

Imagine. You're fourteen years old and your parents pass away within five months of each other. A heart attack. Aggressive lung cancer. You're basically on your own. What kind of situations will you encounter? What can you do? How will you grow up?

Orphans are everywhere, of all ages (aged 0 to 18), and in great numbers. In Western countries, they are not a visible group. In the U.S., 400,540 children are living without permanent families in foster care. 115,000 of these children are eligible for adoption. Tens of thousands orphans live in every European country (approx. 29,000 in Ireland, 34,000 in Holland).

In 'So, you're an orphan now', Jojanneke van den Bosch (1975) reveals uncomfortable, confrontational and unexpected truths about growing up without parents in a western country, and provides practical suggestions. The book provides an outline of the paradox between the existence and the invisibility of these young people and those who do not recognize them.

In 2007, Van den Bosch's company initiated the project WesternOrphans, a platform for gathering and sharing information for and about orphans and their way of life. The project is open for content contributions by experts, fellow orphans, teachers, professional care-givers and other stakeholders.

'Many issues orphans are dealing with have been underexposed. Jojanneke shares them through her story.'

De Volkskrant, national newspaper

'Jojanneke proves that young orphans are not pitiful (but that they do need reliable adults).'

Daan Westerink, journalist and bereavement expert



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Jojanneke van den Bosch

So, you're an orphan now

see ya

WesternOrphans

'Van den Bosch breaks taboo about orphans.'

Nico Haasbroek, former editor in chief of Dutch national news broadcasting

'Until recently, Western orphans were an invisible group. True stories and figures show that help is needed.'

RTL News

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