

Sleepyheads

A tribute to the power of dreams

'A poetic trip and an aesthetic shock that makes your jaw drop.'

Flemish magazine Focus Knack

'Sleepyheads showcases a blooming affair between the reality, the imagination and the dream.'

Flemish magazine Humo

'Ingenious, virtuoso, every line's alive.'

Flemish newspaper Gazet van Antwerpen / Het Belang van Limburg



author

Randall. C

original title

Slaapkoppen

rights

Oogachtend

about

dreams, imagination, poetry, humour

pages

112 pp.

rights sold

English (Blank Slate)

French (Casterman)

Italian (Comma 22)

prizes

Debut award Strip Turnhout 2008

Debut award VPRO 2008

copies

1.900 copies sold - 2nd edition

Sleepyheads is a poetic fable about a couple of dreamers who dream another dream within their dream and then enter into that dream, only to dream another dream, and so on. As the title suggests, this book has a very meditative, dreamlike quality. It reads like a long journey through the infinite world of the imagination. At the beginning of the book, the story seems to consist of short, individual anecdotes. As you read on, it becomes clear that, in spite of the unexpected twists and turns, everything forms a coherent whole in which the ideas flow together seamlessly.

The couple's journey through dreamland alternates with a story about Igor and Olav, two Russian sailors who are stranded on a tiny island in the middle of nowhere. They have nothing to do but try to kill time with absurd conversations and pointless games.

The dreaming couple's adventures bring them to the sailors' island and, as they begin to awaken from their dreams, the story becomes packed with action and adventure and sprinkled with poetic, naïve and humorous dialogue.

Throughout the course of the book, various characters tell personal stories that interweave with the journey as dreams within dreams (within dreams).

The stylistic influences of Christophe Blain and Blutch are clearly present in Randall. C's work, but the exuberant scribble technique of the 'nouvelle bande dessinée à la flamande' (new Flemish-style graphic novel) and the feather-light scenes scattered almost casually throughout the book also demonstrate his very individual touch. Colour is another important element of this illustrator's unique style: lots of soft shades with usually just one dominant hue.

Sleepyheads is dreaming its way to an international career.

Randall.C (Randall Casaer, 1967) does illustrations and works for theatre and television. He is both an author and a renowned coach and director for a number of top Flemish comedians, a role for which he has won major awards. His illustrations regularly appear in the Flemish press.

Sleepyheads is Randall's first graphic novel and has won two debut awards



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(Debutprijs VPRO 2008 and Debutprijs Strip Turnhout 2008). His book *To Do* came out in early 2009, which showcases his illustration work and sketches, combined with amusing, poetic and philosophical items that one would not expect to find on a normal to-do list.

In January 2009, the new generation of Flemish comic creators were guests of honour at the comic-book festival in Angoulême. Randall.C 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).



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