



Die Bergengel

Carina Stander

May 2017

200 pp

ISBN: 9781485307501

Protea Boekhuis

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www.carinastander.com

DIE BERGENGEL

Thirteen years have gone by since a Bergengel ("mountain angel") was last spotted in Gabriëllië – and for the younger generation, belief in the existence of these mythical creatures has all but disappeared. But when Eron Verberger, son of bellfounders Gibor and Alida Verberger, is forced to join his father on a bellfounding mission, he suddenly has to reconsider everything he has always believed about the world: fact and fiction, reality and the mythical. Who is the mysterious Rainbowmaker who keeps appearing in their vicinity? Are the fires ravaging the countryside really just to "clean out the old", as the Region Heads keep saying – or actually the fearsome Fire Storms that history has always been warning about?

A mythical and allegorical coming-of-age fantasy that should appeal to adult and young adult readers alike.

THE AUTHOR

Apart from being a published novelist [*Wildvreemd* (2011)] and poet [*Die vloedbos sal weer vlieg* (2006) and *woud van nege en negentig vlerke* (2009)], Carina Stander is a visual artist. She holds an Honors degree in Fine Arts and a Master's degree in Creative Writing (*cum laude*).

As freelance journalist, she has received two Media24 Awards and her travel stories regularly appear on local news platforms.

She lives with her husband and two sons in the Tsitsikamma on South Africa's southern coast.

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PRAISE FOR DIE BERGENGEL

"Stander's unique interpretation of the *bildungsroman* – with various magical elements, a continuous quest motif, emphasis on the parent-child relationship, and the inner and outer conflicts of the young protagonist – makes short shrift of the clichéd concept "tour de force".

The novel is fantastically beautiful and mature, with true depth and insight."

Jonathan Amid, *Netwerk24*

"Stander's subtle intertwinement of social and ecocriticism through the narrative indicates the type of magic she brings about – the antithesis of the trite wizard, as Tolkien referred to it. It is precisely her light touch that makes *Die Bergengel* such a broadening reading experience. Poet that she is, you would expect this type of approach from Stander. And you get so much more in this imagined reality."

Johan Myburg, *Maroela Media* (Book of the Month)

"Stander's talent as poet and visual artist is unmistakable in the lyrical prose of *Die Bergengel*. [...] Reading *Die Bergengel*, I finally decided that I can rest assured about the state of fantasy fiction in Afrikaans. Stander's beautiful novel makes a valuable contribution not only to the neglected fantasy genre, but also to Afrikaans literature as a whole. Even readers who are not fans of the fantasy genre will find this novel accessible. The magical elements of *Die Bergengel* enrich the story and contribute to the captivating, almost sacred, tone of the novel."

Elzette Steenkamp, *LitNet*

"I am deeply impressed by the author's ability to capture something of the mystical with this story, and indeed to create a poetic and almost sacred artwork – in a literary form that I have never encountered in Afrikaans. On the one hand, she writes with the solemn and nuanced voice of a sage that opens up universal truths and philosophical issues without sentimentality or intrusiveness – on the other hand, she presents an adventure story with imaginative characters and fascinating twists that testify at the pure mechanical level of exceptional narrative talent."

Amelia de Vaal, *Protea Boekhuis*

