



Cappelen Damm 1994
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Gert Nygårdshaug

Mengele Zoo

Full Spanish and French translation available

Mino was born in the South American rainforest. He loves the scents, the sounds, the green, the diversity of life. To make a living, the young boy preys on the rarest of the beautiful butterflies together with his father. Their small community is disturbed by the major petrol companies wanting to exploit the rainforest. One day when returning from his daily hunt, Mino finds his family and friends massacred by the military which are in the pocket of the petrol companies.

He flees into the unknown parts of the rainforest alone. Isidoro; a travelling magician finds him and adopts him; training Mino to become a young «mago». They form a spectacular show they take to small villages on the Latin American continent for years. Mino will become a student years later, emphasizing on biology and eco-philosophy. At the university he finds allies and together they create the dangerous Mariposa movement which aims to direct the world's attention to the destruction of nature caused by international companies. They begin systematically assassinating the leaders of the companies which commit crimes against the environment and people in the poor world.

Gert Nygårdshaug masterfully combines lush narrative capacity and imagination with a high voltage drama describing Latin American reality. The book deals with themes such as environmental concerns and imperialism; and based on Nygårdshaug's experiences when living in the Latin American rainforest.

A powerful and disturbing book; the best I have read so far this year.

- RTL Radio France

A prophet!

- Paris Match

A beautiful, thrilling, wise, insightful and adventurous novel. Keeping the reader on the edge until the very last page

- Artemia's World

Gert Nygårdshaug

Gert Nygårdshaug was born in Tynset, the mountains of Norway. Since his literary debut in 1966, he is the author of nearly 40 books, both novels for children, poetry and fairytales- together with literary works, thrillers and crime novels.



The trilogy of Mino (*Mengele Zoo*, *The Heaven's Flower*)

Tree and The Basin of Aphrodite) earned him immense recognition from critics and the public. Nearly 400,000 copies sold in Norway, and elected Norway's favorite novel in the Norwegian international literature festival in Lillehammer in 2007.

His crime novels where the main character is the chef and cryptologist Fredric Drum, also make Nygårdshaug appear regularly on the bestseller lists in Norway. Concerned about the environmental cause, Gert Nygårdshaug fights for the preservation of rainforests, especially the Amazon, where he has spent much time.