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“*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



www.oogachtend.be
sammy@oogachtend.be

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’.

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 last 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!





KLAP! KLAP! MARTIN!! KLAP! KLAP!



MARTIN, VAN ZINGENDE CAFÉBAAS TOT ÉÉN VAN DE BELOFTEVOLSTE ARTIESTEN VAN DIT MOMENT. JOUW SPRINT NAAR DE TOP BEGON VORIGE ZOMER.



LUC, IK KAN HET ZELF AMPER GELOVEN. ECHT EEN DROOM DIE WERKELIJKHEID WORDT!



UITERBAARD HAD IK ALS COVERZANGER AL HÉÉL WAT ERVARING OM OP TERUG TE VALLEN. IK BE-



BESTE KIJKERS, WE MOETEN HELAAS DEZE UITZENDING EVEN ONDERBREKEN. WE ZIJN STRAKS BIJ U TERUG MET MEER MUZIEK.

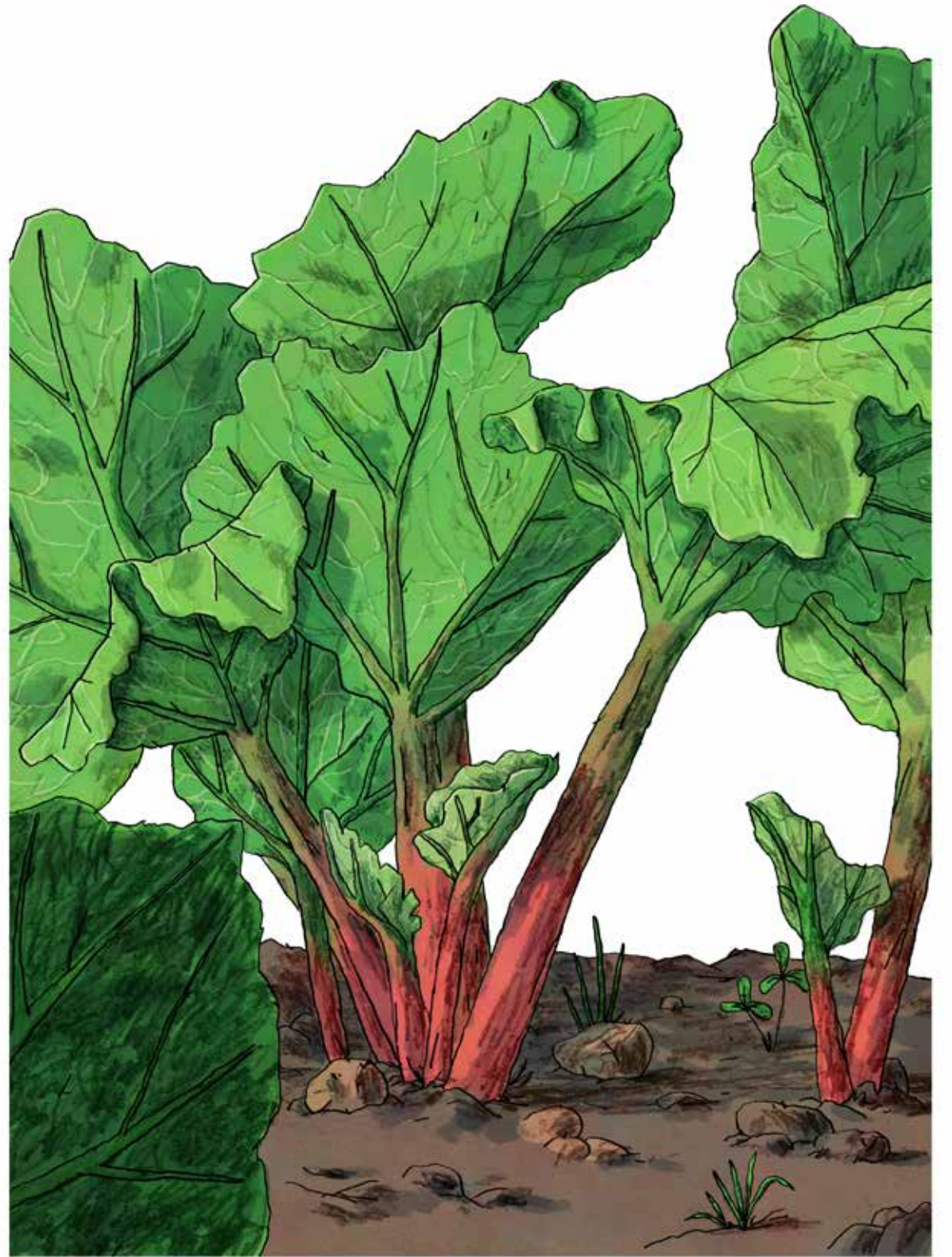


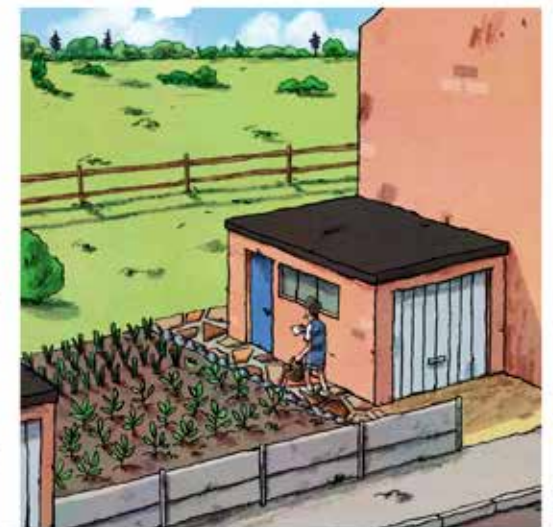
Live

GOEDENAVOND. DIT IS EEN EXTRA NIEUWSBERICHT OVER DE VERDWIJNINGSZAAK DIE ONS LAND AL ENKELE MAANDEN IN DE BAN HOUDT.

1

Als een hart met kloppen stopt









TING
TING



BESTE VRIENDEN!

VANDAAG Zouden we
GRAAG IEMAND NOG EENS IN
DE BLOEMETJES ZETTEN! RUDY,
DIT LIEDJE IS VOOR JOU!!



BAKKER RUDY,
WE GAAN JE MISSEN!



JE KOEKEN,
JE SANDWICHES,
JE PISTOLETS!

MMM.

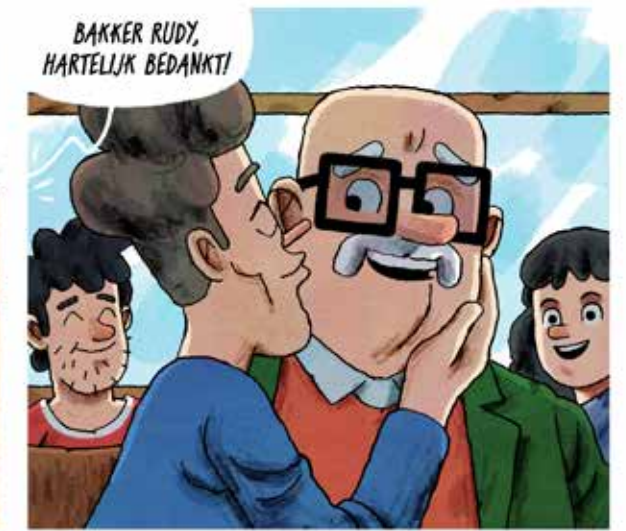


BAKKER RUDY,
DIE BAKT DE BESTE
BRODEN VAN DE STREEK!

BAKKER RUDY,
DIE BAKT VOOR IEDEREEN
KOEKJES VAN EIGEN DEEG!



WE STONDEN ER ELKE
ZONDAG VOOR IN DE RIJ!



BAKKER RUDY,
HARTELIJK BEDANKT!



MAAR NU IS HET TIJD OM
IETS ANDERS TE DOEN!



WANT BAKKER RUDY,
DIE GAAT OP PENSIOEN!



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!

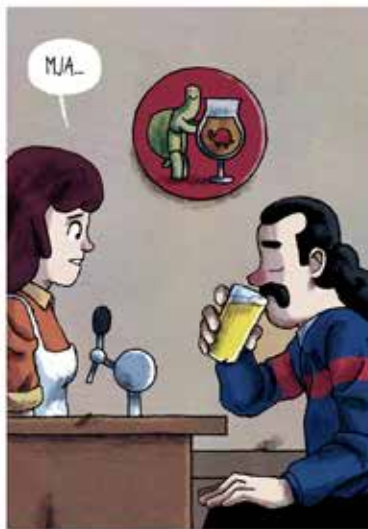


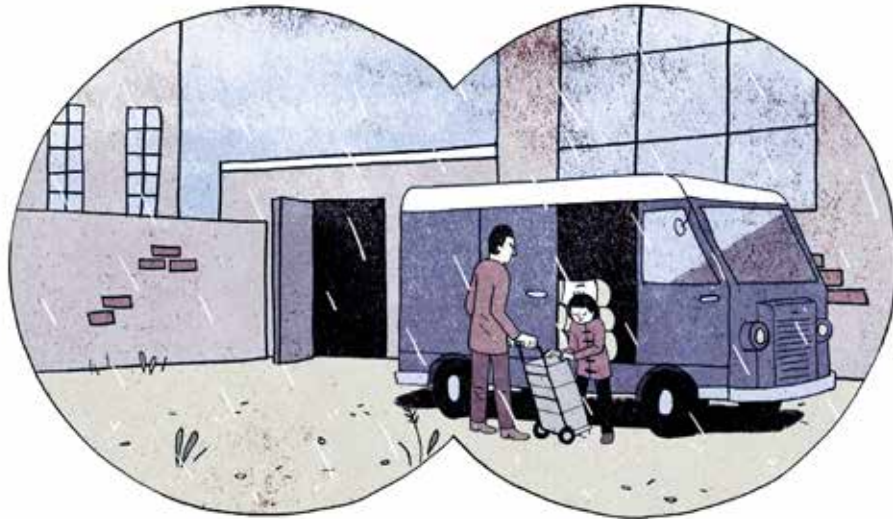
2

Ik zeg je vaarwel









Verhip! De deur staat open.



Wat zou er in hun vrachtauto zitten?



Nu! De kust is veilig!



Rijst? Net als de vorige keer!



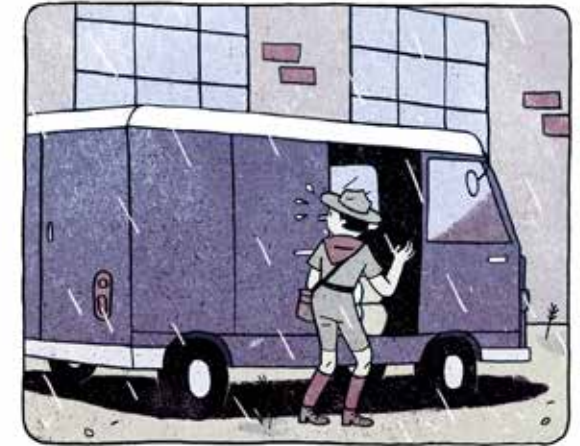
Dat logo zag ik al eerder!



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



Nee maar... Dat amulet!



Aan de oevers van de Jangtsekiang...



Oef! Dat scheelde geen haar!



Het teken van de bende van De Gouden Draak!



Meneer Edgar!



Kan ik u ergens mee helpen?



JE MAG NIET ALLEEN NAAR BUITEN GAAN.

DAT WEET JE TOCH!



GA NOG MAAR WAT KNUTSELEN.

GRMPF.



Alles in orde, Meneer Edgar?



Verdomme, Edgar!



WAT SPOOK JE NU WEER UIT?! MAAK DAT JE HIER BENT!



HAHAHA, GEEN PROBLEEM, MEVROUW CECILE!

MIJN EXCUSES, MENEER CHENGI!



DE SCHAT.



...IS VEILIG!