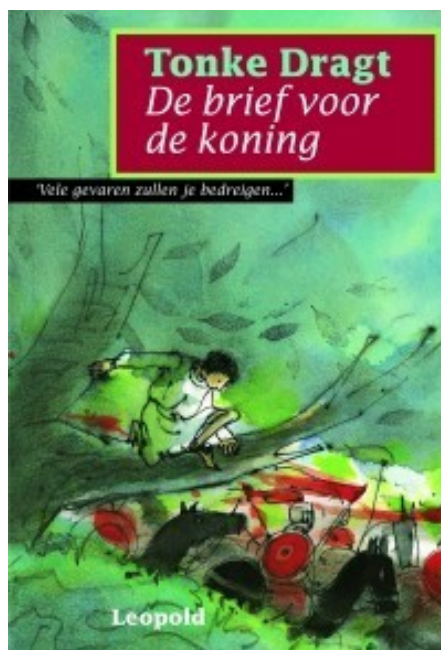




De brief voor de koning

Tonke Dragt

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De jonge Tiuri verbreekt de regels, die bepalen dat hij met niemand mag praten in de nacht voordat hij tot ridder zal worden geslagen. Hij opent de deur.

Het verzoek dat hem wordt gedaan blijkt een heel gevaarlijke opdracht. Tiuri wordt achtervolgd door boosaardige Rode Ruiters, die hem met de dood bedreigen. Maar hij is vast van plan de uiterst belangrijke brief bij koning Unauwen te bezorgen. De Zwarte Ridder met het Witte Schild heeft niet voor niets zijn leven gegeven...

De brief voor de koning Details

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Author : Tonke Dragt

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From Reader Review De brief voor de koning for online ebook

Monique says

Een klassieker die weer in het nieuws is. Tijd om zelf een mening te vormen dus! Geweldig knap om een boek uit 1962 tijdloos te laten zijn. Het genre is niet helemaal mijn ding, maar absoluut een goed boek!

Anna Dijk says

altijd een geruststelling om te weten dat je favoriete jeugdboek nog steeds goed is :)

Mathew says

First released 50 odd years ago in the Netherlands, this is a wonderful story of knights and adventures written by Tonke Dragt: why it took so long to be spotted over here (it's sold over a million copies) and be translated is beyond me.

From the outset, when Tiuri is tempted from his night's vigil out of the chapel by a call for help, I was hooked. There was something about Tiuri, the use of limited third person (wonderfully translated by Laura Watkinson) and the style of narrative that reminded me of the first Harry Potter book. Whether it was this idea that the world felt very real from the start or that there was something in Tiuri's character that drew me in as much as Harry did, I don't know but I knew that I couldn't stop thinking about the story when I wasn't reading it. I wanted to know what happened next and I cared for Tiuri and his good friend Piak.

The story takes place within two neighbouring kingdoms who have been at peace since as long as anyone can remember but there are whispers of a growing army to the south who threaten to destroy that the people of Dagonaut and Unauwen hold dear. It is up to Tiuri to carry an important letter to the king of west about this impending danger but on the way, spies and evil knights will not stop at anything to take this letter from Tiuri even if it means his death.

A pleasant surprise for me in this book was the little amount of battle and death. You would think with all the swords and horses trampling around that it would be common yet Tiuri's encounters are almost like reading Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress. It is not his ability to wield a sword that saves him but rather his mind and his heart against the challenges ahead. This book is a hefty 508 pages long but the chapters are short and snappy and I found the pace to be as quick as Tiuri's own horse. Although there is a lack of strong female characters, I would consider this as a whole class read for UKS2 because the sense of chase throughout is quite gripping.

Cross-Curricular Suggestions: Year 5

English:

I would certainly make use of the thematic links that are prevalent and have similar books available as well as classic books involving knights (King Arthur) in my reading corner through my time reading this book to the class.

I like the idea of the children creating their own knight who is loyal to one of the good kings and who is sent on their own quest to find out about the red riders. I think children would enjoy creating either their male or female knight, working on character description but then planning and writing an extended narrative much in the same style as the King Arthur stories.

Maths:

As soon as I saw the fractions expectations, I did think that designing their own knight's shield could lead to some fractions work where they section off different parts of the shield in terms of the fraction that they are studying and they could then illustrate it. Certainly counting up the perimeter and area of different places that Tiuri visits on his journey could be interesting as well as measuring angles of photos of castles would also support using the book in context. Finally, because the book is so huge, there is ample scope for word problems involving all elements of the Maths skills the children are expected to cover.

History:

I think there is a lot of scope for exploring British history from an Anglo-saxon perspective considering King Arthur was meant to be around that time too. Looking at weaponry as well as clothing and a sense of time and place according to landscape (natural and human) could really help bring the text to life as well as make the topic a little more exciting.

Art:

I really like the idea of using wooden mannequins to try and get the children to play with the human form and consider poses the Tiuri could be in throughout the book. They would have to consider and sketch the different types of clothing that he wore throughout and play with texture and tone. They could also, if you wanted to take a really exciting and challenging approach, have a go at some sculpture alongside sketching and try to make their own Ardanwen (Tiuri's magnificent horse) out of clay.

DT:

I quite like the idea of them creating their own castle from junk modelling (sketching and planning first) but with having in it a working circuit to indicate lights going on in towers (simple circuits) and also a switch approaches that raises and lowers the drawbridge.

Music:

I would offer the opportunity for the children to use instruments to create some music based on instruments using during the Anglo-Saxon period and onwards (the Dark Ages). The focus would be to make some courtly music that Tiuri might hear in the different castles. Children could dress up and play their piece to the assembly and the music could tell the story of a famous deed of one of the knights (no singing required!)

Annet says

Great children's book, read it several times. Tonke Dragt's books are also read by many adults. Wonderful writer!!

Anita says

My father has always faintly disliked reading. Too bad he got me as a daughter! Out of the countless of books that he read to me when I was small, this book and its sequel are by far the most memorable. It fed my imagination to no ends, spawning both great visions and one of the most terrifying nightmares I remember. Since back then, much has changed. My knowledge of the Dutch language might have become crippled, and my eyes feast on the pages of other fantasy masterpieces, but Tonke Dragt and this book has always a place amongst my favourites. I'd also go as far as to claim, that as an aspiring fantasy writer, this book has been

one of the many little influences that set me on this path.

De brief voor de koning was a glorious experience to me many years ago, and will no doubt offer the same delight to any other child fond of books today.

Lady Clementina finch-ffarowmore says

I first heard about *The Letter for the King* when I happened to watch bits of the film version (Dutch with subtitles) on TV some time ago, and when I noticed the book on NetGalley, of course I couldn't resist putting in a request. My thanks to Pushkin Children's Books and NetGalley for a review copy of this title. This was written by Dragt in 1962 and the translation I read is by Laura Wilkinson, published by Pushkin Children's Books which according to the blurb at the back of the book brings out children's books old and new, from different languages and cultures.

This was a lot like the book I last read (*Band of Soldiers*?teen heroes in times past, thrown into adventure and danger) but still a very different story, and of course in a very different place. Of course, this was part of my theme reads this month, the Kings here being the fictional kings of Dragonaut and Unawen. Sixteen-year-old Tiuri with five other, slightly 'older' young men are about to be knighted by their King, the King of Dragonaut. The rules of the kingdom require that they spend the night before the ceremony locked up, in quiet contemplation, without food, water, or talk, and without letting anyone in or themselves out. But when a stranger knocks at the window seeking help, Tiuri breaks these rules not only opening the window but going out to the stranger's aid. At first his task seems simple, to deliver a letter of importance to the stranger's master, the Black Knight with the White shield, which Tiuri thinks he can complete and be back before the ceremony, though there will be some explaining to do. But when he finds the Black Knight with the White shield has been tricked and murdered, and the Knight, before dying hands over his task to Tiuri to complete, he realises what he must do will neither be quick nor simple. He must travel all the way to the kingdom of Unawen to deliver the secret message to the King himself. Not only is the journey hard enough in itself, in pursuit of Tiuri are the Red Riders, responsible for murdering the Black Knight with the White shield, and also the Grey Knights who suspect Tiuri of the foul deed. Along the way, however, some misunderstandings clear up and he meets various people, in the forest and the cities he visits, who are more than willing to help him accomplish his task even if he can't tell them what it is. But there are also dangers aplenty, and traps as many along the way, and Tiuri must avoid falling into these traps or being defeated (or indeed dissuaded) by the dangers if he wants to keep his word to the Knight and complete this task.

At a little under 500 pages, this is not a short read but one which was very enjoyable for me. It may not feel as fast paced as one would expect from an adventure story but keeps one interested throughout, for while one might well know that Tiuri will accomplish his task at the end, one does want to know how he does it, and what each adventure he falls into along the way holds for him. Tiuri is a likeable character, believable as a young lad out on an adventure, doing what his heart tells him, yet regretting the Knighthood that he has lost and may never get again, and the same can be said about his friend Piak, who also finds himself at one point having to decide between two things he seems to want equally. While we may not face those very same questions, the kind of decisions they are faced with and must take, and the lessons they learn along the way are relevant for everyone in whatever age and situation. (In fact there is quite a bit of wisdom hidden in there?no not the preachy kind). 'Villains' seem to lurk around every corner to bring young Tiuri down but they too are not all of the same shade, as one will see, and some can surprise one. The menacing 'main' villain of the piece though is only one shade and very well done. Tiuri may not have been made a knight at the start of his adventure, but his courage, loyalty, and even tenacity show that he is one even if he doesn't have the title. I enjoyed the world of knights and kings that this book took me into (and incidentally, now I finally properly understand what a Knight errant is?no I wasn't entirely clear so far). This was also one of the few books I've read (there must have been others, though honestly I can't think of one at the moment) where

the return journey (though obviously shorter than the adventure itself) is given some space and doesn't pass by in a blur. In it, old friends are met again, some explanations given, and some promise of 'romance' (like in the *Band of Soldiers*) is seen. I also liked the artwork, which decorates the pages between 'parts' of the book, very much. This is a combination of shadows/silhouettes and something like the spray feature on paintbrush (sorry again for my terrible terminology describing this) but I liked the effect the artist achieved? oh I just looked and the illustrations are by Dragt herself, something I hadn't noticed at the beginning. Dragt, incidentally, as Wikipedia tells me, is considered "the greatest Dutch female writer for children". I look forward to reading more of Dragt's books and also exploring Pushkin's other titles. Four and a half stars.

Vishy says

Loved, loved, loved it! Longer review soon!

Ken says

As YA goes, this is a 5-star plot. It was written in 1962, apparently, and the new translation is coming on 25 August of 2015.

It's the story of a squire on the eve of becoming a knight who does NOT become a knight because he makes the fateful decision to answer a call for help. One thing leads to another, and before long, this kid is on a quest with unseen enemies all around him (but with unexpected friends as well).

It's sweet, actually. So old school it will remind you of the type of book about knighthood you could not put down as a kid. A simpler world of good and evil, don't you know. An antidote to the gray confusions in our time.

Memory Lane, anyone? I suspect reluctant readers and fans of all things medieval will love it.

Swati says

When my friend and book blogger posted this glowing review of Tonke Dragt's "The Letter for the King" last year, I was intrigued because it appeared to be all about knights and chivalry and adventure. Who doesn't like the sound of that? A month or so ago, I found this book waiting to be reviewed on NetGalley, and my heart leapt! Thanks to Pushkin Press and NetGalley, I got a copy, and I finished reading it yesterday.

The Letter for the King is the thrilling story of one boy's battle against evil, set in an enchanted world of chivalry, courage and true friendship.

Says the book summary from Pushkin Press. I would say, thrilling is an understatement. As soon as I reached the last page, I was Googling to see if there is any way I could procure the sequel, "The Secrets of the Wild Wood." I couldn't wait to go on an adventure with Tiuri again.

The Letter for the King reinforces classic values like bravery, loyalty, and chivalry throughout Tiuri's journey. But what makes the book rise above an average boy's adventure is the fact that Tiuri is flawed

despite having so many good qualities. He is impulsive, his bravery sometimes borders on foolhardiness, and his good heart sometimes comes in the way of his progress.

In most cases, though, Tiuri's sensibilities save him from slippery situations. In fact, that's the other aspect of the book. You would think that a story about knights set in the Middle Ages would have tons of action with swords and blood and gore. The Letter for the King barely has any swordfights and, in fact, hardly any skirmishes.

The entire book moves forward on the themes of intrigue, plotting, and little pockets of suspense. Every few pages, Tiuri comes up against an obstacle, and his fate hangs in balance for a while before it's resolved lending the book a fairly predictable cadence. At times, due to this, it reads more like the tale of a solo traveller on a hike across the Camino rather than an action packed tale.

Friendship is another strong theme in the book. Apart from Tiuri's steadfast friendship with Piak, the quick bonds formed with the various people he meets on his journey, and the strong brotherhood that the knights share are all admirably and beautifully played out. But in that sense, it's one of those books that you would stereotypically first think of for boys rather than for girls with its lack of any other emotion and significant women characters.

Mostly, the principles in the story never go to the grey area, and there is not much ambiguity. People are either good or bad, Tiuri has either friends or enemies, and they all mostly stay that way.

Written in the traditional manner of a good, old-fashioned adventure, the tale of Tiuri the knight has long served as one of the most loved bedtime stories for children, and a popular fantasy among adults in The Netherlands. It has been frequently compared to The Lord of the Rings where we have Frodo going on a mission, very similar to Tiuri. But I think the canvas of Tolkiens' epic is way larger, more complex, and much darker.

At over 500 pages long, this is one long adventure. But I never the felt the weight of time even for a second as Tiuri's encounters kept me enthralled.

lita says

Alkisah hiduplah Tiuri, calon kesatria Kerajaan Baginda Dagonaut. Malam itu Tiuri musti melewati cobaan sebelum dilantik menjadi kesatria. Ia, bersama calon kesatria lain, menghabiskan malam dengan berjaga di sebuah kapel kecil di luar tembok kota. Sambil berpuasa, tidak makan tidak minum, mereka harus berlutut dan merenungkan amanat besar yang menanti mereka. Mereka pantang tidur, berbicara, dan mendengarkan dunia luar hingga pukul tujuh pagi saat mereka dibawa menghadap raja. Saat bertirakat, Tiuri mendengar orang berbisik memohon pertolongan. Tiuri yakin calon kesatria yang lain pun mendengar permintaan tolong itu. Entah mengapa, hanya ia yang tergerak. Tiuri kemudian membuka pintu kapel (yang jelas melanggar aturan bertirakat) dan keluar mengikuti orang yang meminta tolong ke tempat tersembunyi. Permintaan tolong dari orang misterius tersebut terkesan mudah: mengantarkan sepucuk surat.

Pertolongan yang harus dilakukan Tiuri sederhana saja. Tiuri hanya perlu mencari Kesatria Hitam Laskar Perisai Putih, dan menyerahkan surat yang ditiptkan orang misterius itu padanya. Dengan teori tugas tersebut hanya memerlukan waktu beberapa jam. Tiuri dapat kembali ke kapel sebelum pagi hari, dan dapat mengikuti upacara pelantikan kesatria baru keesokan paginya.

Nyatanya, tidak semudah itu. Tiuri mendapati Kesatria Hitam Laskar Perisai Putih dalam keadaan terluka

dan sekarat. Sesaat sebelum ia mati, sang kesatria meminta Tiuri untuk menggantikannya, menyerahkan surat yang ada pada Tiuri pada Raja Unauwen. Tiuri tidak dapat kembali ke kapel tempat ia bertirakat. Bahkan ia diburu oleh dua pihak. Pihak yang telah melukai dan membunuh Kesatria Hitam Laskar Perisai Putih, serta pihak berwajib yang menuduh Tiuri telah membunuh sang kesatria.

Kemudian, dimulailah perjalanan panjang Tiuri, menuju Kerajaan Baginda Unauwen. Bila negeri Raja Dagonaut terletak di timur Pegunungan Raya, maka negeri Raja Unauwen berada di barat Pegunungan Raya. Untuk sampai ke negeri Raja Unauwen, Tiuri harus pergi melewati hutan, menyusuri Begawan (sungai besar) Biru hingga ke mata air, menemui seorang petapa untuk dapat melewati pegunungan, lalu menyeberangi Begawan Pelangi dan Begawan Putih, hingga tiba di negeri Raja Unauwen. Akhir cerita tentu dapat ditebak. Tiuri berhasil melewati berbagai rintangan, dan membacakan surat yang isinya begitu rahasia di hadapan Raja Unauwen. Surat dibacakan karena dalam perjalanan Tiuri terpaksa menghafal isi surat rahasia itu untuk kemudian dibakar saat Tiuri terjepit dan hampir saja tertangkap oleh musuh.

Inti dari cerita buku ini adalah sebuah konflik. Raja Unauwen memiliki sepasang putra kembar. Sang kakak serta merta dinobatkan sebagai putera mahkota, sementara sang adik tidak terima. Sang adik kemudian menaklukan wilayah Eviellan dan mendirikan kerajaan di sana, serta mengobarkan perang terhadap negeri Raja Unauwen. Penguasa Negeri Eviellan kemudian melakukan tipu muslihat dengan mengirimkan kabar perdamaian dengan Baginda Raja Unauwen. Apabila telah berhasil merebut kepercayaan mereka, Penguasa Negeri Eviellan akan segera merebut kekuasaan Negeri Unauwen. Surat yang dibawa Tiuri, berisikan kabar mengenai tipu muslihat itu. Makanya, Tiuri terus diburu oleh pengikut Penguasa Negeri Eviellan. Tiuri harus mati sebelum bisa menghadap Baginda Raja Unauwen.

Ada begitu banyak tokoh dalam cerita klasik yang dinobatkan sebagai cerita anak terbaik di Belanda periode 1955-2004 ini. Selain Tiuri, ada beberapa kesatria yang sulit dihafal namanya. Mereka, yang tadinya menuduh Tiuri telah membunuh Kesatria Hitam Laskar Perisai Putih, melindungi Tiuri dari serangan jahat Pusu Pengendara Merah – pengikut Penguasa Negeri Eviellan. Adapula Menaures sang petapa, yang ternyata adalah adik Baginda Raja Unauwen. Lantas ada Piak, remaja yang membantu dan melayani Menaures. Piak kemudian ikut dengan Tiuri, dari menyeberangi pegunungan hingga tiba di negeri Baginda Raja Unauwen. Di akhir cerita, Piak kemudian menjadi pengikut setia Tiuri. - Entah mengapa, dalam cerita khayalan asal Eropa tokoh utama laki-laki selalu disertai seorang pengikut setia. Sebut saja Frodo dalam trilogi Lord of the Rings, yang memiliki pengikut setia bernama Sam. Atau Harry Potter, yang memiliki Ron Weasley - . Tentu saja ada tokoh jahat. Namanya Slugor. Ia ditugaskan oleh Penguasa Negeri Eviellan untuk membuntuti dan membunuh Tiuri.

Tiuri, putra seorang kesatria pengabdikan Raja Dagonaut yang juga bernama Tiuri, tentu saja resah. Ia gagal menjadi kesatria justru sesaat sebelum ia dilantik. Namun, Tiuri telah menjadi kesatria bahkan sebelum dilantik menjadi kesatria. Ia telah dengan berani mengambil pilihan, yang ternyata begitu berarti bagi banyak orang. Atas pertimbangan tersebut, Baginda Raja Dagonaut melantik Tiuri, sehari setelah Tiuri pulang ke Negeri Dagonaut.

Ada begitu banyak pesan moral dalam cerita ini. Tiuri, yang lebih memilih untuk menolong orang lain yang sedang dalam kesulitan ketimbang memperoleh pangkat dan gelar kehormatan. Menaures sang Petapa, memilih untuk tinggal di pegunungan, hidup bersahaja jauh dari segala puja puji dan kemewahan dalam istana Baginda Raja Unauwen. Piak, pengusung persahabatan sejati yang begitu tulus.

Saratnya pesan moral yang termuat dalam buku ini, bisa jadi membuat “Surat untuk Raja” mendapat Prijs voor het Beste Kinderboek voor het Jaar 1963 (Penghargaan Buku Anak-anak Terbaik Tahun 1963) dan penghargaan Griffel der Griffels 1955-2004 (Kalam di antara Kalam 1955-2004, buku anak-anak terbaik sepanjang periode 1955-2004). Sang penulis, Tonke Dragt dianugerahkan Staatsprijs voor Jeugdliteratuur (Hadiah Negara untuk Bidang Kesusastraan Remaja) di tahun 1976.

Bila dikaitkan dengan keadaan Indonesia saat ini, sepertinya akan banyak yang tersindir. Orang-orang berlomba memperoleh predikat ataupun gelar tertentu, demi prestige di masyarakat. Padahal, ia belum memiliki kapabilitas yang cukup untuk menyandangnya. Hanya ada segelintir orang yang memilih menjadi Menaures – menjadi pendeta ketimbang penguasa. Karena kaum ulama pun, seperti berlomba memajang diri untuk bisa mereguk kekuasaan. Jarang sekali ada yang rela untuk dijadikan nomor dua, maunya berkuasa - seperti putra kedua Baginda Raja Unauwen.

Saya pun jadi berandai-andai. Seandainya Tiuri yang diserahkan Supersemar, apakah serta merta ia menunjuk dirinya sebagai penguasa, atautkah akan sama dengan cerita dalam buku ini: menyerahkan surat itu kepada “raja” yang sebenarnya?

Mungkin cerita setebal 518 halaman ini akan lebih nyaman dibaca dalam bahasa aslinya, atau versi dalam bahasa Inggris. Penterjemah sepertinya berusaha keras dalam menemukan istilah yang tepat untuk menggambarkan definisi yang ada dalam cerita asli, dan itu malah membuat pembaca perlu mengerutkan dahi untuk memahaminya – bahkan pembaca dewasa sekalipun, padahal ini buku anak-anak. Ketimbang menterjemahkan, akan lebih baik bila cerita ini disadur dan menggunakan bahasa anak-anak. Sayang sekali cerita seindah ini, dengan alur cerita yang begitu kuat, jadi sulit dinikmati hanya karena sang penterjemah kurang bisa berimprovisasi dengan bahasa Indonesia.(lits)

Kezia Olive says

Oh, give me a sec to let my tears drop.

This book is beautiful. The story inside feels so real. It feels different. It almost feels like Tiuri, the main character here, sits across the room telling me the story himself, and help me learnt so much.

I won't forget this book, that is for sure.

I am glad I found this book in my school library a few days ago. This is beyond my imagination.

I had no expectation when I first saw this book. I thought to myself that maybe this is another freakish classic tale, written with so much art and deep thoughts and evil mixed in. But what I found is surprising.

After a few pages I realized how this book feels so pure and unreal but real at the same time. How this book did nothing but touching its readers and send them great values of life that they learn by themselves.

It is a book for kids.. but it is an awesome book. Oh let me cry for a little bit more, for this book is beautiful. I ridiculously love it, I learnt so much from it, gosh I just adore it.

It doesn't feel old or boring. It's awesome.

The characters are all males most of the time, guys that shared the same age with me right now.

The story is about a journey of Tiuri, a young man that ran away on the night before he could be the king's knight, for a secret mission given by strangers. On his journey he met a lot of people, become friends with so many people, and face so much danger. The story tells about how he discovered a lot of things about life, about himself, about the world.

Some sentences here punch in a huge impression in my heart, like the time when Tiuri finished his mission and a wise clown from the neighbour country told him a story of a guy who went on a journey to chase the end of the rainbow, for he believed that the end of the rainbow would be the most beautiful place on earth. However I, after the long trip he found nothing. He was disappointed, but then he thought about the journey he had, how he met so many awesome new friends, beautiful sights, and a lot of happiness, he realized that

the rainbow is not the most important thing! Thee beauty and values he found in his journey, that is the most important.

This book is crazily awesome, I hope my son or daughter will read it one day and feel the same thing. This book gave me a lot. One of the most inspiring book ever. :) I also hope you'll consider reading it too, even thou the cover of it might not look that interesting, haha. Happy reading, and God bless your journey :")

Denise Bücherwunderland says

Ach war das süß ???

Vorneweg

Dieses Buch habe ich schon einmal als Kind gelesen und es hat mich begeistert! Damals habe ich noch nicht so viel gelesen, deswegen heißt das wirklich was ?.

Deswegen habe ich mir das Buch noch einmal gekauft (keine Ahnung wo das alte Buch ist ?) und habe es jetzt nochmal gelesen.

Meine Meinung.

Obwohl ich jetzt doch ein paar Jahre älter geworden bin, hat mir das Buch noch genauso gut gefallen wie damals!

Der junge Tiuri soll am nächsten Tag zum Ritter geschlagen werden, nur bittet ihn in dieser Nacht jemand um Hilfe und so bricht er zu einem Abenteuer auf ?.

Tiuri ist wirklich ein herzensguter Junge! Er ist 16 Jahre alt und sein größter Traum ist es ein Ritter zu werden wie sein Vater. Nachdem er seinen geheimen Auftrag angenommen hat, scheut er keine Mühen um sein Ziel zu erreichen und dabei wächst er ständig über sich hinaus.

Auf seinem Weg begegnen ihm einige Personen. Manche von ihnen sind vertrauenswürdig, andere eher weniger. Teilweise ist aber nicht von vornerein klar wer I welche Kategorie fällt.

Mir persönlich haben von den übrigen Charakteren die grauen Ritter und Piak am besten gefallen.

Man wird fast schon in die Handlung hineingeworfen, denn es geht gleich spannend los. Danach ist Tiuri natürlich auch viel unterwegs, denn er muss in ein anderes Königreich reisen, aber er begegnet auch vielen Menschen auf seinem Weg und er kommt auch immer wieder in schwierige Situationen. Als Kind saß ich wie gebannt vor dem Buch, da ich mir teilweise gar nicht vorstellen konnte, wie das noch gut ausgehen könnte ?.

Jetzt war es für mich eher absehbar ?.

Für mich war es besonders interessant, weil ich wirklich viel vergessen habe, aber mich trotzdem noch an Kleinigkeiten erinnern konnte. Ich habe aber z. B. auch noch eine genaue Szene im Kopf, bei der ich mir eine große Halle vorgestellt habe, in der alle essen ?.

Nur leider passt das so gar nicht zu der Beschreibung in dem Buch und meiner jetzigen Vorstellung ? (Ehrlich? Im Grunde genommen habe ich mir damals einfach Hogwarts vorgestellt ?).

Ich habe zwar einige Tage gebraucht um das Buch zu lesen, aber es hat mir auch wirklich Spaß gemacht ?.

Der Schreibstil von Tonke Dragt ist toll! Viele andere Autoren hätten eine so lange Reise wohl nicht ohne größere Längen schreiben können, die waren hier zum Glück gar nicht vorhanden ?.

Das Buch wird ab 11-13 empfohlen, ich habe es damals aber definitiv früher gelesen ?.

Anscheinend gibt es noch einen zweiten Band, den ich definitiv mal lesen werde ? und einen Film zu "Der

Brief für den König" gibt es auch ?.

Fazit

Eine total süße Abenteuergeschichte Völler Ritter, Freundschaft und Spannung ?

Ellis says

This was a bit of a sad experience because *The Letter for the King* was one of my favourite books as a child, but I could tell during my reread that I wouldn't have been/wasn't as into it as an adult. I actually think this might be the rare case where I prefer the Dutch version. Part of that is definitely nostalgia-motivated, and it's not so much that you can tell this is an English translation as that it just reads very formal and literal in English, which I think might be less the case in the Dutch original. That being said, Tiuri and Lavinia are still OTP (and should really consider making that an OT3 with Piak) and the sequel was always my favourite of the series anyway, so maybe that one will go over better.

Jana says

Inhalt: Ein unermesslich wichtiger Brief mit einer geheimen Botschaft, welche über die Zukunft eines ganzen Königreichs bestimmt. Jemand muss den Brief an den König überbringen. Diese Bürde wird dem jungen Schildknappen Tiuri aufgeladen und er stürzt sich in ein rasantes Abenteuer voller Gefahren, Täuschungen und Feinden.

Dieses Buch ist sooo soooo toll und ist ein richtiges Herzensbuch von mir ♥? Ich liebe die Geschichte von dem Schildknappen Tiuri und kann mich in dieser Welt immer wieder verlieren, egal ob ich sie lese oder höre. Eigentlich bin ich kein Ritter-Geschichten-Fan, aber dieses Buch kann ich nur empfehlen. Ich fühle jedes Mal aufs Neue mit und kann nicht genug von diesem Abenteuer bekommen. Ein Ereignis überschlägt das andere und es wird wirklich NIE langweilig.

Über das Buch höre ich sehr wenig, dabei ist es für mich immer wieder ein Highlight!! Also greift zu dieser wundervollen Geschichte. Tipp: Das Hörbuch finde ich sehr schön gesprochen :)

Alyson Stone says

Book: The Letter for the King

Author: Tonke Dragt

Rating: 4 Out of 5 Stars

I would like to thank the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with this ARC. Well, I guess it's not really an ARC since the book was published a long time ago, but this is a new edition.

So, I have never heard of this book until now. I don't know how it could have slipped by me, but it did. The Letter for the King has everything that a great fantasy needs. It has adventure, excitement, and well written characters. It is written in a more traditional, classical fantasy style. Think Lord of the Rings here people.

The writing is amazing. Although, there were a few times that I found myself wincing. Like the Lord of the

Rings, Dragt does tend to tell us what is going on instead of actually showing us in a few places. This is always a big issue for me, because whenever I am being told what is going on, it kind of feels like they are either trying to cut corners or the publisher is making them cut their book down. I don't know which one it is.

The characters were well developed and well written. There is a lot of them, but I didn't have any trouble keeping them straight. It felt like that none of them were trying to get their chance in the spotlight and everyone was important. There are a lot of books that I read that just add characters for the sake of having a large cast and this is not the case here.

This really is one of the most underrated and overlooked books that I have read in a long time. People really do need to find this book and pick it up for themselves. I think they really will be in for a surprise.

Christoph Segers says

Ik kan niet anders dan het volle pond geven. Tikkeltje verouderd, mist hier en daar wat vaart, maar ik kreeg kippenvel en tranen in de ogen toen Tiuri uiteindelijk voor de koning van Unauwen stond om zijn boodschap af te leveren. Zoveel heroïek lijkt niet meer van deze tijd te zijn, maar werkt nog perfect. Leve Ridder Tiuri met het Witte Schild!

Ann Helen says

Jeg kunne ønske jeg hadde hatt muligheten til å lese denne som barn, men den er nesten like magisk for voksne. En av de mest engasjerende barnebøkene jeg har lest. Gleder meg til fortsettelsen..

Hannah says

This is a prime example of a book that needs an introduction. The original Dutch edition of *The Letter for the King* was published in 1962 by an Indonesian survivor of WWII Japanese internment camps and is considered to be a European children's classic. 50 years later, it was finally translated into English.

So how does it hold up? Poorly, when you consider how the English edition was marketed.

I found it on a YA shelf with a shiny cover promising the epic adventures of a 16-year old squire. Sounds like YA, right? What was inside was an intensely linear plot with zero moral complexity, character development, or twists. The villains are uniformly murderous and come from *Evilland* (Eviellan), women exist solely to feed Tiuri (though one gives him some chain mail), and there's never a difficult decision - not even a wrong turn on a road. The writing does absolutely nothing for me, though that's hard to judge from a translation.

Had I been faced with an edition that started with a formal introduction to Tonke Dragt (who seems very interesting) and the history of Dutch children's lit, I would have had a better frame of reference for reading and perhaps enjoying the book. However, given the way this printing was presented, I would advise readers after a children's medieval adventure to pick up more recent MG books like *The Ruins of Gorlan* or *First*

Test instead. They're still fairly straightforward, but at least there's *something* going on in terms of plot and character.

If you are an adult determined to read the translation, save it for reading aloud to kids under 10.

Maria says

Μου ῥεσεε ιδια?τερα αυτ? το βιβλ?ο και ο λ?γος ε?ναι πως παρ?τι ε?ναι 616 σελ?δες δεν βαρ?θηκα ο?τε μια στιγμ?. Η ιστορ?α του Τιο?ρι, εν?ς αγοριο? 16 ετ?ν που το βρ?δυ της αγρυπν?ας του, πριν απ? το πρωιν? που θα χριζ?ταν οππ?της ?κουσε μια φων? βο?θειας ε?ναι απλ? εκπληκτικ?!

Αφ?νοντας τα π?ντα π?σω του, παρ?τι ουσιαστικ? ?ξερε τις συν?πειες, γν?ρισε τι σημα?νει κ?νδυνος αλλ? και αληθιν? φιλ?α. Καμι? φορ? δεν ?χει σημασ?α ο προορισμ?ς αλλ? το ταξ?δι.

Υπ?ροχο βιβλ?ο που το συστ?νω σε μικρο?ς και μεγ?λους!

jv poore says

Upon discovering a character I admire and adore, I often aspire to become that character. Emulate a new role model, envision greater goals and dream of different worlds to conquer. In this case, though, I would never set myself up for that fall. Merely a human being, a perfectly plausible person; Tiuri is genuinely good. And kind. I believe that Tiuri is truly and actually, altruistic.

His epic journey to deliver a message of monumental importance took place many years ago. A mission that today could be as simple as “send”, was an adventure only for the courageous and strong then. Traveling alone, on horseback at best; stumbling through the forest by sheer will, hiding from the knights who considered him a murderer and a thief, at worst.

Tiuri is brave. No. Make that, bold—often foolishly so. Although, to be fair, no fault can ever be found. If ever there was a quintessential example of will power (aside from Frog & Toad “Cookies”, that is), Tiuri conveys it. Wise beyond his years he is also, oddly, naïve. A sincere listener, Tiuri ponders then proceeds. Complexly concurrent, he has an uncanny ability to act instinctively.

But I’ve buried the lead.

Tiuri should not even be embarking on this endeavor. Moments before he fled his kingdom, fleet on a stolen horse, with the furious owner following; Tiuri had been locked inside a silent chapel, reflecting upon the duties he would perform as knight to his beloved king; beginning at sunrise.

Tiuri’s abrupt departure meant sacrificing what he had worked towards his whole life (all sixteen years of it). His decision seems reckless and a bit ridiculous. But things aren’t always as they seem, and this cunning theme cuts through narrative cleverly guiding Tiuri as he encounters a plethora of peculiar people during his travels.

The Letter for the King reads like an instant classic. While the fiction is fresh, the feel is familiar. Mystery and intrigue magnificently merge with action and adventure, appealing to all senses. The colorful characters encountered keep loneliness at bay and Tiuri on his toes. 11-year-old-me would have read this book over and over and over.

This review was written for Buried Under Books by jv poore.
