Visit www.flandersliterature.be for information about translation grants.

"*In good company* is a mix of genres. Drama, coming of age, a bit of suspense, and all of that presented as a humoristic family-comic in a cartoon-esque style, Tintin-noses and saturated colouring included."

9e Kunst

"If *In good company* teaches us one thing, it's that we want more."

Enola

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In good company

Inne Haine & Mathias Van Den Berge

It's a hot, stuffy summer in 1997. Martin Dupont is working hard at his career as a folk singer while his wife Cecile slaves away in their pub 'In Good Company', dreaming of a more exciting life in Tuscany. As well as running the pub, Cecile is taking care of her demented father in law, for whom the lines between fantasy and reality have long been blurry. Elise hates her summer job as mailman, but she needs the money to get out of her toxic family situation. Her boyfriend, gabber Franky, is up to his ears in all types of sketchy business. Then, while the rhubarb steadily grows in the baker's wife's garden, destiny strikes, and some completely lose sense of good and evil...

Inne Haine *is a comic artist and illustrator. She studied animation because she loves to tell stories, but after that she turned to her true passion: illustration and graphic storytelling, which she studied at the Sint Lukas school of the arts in Brussels. Her style is humoristic and poetic. She loves to draw people, animals, and nature. Her biographical comic strips appear on the website of Pulp deLuxe. 'In Good Company' is her second book after 'The Miracle of Vierves' which was published in Dutch and French.*

Mathias Van den Berge *studied illustrative design at the Sint Lucas school of arts in Antwerp. He teaches Perceptive Drawing and Applied Fine Arts at the Sint Lucas school for secondary art education in Antwerp. He Also works as a freelance illustrator. 'In Good Company' is his debut. Inne and Mathias are partners and live together in Antwerp, they work together under the name 'Studio Klomper'.*

Original title : In goed gezelschap (Oogachtend, 2023. Hardcover, 18x25 cm. 144 pp.)

SAMPLE TRANSLATION, PAGES 3 – 27

3
Luc: Dear viewers, please give it up for our next guest: Martin Dupont!

4
L: Martin, from singing pub-owner to one of the most promising artists of the moment. Your sprint
to the top began las summer.
Martin: Luc, I can hardly believe it myself, truly a dream come true!
Of course, I already did have a lot of experience to fall back on as a cover singer, I be-
L: Dear viewers, unfortunately we will have to interrupt our show briefly, we will be back with more
music in a moment.
Newsreader: Good evening. This is an extra announcement concerning the missing-person case
that's had our country in its grip for several months.

5 1. When a heart stops beating

8
Marc: the rhubarb's looking good this year
Good morning, Julia!
Julia: Ah Marc.
Can't complain.
M: You'll get plenty pies out of that bunch!
All for the party tomorrow?
J: Yes, Rudy's just getting started on the batter.
M: Right…
Have to remember to finish the job before I start on the pints…
There, a postcard for you.

9
J: From Joeri!
M: I'll be off now, the bar awaits!
I'll see you at the party!
J: Till then!
A postcard from Joeri!

11
Suzy: They can't take that back now!
Cecile: Right, there's your beer.
Customer: Ah! That'll do me good.
S: Cecile! More pie please!
A big piece.
Not too stingy, eh?

12
Martin: Dear Friends!
Today we've gathered here in honour of one person. Rudy, this is for you!
Baker Rudy, he bakes the best bread around!
Baker Rudy, he bakes them perfectly brown!
But the time has come to change his attire!
Cause baker Rudy
He's going to retire!

13
M: Baker Rudy, we will miss you!
Your pastries, your sandwiches, your rolls!
We queued up for them every day!
Baker Rudy, thank you so much!
C: Suzy, that's your last slice alright?
The others would like some, too.
S: Ah, alright, Cecile.

14
M: Come on, Rudy, speech!
Rudy: Dear custme…
Cough
Cough
Cough
For years I've provided your daily bread, delicious pastries, pies and cakes.
You came from far and wide to get your favourite treats, sometimes queueing up outside the door!
But even though I've always enjoyed what I did, it is time… To make time!

15
Me and Julia are going to live it up!
I want to thank Martin and Ceci-
Cough
Cough
Cough
…: Cecile, hurry!
Call an ambulance!

16 I tell you goodbye

20
Marc: Pfff. What dreadful weather!

21
Cecile: Ah Marc, a beer?
M: Yes, please, Cecile!
I don't like wet weather, but I like my hops wet!
C: There you are.

M: Thanks, I, erm…
…Here.
A blood clot, I heard.
C: Yes, indeed.
We thought it was his flower allergy playing up, turns out it was lung embolism.

22
He worked so hard.
Couldn't enjoy even a day of retirement.
Working your fingers to the bone 6 nights a week without holidays.
I couldn't do it.
C: Julia won't be having it easy right now.
M: You have to enjoy life while you're young.
Like me.
I'll be going away for a few weeks soon.

23
C: Away? Where to?
A holiday?
M: Thailand!
Seeing the sights, you know.
Lot of beautiful nature over there, if you catch my…
Martin: Cecile?!
FATHER IS GONE!
C: What?!
M: He must have wandered off while I was on the phone with Suzy!
C: Dammit Martin! I ask you to keep an eye on him once!
M: Say! Suzy has an important update on my CD, mind you!
C: Alright, alright, I'll go look for him.

24
Edgar (in his fantasy world): Blimey! The door is open.
What will be inside the lorry?
Now! The coast is clear!
Rice? Just like last time!

25
I've seen that logo before!
Mr Cheng: On the banks of the Jangtsekiang…
…The rice sways back and forth.
E: There they come! Quick!
Oof! That was close!
But look… That Amulet!
The sign of the clan of the golden dragon!

26
Mr Cheng: Mr Edgar!
Can I help you with something?

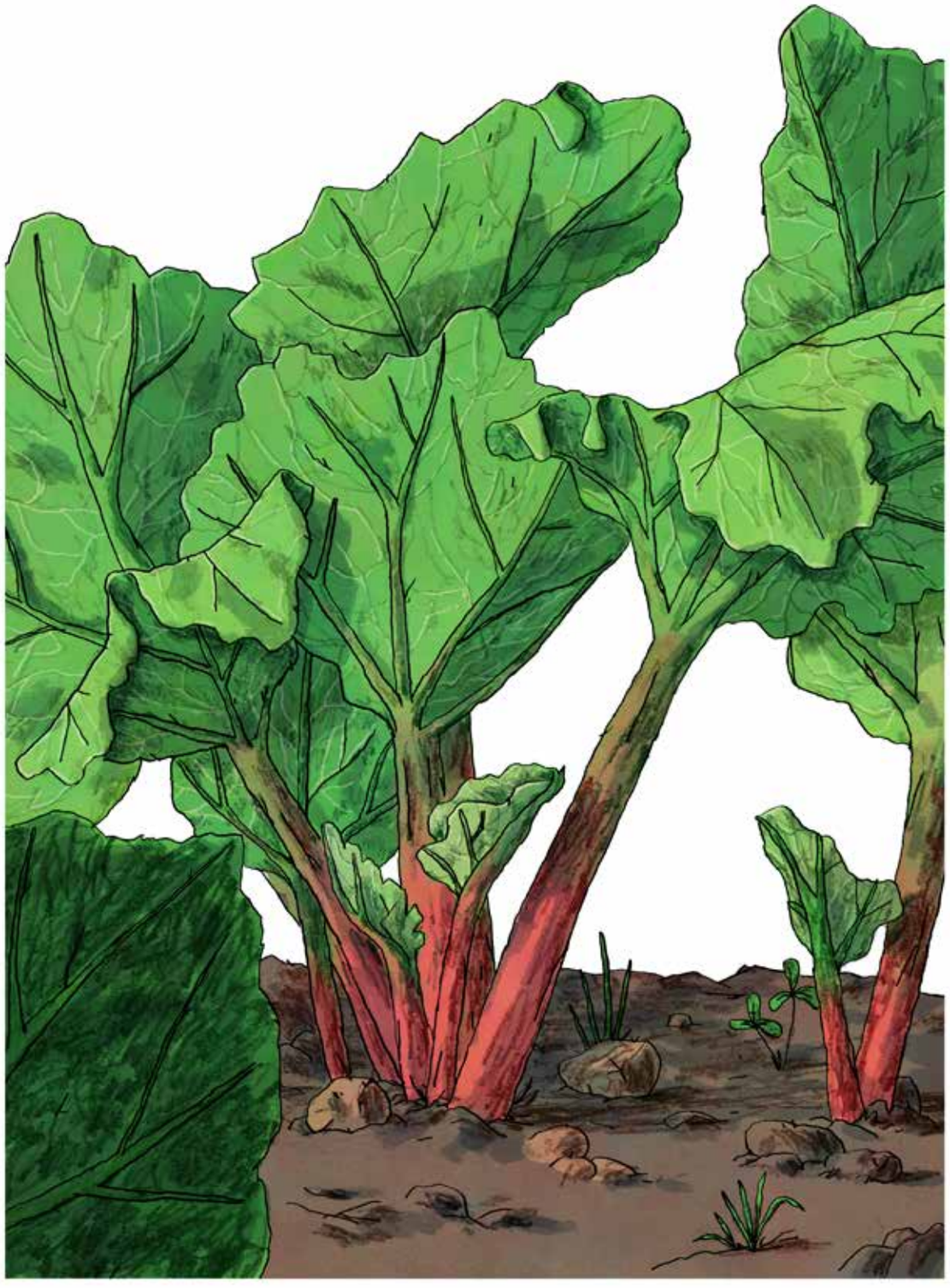
Is everything OK Mr Edgar?
Cecile: Dammit Edgar!
What are you up to now? Get over here!
I’m sorry, Mr Cheng!
Mr C: Hahahaha, no worries, Ms Cecile!

27
C: You can’t go outside alone.
You know that!
Go craft something.
E: The treasure…
…is safe!

HITPARADE
'97
BESTE KIJKERS, GRAAG EEN DAVEREND APPLAUS
VOOR ONZE VOLGENDE GAST: MARTIN DUPONT!

1

Als een hart met kloppen stopt



HIJ STAAT MOOI DIT JAAR, DE RABARBER.
!

GOEIEMORGEN, JULIA!
AH, MARC.
JA, WE MOGEN NIET KLAGEN, HÈ.

DAAR GAAN JULLIE NOGAL EENS TAARTEN VAN KUNNEN BAKKEN. ALLEMAAL VOOR HET FEEST VAN MORGEN?
JA, RUDY IS ALVAST AAN HET BESLAG BEGONNEN.

OH JA...
NOG EVEN MIJN WERK DOEN VOOR IK IN DE PINTEN VLIEG..

ZIEZO, 'N KAARTJE VOOR JULLIE.
Cabo Verde

VAN JOERI!
Cabo Verde

IK GA ER MAAR EENS VANDOOR. DE TOOG WACHT!

IK ZIE JE OP HET FEEST!
TOT DAN!

RUDY!

EEN KAARTJE VAN JOERI!

KLOMPER IN GOED GEZELSCHAP KLOMPER

TING
TING

BESTE VRIENDEN!
DJ ROSSO
VANDAAG ZOUDEN WE GRAAG IEMAND NOG EENS IN DE BLOEMETJES ZETTEN! RUDY, DIT LIEDJE IS VOOR JOU!!

BAKKER RUDY, DIE BAKT DE BESTE BRODEN VAN DE STREEK!
BAKKER RUDY, DIE BAKT VOOR IEDEREEN KOEKJES VAN EIGEN DEEG!

MAAR NU IS HET TIJD OM IETS ANDERS TE DOEN!

WANT BAKKER RUDY, DIE GAAT OP PENSIOEN!

BAKKER RUDY, WE GAAN JE MISSEN!

JE KOEKEN, JE SANDWICHES, JE PISTOLETS!
MMM...

WE STONDEN ER ELKE ZONDAG VOOR IN DE RIJ!

BAKKER RUDY, HARTELIJK BEDANKT!

SUZY, DIT IS WEL JE LAATSTE STUK, HÈ. DE ANDERE GASTEN WILLEN GRAAG OOK NOG WAT.
AH... OK, CÉCILE...

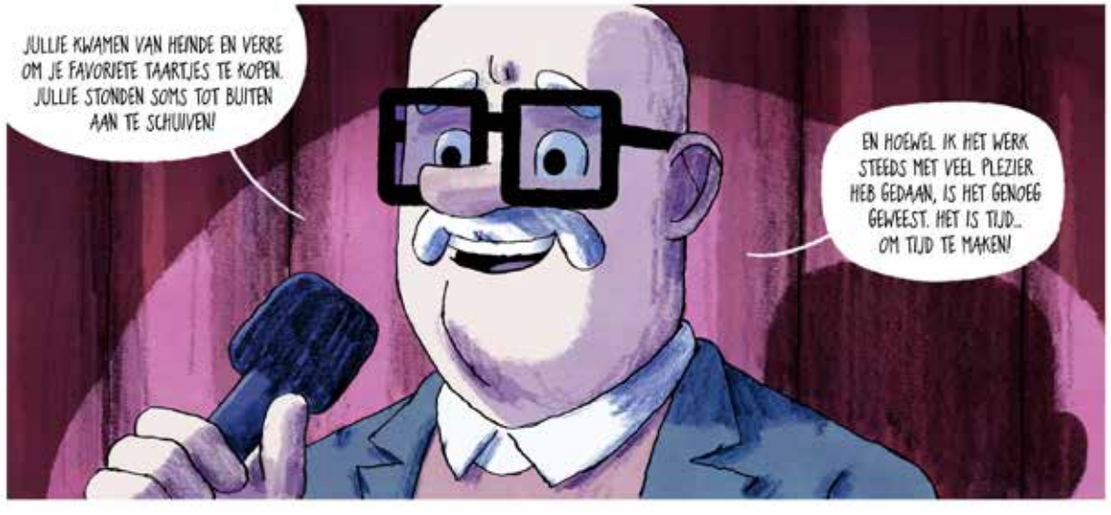
BEDANKT, VANWEGE AL JE KLANTEN EN MIJ!

KOMAAN, RUDY!
SPEECH!

RUDY!!

LIEVE KLANTE-
UCHE!
UCHE!
UCHE!

AHEM...
... JARENLANG VOORZAG IK JULLIE VAN DAGELIJKS BROOD, LEKKERE KOEKEN EN TAARTEN.


JULLIE KWAMEN VAN HEINDE EN VERRE OM JE FAVORIETE TAARTJES TE KOPEN. JULLIE STONDEN SOMS TOT BUITEN AAN TE SCHUIVEN!
EN HOEWEL IK HET WERK STEEDS MET VEEL PLEZIER HEB GEDAAN, IS HET GENOEG GEWEEST. HET IS TIJD... OM TIJD TE MAKEN!

JULIA EN IK GAAN ER EENS GOED VAN PROFITEREN!

IK WIL... UCHE! OOK NOG MARTIN EN CECILE BEDA-
UCHE!
UCHE!
UCHE!

NNGG!!

RUDY?!

RUDY!!
JULIA...

CECILE, VLUG!
GLUP.
BEL EEN AMBULANCE!!

2

Ik zeg je vaarwel

KLOMPER IN GOED GEZELSCHAP KLOMPER

PFFF... WAT EEN ZEIKWEER, ZEG!

AH, MARC. PINTJE?
JA, GRAAG, CECILE!

IK HOU NIET VAN NAT WEER, MAAR WEL VAN GERSTENAT!
PSJTT

ALSJEBLIEFT.
Blonde
DANK JE. IK, EH...

...HIER.
OH...

EEN BLOEDKLONTER, HEB IK GEHOORD...
Met droefheid meiden we U het overlijden van
Rudy Petsmaeckers
Man van Julia Verhoeven
en vader van Yoeri
geboren op 29 april 1932
en plots overleden op 10 juli 1997.
Wij nodigen U uit om afscheid van hem te nemen
in het crematorium Ten Velde
Dorpsstraat 23 in Lintdorp
om 10 uur op zaterdag 17 mei.

JA, INDERDAAD.
WE DACHTEN EERST DAT HIJ LAST HAD VAN ZIJN MEELALLERGIE, MAAR HET WAS EEN LONGEMBOLIE.

ZO HARD GEWERKT...

...EN NIET ÉÉN DAG KUNNEN GENIETEN VAN ZIJN PENSIOEN.
BAKKERIJ DE GRAANKORREL

Eindaal gesloten
ZES NACHTEN PER WEEK JE NIKKEL AFDRAAIEN EN BIJNA NOOIT OP VAKANTIE.
IK ZOU HET NIET KUNNEN...

JULIA ZAL HET NU WEL NIET MAKKELIJK HEBBEN.
TJA...

JE MOET PROFITEREN ALS JE JONG BENT.

MJA...

NET ALS IK.
IK BEN ER BINNENKORT ENKELE WEKEN TUSSENUIT.

ER TUSSENUIT... WAT GA JE DOEN? OP VAKANTIE?
THAILAND!

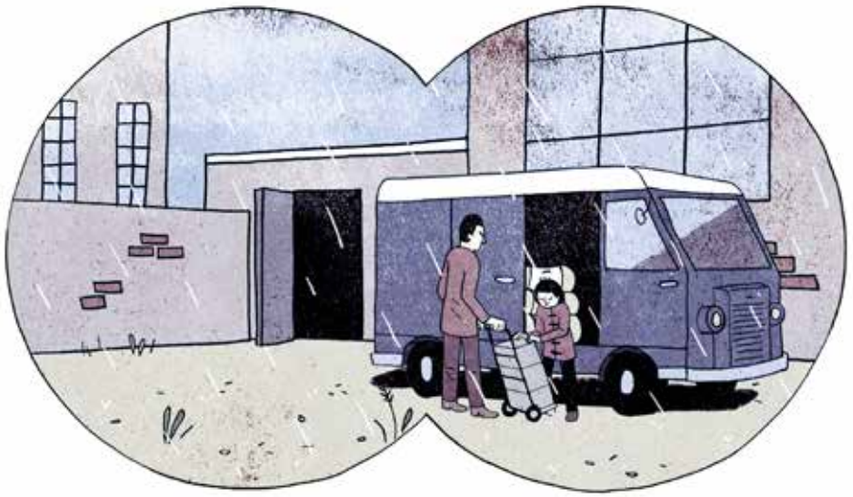
BEETJE RONDTREKKEN, HÈ. DE NATUUR DAAR SCHIJNT MOOI TE ZIJN, ALS JE...
CECILE?!
VADER IS WEG!

WAT?!
HIJ MOET DE STRAAT OPGELOPEN ZIJN TOEN SUZY ME BELDE!

VERDORJE MARTIN! ÉÉN KEER VRAAG IK JE OM OP HEM TE LETTEN!
JA, ZEG!
SUZY HAD WEL EEN BELANGRIJKE EUPDEET OVER MIJN CD, HÈ!

HET IS AL GOED, IK ZAL HEM WEL GAAN ZOEKEN!
PRIVE

HMPFF!



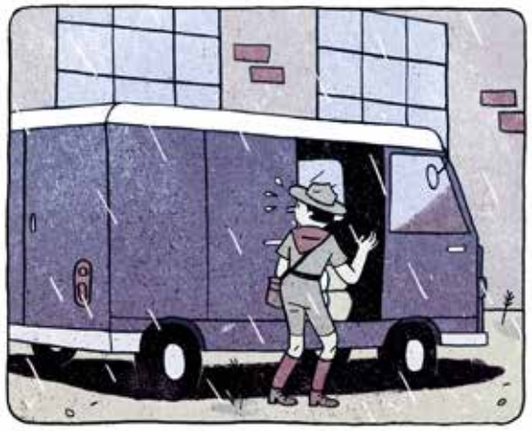
Verhip! De deur staat open.

Wat zou er in hun vrachtauto zitten?

Nu! De kust is veilig!

Rijst? Net als de vorige keer!

Dat logo zag ik al eerder!



Aan de oevers van de Jangtsekiang...

...wiegt de rijst heen en weer.
Daar komen ze! Snel!

Oef! Dat scheelde geen haar!

Nee maar... Dat amulet!

Het teken van de bende van
De Gouden Draak!

Meneer Edgar!

Kan ik u ergens mee helpen?

Alles in orde, Meneer Edgar?

Verdomme, Edgar!