CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LITERATURE

How love ultimately triumphs over trauma

The Red Door

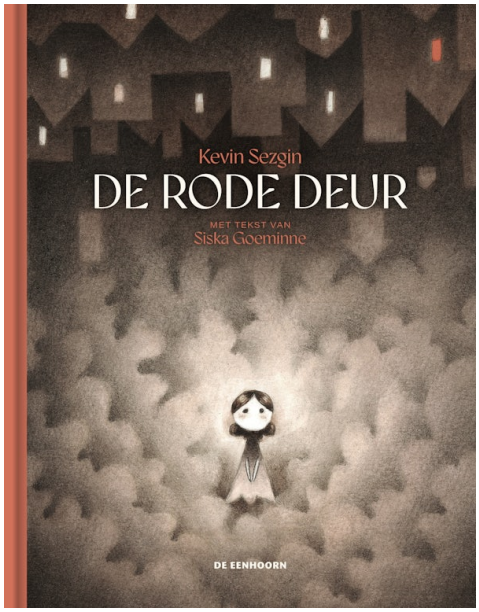
KEVIN SEZGIN & SISKA GOEMINNE

As a child, Tomiko dreams of other lives and the other people around her. She wants to be far away from the red door that follows her everywhere. When she gets bigger, she decides to flee, further and further from the person she was as a little girl. But even though Tomiko travels to the other side of the world, she can't leave her past behind. There too she is confronted with the red door from her childhood. Until she meets Noa. He spirits away her loneliness and provides her with the safety she's been seeking for so long. To him, Tomiko finally dares to say what she's been hiding behind the red door all these years, and how much of an effort that is. Once she has come to terms with her past, she's ready for a brilliant future.

Poetic prose

MAPPALIBRI ON SISKA GOEMINNE'S WORK

Using water soluble graphite, Kevin Sezgin creates an intriguing world reminiscent of the work of Shaun Tan, with various shades of brown which contrast starkly with the bright red of the door that follows Tomiko all through the book. Tomiko is often portrayed as small, against backgrounds that dominate and define her. Until she manages to open the door. The poetic text by Siska Goeminne helps to make it possible to talk about traumas.



AUTHORS

Kevin Sezgin (b. 1994) is an illustrator and concept artist with an international background. He has studied in Japan, Korea and the United States, and his work is a blend of East Asian and Western influences. He mainly draws upon his lived experiences, and he often explores how we relate to emotional traumas. *Photo © Catherine Misselyn*

Siska Goeminne (b. 1968) writes and translates books for children of all ages: from picture books for the youngest readers to YA novels. Her style has been termed poetic and limpid, yet also philosophical, with a touch of humour. She loves to write about close, yet sometimes tough family relationships and about the courage to make one's own choices. *Photo © Andy Huysmans*

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