

A Journey of Adventure, Mystery and Hope . . .

"The Magical Horses"

by Joel Stevenson

Beate Epp is on a journey. With five years and multiple editions behind her, Epp is ready to share a tale, *The Magical Horses – A Journey of Adventure, Mystery, and Hope*, that she hopes will teach her readers the interconnectedness of the world around them.

Originally from Germany, Epp knows all about journeys. Her latest novel, the first in a planned trilogy, is what she recognizes as a reflection of the oral storytelling tradition passed onto her by her family and the spectacular fairy tales of her native land.

Epp's journey into the literary world has been nothing short of spectacular.

A holistic healer, writer and artist, Epp has had her work recognized by both past United States presidents and iconic religious leaders.

A letter of gratitude from Bill Clinton is framed in her home at her farm in the RM of Blucher, while an email from the Dalai Lama's press secretary, Tsultrim Dorjee keeps a



Beate Epp poses beside a magical horse. Her novel, *The Magical Horses – A Journey of Adventure, Mystery, and Hope* was recently released.

prominent place in her inbox.

Adding a framing narrative of a nine-year-old boy, Kiran to the story of two mouse

twins, Leo and Poldy who are on a journey to the Mother of all Mice in their quest to learn about the disappearance of the Magical Horses, Epp is hoping that her latest attempt at her tale stands out more as novel and less like a picture book (the original contained plates of her acrylic paintings of the magical horses).

With her latest novel just recently hitting shelves, Epp sat down with the *Country Press* to discuss her literary journey and the journey she hopes she can place her readers on:

(Joel Stevenson): *How did your literary journey begin? What was the genesis of your book?*

Epp: I painted a series of paintings on magical horses and each painting inspired me. Each had a story to tell. There must be more.

But where was the story in all of this?

When I was working in a field making hay bales, which is a nice time to meditate, the story sort of formulated itself and it came to me.

I got great reviews and encouragement from many people, but it was easily confused with a picture book, which it wasn't.

It was difficult for booksellers to place.

The original edition was about the journey of two mouse twins to the Mother of all Mice.

Why are they on this jour-

Once there was a time of peace and happiness all over the world when the magical horses were still around; because the magical horses were still around they spread peace and happiness with nature.

All of a sudden they were gone and nobody knew why. For a while they were still telling stories about this, but slowly the people forgot about this and they forgot how to tell stories.

The mice are on their journey to the Mother of all Mice to retrieve the story of what happened to the magical

Epp continues her journey with Magical Horses

horses. They are to write in the notebook [which Kiran receives from his grandfather in the framing narrative] the story of their journey.

How does the framing narrative of Kiran connect with the story of the mice?

Kiran suddenly finds himself living with his grandparents in a small town.

A lot of kids today are confronted with things that they have a hard time to deal with. His Grandfather gives him a notebook and he gets the story of the mice piece by piece. Their story helps him find peace.

This book is like a labyrinth. It is a journey that leads you inward—it is a meditative tool. Kids have such a busy schedule today...and there isn't a lot of time to reflect and learn

a peaceful quiet.

Everyone's life is a labyrinth. I wouldn't call it a maze because a maze gives you a border somewhere, and then you feel a little bit confused, but it always goes further.

What is Kiran's labyrinth?

The move to the little town, getting taken out of his environment, his friends, and everything he knows that is familiar to him, and he has to deal with this and he doesn't know to deal with it, so he gets angry.

All this is like his own labyrinth. He starts here and he struggles and he goes deeper and deeper and he gets some help on the way from his grandfather with the book.

At this point he arrives in the middle and gets in a calm

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place and finds out that there is always a way out.

Even if life changes, if situations are changing around you, there is always hope.

There appears to be a heavy environmental overtone in your novel and with the magical horses.

But it comes naturally.

The lives of the mice are

threatened by the growing city. The houses are coming closer, and with that of course, the cats.

Their way of life and their environment are threatened, and you get to see this from their point of view.

You get to see what the mice eat, and of course I let them eat things mice eat, but also I make them eat what hu-

mans eat too.

Why is food important?

This is a good way to bring kids to healthy eating.

My designer, when the book wasn't printed yet, it to his six-year-old son called me and said, "wow are snacking all the time good stuff."

We came to the idea to a few recipes in the back of the book. They are all healthy and very easy to make.

You are clearly making a point that there is something artificial about cities separates it from nature.

If you build up a relationship with nature and the things around you, you also get more conscious of what you do to your environment.

We must realize that we are all connected—not only humans, but everything around us. This is the most important aspect which will change how people do things.

Once we realize that everything we do has an impact to everyone around us, then we can hopefully think about our actions a little bit more.