

An anthropological detective story in search of the secrets of Rwanda

A Thousand Hills

KOEN PEETERS

'A Thousand Hills' is a rich book, written with highly imaginative touch, that reveals the beauty and the tragedy of the land of a thousand hills. It steers a course between novel, history, anthropological study, and news report. Koen Peeters tells five stories that flow into each other and in which Louis, a Belgian boy, and Alexis Kagame, a Rwandan Tutsi priest, are the main characters.

Louis is an ordinary Belgian boy. But three baskets from Rwanda, bought by his father, magically influence his dreams. While dreaming he absorbs the language, the legends and the history of Rwanda. For years he cherishes these dreams until one day they become reality. As an adult, Louis becomes acquainted with Rwandan refugees. With one of them, he travels to Rwanda and follows him on his search for justice.

A complex but extremely clear and compelling novel

DE MORGEN

Without judging and without professing to postulate an absolute truth, Peeters searches for the how and why of the genocide and sheds light on how Rwandans cope with it today. The author creates a universe in which real people with all their ambiguities are present.

'A Thousand Hills' is a provocative novel and has the power to fuel discussions that still take place about Rwanda internationally.

What Van Reybrouck did with the Congo is what Peeters has done in 'A Thousand Hills' with neighbouring country Rwanda

NRC HANDELSBLAD



AUTHOR



Koen Peeters (b. 1959) is the author of a discreet but increasingly impressive oeuvre to which he has added more than 10 books since his debut in 1988 with 'Conversations with K'. 'Great European Novel' was shortlisted for the Libris Literature Prize and was translated in several languages. Photo © Koen Broos

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