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Dael And The Painted People (Zan-Gah)



Synopsis

A prehistoric adventure, this is the third of the Zan-Gah young adult books. When Dael, guilty and tormented, came to live with the tribe of the painted people, he longed for peace and restoration; but without knowing it, he made a powerful enemy. Luckily, Dael had friends-including a troop of crows-and his own mystical powers. The disturbed and violent hero learns from the Children of the Earth, and from his submissive wife, a new way of life that is peaceful and generous. Dael and the Painted People is a story of conflict, healing, hate, and love by the winner of the Eric Hoffer Award, a finalist for ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Award, and the Mom's Choice Gold Seal for Excellence in a family-friendly book series.

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Customer Reviews

Dael and the Painted People is the third novel in the Zan Gah series and the best yet in my opinion. This one read like a novel for middle graders set in prehistoric times. I don't know how historically accurate it was but it was a great novel. Dael has had a hard life and parted ways with his people the Ba-Coro. His only companion is Sparrow, a mute girl that fell in love with a boy who couldn't love

her. She doesn't have any idea why she's going with Dael, but she is. Different points of view are read throughout the story, but we get a really good look into the mind of Dael who left so crazy with anger and, well, kinda crazy. And into the mind of Sparrow. It is wonderful to see Sparrow assert herself and grow into a chatty, friendly girl when they join the Painted People who have a language that uses clicks and guttural sounds instead of words. It's the first time Sparrow can communicate and she is a totally different person. She lives up to her name and makes the first friends she's ever had and builds her confidence. Dael is amazed by her and has to learn from her. But he's also comforted by her and they grow into a comfortable existence with the Painted People. Dael is still haunted by victims of his past and the tortures he endured. And he has been getting a reputation as a medicine man because of his knowledge of healing herbs and his ability to be in touch with the spirit world. He incurs the jealousy of the local Shaman who tries everything to discredit Dael, who is so ignorant of the man's jealousy he doesn't watch out for himself. Throughout the novel, life is portrayed much as we've all been taught our prehistoric ancestors lived. I think this is a great novel for anyone that has an interest in reading a novel set in this time period. The action in the story is compelling enough to move the story forward, maybe slower than other books, but it kind of mirrors the lifestyle of the Painted People. I found this to be my favorite of Dr. Shickman's books so far and read it quickly in an afternoon. With his descriptions and having read the previous two books, I expected to look up and find myself in the Painted land. I highly recommend this one! Thanks to Dr. Shickman and to Earthshaker Books for the ARC of Dael and the Painted People. This in no way influenced my review of the book.

Article first published as Book Review: Dael And The Painted People by Allan Richard Shickman on Blogcritics. Background and nurture often have an impact on personality, which is extremely difficult to overcome. In life though, challenges and continual change often have an impact little imagined by others. In Dael and the Painted People, Allan Richard Shickman has given us an intensely satisfying story that does an amazing job of rounding out his Zan-Gah series. Dael is a tortured individual, the brother of Zan-Gah, kidnapped at youth and both tortured and abused by his captors the Noi. Having killed an elderly woman, a Shaman of the tribe, his entire life is turned upside down. Anger rules him and has finally set him on a course to leave his family and his beloved brother. The anger makes Dael a different man, his dreams and visions make him Shaman to a large group of followers and yet a pariah to his own family. After an egregious fight Dael chooses to leave his own tribe and move on. Followed from his home by another who did not fit he finds the young woman Sparrow has become his companion. Not capable of speech she is quiet and shy and yet

determined. While she does not care for Dael, she too must make her way to a different life. Held together by danger and cold they have no choice but to interact, and thereby form a sort of bond. When they reach their final destination, Dael has found his anger has begun to burn away. They are both accepted readily by the Children of the Earth and indoctrinated into their group. Here begins the story of the rehabilitation of a man and woman, both outcasts and the amazing journey that remakes their lives. Dael is such an interesting character, so like his well respected brother in many ways and yet so set apart by his experiences. You can see the good simmer below the surface and in some of his interactions, but it is so hidden by the anger and the seizures that it becomes difficult to like him. Following his story is so uplifting and his life becomes so remarkable you find yourself cheering as each change occurs and his life moves into mysterious paths. There is a great deal to learn from such a character and his development. Sparrow is finally in a place where she can excel. She has evinced a great deal of courage in following a man she does not really know, and does not care for. Yet she understands her life must change. Just the very fact that she made this decision to move from a caring family into the unknown gives you an alternate view of this young woman. She is strong and brave, and is willing to face grueling challenges to become whole. Unaware of how or where she will end up, her life become a testament to that courage and she reaps the rewards with joy. Shickman has given us a story set at a time of great upheaval; the time of the caveman, and through his precise writing he has built a world of both danger and beauty. The time and place is believable and you can picture the both beauty and savagery through the insightful prose. I would recommend this for the young adult reader, as well as those young at heart. The adventure is strong and the background interesting. The challenges can certainly be related to the very same encountered today, at least those requiring decisions and courage. The dangers are different and yet we know they still exist. This would be a great book for your child's library. This book was received free through EarthShaker Books. All opinions are my own based off my reading and understanding of the material.

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