



Visit www.letterenfonds.nl for information about translation grants.

Golden

Va Bén 

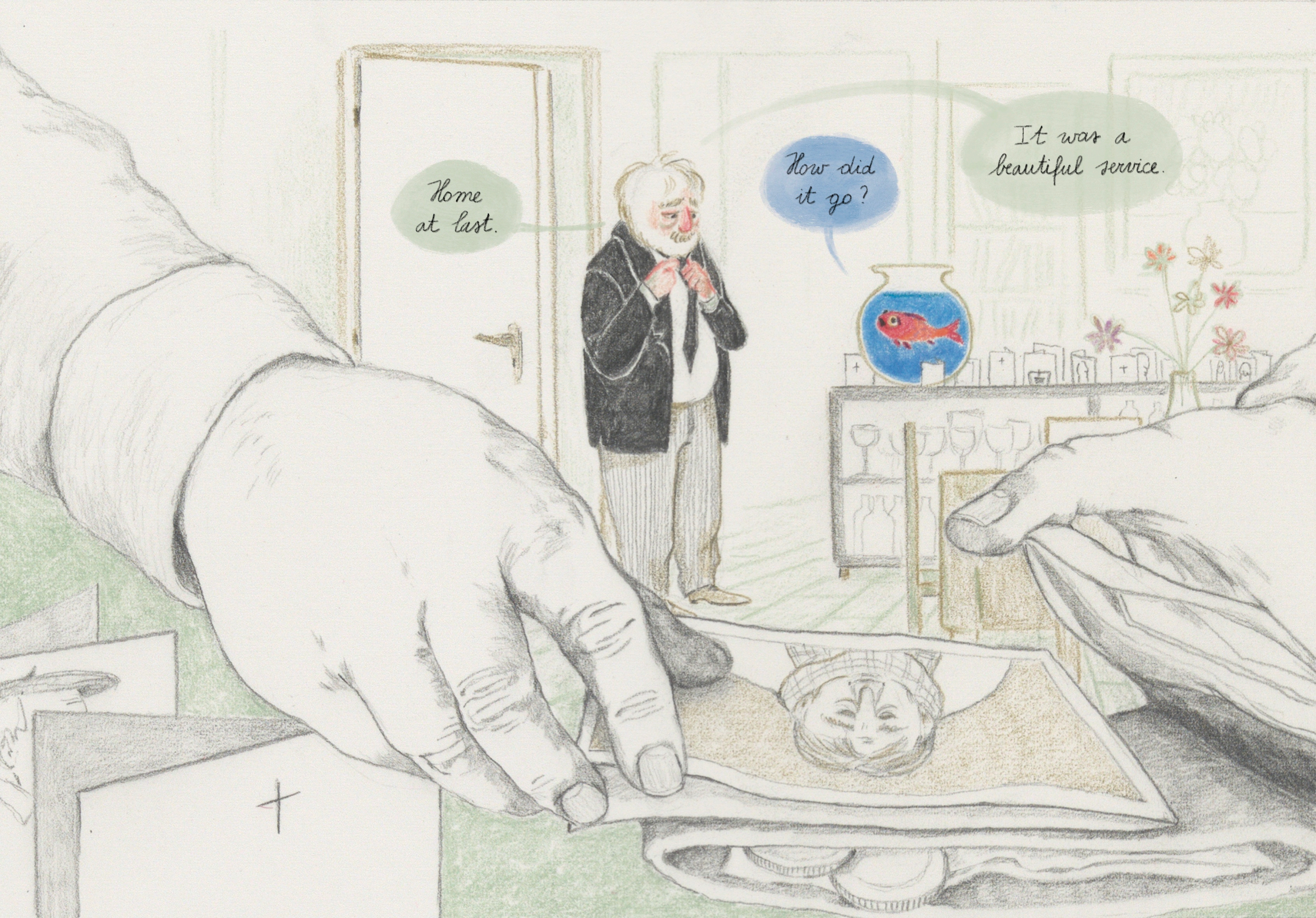
Johan and his goldfish share a passion: the sea. For the former it's a distant memory, a nostalgic dream. For the latter it's the longing for something new. In her tender debut 'Golden', Va Bén  tells a story about broadening your horizon, and letting go.

Va Bén  (B n dicte Van Wambeke, 1998) studied to become a teacher in the arts. After this, she decided to follow her passion, which led her to the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels. She graduated from the Master Graphic storytelling in 2023. She reworked her Master project into her debut graphic novel 'Golden'. This melancholy story in colour pencil and watercolours is accessible and simple enough in both image and text to be read by a younger audience, but has enough philosophical and emotional depth to appeal to an adult audience as well.

“A beautiful and moving debut.”

De 9  Kunst





Home
at last.

How did
it go?

It was a
beautiful service.



Another one
for the collection.

Did you
know him
well?

Yes, we had quite
some adventures,
back in the day.

Adventures?

I was
rarely at
home.

Where
would you
go?

Oh, where
didn't I
go.



Like?
You're making
me curious!

We loved
to be
at sea.

What's
sea?

The sea,
my boy, is
pure freedom.

What
do you
mean?

I will tell
you all about
it with a cup
of coffee on the
balcony.



How lovely,
the first
warm rays
of sunshine.



Are you going
to tell me
about it,
or what?

So,
the sea ...



Can you
see the
horizon
there?



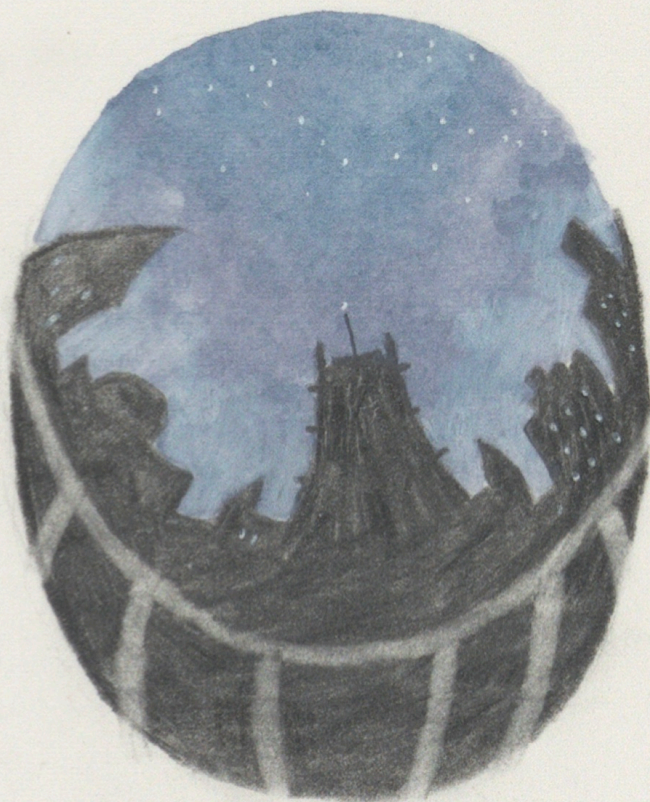
Behind it
lies the sea.



The sea is enormous.
There is far more water
on earth than there's land.



Countless fish live
in the sea, in all
shapes and sizes.



The sea brings us
peace and freedom.



Would you
like me to teach
you more about
the sea?



That water
is full of
life!

I
want to
go to the
sea.