

A psychological portrait
intertwining fantasy and reality

Nightland

JAN DE LEEUW

'Nightland' is a thrilling fantasy in which a boy's search for his father takes pride of place. In the powerful opening passage, we find Niel freezing to death on an ice-covered lake, but he manages to save himself in the nick of time. The story takes place in Catatonia, a divided land ruled by a merciless and cruel queen. Niel is convinced that his father, who disappeared when he was a young child, is in Catatonia. It quickly becomes clear that he is predestined to bring about enormous change in Catatonia, but enemies and traitors are lurking everywhere.

A promising talent, with an unusual and surprising book

GOUDEN UIL YOUNG READER'S PRIZE JURY

After a couple of chapters, it dawns on the reader that Catatonia is a dream world in which Niel has lived since he fell into a coma. Fantasy and reality are combined in a mesmerizing fashion. Tension is built up and maintained throughout the book with skill and expertise, the plot remains exciting from the first page to the last, and there are a number of clever surprises built into the narrative. The psychology of each character is presented in a plausible manner. 'Nightland' is an exhilarating and layered literary work, which does not reveal all its secrets in a single reading.

An intriguing book, and a fascinating storyteller

DE LEESWELP



AUTHOR



Jan De Leeuw (b. 1968) has developed a voice like no other in Dutch-language YA literature. Always different, and always an intense reading experience, his books get under the reader's skin and make a lasting impression. His layered stories experiment with style, form and narrative perspective. His work has twice been nominated for the prestigious Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis.

ORIGINAL TITLE Het nachtland (2005, Davidsfonds, 299 pp.)

AGE 13+

PRIZES Gouden Uil Young Reader's Prize

RIGHTS SOLD German (Gerstenberg)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Ann Desair - Ann.Desair@standaarduitgeverij.be

TRANSLATION GRANTS Lien Devos - lien.d@flandersliterature.be