



The first and only night without a friend melts the snow and turns it into water.

There is no one else to be found.

Author **Mette Hegnhøj**. 'I write. I've been doing this ever since my sister taught me how to read. Sometimes it is completely trouble free. Other times it's like doing a jigsaw puzzle face down. Impossible. But very funny. I have attended the School of Writing for Children's Literature from 2008-2010.'

Mette Hegnhøj received the Danish Ministry of Culture's Author award in 2014.

Illustrator **Mette Marcussen** graduated from the Danish School of Design in 1998. Since then, picture books have been her main field of work with a particular emphasis on allowing the imagery to tell the story. She allows the atmosphere and language in the stories to inspire her.

6 stars in the Danish newspaper Kristeligt Dagblad.

One night (En nat)

A slightly melancholic story of being locked in the dark, but also a picture book that illustrates the liberating power of hope and imagination.

One night, a little girl lies all alone in her bed with a picture of a boy in her hand. The loneliness is paralyzing for body and mind. She has only the sound of rain and a lone pink pigeon with "a homeless heart" for company. "Sleep will not come", so she decides to write herself a dream, but then she realises there are no words. Her typewriter is empty of letters!

Riding the pink bird, she flies through a dream-space of the letters of the alphabet, each letter is in its own quadrant of the Milky Way. Eventually, they reach a distant planet where they find the boy from the picture. He's trapped in a house of stars around a ringed planet. The pigeon flies through a kind of wormhole, freeing the boy, and together the girl and boy fly back on the bird through the Milky Way, collecting letters as they fly. The letters gather into words, like the rain gathered into a brook.

This picture book captures the unique co-creator relationship between an author and illustrator. Author Mette Hegnhøj is economical with her precise text. Where she leaves off her narrative, illustrator Mette Marcussen picks it up in her monochromatic collage-style drawings with splashes of colour. And both pictures and words come together to form a beautiful whole of friendship and hope that reaches across dimensions.

Where it is impossible for the night to end as it began.

(32 pages. Full title in Danish and English translation in pdf available upon request.)