

How to Read Pepelina

A short guide to understanding a story like no other



WHAT KIND OF STORY IS THIS?

Magical Fairytale Meets Mythical Fantasy

Pepelina, The Slavic Cinderella is not a typical fairytale. It is not a typical fantasy novel either. It is something rarer. I invented a hybrid genre born from two worlds, two cultures and one deeply personal artistic vision. Think of it as a magical fairytale that slowly becomes a mythical fantasy.

THE TWO PHASES OF THE STORY

Dream - like opening. Mythic heart.

The story opens clean, luminous and fairytale-like. It is warm and innocent with the love between a father and daughter, gentle with the magic of Slavic household spirits and the quiet world of Pepelina's writing. Do not be misled by this gentleness. It is intentional. At the midpoint, the story shifts. It goes full mythic. It turns darker, older, wilder. The Slavic underworld stirs. The literary villains reveal their true nature. Pepelina must find her voice not just as a daughter, but as a writer and a warrior of words.

"The dreamlike opening is the magical slipper. The mythic second half is what happens when Pepelina decides whether or not to put it on."

HOW TO READ IT

This is a Told Story - Not a Shown One

Pepelina is written in the oral storytelling tradition. It is the tradition of sitting close to a fire and listening. The prose is intimate, direct and warm. It does not follow the cinematic "show don't tell" approach of modern fiction. Instead it speaks to you, dear reader, as our grandmothers did. Words come alive with wisdom, with love and with the knowing that some truths are best spoken aloud.

THE SLAVIC ROOTS

Ancient Mythology. Australian Soul.

Woven through the story are the figures of Slavic mythology like Baba Jaga, Zhar Ptitsa, Domovoy and Kikimora. These are not decorative. They are the bones of the world Pepelina inhabits. Understanding that this is a story shaped by Eastern European oral tradition will help you read it as it was meant to be read. It is not a Western fantasy, but something older, stranger and more sacred.

