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The Nameless Bird

Ben Gijsemans

An ornithologist ventures into the wilderness, hunting for rare birds. His knowledge is unmatched. But when he stumbles upon an unknown species of bird, his world comes apart.

With every album, Gijsemans shows us a different side of his abilities and explores the potential of the medium in which he works. He plays with the relation between text and image and pushes the limits of the graphic novel. With *The Nameless Bird*, he uses the form of a children's book to question, in a minimal amount of words, the human pursuit of knowledge, and ultimately to plea for a more playful, curious attitude towards reality.



***Ben Gijsemans (b.1989)** studied audiovisual arts and comics in Ghent and Brussels. The first chapter of his debut *Hubert* was his thesis. It was very well received at home and abroad. Gijsemans' drawings are incredibly detailed, and more often than not depict loners who feel out of place among other people.*

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When I was born, I got my name.
And as I grew up, everything got its name.

I was imbedded in everything.

9

With my mind at ease, I went from wilderness to wilderness.

It was thus that I eventually became an authority in looking up.
An expert for the unexperienced.

10

But then something unexpected happened.

12

Everything I knew, fell apart.

Na mijn geboorte kreeg ik mijn naam.

En toen ik groter werd kreeg alles zijn naam.

Ik was ingebed in het **alles**.



Met een gerust hart trok ik van de ene wildernis naar de ander.

Zo werd ik uiteindelijk een erkende autoriteit in het **omhoog kijken**.
Een deskundige voor de niet-deskundigen.



Maar dan gebeurde er iets onverwachts.



S K R ! I I A A Ĥ
T Z r R k R
V R R I I i P
r i n k

Al wat ik kende, viel uiteen.





