



CECILIE & JACOB BUGGE

ABOUT THE LAND

THE MAGIC AND THE WORLD: HOW IS THE LAND?

Like the normal Once upon a time tales, *The Land* lets you dream about magic and wonders and feelings and deeds in another time and place, away from the real world; but the magic and all the events also challenge the world that you know, shows that we could all do differently.

Unlike the normal fantasy and fairy tales, *The Land* has no wand waving wizards, dragons, and monsters: the tale is about human beings, with different kinds of magic from different parts of the land. And the magic is not lost in the fight against evil; *it presents a hope, a challenge*, to change what is wrong in the known world.

Throughout the tale, *The Land* unfolds as an entirely new world, with its own concepts and values. Deeds are created by love rather than duty. Gentle is not soft, and tough is not hard. West is not best, and wolves are not worst. There is no birthright to power and glory, and the outer action is no more important than the *inner journey*.

THE NARRATIVE STYLE

The Land presents *no omniscient storyteller* who leads you into the tale from the outside; you are thrown right into the events, you see with the eyes of the rider on the white horse, and you share his thoughts and feelings all along the journey, you experience through him the beauty of nature, friendship and love, hope and fear, plots and riddles, planning and pondering, horsemanship and craftsmanship, long journeys and rest.

The Land is written in a genuine *fairy tale English*, a bit oldfashioned; the first part, *All The Way*, is a book you can read more than once, and enjoy the suspense and contemplation, the humour, the surprising events, the rich feelings, and the many details, more every read. Moreover, the many chapters are very different from one another, so every reader will have his favourites.

THE FIRST BOOK: WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

A young man is fleeing on horseback, through a vast land with very different peoples and customs. The man and his tall white stallion are very close; they often barely escape the men in black clothes who pursue them; we know a little more *why* all the time, some of us solve *the riddle* before the end, some of us do not.

There is good and evil here! Many of the things that take place will *challenge you* to find out about your own values.

Most readers tell that when they closed the book after the last chapter, there were tears in their eyes, and they wished so much they had the second book with them. And many have said *that this is a fairy tale* all right, *but it is also an inner journey*. They also say that it is a very good book to read out, and share.

THE DETAILS, HINTS, AND RIDDLES

The tale includes *inscriptions*,

ONCE YOU READ THIS,
LEAVE NOW OR NEVER.

It includes *songs*,

*A butterfly and a butterfly
Flutter by and by.
Waking slowly into spring,
Drinking sunlight wing by wing.
... & cetera...*

It includes *rhymes*,

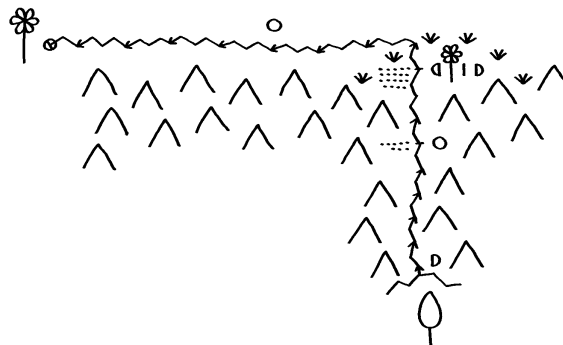
*Three big leaves
Leave their trees.
They flock and they fly
And dance in the wind,
They drift and they whirl
And sink from the sky.
... & cetera...*

It includes *secret messages in runes with readings*,

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Oldfox unwrapped it and read out the message in a low voice: 'They may know; wait till white; keep one meal behind; until trees.' ...

And it includes *a special kind of maps, showing everything from the very beginning, and eventually all the way.*



With all its *other details, hints, and riddles*, the tale may *attract and challenge* a wide circle of fairy tale lovers, and even readers who otherwise dislike fantasy and fairy tales.

•• *Horse lovers* will find so much magic between man and horse, the love between girl and horse, horseman language and concepts, tough endurance rides which are also shown in the maps, and they may even judge the horse from the *hoofprints* of the cover;

▮ *Stargazers* will find everything worth seeing up there, with names from another world; they may take the challenge to *date its counterpart* in the known world down to the day, and they may enjoy the simple and coherent *seasonal calendar*;

℞ Beginning in the first book, *rune lovers* will find the meanings, *magical aspects*, and early development, interweaved in the story, and they may enjoy the special *rune typefaces* based on the essence of the early inscriptions;

☞ The *inner journey* is an important aspect of the tale; the whole story may be read as a metaphorical description of the process of *selfrealization*, to be recognized or to add thrill, so far notably in the first and the last chapters of the first book.

☞ Written in *King's English*, before it became the present Queen's English, the language in the tale is kept in a plain wording with *original* sayings, proverbs, songs, rhymes, puns, and names, to appear as a language with the *freshness* of an early, formative stage; and it is *well suited for reading out, to both adults and large children*.

☞ The soft transitions of the colours and the flaps enables *one long cover story in hoofprints*; the notch bind ensures *durability* for years of use; the outer frame of each book has the same proportions when closed and open, and the *golden section* appears both in the single page and in the full opening; the *classical appearance* is enhanced by the choice of typeface and the careful imposition; along with the soft cover, the choice of paper makes the book *open itself to the reader*, and with a sufficient inner margin it may be read without breaking its spine; each book is foiled, stressing the *gift aspect* and enabling the reader to enjoy the freshness and fragrance of the book, as if it were handed over by the printer; and the foil carries the bar code to be thrown away with it, leaving the cover *undisturbed*.

THE MATURE INNOCENCE

The Land is neither a tale about childhood faith that must be protected from reality, nor an adult story where that faith is lost with its dreams and hopes.

It is about innocence matured and tempered by reality: that purity of heart which presents the real challenge to an imperfect world, which makes dreams and hopes come true: that inner meaning which readers may recognize, find again, or discover.

Therefore *The Land* is a tale for women and men, young and old, who long for a real world where good overcomes evil.