



Geheimen van het Wilde Woud

Tonke Dragt

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Langzaam liep ridder Ristridin verder. De sneeuw kraakte onder zijn voeten en nu en dan braken er takjes af. Verder geen geluid. Hij voelde zich als een reiziger in het Land van de Dood. Dit was het Wilde Woud, waar Dagonout koning was, al had hij het nooit betreden en wist hij niet welke geheimen het verborg. En ik? dacht Ristridin. Ik die ze ontraadseld heb, zal ik er ooit levend uit komen om te vertellen wat ik weet? Ridder Tiuri en zijn vriend Piak gaan op zoek naar ridder Ristridin, want hij is nooit teruggekeerd in zijn kasteel. Er worden vreemde verhalen verteld over het Wilde Woud: van ruwe rovers en bosgeesten, van doodlopende dwaalwegen en ruïnes, en van mysterieuze Mannen in het Groen...

Geheimen van het Wilde Woud Details

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Author : Tonke Dragt

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From Reader Review Geheimen van het Wilde Woud for online ebook

Annet says

Another great book of Tonke Dragt! Have to read again soon!

Elle Kay says

Another solid and enjoyable read from Tonke Dragt, following on from the story of Tiuri in her other great book 'The Letter for the King'. This time we see Tiuri enter the mysterious and dangerous Wild Wood in search of a friend and there are more shenanigans going on from the country to the south, ruled by a power hungry King. This author is an excellent writer and despite the size of these stories, each one only took me a few days to read - utterly unputdownable. It did leave me thinking there was some hints of a third book there which would have been great but given this one was written 50 years ago, I don't think I'll get my wish. A very unknown author that hopefully will become more known as the years go by.

Maaike says

Tonke Dragt is mijn favoriete Nederlandse schrijver en ik was huiverig dit boek na jaren te herlezen. De eerste keer dat ik het las was ik hevig onder de indruk van de 'volwassen' thema's die aangesneden werden: het doden van een ander mens, het volwassen worden van de jongen waar ik tijdens Brief voor de koning van was gaan houden, de oorlogsstrategie die ook in het schaken telkens terug bleef keren. Nu komt het allemaal hopeloos simpel op mij over, maar ik denk dat juist dat de kracht van dit boek is: zware onderwerpen die dankzij de ongelofelijk fijne schrijfstijl van Tonke Dragt makkelijk te lezen zijn wanneer je jong bent.

Mijn herinnering aan het boek was langzaam maar zeker versoberd tot er enkel nog de flarden overbleven zoals je ze herinnert van een niet zo levendige droom die al uit je vingers begint te glippen. Ik kende het plot niet meer en werd opnieuw gegrepen door het mysterie dat zich langzaam ontvouwde tijdens het lezen. De manier waarop het gebeurde vond ik fantastisch, alle snippers informatie werden op precies de juiste plekken in de tekst verstopt. Dat het dit keer stiekem een beetje voorspelbaar was, veranderde niets aan de tamelijk geheimzinnige sfeer die tussen regels door gecreëerd werd. Een sfeer die ik me nog wel levendig herinnerde, en die ik er ook nu weer in vond.

Verhalen van de tweelingbroers was het eerste boek van Tonke Dragt dat ik opnieuw en opnieuw en opnieuw gelezen heb en ik kan nu niet wachten er nogmaals in te beginnen.

Andrew Doran says

Read this with my boys, aged 8 and 6, straight after finishing The Letter For The King earlier in the year. We absolutely loved both of these books. This definitely feels like a progression from the first novel in many ways—the main character seems to have matured and has a little bit of a love interest, and there are genuinely complex and profound issues tackled such as death, taking another person's life and Pyrrhic

victories. If you're a family that reads together and enjoys a bit of fantasy and adventure with knights, battles and mysterious lands you will love this, but pick up The Letter For The King first.

Laura says

Originally posted on:> <http://lauraslittlebookblog.blogspot....>

The Secrets of The Wild Wood is the long awaited sequel to The Letter for the King by Tonke Dragt and I was so pleased to see the return of Tiuri, Piak and lots of other familiar faces. This story continues as to what happened in the aftermath of Tirui delivering the important letter to the King. One of his knights has gone missing after being sent on a mission to The Wild Wood, which is thought to be enchanted and very few people venture there. Now Tiuri with his new squire Piak are on their next mission to find the missing knight and go on an adventure even more perilous before.

As with the first book in this wonderful two part series, I really wish I had read this as a child as it just has everything you could possibly want from a children's book. There's action, adventure, knights, and the fight over evil, but of course it can be enjoyed as an adult as well.

This book seemed to read as bit older than the previous one and was a little more serious, but this didn't detract from my enjoyment of it, and made for better reading as an adult.

I do love this world that Tonke has created from her imagination, it was wonderful to escape into this world and her descriptions manage to make you picture it so clearly and feel as if you are right there amongst the action. The characters as well make the story all the more engaging with their camaraderie and true friendship for one another. You also never know which way the story is going to go and where Tiuri will end up this time.

Another brilliant sequel to The Letter for the King with more at stake and the battle for good versus evil.

Ilse says

It took me some time to get into this book. It had been such a long time since I read the letter for the king! But once I got past the first couple of chapters I was once again completely captivated by this medieval world of knights, bravery and friendship. Although this book will never be as dear to me as the letter for the king, which evokes all kinds of childhood memories within me, I still loved it. In this book strange occurrences lead Tiuri and his friends into the unknown Wild Wood. From there on you go on a journey with them to uncover secrets and mysteries and escape the hidden hostility found in the woods.

I almost couldn't put this book down and wish that Tonke Dragt had written more books about Tiuri and his adventures, but unfortunately it ends here, I'll just have to make the rest up myself.

Beth says

This was such a wonderful book.

First things first, this is such a beautiful book. When I first opened it there was a map on the inside and when you took off the dust cover there was a beautiful imprint on the book, just wow at the design on the whole book.

I am a big fan of fantasy books and this one is at the top for me. From the first page I was pulled into this fantasy world surrounded by all the wonderful characters.

I really love the world building in this book. I love how Tanke has built her own fantasy world. The story and characters were very engaging.

Also, Laura Watkinson has done a wonderful job in translating this book!

The story is very intriguing filled with, journeys, sword fights and friendship. We meet a lot of characters we already know from the previous book and get to meet a handful of interesting characters as well.

This was a fantastic fantasy story that will have you gripped from the very first page. It will transport you into the book and you feel like you are apart of this brilliant story.

Cannot recommend this story enough to everyone!

Karis says

Three years ago now, I picked up a copy of this book's sequel *The Letter for the King*, which had only just recently been translated into English. I loved it and shortly after bought its sequel, only to have had it sit on my bookshelf all this time with my excuse being that I wanted to re-read the first before starting this one. Well, that never happened, and finally the other day I picked it up and plunged myself again into the kingdoms of Unauwen and Dagonaut, craftfully created through the pen of Tonke Dragt.

I was delightfully reminded of the reason I had enjoyed the first so much. The beautiful world building and medieval-like setting, young Tiuri and his faithful guide and friend Paik, the highly amusing comments from the knights, Tirillo (I squealed when he showed up again in book two)—and just the epic journeys and high stakes that have made up this series. Add to that in this second installment: romance, a highly mysterious Master of the Wild Woods, missing knights, secrets and betrayals, and Forgotten Cities, and, yes, wow! It certainly has a King Arthurian-feel.

The writing itself is unique, probably due to some to the fact that it was written in another language where the sentence structure is much different than English's, but it only adds to the tale. I'm not one to write or underline things in my books, but I was so tempted in parts when I'd suddenly burst out laughing at a dry or humorous remark or read a scene that had me holding my breath.

Tiuri, the young hero from book one, is now a knight and finding it not be as thrilling as he once thought especially as he compares his now-peaceful life with the adventure he had the year before. Travelling to meet as pre-arranged with other knights at a friend's castle, they become concerned when the friend in question never shows up and the last heard of him was that he was in the Wild Woods, an overgrown and abandoned place, supposedly haunted by Men in Green. Finding him is not as straightforward as it seems, and to quote the back cover:

“As the darkness surrounds him and reports grow of plots and ruthless enemies, Tiuri finds himself alone and fighting for survival—caught in a world where good and evil wear the same face, and the wrong move could cost him everything...”

Eleanor Toland says

Tonke Dragt's only sequel to *The Letter for the King* details the further adventures of Tiuri and his faithful squire Piak. Illustrated by the author in moody charcoal, *The Secrets of the Wild Wood* is a chivalric romance full of duels, arduous quests, haunted forests and courtly love.

Tiuri, newly knighted after his experiences in the first book, once again spurns social convention for the sake of personal honour when he forsakes the chance to march to war in order to fulfill a promise to Marius, peasant and "fool". This decision earns the scorn of his fellow knights and naturally, leads to a quest which tests Tiuri's bravery and honour to their limits and reveals a large number of secrets. Not only secrets of the Wild Wood, but secrets of Tiuri's nemesis, the loathsome Knight with the red shield.

Besides Marius, many characters from the first book reappear. Tiuri's would-be love interest Lavinia has a much bigger role. Another damsels appears, prompting the stirrings of a love triangle. A tribe of mysterious folk in green spread fear through the forest.

The Secrets of the Wild Wood is an engrossing, immersive story, but somehow the sequel never quite achieves the suspense of the original. The beauty of *The Letter to the King* lay in its simplicity — a secret message in the dead of night, an uncertain mission. And Tonke Dragt perhaps deprives her story of its glamour by revealing *too many* secrets from the Wild Wood: when all mystery is stripped away, no magic can remain. Her dark forest is nowhere near as fascinating and creepy as Tolkien's Mirkwood.

Though not as thrilling as the first novel, *The Secrets of the Wild Wood* is a masterful adventure story, a romance in the medieval sense of the word. The story ends on a heart-rendingly bittersweet note, and it is unfortunate that no third book was ever written, and the rest of Tiuri's knightly adventures will be forever left to the imaginations of generations of readers.

Daisy says

Just like 'Letter for the King' is this another great and exciting story of Tiuri and Piak. This time they travel to the Wild Woods, where evil things are hidden...

Unfortunately I didn't read this book when I was a child, because now the story seems quite simple and predictable. But nevertheless, I enjoyed reading it and I wouldn't want to miss it!

Jenneke says

Dit boek vormt het spannende vervolg op het eerdere verhaal van de jonge ridder Tiuri. Ik zou zeker aanraden om het boek 'Een Brief voor de Koning' eerst te lezen. Dit boek is goed los te lezen, maar ik denk dat het een stuk leuker is wanneer je een groot deel van de achtergrondinformatie hebt uit het eerste boek, en gewoon gedetailleerder weet wat Tiuri al heeft meegemaakt.

In 'Geheimen van het Wilde Woud' gaat ridder Tiuri samen met zijn schildknaap Piak naar Kasteel Ristridin, waar ridder Arturin de ridder van is, maar wat tevens de thuishaven is van ridder Ristridin waarmee ze in de lente op het kasteel hadden afgesproken. Daar aangekomen is Ristridin er niet, en voordat Piak en Tiuri het door hebben zijn ze weer beland in een fantastisch avontuur. Ditmaal gaan ze een hele andere kant op, niet naar Deltaland, maar in de richting van het Wilde Woud, waar ze moeten vechten en schaken voor hun leven, en dat van vele anderen. Kunnen ze opnieuw het rijk van Unaauwen én ditmaal ook dat van Dagonaut redden?

Priss says

4.5/5. Gooooood. I did think the first book was better.

Pvw says

"Secrets of the Wild Forest" is the sequel to an acclaimed youth book by Tonke Dragt, De brief voor de koning ("The letter to the King"). More is revealed about Tiuri's nemesis, the Masked Red Knight. I guess it's a decent book for youngsters, but for me it felt more like a waste of time.

Sky says

Well, this turned out to be... underwhelming :/ DARN. After the first one I had such high expectations for this, but basically I was pretty bored the whole time. I think it mainly suffered from WAY TOO MANY CHARACTERS - there must have been 50 important named characters, who I couldn't keep track of. Additionally, the geography basically was integral to the story and I kept forgetting what the map looked like, so that also made it v v difficult.

ALSO, MOST UNDERUTILIZED CROSSDRESSING EVER. BOO.

So, basically I'm happy I read this, but it wasn't worth getting it all the way from New Zealand I suppose.

Renée says

This was my favourite children's book, and it still is. I still read it, and its prequel, "De Brief voor de Koning" regularly, despite being 21 years of age now. It's a shame there seems to be no English translation, and it is

amazing.

Eleionomae says

net als het eerste deel een boek vol herinneringen aan mijn jeugd. Toen ik het in 2007 voor het eerst weer las, vond ik nog steeds dat het eerste deel beter geschreven is, maar dat maakt deze serie niet minder om te lezen :)

Een boeken serie voor jongere kinderen (stond bij ons toenertijd tussen de B boeken) maar ook als volwassene leuk om weer eens te lezen :)

Frances Woisin says

Having read the first book, *Letter for the King*, I was really looking forward to this sequel. It did not disappoint.

Tonke Dragt has a beautiful way of spinning a story. I was captivated from the first chapter and found it difficult to put the book down. I always know a book is good when I can play a movie of it in my head as I read. I had almost all the characters cast by the third chapter! David Heyman should get his hands on these two books. Or maybe Peter Jackson. If it's epic adventure with some well developed characters that you're after, this is the book for you.

Emma says

Only recently did I read the prequel, 'The Letter For The King' so I was incredibly excited when I was contacted as to whether I would like to read the sequel- quite the coincidence!

The story follows friends, Tiuri (a knight) and Piak (his squire) and their journey through the Wild Wood in search of the King's missing knight.

As they journey through the Wild Wood they end up playing a game of chess that could result in the cost of their lives as well as others they know. Meeting strange people along the way, it's a race against time to save not only the King's knight but Dagonaut too.

I felt, like with its prequel this book had very much a Lord of The Rings vibe with Tiuri and Piak being like Frodo and Sam, on a mission together travelling miles and crossing the paths of those they'd much rather avoid but with their fun team work partnership it made the book really enjoyable throughout. I think I favoured Piak because he's so sweet and loyal!

Even though it felt a little young for me this book, I'm more than happy to say that I thoroughly enjoyed it. More so than originally anticipated, it was fun, mysterious, adventurous, heart-thumping and a well created world by Dragt. I only wish I could have read these books when I was younger, this book is worthy of a four star rating and I can imagine me returning to re-read these books in the future!

Barbara Henderson says

I wanted to love this book, I really did! As much as 'The Letter...', the previous instalment of Tiuri's adventures - but I just didn't. I found the pace slower, the characterisation a little thinner (although I did love the deepened friendship with Piak), the structure more episodic and the tension less convincing. Saying all this, it's far, far from a bad book. It draws the reader into the world of Dagonaut and its medieval-style society, with fantasy elements that are subtler than dragons and wizards, but nonetheless appealing. The final chapters do up the game, with a thrilling Hamlet-esque duel, but the fact that I dipped in and out of this novel over a month rather than devouring it in days like 'The Letter...' probably speaks for itself.

Zarina says

<http://www.pagetostagereviews.com/201...>

One of my all-time favourite Dutch children's books is *De brief aan de koning* by Tonke Dragt, and I was thrilled when decades after the original release this much-treasured classic finally received its much-deserved English language debut with *The Letter for the King* in 2014, thanks to Pushkin Press in the UK and a beautiful translation by Laura Watkinson. So you can imagine my excitement when the sequel, *Secrets of the Wild Wood* (originally *Geheimen van het Wilde Woud*) received an English release this year as well (also translated by Watkinson). Dark and more mature than its predecessor, this book continues to capture the magic and adventurous spirit I've come to know and love from Tonke Dragt's imaginative world.

The first novel is a fairly straight-forward story of squire Turi's mission to deliver an important letter to the King of Unauwen on the other side of the Great Mountains and the trials and tribulations that are waiting for him on his dangerous journey – not in the least the Red Riders who have killed the previous messenger; The Black Knight With the White Shield. It's a fantastical adventure that thrills on every page and set in a fictional medieval land it's the perfect classic to dream away with.

In its sequel, we return to the world of Tiuri who is now a knight himself with his loyal friend Piak by his side as his squire. Was the King of Eviellan and the rivalry between the two twin princes of Unauwen merely a whisper behind the pages of *The Letter for the King*, in *The Secrets of the Wild Wood* unrest has been brewing for far longer and with one of the knights from the first book having gone missing in the ominous Wild Wood, Tiuri and Piak set out on a mission to discover what trouble is laying ahead for the Kingdoms of Unauwen and Dagonaut.

Unlike Turi and Piak's first adventure, the people they meet on this perilous journey aren't easily categorised as good or bad guys, and their world is no longer black or white. Friends can become foes and villains temporary allies, but amid the heat and confusion of a looming war, the two friends have each other to rely on as they discover the truth about the evil king of Eviellan – and they combine forces with new characters to try to stop a full-blown war from erupting between the Kingdoms.

Despite my love for *The Letter for the King*, for some peculiar reason I had never read its sequel before (even though it was released well before I was born so I have had plenty of time to pick it up!) and I am so glad that the English release finally made me read it, because it's another fast-paced and gripping classic that will stay with me for a long time.

The biggest difference between the two books is that with Tiuri becoming a knight, the story has also grown up to become more mature and complicated. Rather than a straight-forward children's tale of good versus evil, there are many shades of grey along the way and this makes *The Secrets of the Wild Wood* a far more intense and complicated novel. Added to that there are the first signs of love blossoming between Tiuri and a princess he meets on his travels, a plethora of intense fight scenes and a lot of horrific deaths accompanying the looming war, all of which add to the feeling of maturity that cuts through the otherwise still heavily adventurous fantasy read.

That isn't to say there weren't moments of sheer wonder running throughout both for Tiuri and the reader as a new part of Tiuri's exciting world is uncovered and an almost whimsical feeling of delight at exploring the corners of *The Wild Wood*, but interspersed with deaths of much-loved characters and a confusing cat-and-mouse game with The King of Eviellan, this was a far darker novel to read than its precedent. And one I took my time to finish, as it was a hefty one too.

What I loved most in *The Letter for the King* was Tiuri and Piak's growing friendship and despite having their own journeys in *The Secrets of the Wild Wood*, and their own missions to accomplish, the incredible connection between the two best friends was always there. Even when things got really tough for them, just knowing that the other person was out there working towards a similar goal made a huge difference and let them see through the darkness surrounding the wicked plans of Eviellan.

The Secrets of the Wild Wood is another epic adventure that feels similar to fantastical tale *The Lord of the Rings*, yet has its own distinctive voice and imaginative world-building to create a truly unique fantasy classic that I am thrilled will now reach a whole new audience with its excellent English translation. Tiuri and Piak may not have pointy ears and hairy feet, but they are such heroic and compelling fantasy characters that they could very well go down in literary history alongside Frodo and Bilbo.

4.5 stars
