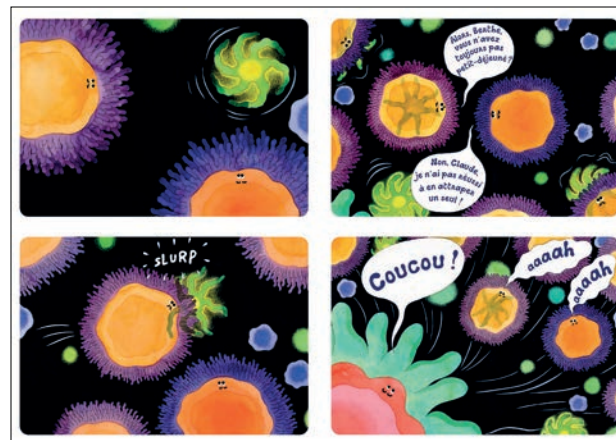
• **A classic yet exhilarating system of in and out zooming, to rediscover the narrative loop and read the book over and over.**

• **A book to read out loud, to fully enjoy all the onomatopoeia intertwined with the dialogue.**

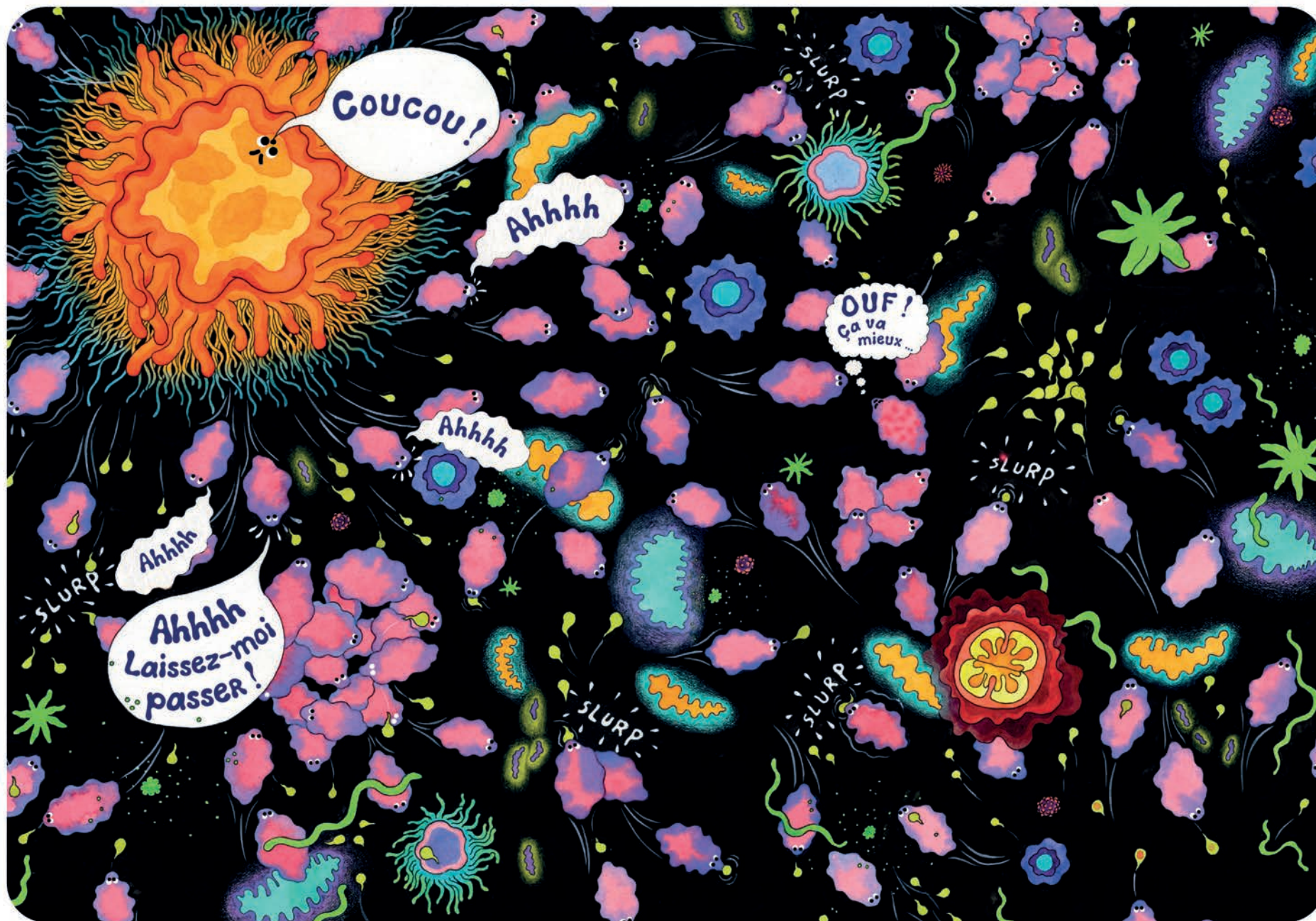


**Anne Zeum** studied graphic design and graduated with a Higher National diploma of Plastics Expression. She illustrates concert posters, disk and book covers, and became an author and illustrator in 2020.

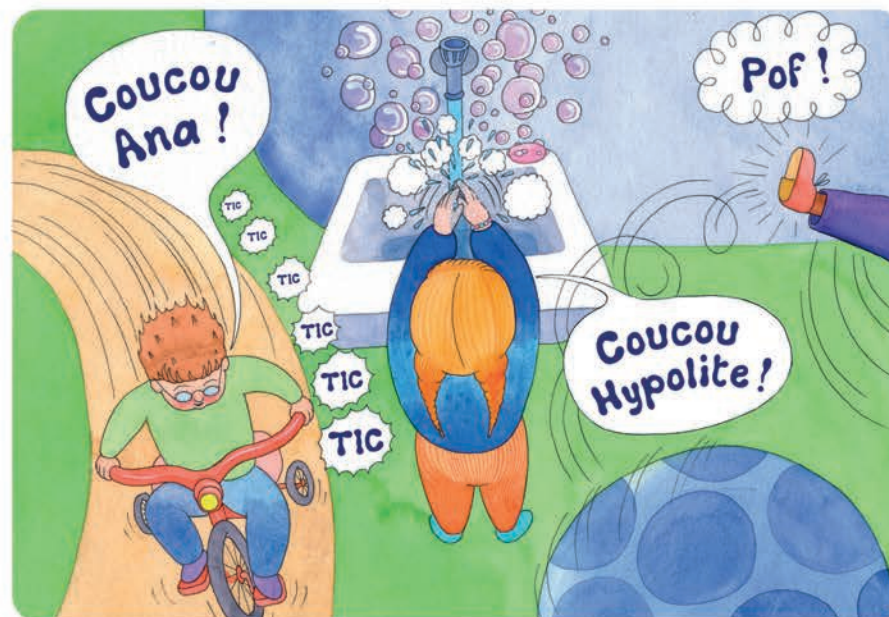
*Hi There!* is her second book published at Les Fourmis Rouges.











# 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 never lasts in town. Second, the child abandons him, leaving him all alone in this freezing town.

So, he escapes in his thoughts, daydreaming about the high life. 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!

- An effective narrative structure similar to *Toy Story*, where a snowman comes to life as soon as the child turns his back to it.
- Two reading levels: grown-ups will be highly entertained as well!
- The third picture book published with Les Fourmis Rouges, by an artist whose work is as funny as it is subtle.

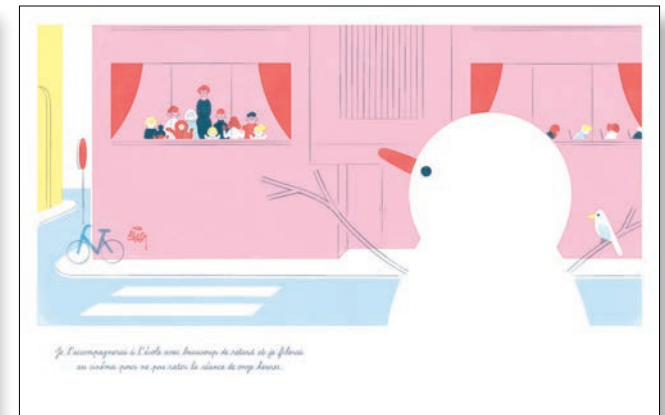
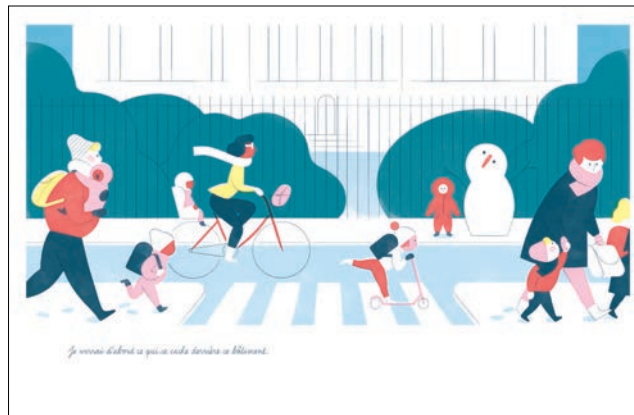


21.5 x 26.1 cm • 48 pages

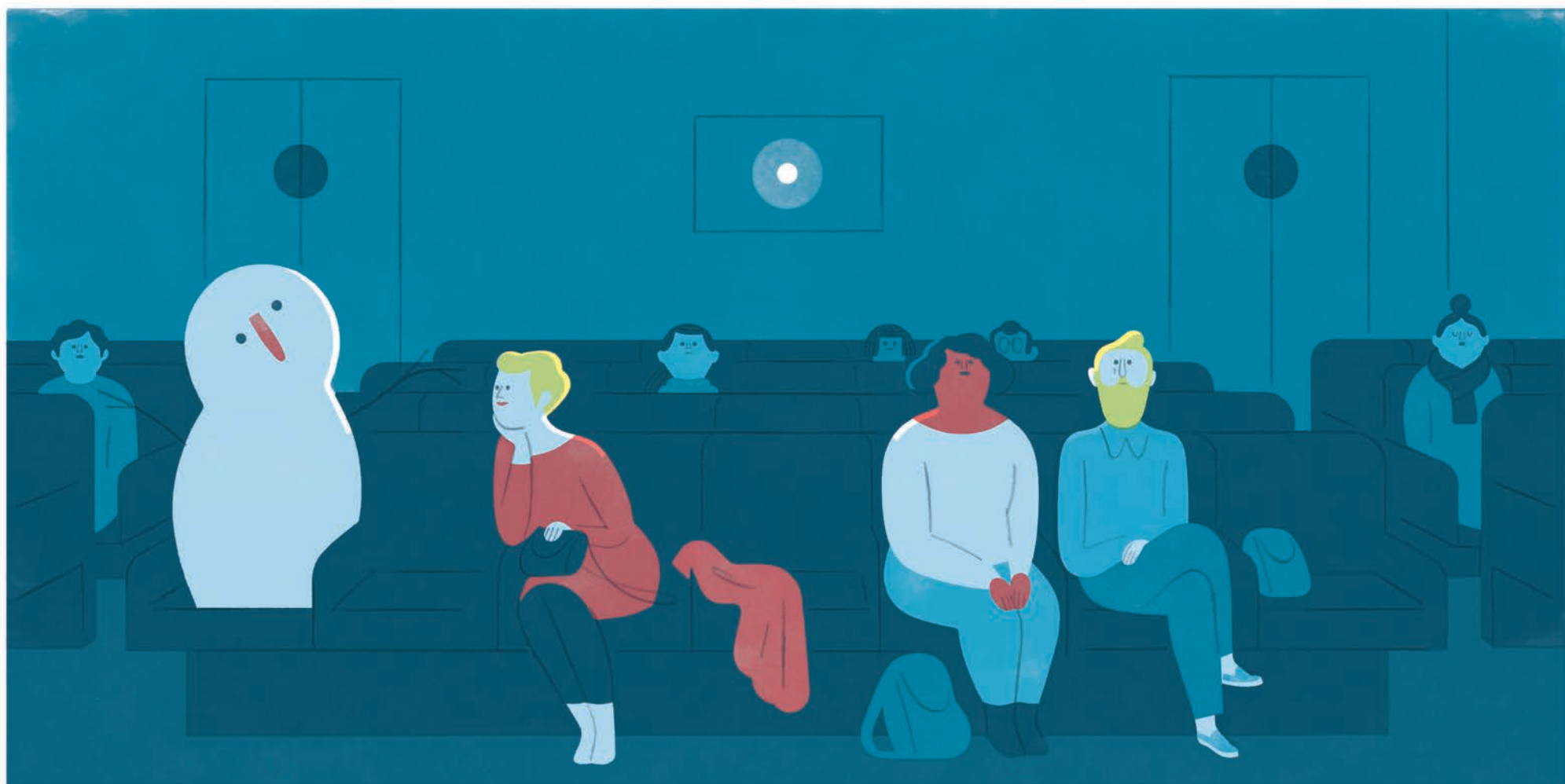
Hardcover picture book • 16.50 €



**Alexandra Pichard** was born in Poitiers, France, in 1985. She studied Art and graduated from the Arts Décoratifs in Strasbourg in 2009. The same year, she published her first picture book, *Herman et Dominique*. She has illustrated (and sometimes also written) several children's books with publishers hélium, Autrement, Flammarion, Magnard, Gallimard... as well as working for the press. Following *Third Branch on The Left* and *The Good Quack*, *Ulysse* is her third title with Les Fourmis Rouges. She lives in Strasbourg, Alsace.







*J'irai voir un film d'amour.*





*Le soir, comme prévu, la fille sera là.  
Elle remarquera mon sens du rythme.*



*Bon.*



# Yasuke

Frédéric Marais

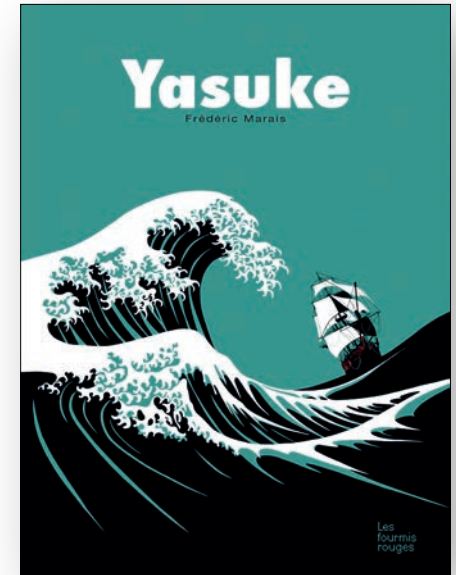
Embark on the exceptional destiny of Yasuke, the first Black Samurai, in this powerful initiatory tale written and illustrated by the talented Frédéric Marais.

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.

- **Prix Sorcières 2016 (Picture book category, jury of booksellers).**
- **Selected for the Prix des Incorruptibles 2016-2017 (juries of children).**
- **Selected for the Prix Bernard Versele, 2016 (juries of children, Belgium).**



21.6 x 28.8 cm • 32 pages

Hardcover picture book • 16,50 €

Rights sold: [Portuguese \(Brazil\)](#)



**Frédéric Marais** was born in 1965.

He studied with painter Vera Braun Lengyel from 1973 to 1983, graduated from high school in the art section, then went on to study Art at Penninghen, then ECV (Visual Communication) schools in Paris.

After working as an artistic director in an advertising company, he has become a prolific author and illustrator of children's books for several publishers (Thierry Magnier, Sarbacane, Gulf Stream...)





Au pied du Kilimandjaro, la plus haute montagne d'Afrique,  
vivait un garçon qui n'avait pas de nom.





C'est ainsi qu'au pied du Mont Fuji,  
la plus haute montagne du Japon,  
un esclave venu d'Afrique devint Yasuke,  
le seul samouraï noir ayant existé.







## The Gathering Season

Fleur Oury

A poetic picture book about sharing, with Nature as the main character and a couple of squirrels determined to rethink the way they gather provisions for their winter stocks.

When spring comes, the squirrels 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.

24 x 32 cm • Hardcover picture book • 40 pages

Four colour printing + one orange fluo colour

Rights sold: Italian



## The Skin of the Bobcat

Mathilde Poncet

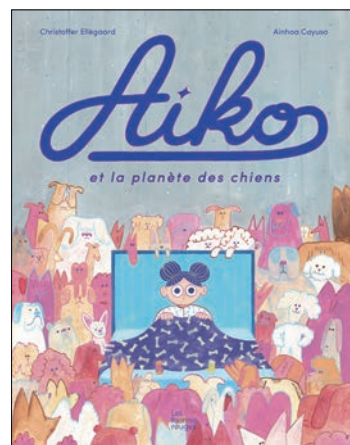
A choral picture book filled with the typical ingredients of classic tales that suddenly jumps into a very contemporary telling, filled with humour and uplifting!

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.

22 x 27 cm • Hardcover picture book • 48 pages



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



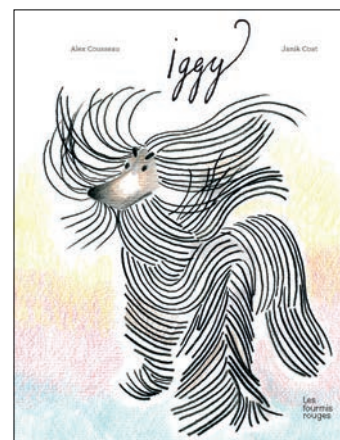
## Aiko

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



## 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 to live 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. 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 illustrations!

18.5 x 25 cm • Hardcover picture book • 32 pages





### *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



### *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?

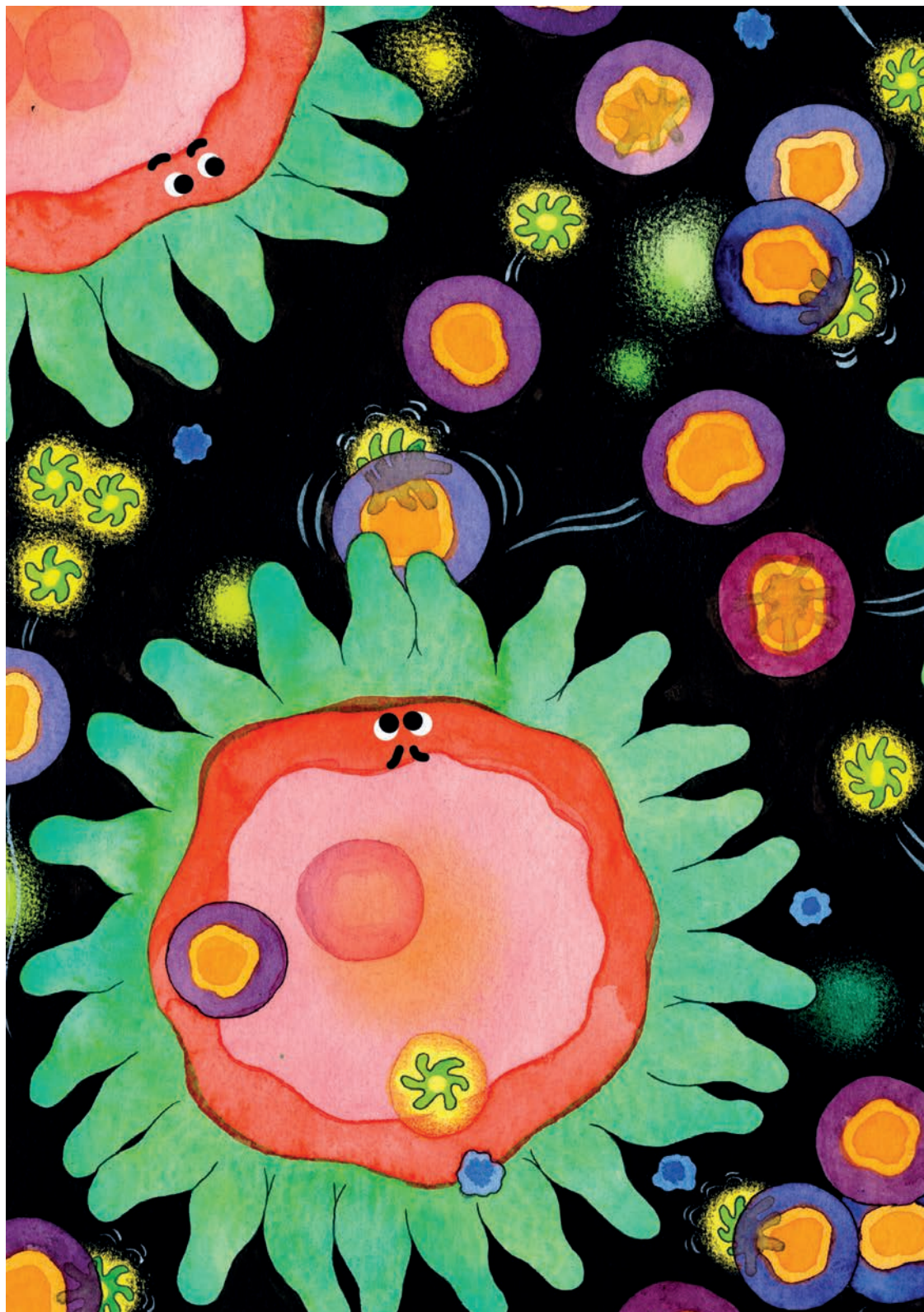
He was born a mouse, but dreams himself as a bird. He tries to come up with a beak, to flap its paws in order to fly, to sing like that magpie, but nothing works. He was born a mouseling, not a bird. Until one day, he gathers feathers in the wind and tells the whole word that with those, he may well 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?

24 x 17 cm • Hardcover picture book • 32 pages







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