

On the Run

[Op de vlucht]

Text: Pimm van Hest

Illustrations: Aron Dijkstra

[Endpapers, back:]

In loving memory of Aylan Kurdi and Mohammed Shohayet and all the others ...

There's only one land: earth

There's only one nation: mankind

There's only one faith: love

Dr. F.M. Wibaut

Back cover text

Just imagine ... there is a war.

Actually, it's almost unthinkable.

Especially for children who never found themselves in this situation.

With poetic sentences and impressive images *On the Run* takes children and their parents from a frightening, hopeless situation to a hopeful future.

In a touching way, that invites a conversation and gives food for thought.

Because, just imagine ...

For children ages 5 and up.

You can't stay

This is not your home anymore

You run, far, far away

Bye house, bye room, bye grey front door

Leaving everything behind

"But teddy goes with me!"

He keeps you warm

You hold him tight

In the middle of the night

In the middle of the sea

Story

1

Just imagine
Nevermore
A war..... for me
Could it be?

2

No helping hand
In your land

In your village
In your town
In your street
Bombed concrete

You feel incomplete
Incomplete

Sad
Scared
Angry

Indeed

3

Your safe home
Piece by piece ...

IN PIECES!

or

SUDDENLY!

One day

Your safe home
No longer there ...

No kitchen, no stair
No longer safe at home

4

You long for ...

A life

A year

A week

Without fear but ...

First ...

A day!

With no hiding

No "hold your breath"

Or "hold your tongue"

No stay inside

Sssh, all day long

Pfffff

5

Just

Going back to school

Seeing everyone again

Together in class

Just

Trust

in your friends

Hoping one day this war ends

6

Just

WHAAAAA!

And singing out loud

And playing in the street

Soccer

Tag

Rope-skipping

Back on your feet

*“One, two march in time,
if you’re too slow you’ll pay a dime
no more playing on the street
hunger, pain and bombed concrete”*

7

We have to go
Run
There’s no other way
But ...
Away
From
Here
We can’t stay

But whereto?
And how?

With whom?
When?
How long?

No time to wait

No farewell to your friends

“Mom, I’m afraid!”
“Dad, I’m afraid!”

8

You can’t stay
This is not your home anymore
You run, far, far away
Bye house, bye room, bye grey front door

Leaving everything behind
“But teddy goes with me!”

He keeps you warm
You hold him tight

In the middle of the night

In the middle of the sea

9

Everything has changed

10

A different country

A different language

Even different food

Different people

Strangers

Who welcome you

Into their neighborhood

Sometimes with open arms

“Glad to see you here”

Sometimes with angry looks

“I don’t want to see you here”

Not a pretty sight

11

Slowly

Very slowly

Carefully

You’re getting used to

A new country

New language

New people

there for you

Slowly new people

Slowly become new friends

12

Slowly, unnoticed

The fear

disappears

The fear lets go of you

And in that new country

You feel

The sun is shining too

13

The same sky

The same sun

Never

Never

Never

NEVER AGAIN

On the run

Just imagine ...