



Tell Me What You See

By Zoran Drvenkar

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Teen gothic horror from a new German author--sure to send chills down your spine!

Berlin, Christmas, the dead of night: 16-year-old Alissa and her best friend, Evelin, are making their annual secret pilgrimage to the grave of Alissa's father when Alissa falls through thick snow to land in an underground crypt. There she finds a child's casket...with a strange black plant growing up through its lid. Opening the coffin, she severs the dark growth from its roots--and discovers they are embedded in the heart of the dead child.

From that moment forward, Alissa's life descends into nightmarish turmoil.

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Tell Me What You See By Zoran Drvenkar Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—Ever since Alissas father died, she and her friend Evelin have made a midnight pilgrimage to his grave every Christmas. But this year Berlin is covered in snow, and while searching for the grave, Alissa falls into a crypt where she finds a childs coffin with a strange plant growing from it. Seduced by the plant, Alissa eats it and finds that it has given her powers. She can see strange people who transform into ravens, are invisible to everyone else, and who appear to comfort the dying. She also develops the ability to call back the dead, although she does not immediately realize what she is doing. Evelin watches in horror as Alissa seeks to figure things out and avoid her ex-boyfriend, who has become frighteningly obsessive. This is an odd, often confusing story in which much is left unexplained. The people Alissa sees are almost like angels, but they are cold and uncompromising; the plant was the dead boys undeveloped gift, but why his unfulfilled potential takes over Alissa or causes her to develop these abilities is unclear. Still, the ambience is undeniable, and the elements behind the supernatural mystery, such as Alissas relationships with her mother and stepfather, are evocative and ring true. Readers seeking a truly unusual horror story may find some satisfaction, despite the flaws, but most will prefer Charles de Lints *The Blue Girl* (Viking, 2004), which covers similar territory more effectively.—*Karyn N. Silverman, Elizabeth Irwin High School, New York City*
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Review

Kirkus STARRED review

10/15/05

In the icy-cold weeks after Christmas, Alissa's normal adolescent problems are overlaid with supernatural mysteries. On her annual Christmas pilgrimage to her father's grave, Alissa falls through the snow to the tomb of a dead boy with a plant growing from his chest. When Alissa, magically compelled, plucks and eats the plant, she finds herself afflicted with visions. She sees people walking down the street whom nobody else can see, people who turn into ravens and fly across the sky. Alissa's rotten ex-boyfriend is also affected by Alissa's new powers, and becomes a preternatural stalker, obsessed with Alissa and blessed—or cursed—with the ability to find her. Only her best friend Evelin can help Alissa hold herself together in an increasingly surreal world. Alissa's story is told in alternating chapters by different characters, and the down-to-earth perspectives of Evelin and Alissa's stepfather keep this lyrical tale grounded until the satisfying and surprising conclusion. (Fantasy. YA)

Voice of Youth Advocates

(December 1, 2005; 0-439-72452-X; 978-0-439-72452-4)

In his first novel translated into English from German, Drvenkar transforms his protagonist, Alissa, by giving her the ability to see and talk to the spirits of the dead. Her gift begins when she discovers a strange purple plant growing out of a child's coffin in a crypt. Upon opening the lid, Alissa discovers that the plant has grown right through the child's heart. The plant insinuates itself into Alissa's psyche, causing her to take it home with her and then ingest it. Not only can she then see what cannot be seen, but also anyone who kisses her becomes obsessed with her. Her ex-boyfriend Simon, angry at her rejection, forces a kiss on her and then cannot stop stalking her. Alissa's friend Evelin does not understand exactly what is happening to Alissa, but she sacrifices everything—even her life—to save her. Drvenkar writes an exciting and imaginative thriller. The novel unfolds at a swift pace, following Alissa through the darkness of her unwelcome new gift. Readers will

also be drawn to the three-dimensional characters fleshed out as the point of view shifts from chapter to chapter. Young adults who are captivated by stories of the paranormal will enjoy this title.-Leslie Carter.

SLJ 2/1/06

DRVENKAR, Zoran. *Tell Me What You See*. tr. from German by Chantal Wright. 290p. Scholastic/The Chicken House. 2005. Tr \$16.99. ISBN 0-439-72452-X. LC number unavailable.

Gr 8 Up—Ever since Alissa's father died, she and her friend Evelin have made a midnight pilgrimage to his grave every Christmas. But this year Berlin is covered in snow, and while searching for the grave, Alissa falls into a crypt where she finds a child's coffin with a strange plant growing from it. Seduced by the plant, Alissa eats it and finds that it has given her powers. She can see strange people who transform into ravens, are invisible to everyone else, and who appear to comfort the dying. She also develops the ability to call back the dead, although she does not immediately realize what she is doing. Evelin watches in horror as Alissa seeks to figure things out and avoid her ex-boyfriend, who has become frighteningly obsessive. This is an odd, often confusing story in which much is left unexplained. The people Alissa sees are almost like angels, but they are cold and uncompromising; the plant was the dead boy's undeveloped "gift," but why his unfulfilled potential takes over Alissa or causes her to develop these abilities is unclear. Still, the ambience is undeniable, and the elements behind the supernatural mystery, such as Alissa's relationships with her mother and stepfather, are evocative and ring true. Readers seeking a truly unusual horror story may find some satisfaction, despite the flaws, but most will prefer Charles de Lint's *The Blue Girl* (Viking, 2004), whi

About the Author

The author of three best-selling series for young readers, Tony Abbott didn't actually turn to writing full-time until 1994. He has always been involved with the world of writing, however, from his time at the University of Connecticut — where he graduated with a degree in English Literature — to his work with a variety of specialty bookstores, a university library, and an Internet book and magazine publisher. He shares a love of fantasy and adventure with his readers, with whom he maintains contact through his many school visits; Abbott has also taught writing workshops for all elementary grades.

Zoran Drvenkar was born in Krizevci, Yugoslavia in 1967. He has authored many books for children and teens and believes that a book is a gate to another world. Zoran has worked as a freelance writer for over a decade, writing novels, poems, and plays. He has been nominated for several German literary awards including the Oldenburger Child and Youth Award.

Zoran's new Scholastic book, *Tell Me What You See*, is his first title to be published in English. *Tell Me What You See* takes place in Berlin on the night of Christmas. Sixteen-year-old Alissa and her best friend Evelin stumble upon a subterranean crypt and a veined purple plant. She severs the dark growth from its roots—and discovers they are embedded in the heart of the young corpse. After she swallows part of the plant, visions and fevers follow and Alissa discovers she has the power to both heal and hypnotize. But, trapped between the passions of her menacing boyfriend, Simon, and Evelin, her new magic may only bring tragedy.

Zoran lives in Berlin, Germany.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donald McLaughlin:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book called Tell Me What You See? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Steven Stockton:

The book Tell Me What You See make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book Tell Me What You See to be your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open and read a book Tell Me What You See. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this book?

Larry Young:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Tell Me What You See it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book offers high quality.

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