



Benjamin Dove

By Fridrik Erlings

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As an adult, Benjamin Dove looks back on a childhood summer that changed his life forever. A summer when his new friend Roland, seemingly descended from the knights of the past, encouraged him to stand up for himself and for those he loves. It was a summer when he and his friends formed the Order of the Red Dragon that gave them a sense of identity and purpose in their turbulent world; a summer when innocent childhood games were torn apart by an almost inevitable tragedy. Benjamin Dove is a brilliantly conceived work of fiction, tinged with both light and dark humor. Disturbing themes are explored, from bullying to child abuse to rivalry, yet there is always a sense of a child's unbreakable spirit. Published to acclaim in 1992, Benjamin Dove has won several book awards, including the International Board on Books for Young People Award (the IBBY), The Icelandic Children's Book Award, and the Reykjavik City Children's Book Award. It has also been made into a feature length film of the same name, that went on to win awards at eight international film festivals. Benjamin Dove is a timeless story that explores such perennial and poignant themes that it is sure to become a modern-day classic. The New York Times calls it a ""best-selling, distinguished children's book.""

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Benjamin Dove By Fridrik Erlings Bibliography

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Editorial Review

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Benjamin and his two pals, Manny and Jeff, befriend Roland, an unusual boy who has just moved from Scotland and brought with him ancestral artifacts and ideals of knighthood. Roland is attacked by bullies, and the boys form the Order of the Red Dragon, dedicated to fighting for justice, against injustice! Soon after Jeff becomes disaffected and is rejected by the other three, he becomes involved in a gang with little interest in chivalry. Events begin to spiral out of control and test both the ideals and the courage of the four boys. Translated from the Icelandic, this story reads like a tightly written novella with an element of memoir—not the sappy sort of memoir, but the kind that deals with memories so powerful that they cannot be erased. There's violence here, but also humanity, redemption, and even sweetness, as the Order and the community surrounding them are brought together by a common goal. Grades 5-8. --Carolyn Phelan

About the Author

Fridrik Erlings was born in Reykjavik in 1962. From 1980 - '90 he worked as a graphic designer and illustrator. He was a guitar player and songwriter in two Icelandic rock bands; Purrkur Pillnik from '81-'83 and in '86 he founded the alternative rock band The Sugarcubes with Einar Orn and Bjork before leaving music to pursue writing.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Enders:

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Brian Roberts:

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