

The Time Capsule by Stephen Bradley

Reviewed by Leonie Weldon
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The Time Capsule tracks the lives of brothers, Frank and Charlie and those they love. And as much as this story is created by the dreams and actions of Frank, it is also created by the landscape in which he lives: You are in New Zealand; you live in Tauranga, a small town in the Bay of Plenty dominated by the extinct volcanic monolith, Mount Maunganui at the entrance to the harbour. You are climbing Mount Maunganui, you know you're there; you can smell the air, see the colours and feel the breeze...

From the very onset we are in Frank's mind, heart, life and dreams. He will capture you and bring you close. He is not talking to the masses, he is talking to you.

From a tiny child Frank's dreams have been part of his life, but his dreams are unlike most dreams; his dreaming is about one dream, one story that keeps unfolding for his whole life.

At times when you put the book down it is just as hard for you to pull yourself out of the dream as it is for Frank.

As Frank's life goes on it becomes obvious there are some parallels and explanations about his real life reflected in his dream world - at times the dream world intrudes into his real life and visa versa, and the borders between the two become blurred. Frank's dream presents you both (because you are always there together) with some pretty out there concepts, but the journey is a necessary one to ground you at the end.

This story takes the reader through countless issues about life, humanity, love, family, difficult stuff, hurt, disappointments and joy; issues big and small confronting us today, in the past and in the future. But the magic is the gentle, simple way Frank takes you through the events, from the mundane to complex with the same ease, while giving both the same importance.

After turning the last page, you will sit there for some time trying to digest all the wonder.

This is an unforgettable read, mesmerising, haunting, tender, and quite wonderful, a story much bigger than the words and pages that try to contain it.

Leonie Weldon
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