



# L'enfant et la rivière

*Henri Bosco*

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## L'enfant et la rivière Henri Bosco

"Mais au-delà coulait une rivière." Cette rivière, fascinante, d'une infinie richesse est le centre même de cette oeuvre, comme elle est le centre de l'univers de Pascalet, le héros de ce très beau livre. Le petit garçon va sentir en lui l'appel irrésistible de ce cours d'eau fabuleux qui le fait rêver, nuit et jour, à l'image de Bargabot, l'étrange braconnier qui en connaît chaque méandre et vient parfois lui rendre visite. Bravant un jour l'interdiction de sa famille, il succombe à la tentation et rejoint la rivière. Mais la barque qui le mène part soudain à la dérive, l'entraînant sur une île sauvage. Il y fait alors la rencontre d'inquiétants bohémiens qui retiennent prisonnier un jeune garçon, Gatz. Après avoir délivré le jeune otage, tous deux s'enfuient. Les deux garçons, se cachant des bohémiens, ne pourront alors plus compter que sur leur seule débrouillardise dans une nature magnifiquement sauvage.

Très bel ouvrage où le mystère se mêle à la réalité quotidienne, où l'on peut sentir à chaque page le parfum si particulier de la Provence, cette oeuvre est envoûtante par la magie qui se dégage de chaque description, d'une richesse incroyable. Le vocabulaire très fourni, lié au champ thématique de la rivière, donnera l'occasion d'une véritable leçon de choses, et l'on se plaira à suivre les aventures du jeune Pascalet et de Gatz dans cette si belle nature. --Xavier Marciniak

## L'enfant et la rivière Details

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## From Reader Review *L'enfant et la rivière* for online ebook

### Anne says

Très poétique

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### Paularfc says

Confesso que nunca tinha ouvido falar do livro *L'enfant et la rivière* (O menino e o rio, em Português), de Henri Bosco, apesar de se tratar de uma obra premiada.

Pois bem. O livro conta a história de um menino chamado Pascoal que, mesmo morando tão perto de um rio, não o conhecia. Intrigado pelos mistérios daquelas águas e das ilhotas que lá havia, acaba embarcando numa aventura inesquecível.

As ilustrações, de Jean Olivier Heron, tornam o livro ainda mais encantador.

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### leynes says

Oh man, this felt a little bit like a cheap version of 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'. It probably didn't help that I read a majority of this novel whilst taking a walk in the park. Turns out reading and walking at the same time gives me a headache. Great.

'L'enfant et la Rivière' is the story of Pascalet who gets bored very easily because his parents are often away from home and his aunt (who was to guard him) is also not paying close attention to him. He isn't allowed to go to the nearby river but when Barbagot brings the family their fish and raves about fishing and the river, Pascalet's curiosity is woken.

One day he sets out for an adventure and boy, does he get one. In a sort of raft (or whatever form of boat he had) he sets out on the river. When he gets to an island which is supposed to be uninhabited he actually witnesses a ritual by savages who try to kill a little boy (of Pascalet's age). The portrayal of the 'savages' (basically black people) was totally offensive and pissed me off a bit because portraying certain cultures as "primitive" and "dangerous" (the savages are cannibals – of course they are smh) is just not okay.

Back to the story, Pascalet manages to free the little boy and they become friends and roam the river together. This portion of the book was really reminiscent of 'The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn' and Jim and Huck's friendship. Pascalet's friend – his name is Gatzo – knows quite a lot about living in the wild and teaches Pascalet all he needs for survival. As in HuckFinn I really enjoyed the portrayal of freedom and how these young boys experience independancy and freedom for themselves.

I had a bit of the problem with the writing style because the other choses to willingly spoil the end of the book in the first few chapters by telling the readers that

Ceci se passait il y a bien longtemps et je suis presque un vieil homme.

Well, now that it's clear that Pascalet comes out of all situations unharmed, the thrill is gone. It wasn't

captivating at all.

The story gets wrapped up in a rather weird way. Gatz and Pascalet end up in a nearby village in which a circus has a performance and an old puppet player tells his life's story and how he lost his grandson. It then turns out that Gatz is that exact son and they are happily united. Gatz returns to his home and is welcomed by his aunt (who was concerned but chose not to tell Pascalet's absent parents of his missing – I MEAN WTF if my child roams the wild for 10 days I would like to be informed).

The ending was rather heart-warming because I found Pascalet's solitude to be quite relatable. He missed his friend Gatz quite a lot. Gatz then shows up at Pascalet's window and Pascalet's aunt approves of him staying with their family. Like that portion is totally unbelievable again but whatever at this point I was already quite over this novel.

I don't regret reading it because I love to read books in French by French author. It makes me feel rather accomplished but the story in itself was quite boring and I will probably not remember any of the characters in a year's time.

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### **Karim Rhayem says**

A book made to be read chilling on the beach or on the top of a hill; Bosco offers a dreamy adventure into the journey of a normal village kid, too bored to stay at home. More than a typical escape book, it also explores descriptions of the nature and the beach, as well as magical characters that make the book stand on the edge between realism and fantasy.

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### **Angelyn says**

I'm not sure I would read *L'enfant et la rivière*, if we didn't study it for the C1 exams in school. It wasn't bad and the characters (Pascalet, Tante Martine, Gatz) were nice.

I'm thinking of reading the next book. I'm curious about what the plot will be...

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### **Ima says**

Une lecture du beau vieux temps.

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### **Géraldine says**

Un auteur à redécouvrir.

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### **Hamid,???? says**

lu en une nuit à la mosqué de l'Internat..

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### **Marie fou says**

Ce livre n'est pas très bon mais il est tellement beau, et agréable à lire, qu'il mérite ses 5 étoiles. Il ne faut pas s'inquiéter qu'un enfant parte à la dérive sur la rivière dans sa barque. Il faut plutôt prendre son temps et admirer la beauté de la nature qui entoure cet enfant. De là un livre magnifique!

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### **Jana says**

Not at all my type of book. Adventurous with animal pictures, with a few how to live your life advices and how life on a river is a world of its own. Probably is but not when I have to read it through the other version of so unloved Huckleberry Finn spinoff.

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### **alternBRUNO°° says**

Me gustan los franceses porque mucha de su literatura es como agua cristalina que no demanda un ápice de funcionalismo y pragmatismo. Siempre he de admirarles la soltura por la que sus cuentistas de transportan imperceptiblemente. Este libro no es la excepción. Las escenas sueltas parece una colcha hecha de retazos finamente apretujados y muy placentera para dormir.

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### **? ?????????? says**

L'envie de transcender les limites et partir à la recherche de l'inconnu et le mystérieux a saisi Pascalet qui a profité de l'absence de ses parents et le sommeil de sa grand-mère pour découvrir la rivière interdite et vivre l'aventure tant désirée... une belle histoire pleine de suspens qui peut émerveiller vos enfants ainsi que vous; jeunes lecteurs et adultes!

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### **Ashlaya says**

I liked it as a child because of the beautiful description but that's some racist cliché to say the least. Also it was still somewhat boring.

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### **Annalinda says**

Mi spiace quasi dargli due stelline, si vede che c'è l'impegno, si sente che c'è il cuore, ma mi sono annoiata tantissimo nelle lunghe e ripetute descrizioni del fiume, alberi, uccelli, che neanche mi son la briga di cercare sul dizionario le parole che non conoscevo per tradurle. Mi son persa spesso nei miei pensieri invece... La storia è carina, almeno quando l'ho raccontata a Q. mi è sembrata carina alla fine. Ma la lettura, uno strazio.

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## **Lectrice Hérétique says**

Henri Bosco, on ne le présente plus. Je l'ai découvert il y a plus de vingt ans avec *Le rameau de la nuit*, étrange et fascinant roman que j'espère relire un jour. J'y suis revenue avec Sabinus et Sylvius, petits bijoux de poésie. *L'enfant et la rivière* est un très court récit, plein de poésie, de simplicité, de rêve et d'insouciance. La rivière exerce sur le petit Pascalet un attrait inexplicable, et lorsque l'occasion se présente pour lui de s'en approcher, il n'hésite pas et se lance à l'aventure de ce cours d'eau plein de dangers. Mais qui dit danger, dit aussi découvertes potentielles, cachées au sein d'îlots mystérieux. Durant son escapade, Pascalet va connaître la liberté, la nature sauvage, isolée de la civilisation, et l'amitié.

*L'enfant et la rivière* est une petite histoire sans forcément de but précis, il s'agit juste d'un épisode de la vie d'un enfant, une évocation poétique et tendre de la nature, de l'amitié, de la fraternité.

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