

# SORA SIRULO



## How a Karo garlic container ended up in a Dutch cartoon

### Komik Anak-anak Bersambung **KILAS**

Sejak edisi ini, Sora Sirulo menampilkan kisah bersambung komik anak-anak berjudul Detektif Tagan di Belanda. Kisah ini diangkat dari satu bagian buku cerita bergambar karya Elbert Ploos van Amstel (Mikeleko) berjudul Typetjes 1 yang diterbitkan oleh EMEN (2006) dalam bahasa Belanda. Atas persetujuan Mikeleko yang juga pemegang hak cipta buku ini, Sora Sirulo memuat bagian yang tokoh utamanya Tagan Ginting (Tolholm) punya asal usul dari Karo (lihat Sora Sirulo Pebruari 2008), diterjemahkan ke dalam bahasa Indonesia oleh Juara R. Ginting.

CLARA BRAKEL✍️LEIDEN✍️ One day, about 15 years ago, the Dutch artist Marjolijn Groustra was lying sick in bed in North Sumatra. She had the flue, her temperature was rising, she felt weaker and weaker.....

Suddenly, her eyes were caught by a small bamboo garlic container she had bought in the market, standing on the table in front of her bed. In her feverish mind, the bamboo pot came to life and turned into a little man. Later, when she was better, she told her husband Elbert about it. He created Tolholm, a detective who turns upside-down and spins around on top of his head when he needs inspiration.

Both Marjolijn and Elbert have roots in Indonesia. Marjolijn's mother, who had a grandfather from the Minahassa, was born and grew up in the Dutch East Indies. Marjolijn's father's ancestors came from Nias. Elbert was born in Jakarta, where his father had also been born and grown up. During their visits to North Sumatra they found inspiration in its enchanting tropical forests, mountains and people. They often return there in their dreams and reflections of Sumatra emerge in their art work.

In 2006 they published two comic books entitled Typetjes I and II, followed in 2007 by five more books. Their pen-name "Mikeleko" was a creation of their little daughter Naomi, to whom the stories were first told. Several fantastic creatures that occur in these stories derive from their Sumatran experiences, from plants and animals they saw there. There are also transformed

objects, like Tolholm, or combinations of different animals. All these figures are embodiments of human feelings, such as fear, haste, anger, patience.

Detective Tolholm first emerges in a story named “The catch”, when he steps into the dream of a lazy little man in a striped sleeping-gown, whose favorite pass-time is sleeping. In the second book we first meet the “kators”. These scary flying animals live in a deep, dark cleft, from where they suddenly emerge to snatch innocent passers-by. Their form is a combination of a flying fox (kalong) and a stag-beetle, and the cleft in which they live actually exists in the mountains of North Sumatra. The exciting adventures of these fantastic little creatures make wonderful bed-time stories for children. And the parents who are reading them may also enjoy the subtle, ironic comments on human behaviour and modern society implicit in the stories and their drawings.✍

