



Serena Ballista, Martina Paderni

Beaver, as a «beaver»

«Do you know why I like beavers? Because they build dams.
They challenge river's current and the water forgets to flow as it always did.»

When Simone De Beauvoir was a little girl, she was nicknamed «Beaver», after the assonance with the animal's name. What's interesting is that Simone felt this nickname as part of her personality, due to her desire to change the course of the current and to build a political mindset which could transform the status quo. The book tells us about Simone's childhood, when – «brave as a beaver» – she decided to challenge her mother's (and society's) rules for the first time, by asking for a bicycle. She didn't get one, but that was just going to be the first of many times – first as a child, then as a woman – she refused to comply with society's gender norms and block the river's flow by building an alternative path. Just like beavers do.

«Some years later, I told everything, absolutely everything in a great book.
And so Paris, my city, stopped having fear of little girls like me.
Of those who, with or without a bicycle, go deep into the woods,
up to happy beavers' lair.»

Serena Ballista.

Writer, gender studies expert and president of the UDI of Modena. She published essays and books for children. She has published with Settenove *A Room of My Own* (Una stanza tutta per me), inspired by Virginia Woolf.

Martina Paderni.

Italian illustrator, works with many Italian publishers such as Einaudi Ragazzi, EMME, Giunti and Lapis.

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Simone De Beauvoir

Grow in freedom

Great thinkers

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Opening picture

«Bonjour!

I was born in winter, at four o'clock in the morning, my name is Simone de Beauvoir.»

From the same series, available also:



A Room of My Own
written by Serena Ballista,
illustrated by Chiara Carrer

Inspired by Virginia Woolf's thinking.
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