

No matter how fast you run, the past will catch up with you

Run for Your Life

ELS BEERTEN

Noor is eighteen and is running a marathon. Everyone says she is mad, but Noor is stubborn and she keeps on training. Running is her only way to survive. A childhood trauma has turned her into an introverted teen who is always on the run – from herself. As she runs the marathon, the reader slowly finds out, through flashbacks, just how serious this childhood trauma was: her friend Linda died when they were playing a dangerous game. The marathon is the mountain she must climb, the ultimate challenge to help her overcome her grief.

A rich, heart-warming and touching story.

DE LEESWELP

Within the tight framework of the marathon and its slowly passing miles, Els Beerten sends Noor back and forth through time. The more miles she runs, the deeper she descends into herself and the more space she creates for her past. This switching between past and present operates on many levels, as Noor keeps trying to get closer to people, but then closes herself off. 'Run for Your Life' (Lopen voor je leven) is a layered novel that remains with the reader because of the universal emotions it depicts: overcoming your fear of life, shaking off your childhood, and desperately seeking recognition and friendship.

The marathon scenes propel the story towards its conclusion and Beerten admirably succeeds in maintaining the tension

DE STANDAARD



AUTHOR



Els Beerten's (b. 1959) oeuvre ranges from middle grade to YA. Her masterpiece is without a doubt *We All Want Heaven*, which has won her just about every prize imaginable, at home and internationally, and which was nominated for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis. It has been translated into many languages and has won the hearts of YA and adult readers. Her work is characterized by deep psychological insight and her great ability to dissect the human soul.

Photo © Thijs Jaspaert

ORIGINAL TITLE Lopen voor je leven (2003, Querido, 176 pp.)

AGE 15+

PRIZES Gouden Zoen, Kleine Cervantes

RIGHTS SOLD Russian (Samokat)

TRANSLATION RIGHTS Luciënne van der Leije - l.van.der.leije@singeluitgeverijen.nl

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