

Jip and Janneke

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Jip and Janneke

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Original title: *Jip en Janneke* (deel 1: *Poppejans gaat varen en andere verhalen*)

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Cover Pauline Hoogweg
Coverillustration Fiep Westendorp

ISBN 978 90 451 0614 4 / NUR 281



Amsterdam Antwerpen
Em. Querido's Uitgeverij BV
2008

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A note on pronunciation

The Dutch name Jip is pronounced 'Yip'.

Janneke is a little more difficult. It might be easiest to think of as 'Yannicka', with the 'a' as in 'father' and a firm stress on the first syllable.

Jip and Janneke play together

Jip walked around the garden and he was *so* bored. But look, he's spotted something. A hole in the hedge. *What's on the other side of the hedge?* Jip wondered. *A palace? A gate? A knight in armour?* He sat down on the ground and looked through the hole.

And what did he see? A little nose. And a little mouth. And two blue eyes. It was a girl. A little girl who was exactly the same size as Jip.

'Who are you?' Jip asked.

'Janneke,' the girl answered. 'I live here.'

'You didn't live here yesterday,' said Jip.

'I live here today,' said Janneke. 'Are you coming to play?'

'I'll crawl through the hole,' said Jip.

He pushed his head through the hole first. And

then one arm. And then the other arm. And then he got stuck. Janneke pulled one arm. And then she pulled the other arm. But it didn't help. Jip was stuck. And Jip started to cry. And then he screamed.

Jip's father came running up in one garden. And Janneke's father came running up in the other garden. And together they helped Jip back through the hole.

'So, Jip,' his father said, 'now you've got a little friend next door. But you have to go out the front door like a good boy, and then in through Janneke's front door. And then you can play together.'

And that's what they did. Jip and Janneke played together. One day they played in Jip's garden. And the next day they played in Janneke's garden. They played mummies and daddies.



Jip's got a ponytail

Jip is at the barber's. *Snip, snip*, go the scissors. And Jip says, 'Ow!'

'I'm not hurting you,' says the barber. 'How old are you anyway? I didn't even touch you.'

Snip, snip, go the scissors. And Jip hates it. He just hates it. He keeps shouting, 'Ow, ow!'

'Just a little bit more,' says the barber.

But Jip shouts 'Ow!' one more time. He jumps up and runs out of the shop wearing the white barber's cape.

'Hey, where are you going?' the barber shouts. 'You're not finished yet! Just a little longer!'

But Jip has had enough. He runs very fast. And the barber runs very fast after him. But Jip is faster. He's almost home and the barber shrugs and gives up.

Jip sits down by the side of the road. He is still wearing the white barber's cape. He's crying because he was so scared.

Here comes Janneke. She sees Jip sitting there. And she starts laughing. She can't help it. 'You look really silly,' she says.

Jip looks up and stops crying.

'You've got a ponytail on top of your head,' says Janneke. And she snorts with laughter. 'You've got a ponytail and you're wearing a serviette.'

And it's true. Jip is almost completely bald, but there is a tuft of hair left on the top of his head. Just like a little ponytail.

Janneke laughs so much it makes Jip angry. 'I'm not going back to the barber's,' he says.

'Then you'll have to walk around with a ponytail for the rest of your life,' Janneke says. 'Jip's got a ponytail, Jip's got a ponytail!'

That really is horrible. Having Janneke laugh at him! That's too much. Jip gets up very slowly and very slowly he walks back to the barber's. 'The ponytail has to come off,' he says.

'I told you that already!' grumbles the barber. 'You ran off before I was finished.' And Jip has to get back on the chair.

Snip, snip, go the scissors.

'There,' says the barber. 'Now it's done. Was it really that bad?'

Jip smiles. The barber undoes the white cape

and Jip is back out on the street.

'My ponytail's gone,' he says to Janneke.

'I can see that,' says Janneke. 'It looked really, really silly.'

And then they play marbles.

