

# Anywhere But Here

The banality of life in powerful colours

*'Evens's efficient narrative style and his fascinating watercolour illustrations are completely captivating. Top class.'*

Flemish newspaper *De Standaard*

*'The situation is realistic, the dialogue is true to life, but it's the artistic approach that really enchants the reader.'*

Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant*

*'We should crack open another bottle of champagne for an artistic Flemish graphic novel: a feast for the eyes from Brecht Evens.'*

Flemish magazine *Knack*



**author**

Brecht Evens

**original title**

Ergens waar je niet wil zijn

**rights**

Oogachtend

**rights sold**

French (Actes Sud BD),  
English (Drawn & Quarterly)

**about**

parties, human relationships,  
the banality of life

**pages**

180 pp.

**translation**

sample translation available in English

**info**

1,650 - 1st edition sold out

**web**

<http://brechtnieuws.blogspot.com>

**Anywhere But Here** has set off artistic fireworks in the Flemish graphic novel scene. This comic strip is bursting with artistic ambition: Brecht Evens has introduced a new and daring style with his expressive drawings and powerful choices of colour. In a flowing rhythm of short snatches of dialogue and grand set pieces, the author leads the reader into a world of fictitious Flemish party nights. This is a feast for the eyes!

*Anywhere But Here* is a story about parties where some people are sometimes more welcome than others. Evens uses this familiar context to explore the banality of life. Amongst the partygoers, two characters stand out, each the other's opposite. The story opens with a scene at an excruciatingly dull party. The ever-anxious Geert organises a reunion for his classmates, but his guests only come because they're hoping to see the popular Robbie. However, Robbie decides that he'd rather hang out at a nightclub instead. The focus then shifts to Robbie, in his nightclub habitat. He proves to be charm personified, a warm and imaginative character with a way of uplifting or inspiring everyone he meets. Being naturally popular or desperately trying to become popular – that's what this book is all about.

The plot appears to focus on nothing in particular, but this serves to emphasise the human relationships even more strongly. *Anywhere But Here* is about loneliness, about superficiality, about how difficult it is to make real contact with other people. At the same time, Evens also accentuates the human desire for more and for better.

**Brecht Evens** (1986) made his debut in 2005 with the comic strip *Een boodschap uit de ruimte* (Van Halewyck), followed by three books published by Oogachtend: *Vincent* (2006), *Nachtdieren* (2007) and the recent *Ergens waar je niet wil zijn* (*Anywhere But Here*, 2009). Evens graduated as an illustrator from Sint-Lucas in Ghent in 2008.



In January 2009, the new generation of Flemish comic creators were guests of honour at the comic-book festival in Angoulême. Brecht Evens was one of twenty authors who were introduced to an international audience in the exhibition *Ceci n'est pas la BD flamande* (This is not the Flemish comic book). He went down a storm in Angoulême, where there was a great deal of foreign interest in his work. Ever since his debut, Evens's fresh and uninhibited approach has ensured his position as one of the most promising comic-book artists in Flanders.



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**Grants**

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