



Leonora van Deurs



## Botai - Shadowtraces

### Botai - Skyggespor

Impressive well-researched historical debut novel, written while the author was still a teenager.

**Leonora van Deurs** is a student of Mathematics at the University of Münster (Germany). She started work on her debut novel at the age of 15 and finished it when she was 18 years old.

## SYNOPSIS

5500 years ago something happened that changed the history of mankind forever. The Botai people tamed the horse.

In *BOTAI: Shadowtraces*, we follow three young people on their individual quests. Quests that will change their destinies forever.

Set on the Eurasian steppe, the Botai people live a life in a pact between nature and horses. But a dark shadow is looming. A curse, also called a minwri, is spreading disease and death.

Nakou is a nomad and part of the Yamnaya people. She has lost her family to the curse and is therefore forced to flee to the Altai Mountains where she is to be married against her will.

Jalqi sets out on a dangerous journey to find the shiny stones that can make the curse go away and rescue his people.

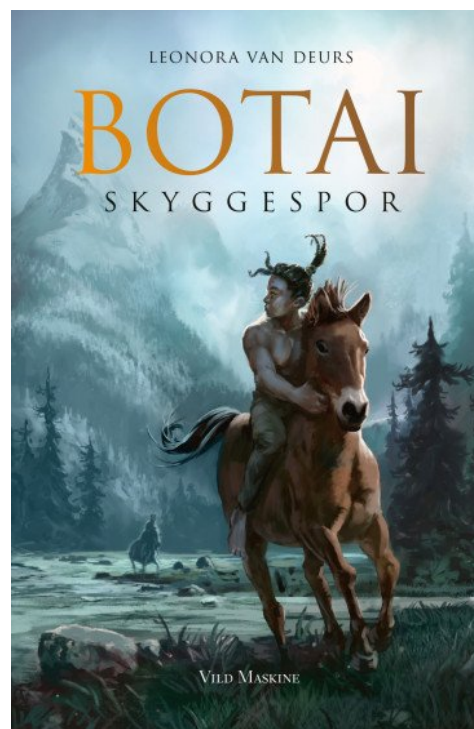
Lyez is making his way alone over the never-ending steppe to find his father, but a fateful meeting awaits him.

This is a compelling novel about a people that is not widely known. Leonora van Deurs' writing is based on concrete historical facts, and her vast scientific background knowledge, on genetics and language among other things, is outstanding.

## REVIEWS

"A masterpiece!" – (Tidsskriftet Børn & Bøger (the Magazine Children & Books))

"Well-written and well-crafted historical narrative that captivates from the first



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Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *Tween*

Genre: *Historical*

Available material: *English sample by Paul Russell Garrett + timeline/synopsis in English of the entire novel*

## Territories Handled

World except: Danish

page to the last. The story of the Botai people comes to life in such a well-told way that you can almost smell the smoke from the fire and hear the sound of the horses' hoofbeats. An impressive work by the young debut author Leonora van Deurs." – (Dansk Bibliotekscenter (Danish Library Centre))