

International Rights Fall 2020



LIEPMAN AG
LITERARY AGENCY

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MADAME NIELSEN

“No one has such a distinctive and elegant linguistic signature as Madame Nielsen. Her writing style is as ruthlessly self-exposing as it is radical.”

—Weekendavisen



Madame Nielsen

LAMENTO

Original title
Lamento

Original publisher
Grif, 2020
174 pp.

English translation
sample available



German
Kiepenheuer & Witsch



Madame Nielsen is a novelist, artist, performer, world history enactor, composer, chanteuse – and multi-gendered. Born as Claus Beck-Nielsen in 1963 in Aalborg, Denmark, she is the author of numerous literary works. A pioneer of „performative biographism“ and “Scandinavian autofiction” the artist declared the death of Claus Beck-Nielsen in 2001, published *Claus Beck-Nielsen (1963–2001) – A Biography*, followed by *The Suicide Mission* and continues to work as Madame Nielsen. *My Encounters with The Great Authors of our Nation* was nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize and *The Endless Summer* became a great success in Germany and was published in English by Open Letter in 2018. Her work has been translated into nine languages so far.

Denmark



“It is a most unusually worldly and wise novel, a call to embrace the everyday with love.”

—Dagbladenes Bureau

You only kill who you love. Everyone else is indifferent. Otherwise why should they be killed?

A sentence from a burned but saved manuscript. The only thing the protagonist saved from a raging fire he caused in a friend’s apartment in Paris. Everything else was not worth saving.

In the novel’s opening scene, a couple watches a fire burn down an apartment. We learn how they fell in love and were inseparable. Always reading the same book, drinking out of the same glass and even breathing the same air out of each other’s mouths.

But mastering everyday life turns out to be a challenge they cannot overcome. The husband withdraws and dedicates himself to his writing. The couple lives in totally different rhythms. Doors are closed, backs turned. His urge to live under ever more rigid rules, in search of a higher order, takes on self-destructive features and ends in their separation.

A lament on love in three parts, from the first fire of falling in love, to the attempt to live with it, and finally to death by and of love; a tale of wild infatuation, this magical state of mind, and how hard, even impossible it is to transform this state into a calm, lasting love of everyday life.



“Falling in love is a Chernobyl-like catastrophe. Madame Nielsen closes her novel-trilogy about love with a beautiful elegy about the grand falling-in-love, which couldn’t survive the everyday. Like the two previous novels Lamento is most wonderfully written.”

—Politiken

Madame Nielsen

THE MONSTER

Original title
The Monster

Original publisher
Gyldendal, 2018
220 pp.

English translation
sample available



German
Kiepenheuer & Witsch
French Notabilia
Spanish Minúscula
Norwegian Pelikanen



There is no comparable literary substance so addictive in contemporary literature.”

–ZDF, Das Literarische Quartett



“Madame Nielsen gives new strength to language with her powerful prose, which is at the same time enthusiastic and hard. *The Monster* is a work of art made entirely of language.”

–NDR

“An irresistible experiment.”

–WDR 5

“Madame Nielsen, or whoever she is, can write so that I sometimes levitate from the couch. It takes many exceptional authors to make one Madame, so dear reader, just let yourself get invaded.”

–Weekendavisen

A young European man arrives in New York and immediately enters “the Garage”, rehearsal stage of the legendary Wooster Group in Soho. Not only has he come to conquer the stage and become the new Willem Dafoe, but also to bring down the Empire States that is America. His past is blurred, but apparently he has already contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union with his rock band a few years earlier. Now, suddenly he is here, without money and without a roof over his head. All he has is a mysterious list of contacts someone has given him. He randomly rings one number, goes to the indicated address where a bizarre, blonde creature grants him access to a parallel Warholesque universe entirely lined with velour.

From that moment on, the novel and the world split in two: nightmare and vision, art and life, rules and chaos, sex and death.

THE MONSTER is a New York horror novel, a beguiling game and a dark vision of what is to come.

“Once in a while, after you’ve finished a book and put it down, you wish that the author was a good friend and you could call her whenever you felt sad. It’s not something that happens often. But it does when you read Karen Blixen and Marguerite Duras and Virginia Woolf. And Madame Nielsen.”

–Christian Kracht

Amanda Lasker-Berlin

ELIJA'S SONG

Original title
Elijas Lied

Original publisher
Frankfurter
Verlagsanstalt, 2020
253 pp.



Nominated for the 2020
lit.Cologne Debut Prize

A 2020 New Books in
German selection



Amanda Lasker-Berlin was born in Essen in 1994 and staged her first play at the age of eighteen. She graduated in fine art from the Bauhaus University in Weimar and is now studying at the Academy of Performing Arts Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg. Her plays and prose won several awards for emerging writers. ELIJA'S SONG is her first novel.



“A debut novelist who delights with experimentation.”

—Vogue

Three estranged sisters reunite for a walk across a moor and up to a peak. The hike has been arranged by Loth, the youngest sister, and is a route they used to take with their father. As they walk and talk, we learn about the sisters' very different lives.

Elija lives in assisted housing, has an intimate relationship with her friend Mio and loves being on stage. We learn through her sisters' accounts that she could be disruptive as a child, which was burdensome for them. As if to prove this point, Elija steals a stuffed owl from a café they stop by along the way.

Noa, the middle sister, is a graduate who works in a badly paid and soul-destroying job in a canteen of an office building. She has an affair with guy from the executive suite. He doesn't know that she also provides sexual assistance to the disabled.

Loth is living in a community of nationalist activists: the extent of her involvement with them and adoption of their Neo-Nazi message emerges gradually, as does her obsession with her looks and body. As a child, Loth felt overlooked and neglected by her parents, who tended to focus on Elija, and she still harbours this resentment.

As evening approaches, the sisters reach the peak and sing “Elija's song”, a song made up by their father with one verse for each daughter. As they descend and darkness falls, Loth loses her temper and Elija runs off. The two of them end up on the edge of a precipice overlooking a lake. Elija loses her balance and Loth gently pushes her over. And Noa runs, Noa swims to her rescue, terrified she may be too late...

Amanda Lasker-Berlin's writing is highly lyrical and her narrative flows perfectly all the way to its harrowing conclusion.



“Remarkable. The convincing debut from an author and playwright, whom we would like to hear, see or read more.”

—hr2 Kultur

“A courageous debut novel, which convinces with its multi-layered characters and sensitive language.”

—Deutschlandfunk Kultur

“Her art is political and she has something to say. Amanda Lasker-Berlin is a literary force to be reckoned with.”

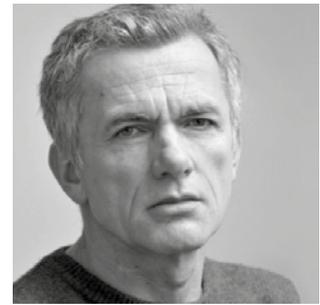
—MDR

“The portray of injured, politically lost and disillusioned characters in all their physicality. What starts as a hike soon becomes a tragic walk on a tightrope.”

—Buchkultur

Ferenc Barnás

TO THE ENDS OF OUR LIVES



German Schöffling

Original title
Életünk Végéig



Winner of the Milán Füst
Prize 2019

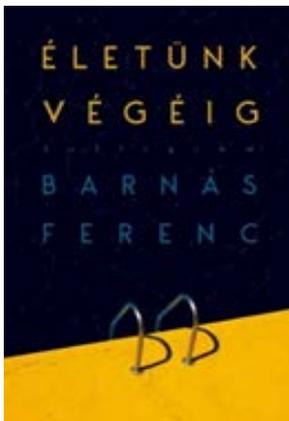
Original publisher
Kalligram, 2019
455 pp.

English translation
sample available

“Best book of the year”
2019 in Hungary

Shortlisted for the
AEGON Prize

Shortlisted for the Libri
Prize



„Barnás can be counted as one of the most important writers in Hungary.”

—Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

A philosopher and author of the work “Ontogenea”, a novel about his childhood, has just recovered from a nervous breakdown. He falls in love with an anthropologist, who is considerably younger than him. Their love is ecstatic but is overshadowed by illness. Two months after publication of his novel, his elderly mother dies but his family fails to notify him. At the funeral, the thought strikes him that contrary to what is recorded in the death certificate, his mother might have died of a different cause than cancer. He is trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together.

The more desperate he is in his search for the truth, the darker the family secrets turn out. While we hold our breath in excitement following the dramatic story of this family of eleven, we are also introduced to the political and cultural landscape of Hungary today.

TO THE ENDS OF OUR LIVES drastically demonstrates that everything we do and every decision we make has consequences.

Ferenc Barnás is one of Hungary’s most distinguished writers. He is the author of five novels. *The Ninth* was longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award (USA) and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was selected for Germany’s SWR Bestenliste. *Another Death* was also a Best Book of the Year in Hungary. Barnás has received Hungary’s highest literary honours, the Sándor Márai Prize, the Tibor Déry Prize, the AEGON Prize and the Milán Füst Prize. His novels have been translated into English, German, French, Serbian, Czech, and Indonesian. He has been awarded writing residencies in the US at Yaddo, Edward F. Albee Foundation and the MacDowell Colony. He lives and works in Jakarta, Indonesia.



“The sheer number of microcosms being set into motion: virtuosic.”

—Rvizoronline

“The images call to mind Marquez’s *One Hundred Years in Solitude*. Barnás’ works are worth comparing with Knausgård’s autofiction.”

—Kulter

“Ferenc Barnás is a legend among those who know him.”

—László Krasznahorkai

Péter Nádas

LENI WEEPS

Essays

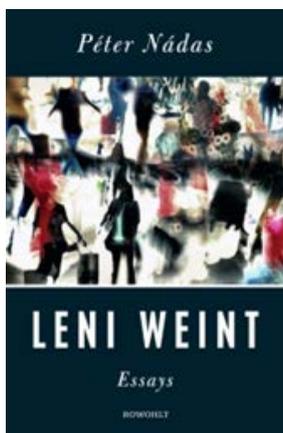


Original title
Leni weint. Essays

Original publisher
Rowohlt, 2018
528 pp


World English
Archipelago Books

c/o Graf & Graf



„These essays are frighteningly prophetic and yet based on a deep faith in humanity.”

—Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Péter Nádas born in Budapest in 1942, is a photographer and award-winning writer. Until 1977, Hungarian censorship prevented the publication of his first novel *End of a Family Story*. He is the author of *A Book of Memories* – “The greatest novel written in our time, and one of the great books of the century” (Susan Sontag) – and of *Parallel Stories*, a masterpiece internationally celebrated as “War and Peace” of the 21st century.

From his extensive essayistic body of work Nádas has compiled this special volume with a focus on the years 1989 until 2014, a period that began with a revolution and hope and ended in aggressive populism.

With great acumen and passion, Nádas explores how the citizens of Hungary and other Eastern European states came to be again under authoritarian and nationalist governments, and to what extent the reasons for this decline must be sought in the catastrophes of the 20th century, as well as in global developments.

Nádas’ gift to absorb the slightest microscopic tremors, to integrate, and render all nuances, enables him to paint a unique and truthful picture of Central Europe but also of the current state of the human experience, proving that he really is THE great surveyor of the European soul in the 20th century – be it in fiction or non-fiction. His art of mirroring an entire era in the “literary self” embraces reflections on anthropological and moral questions, on truth and lies, on art and crime, on trust and deceit. Whether a traumatic experience of Leni Riefenstahl, the Eastern European black economy, or the consequences of 9/11 – Nádas’ discerning investigation of such diverse themes shine with intellectual brilliance and literary sensitivity.



“Again and again – Péter Nádas’ writing is breath-taking. It is so astonishing, so agitating, but the reader has the feeling that, once he has lived through these storms, he is breathing more calmly, more empowered, because he is able to decipher the world more precisely.”

—Berliner Zeitung

„No writer in Europe today has dealt more eloquently with the obligations and moral conundrums of memory, private and collective, than the Hungarian novelist and essayist Péter Nádas.”

—The New York Times

FRANZ KAFKA



Nothing short of a sensation:
a volume showing for the first
time the entire stock of Kafka's
drawings in high quality facsim-
iles, including over 150 previ-
ously unknown drawings.

KAFKA'S DRAWINGS

The Complete Graphic Work of Franz Kafka

Edited by Andreas Kilcher and Pavel Schmidt

with essays by Judith Butler and Andreas Kilcher

30,000 words



German C.H. Beck Verlag
(in a pre-empt)

In 2019, the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem finally opened the Estate of Max Brod. Among the remarkable new archive materials is a major and previously unknown set of Kafka's drawings.

Max Brod was convinced of Kafka's artistic and literary "double talent". He collected and preserved his drawings – against Kafka's testamentary wish to burn "everything written and drawn". From this collection Brod published some fourteen drawings as "illustrations" in his work on Kafka. Apart from these, a small number of drawings in other parts of Kafka's Estate, in Oxford, Marbach and Vienna, are also already known.

The volume presented here fundamentally differs from the state of the art and previous interpretations – quantitatively and qualitatively. Quantitatively, the opening of the Brod Estate represents a major leap. We are now no longer dealing with around 40 pictures, but with over 200. Especially noteworthy is a wonderful drawing booklet, which was locked away for decades in a bank safe in Zurich. Presented in the same format as Kafka's frequently used "quart books" (Quartheft), its contents underline a significant qualitative aspect: the drawings now appear as original works of art rather than simple illustrations accessible primarily through the prism of Kafka's literary work. Therefore, the planned volume is not intended to hastily relate Kafka's drawings to his literary oeuvre. The drawings should not be understood as a recursive unit with the written work, neither in terms of their assumed illustrative function nor their marginal position in Kafka's legacy – but rather as an artistic phenomenon in its own right.

Andreas Kilcher: Professor for literature and cultural studies at ETH Zurich. Several visiting professorships in Princeton, Stanford, UC Davis, Tel Aviv. A main focus of his research is German-Jewish literature and culture, particularly the work of Franz Kafka.

Pavel Schmidt: Artist and art researcher also concerned with literary texts (Kafka, Celan). Professorship at the Academy of fine Arts in Munich, many awards as an independent artist. He is also known for his work on a well-recognized series on Franz Kafka.

Judith Butler: Professor of critical theory and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley. Her works in social philosophy are embedded in the tradition of critical theory. She has taught Kafka for two decades and published extensively on him.



Special Highlight

Abraham B. Yehoshua

THE TUNNEL



Original title
Haminhara

Original publisher
Hakibbutz Hameuchad,
2018
324 pp.

English (US)
Houghton Mifflin
English (UK) Halban
German Nagel & Kimche
Italian Einaudi
French Grasset
Spanish Duomo
Dutch Wereldbibliotheek



A New York Times
Editor's Choice



Born in Jerusalem in 1936, A.B. Yehoshua is the author of twelve novels, a collection of short stories, and several plays and volumes of essays and Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature. His debut *The Lover*, published in 1977, established his international renown. He has won numerous prizes worldwide, most recently the prix Médicis étranger, le Prix du meilleur livre étranger, Premio Internazionale Antonio Feltrinelli and the Dan David Prize. His work has been translated into thirty languages and adapted for film and opera. Yehoshua has been compared to William Faulkner and is considered an author of Nobel reach.



“Yehoshua is so graceful and eloquent that his work is timeless.”

—The New York Times Book Review

From the award-winning, internationally acclaimed Israeli author, a suspenseful and poignant story of a family coping with the sudden mental decline of their beloved husband and father – an engineer who they discover is involved in an ominous secret military project.

Until recently, Zvi Luria was a healthy man in his seventies, an engineer living in Tel Aviv with his wife, Dina, visiting with their two children whenever possible. Now he is showing signs of early dementia, and his work on the tunnels of the Trans-Israel Highway is no longer possible. To keep his mind sharp, Zvi decides to take a job as the unpaid assistant to Asael Maimoni, a young engineer involved in a secret military project: a road to be built inside the massive Ramon Crater in the northern Negev Desert.

The challenge of the road, however, is compounded by strange circumstances. Living secretly on the proposed route, amid ancient Nabatean ruins, is a Palestinian family under the protection of an enigmatic archaeological preservationist. Zvi rises to the occasion, proposing a tunnel that would not dislodge the family. But when his wife falls sick, events begin to spiral out of control.

THE TUNNEL – wry, wistful, and a tour de force of vital social commentary – is Yehoshua at his finest.



“A warm-hearted and subtly provocative novel. The symbolism is potent, and consistent with the politically outspoken Yehoshua’s recent shift away from his prior advocacy for a two-state solution. Yet Yehoshua never allows politics to dominate ... The story’s heart lies in poignant domestic moments between Luria and his wife.”

—Booklist

“A quirky, deeply affecting work by a master storyteller.”

—Kirkus, Starred Review

DROR MISHANI

“Dror Mishani is the indisputable spiritual heir of Georges Simenon.”

—Le Monde



“Mishani writes with profound originality.”

—Henning Mankell

“Mishani has a superior gift for psychological suspense.”

—Publishers Weekly

“Dror Mishani has reached the world league of crime fiction.”

—Die Zeit

“One of the greatest writers in the genre.”

—Politiken

Dror A. Mishani

THREE

Original title
Shalosh

Original publisher
Achuzat Bayit, 2018
245 pp.



English (UK) Quercus/riverrun
English (US) Europa Editions
English (CA) Anansi
German Diogenes
French Gallimard
Italian e/o
Spanish Anagrama
Catalan Grup Editorial 62
Korean Bookrecipe
Croatian Fraktura
Greek Keimena Books

Film and TV rights sold to the Emmy nominated producers of "Homeland"



Shortlisted for Grand Prix de Littérature Policière

Shortlisted for the Sapir Prize

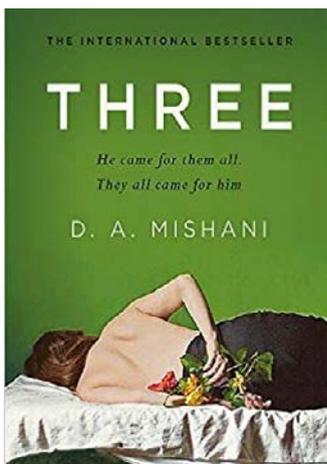
13 weeks the #1 best-seller in Israel

26 consecutive weeks a top-twenty Spiegel-best-seller in Germany



Dror A. Mishani is an international bestselling crime writer, screenwriter and literary scholar, specializing in the history of crime fiction. With his bestselling Inspector Avraham series, translated into more than 20 languages, he "has reached world league of crime fiction" (*Die Zeit*). They were shortlisted for the CWA international dagger award and the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière and won the prestigious Martin Beck award for best crime novel translated to Swedish and the Grand Prix du meilleur Polar de lecteurs de Points. A successful French cine movie (*Fleuve Noire*) and an Israeli TV series based on the Inspector Avraham series were released in 2018/2019.

Israel



"Dror Mishani is a master of the art of developing crime from the perspective of its victims. In THREE he surpasses himself for it deals virtuosic with the burning core of our morality – and that of crime fiction: the incomprehensibility of violence."

—Deutschlandradio Kultur

One woman is looking for consolation after her husband has left her and her son and has formed a new family. A second woman is looking for a home and a sign from god that she's on the right path. A third woman is looking for something completely different. They all find the same man. They don't know everything about him, because he's not telling them the whole truth – but he also doesn't know everything about them. They have their secrets, too.

Dror Mishani has taken a short leave from his beloved detective, Avraham Avraham, to write a stand-alone novel about three women you will not be able to forget. Once you have read THREE, you'll understand why we can't reveal anything else about it. If you enjoy the great masters of suspense, Patricia Highsmith and Alfred Hitchcock, you will not be disappointed.

THREE is the best and most chilling new stand-alone novel by the internationally celebrated Israeli master of crime, Dror A. Mishani.



"With surprise after surprise stored up its clever sleeve, Dror Mishani's stand-alone serial killer tale with a difference evokes both Patricia Highsmith and the quiet desperation of some of Simenon's non-Maigret novels."

—Crime Time

"An utterly convincing and utterly compelling exercise in Highsmithian horror."

—The Times

Oek de Jong BLACK BARN



Italian Neri Pozza

Original title
Zwarte Schuur

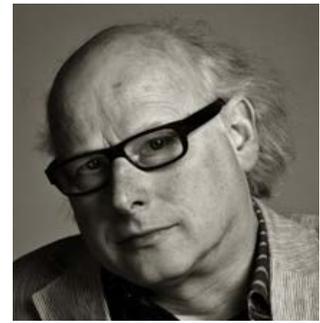


Shortlisted for the Libris
Literature Prize 2020

Original publisher
Atlas Contact, 2019
496 pp.

English sample available
Top three Dutch best-
seller 75'000 copies sold

Translation supported by
the Dutch Foundation of
Literature



Oek de Jong, born in 1952, is internationally acknowledged as one of the most important contemporary Dutch authors. His oeuvre is characterized by great stylistic power and psychological depth. His books have sold more than six hundred thousand copies. His bestselling novels were nominated multiple times for the Libris Literature Prize in Holland, he received the Golden Owl in Belgium and other literary prizes and is translated into German, French, Scandinavian and several other languages



“A novel about the long tentacles of guilt and the blistering power of a great love”.

—De Standaard

*“Once you let the monster out of its cage,
you’ll never get it in again.”*

At the age of fifty-nine celebrated artist Maris Coppoolse is given a retrospective in Amsterdam’s Stedelijk Museum. He is at the pinnacle of his fame when a magazine cover story exposes the source of his obsessive work: a crime he committed as a young teenager. No one in his circle knew about this; his friends and acquaintances are deeply shocked.

This is the story of a life marked forever by a single catastrophic event. It is the artist’s life sentence. We see him living as an artist in Amsterdam and New York, and are given a probing view of his troubled marriage with the vivacious and adventurous Fran, who is also incriminated. The magazine story drives him to relive his childhood, especially that Saturday afternoon on the island when he went into that ill-fated tar black barn he had no business being in.

BLACK BARN is a novel about living with trauma and overcoming it and about the power of true love.



“Here is a writer at work who no longer needs to prove himself and able to draw you into his story with confidence and ease.”

—NRC Handelsblad

“Oek de Jong has written another instant classic.”

—De Groene Amsterdammer

Zygmunt Bauman

MAKING THE FAMILIAR UNFAMILIAR

A Conversation with Peter Haffner

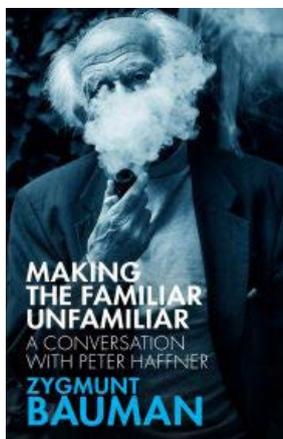


Original title
Das Vertraute
unvertraut machen.
Ein Gespräch mit Peter
Haffner

Original publisher
Hoffmann & Campe,
2017
188 pp.

World English Polity
Polish Wielka Litera
Italian Laterza,
Spanish Tusquets
Brazilian Zahar

Zygmunt Bauman (1925-2017) was Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Leeds, one of the pioneering theorists of postmodernism and a voice for the poor in a globalized world. He has written more than 50 books, most famously *Liquid Modernity* and *Modernity and the Holocaust*.



“Zygmunt Bauman’s thoughts shine brightly in times of totalitarian tendencies.”

—Die Welt

Peter Haffner, born in Zurich in 1953, has worked as a reporter, essayist and novelist for many years in the USA, Poland and Germany. He writes for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and other publications on political, historical and philosophical topics. He has received the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize and several other awards.

Poland

Shortly before his death, Zygmunt Bauman spent several days in conversation with the Swiss journalist Peter Haffner. Out of these conversations emerged this book in which Bauman shows himself to be the pre-eminent social thinker for which he became world renowned, a thinker who never shied away from addressing the great issues of our time and always strove to interrogate received wisdom and common sense, to make the familiar unfamiliar.

As in Bauman’s work more generally, the personal and the political are interwoven in this book. Bauman’s life, which followed the same trajectory as the social and political upheavals of the 20th century, left its trace on his thought. Bauman describes his upbringing in Poland, military service in the Red Army, working for the Polish Secret Service after the war and expulsion from Poland in 1968, providing personal accounts of the historical events on which he brings his social and political insights to bear. His reflections on history, identity, Jewishness, morality, happiness and love are rooted in his own personal journey through the turbulent events of the 20th century to which he bore witness.

These last conversations shed new light on one of the greatest social thinkers of our time, offering a more personal perspective on a man who changed our way of thinking about the modern world.



“A last conversation with Bauman and his legacy”

—Süddeutsche Zeitung

“Conciliatory in tone as always, this Socrates of practical reason finds clear words on the untenable state of affairs.”

—Der Standard

“This wonderful book is a legacy and a gift at the same time.”

—Deutschlandfunk

Anna Bikont SENDEROWA. IN HIDING



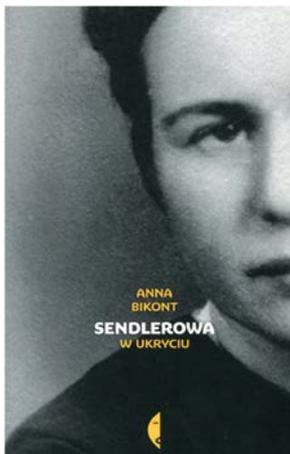
Hebrew Carmel

Original title
Senderowa. W ukryciu



Ryszard Kapuściński
Award for Literary
Reportage, 2018

Original publisher
Czarne, 2017
477 pp.



“Much more than a biography. It is a partial but profound description of the reality of war. Writing this book required enormous stamina, wisdom, and modesty. It is dense, factual, quick, and emotionally exhausting.”

—Gazeta Wyborzca

Irena Sendler is one of the most important figures in Polish history. Romanticized as a saint, she has become a symbol of Poland’s innocence in the persecution of the Jews. In this profound historical narrative Anna Bikont shows the real Sendler, and her portrait does not fit into current Polish identity politics.

Under the German Occupation of Poland, Irena Sendler rescued hundreds of Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto, hiding them and thus saving them from certain death. In 1965 Israel honored her as a Righteous Among the Nations. Catholic Poland rediscovered her in 1999 as a national hero, in 2018 the “Senderowa-Year” was celebrated. Sendler functions as a whitewash whenever Poland has to deal with its own role in the persecution of the Jews. Polish identity politics have moulded her according to their ideal.

Anna Bikont reveals the true, historical Irena Sendler. Even at a young age, Sendler was sceptical of the church. She became a leftist activist and after the war a loyal member of the Communist Party.

Bikont also listens to the voices of the forgotten protagonists of this episode in history: the Jewish children. In numerous testimonies she documented their fear and the unlikeliness of their rescue. For Irena Sendler had to protect the children not only from the Nazis, but also from the Poles, who betrayed them.



Anna Bikont, born 1954, is a leading intellectual voice in Poland. After 1989, she was a pioneer of investigative journalism in the newly-born free Polish media and co-founded with Adam Michnik the *Gazeta Wyborzca*, the first independent daily in post-communist Europe. In 2004 her book *The Crime and the Silence*, about the killing of the Jedwabne’s Jews by their Polish neighbours during World War II was part of a huge discussion in Poland about Polish-Jewish relations. It won the European Book Prize, the National Jewish Book Awards and was named among the “100 Notable Books of the Year” by The New York Times. Her books have been translated into Czech, German, English, French, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, Swedish. Anna Bikont lives in Warsaw.



“Anna Bikont defies the efforts of right-wing populists to reinterpret Poland’s history by confronting them with her meticulous reconstruction of the crime.”

—Frankfurter Rundschau

“Bikont combines the persistence and energy of a journalist with the humanity and care of a poet.”

—Timothy Snyder

Hanna Krall

THE SYNAPSES OF MARIA H.

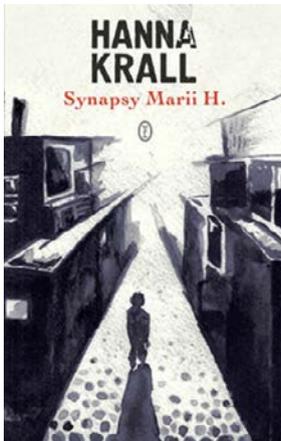


Original title
Synapsy Marii H.

Original publisher
Wydawnictwo Literackie,
2020
128 pp.



Swedish Ersatz Förlag-
French offer pending



“Hanna Krall is a master of the reportage, perhaps the best in Poland. She does not describe her protagonists, she makes sure that they are there. The reader sees them, hears them, accompanies them.”

—Die Zeit

Born in Warsaw in 1937, **Hanna Krall** studied journalism and worked as a reporter until 1981 when martial law was imposed. For several years she had to have her books published in the underground and abroad. Most of her books are non-fiction and deal with the fate of the individual in great historical events. They have been translated into seventeen languages and have been published among others by *The New Yorker*, Other Press, Gallimard, *Neue Kritik*, and La Guintina. Hanna Krall has been awarded several prizes, such as the Prize for European Understanding (2000), the Ricarda-Huch-Preis (2008) and most recently the Würth-Preis for European Literature (2012). Hanna Krall lives in Warsaw.

Poland

What does pre-war Jewish Muranów, martial law and the World Trade Center have in common?

Maria Twardokęs-Hrabowska, a Polish oppositionist imprisoned in 1981 for supporting the strike, is struggling with a difficult present. In a society insensitive to otherness and unprepared for what is different from the accepted norm, she raises her autistic son. Maria Hrabowska, “her husband’s mother,” who survived the hell of World War II and contemporary terrorism, an attack on the WTC towers, also appears in her story.

As in her previous book, *White Maria* – the novelization of Krzysztof Kieślowski’s famous screenplay (inspired by Hanna Krall’s story) for *Decalogue 8* – Hanna Krall reconstructs the fate of her protagonists through a combination of personal memories and historical research.

Is it possible to forget about the past? How can we find ourselves in today’s world, where only the here and now counts?

In *THE SYNAPSES OF MARIA H.* Hanna Krall asks many difficult questions and avoids simplistic answers. It is precisely the difficult path Krall takes toward her topic that make some of her texts masterpieces of the genre.



“Krall’s reportages constitute a poetical genre of their own.”

—Neue Zürcher Zeitung

“The laconism of Hanna Krall’s books opens up endless perspectives where the outcome is suggested without being said, where silence watches every sentence, often fading out with suspension points...”

—Le Monde

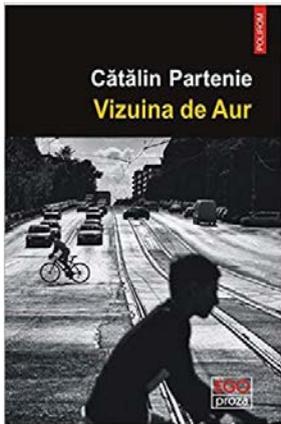
Cătălin Partenie

GOLDEN BURROW

Original title
Vizuina De Aur

Original publisher
Polirom, 2020
176 pp.

Original English
language manuscript
available



“A funny, heart-breaking, but ultimately uplifting story about the power of rock ‘n roll behind the Iron Curtain.”

–Charles King, Jewish Book Award winning author of *Midnight at the Pera Palace* and *Odessa*

Cătălin Partenie is a Romanian-Canadian philosopher, teaching at the National School of Political Studies in Bucharest. He completed his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Glasgow, and was also a graduate student at Oxford. He has taught in Canada and Europe, and is the editor of Plato's *Selected Myths* (Oxford's World Classics) and *Plato's Myths* (Cambridge UP). His short story *Gudrun* has earned an Honorable Mention at the Frank McCourt International Contest and has been published in *The Southampton Review*. **THE GOLDEN BURROW** is his first novel.

Romania

Bucharest, 1988. Nicolae Ceaușescu's darkest years. Paul, a first-year philosophy student, wants to play the drums in a rock band but is expelled and ends up as the guard of a forgotten depot in which a theatre keeps its scenery and props. He spends all his time there with his girlfriend Oksana (a waitress who just finished high school) and his best-friend Stefan (a first-year high school student who plays the guitar). Using stage furniture and props, Oksana builds inside the depot the interior of a home. They call it 'The Golden Burrow' and there they have the time of their lives. Oksana is pregnant but is afraid to tell Paul; abortion is illegal, and illegal abortion is expensive and dangerous.

In April 1989, without telling anything to anyone, Paul swims across the Danube and defects. He is caught by the Yugoslavian authorities but can emigrate to Canada. However, in December 1989, he returns to Bucharest secretly, just after Ceaușescu has fled his headquarters. In the chaos that follows he is shot dead in front of Muzica, the city's biggest record store.

Almost 30 years later, Paul's son Victor contacts Stefan and asks him to write down all that he can remember about his father. He would also like to find out if his father knew that Oksana was pregnant when he left Romania. Stefan, however, is an unreliable narrator, and Victor will have to imagine for himself what kind of man his father was.

A philosophical, charming and cinematic tragicomedy – like a New Romanian Wave take on Plato's cave.



“A bitter-sweet, profoundly affecting story of the redeeming power art and music can have in our survival as human beings in times of hardship.”

–Vladimir Mirodan, Emeritus Professor of Theatre, University of the Arts, London

“This is a novel whose words are like a curtain; open them, and great characters will start singing on the stage: freedom, friendship, love.”

–Peter Kerek, director of the theatrical adaptation of the novel

David Albahari TODAY IS WEDNESDAY

Original title
Danas je sreda

Original publisher
Čarobna, 2017
155 pp.



German Schöffling



David Albahari, born in 1948, has published nine collections of short stories and a dozen of novels. His collection of stories *Description of Death* won the Ivo Andrić Award 1982. His novel *Bait* won the NIN Award 1996, as well as the Balcanica Award and Berlin Bridge Prize. In 1994 he moved to Canada but has now returned to his hometown Zemun near Belgrade. His books are translated into more than 16 languages.



“Glowing with depth and tragedy, sparkling with intelligence and irony. David Albahari has wrested a powerful work of consolation from his illness”.

—Neue Zürcher Zeitung

A son takes care of his sick father. As they talk for hours during their daily walks along the river Danube the son gradually begins to understand that his father – before being denounced and sent to the notorious labour camp on the Adriatic island Goli Otok where he was tortured – was in fact a cruel and feared party activist working for OZNA, the former Yugoslavian secret service which did not hesitate to bring terror against its own population.

Now, as the once brutal tormentor has become a helpless, miserable victim of Parkinson’s disease the son is torn between feelings of pity and remorse. First the illness created a unique sense of closeness between father and son, now it seems to be a kind of punishment for his father’s wrongdoings.

As the illness progresses and eventually leads to dementia – maybe another way of escaping responsibility? – the son himself suddenly starts to see and feel unreal and imaginary things and one begins to suspect that he too is probably no longer in control of his mental capacity.

As always in Albahari’s novels, the question arises whether the narrator can be trusted. Is it possible to believe someone who is the only witness in his story? TODAY IS WEDNESDAY is maybe Albahari’s most “realistic” and also most political novel dealing with the brutal practices of the communist regime after WWII. At the same time it is also a very personal book as the author describes (his) Parkinson’s disease in all its humiliating and ruthless details.



“Albahari puts the personal at the centre but if you listen carefully you learn everything about the world”

—Deutschlandfunk Kultur

“A Kafka of our Times”

—Neue Zürcher Zeitung

“Albahari is to be stored’ on the shelf of Nobel Prize winners in spe.”

—La Vie Littéraire

“Nobody pulls the rug from under the reader’s feet more elegantly and less effortlessly than David Albahari. His ever shorter books are hellish roller coaster rides of identity with every turn just a prelude to another until in the end there is only silence.”

—Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Daniel de Roulet

ON GUARD

A Letter to my Pastor Father



Original title

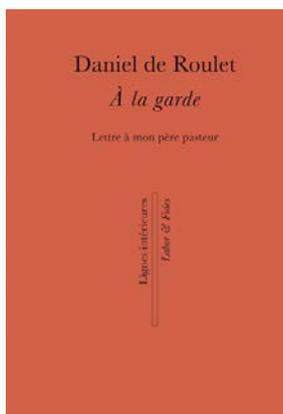
À la garde. Lettre à mon père pasteur

Original publisher

Labor et Fides, 2019
104 pp.



German Limmat Verlag



“Daniel de Roulet is probably the most interesting author in French-speaking Switzerland today.”

—Le Matin Dimanche

Daniel de Roulet, born in Geneva in 1944, was an architect and worked as an IT specialist. Since 1997 he devotes all his time to writing. He is the author of numerous novels forming *La simulation humaine*, a Swiss-Japanese “nuclear family saga” between Hiroshima and Fukushima. He also writes essays and other non-fiction and was awarded several literary prizes: the Prix culture et société de la Ville de Genève, the Prix Marcel Aymé and the Grand Prix de littérature du Canton de Berne. He lives in Geneva.

For me, writing does not have a consoling function. On the contrary, it must provoke and open up the future. In my case, a future as an old orphan.

At the age of 97, Daniel de Roulet’s mother announces that she is going to end her life. The date and time are set. During the fifteen days preceding this scheduled death, the author sends daily letters to his father, a pastor who died six years earlier. Born in Geneva and of Calvinist tradition, this father readily admitted that one can lose faith, but less willingly admitted that one lacks a response to the scandal of death.

In the abundant pastoral literature since Gide, the figure of the pastor is that of a tormented and unsympathetic being. Daniel de Roulet pays homage to his father for having been able to exercise such a different kind of ministry. Thus, the Calvinist culture that he transmitted to him appears to the son as the gentle learning of a world without God or Master.

Daniel de Roulet has written a moving “farewell ceremony” for his mother and at the same time a plaidoyer for the right to die self-determined and with dignity.



“In the literary tradition of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* and Andre Gide’s *The Pastoral Symphony*. Tender and stirring.”

—Le Monde

“A small book that says a lot about essential questions.”

—Ouest France

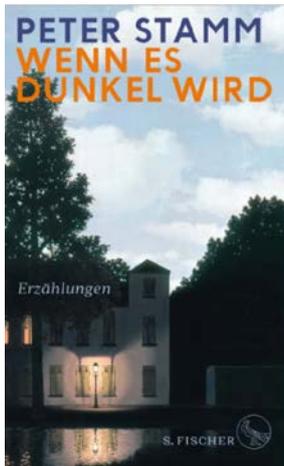
Peter Stamm

WHEN IT GETS DARK

Stories

Original title
Wenn es dunkel wird

Original publisher
S. Fischer, 2020
190 pp.



“Stamm’s language is of the usual deceptive simplicity and superficiality; it is never smarter than the characters who use it. But it is transparent. You look right through them and deep into them: into disturbances and repressions, into dreams and longings. Enfolded in these narratives, people are no longer dispensable. They are being seen.”

—Süddeutsche Zeitung

In this new collection of stories by a master of the short form, Peter Stamm tells us in his stories about how the world changes when it gets dark.

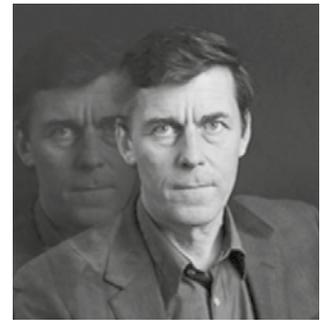
Georg will retire soon. At the office he is no longer noticed, at home there is no food waiting for him. He seems to dissolve slowly and a nameless horror seizes him.

Sabrina is flattered when an artist approaches her. But when she sees herself as a work of art for the first time, she shudders.

David wants to rob a bank. He already has a mask with him, a squirrel mask. He won’t be using it today. He’s heard that bank robbers often observe all the details for weeks before they strike. He’s starting to lurk.

We’ve gotten used to the world, and suddenly it gives us the creeps. What if our fantasies become more real than reality? Peter Stamm’s stories tell of the fragility of the world, of reality and illusion, of the tricks of mind and heart.

Peter Stamm combines the miniaturization art of a Robert Walser and the entanglement of the trivial and the significant with a magnificent virtuosity of his own.



Peter Stamm, born in 1963, had his international breakthrough with his debut novel Agnes in 1998. Since then his books have been translated into more than 30 languages. In 2013 he was on the shortlist for the International Booker Prize. Stamm’s writing has been compared to Chekhov and Camus as well as American storytellers such as Raymond Carver, Richard Ford and Ernest Hemingway. Peter Stamm has been awarded several prizes, such as the Friedrich-Hölderlin-Prize (2014) and the Swiss Book Award (2018).



“Resolute laconicism from an experienced narrator and effortless artistry that impresses.”

—Frankfurter Rundschau

“Stamm drills worm holes in everyday life. These stories begin quite harmlessly and stage feelings at turning points in life.”

—Deutschlandfunk Kultur

“A Peter Stamm short story is still among the most remarkable things you can read.”

—SRF 2

Peter Stamm



“One of Europe’s most exciting writers”

–The New York Times

“Peter Stamm’s stories are incisively pared down, as if he cuts through the surface of things: everything is peeled open, apparent, naked... Each story is intriguing like a complex piece of machinery where you can see everything even if you don’t understand how it works.”

–Tessa Hadley

“A master storyteller, Stamm succeeds in stripping away layers of superficiality to uncover the complicated daily psychological struggle of the average person.”

–World Literature Today

“Peter Stamm’s prose is plain but not so simple...A subtle but deadly style.”

–Zadie Smith

“Peter Stamm is an extraordinary author who can make the ordinary absolutely electrifying...Hard to recommend too highly.”

–Tim Parks

“A master writer ... His prose ... is as sharply illuminating as a surgical light.”

–The Economist



MARCIA FROM VERMONT A Christmas Tale

Original title

Marcia aus Vermont – Eine Weihnachtsgeschichte

Original Publisher

S. Fischer, 2019



World English Other Press
Spanish Acantilado
Catalan Quaderns Crema



“A master of the unspectacular, a virtuoso of the narrative form”

–The New York Times

Review of Books

“Peter Stamm is an extraordinary author who can make the ordinary absolutely electrifying.”

–The Times



THE SWEET INDIFFERENCE OF THE WORLD

Original title

Die sanfte Gleichgültigkeit der Welt

Original publisher

S. Fischer, 2018



World English Other Press
French Bourgois
Spanish Acantilado
Catalan Quaderns Crema
Swedish Thoren & Lindskog
Czech Albatros
Italian Casagrande
Croatian Fraktura
Greek Kastaniotis
Chinese Shanghai 99
Turkish Paloma Yayinevi



“Excellent. This amorphous tale folds in on itself, becoming a meditation on how memory can distort reality. Fans of Julian Barnes will love this.”

–Publishers Weekly

“Ordinary lives, elevated from the ground. Powerful!”

–Le Monde

Frédéric Zwicker

RADOST

Original title
Radost

Original publisher
Zytglogge, 2020
286 pp.

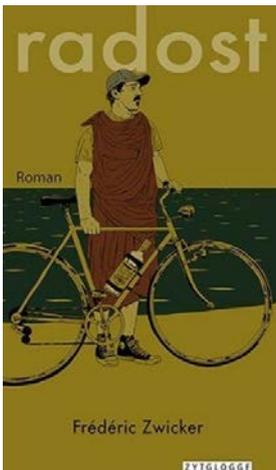


A 2020 New Books in
German selection

Literature work grant
from the city of St. Gallen



Born in 1983 in Lausanne, Frédéric Zwicker grew up in Rapperswil on the Lake Zurich, where he lives again today. He studied German literature, history and philosophy. With his band "Knuts Koffer" he has repeatedly toured the Balkans. He works as a journalist, copywriter and screenwriter, writes columns for several local newspapers, comedy shows and of course song texts. His debut novel *Hier können Sie im Kreis gehen* (Nagel & Kimche, 2016) was a remarkable critical and commercial success.



**"A remarkable new voice in
Swiss literature."**

—SRF 3

It starts with a joke. But where does it end?

Fabian is a young, somewhat phlegmatic local journalist. In the evening, on his sofa, he dreams himself into a more interesting everyday life. By chance, he wins a plane ticket to Zanzibar and makes the trip, still rather unwillingly. On the island he meets Max, an as irritating as fascinating Swiss eccentric in a Massai costume, whose life Fabian must save on their first encounter.

Three years later they meet again by chance, back home in Switzerland. Fabian learns about Max' mental illness, which brought him from Switzerland to Zagreb and Zanzibar, into marriage, fatherhood and prison. But Max's memories are incomplete and in an effort to regain some understanding of who he really is, he commissions Fabian to write his biography.

So just, like Max 14 years before, it is now Fabian who takes his bicycle and cycles to Zagreb and eventually flies to Zanzibar for a second time. On this new journey – his own and the one into Max's life – Fabian encounters people, hears stories and sees things he could never have imagined on his sofa.

RADOST is a fast-paced road trip into the madness of life and a warm-hearted story about mental fragility.

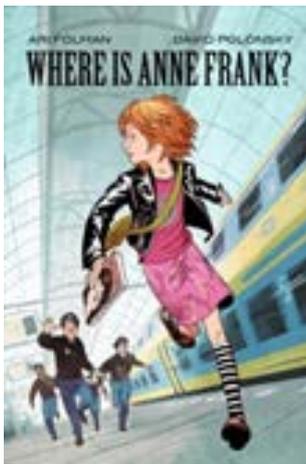


**"Zwicker has a knack
for the involuntary comedy
of dialogues, which
pass each other by a
hair's breadth."**

—Tagesanzeiger

**"Zwicker depicts bizarre
things, without taking
away the dignity of his
characters, and handles
the balance between
tragedy and comedy
with great sensitivity."**

—Neue Luzerner Zeitung

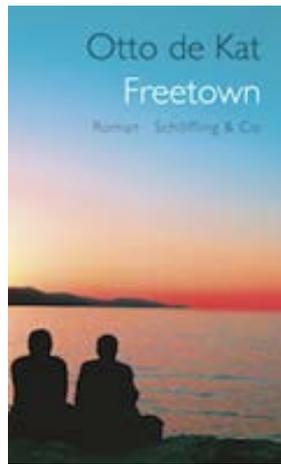


Ari Folman
WHERE IS ANNE FRANK?

A graphic novel based on the forthcoming animated motion picture *Where is Anne Frank?* by Oscar-nominated Ari Folman, to be released in theatres worldwide in 2021.



English (US) Pantheon
English (UK) Viking
German S. Fischer
Dutch Prometheus
Italian Einaudi
Spanish Penguin Random House
Hebrew Kinneret
Brazil Record
Portugal Porto Editora



Otto de Kat
FREETOWN

Original title
Freetown

Original publisher
Van Oorschot, 2018
165 pp.



German Schöffling
World English
MacLehose Press



“De Kat’s language is of rare beauty and he writes with endless melancholy.”

—NDC papers, Haarlems Dagblad

“One of the Netherlands’ most compelling literary voices”

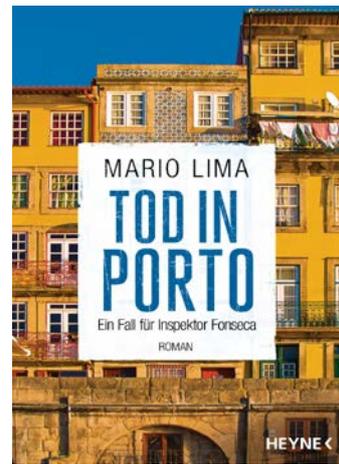
—Irish Examiner

“Otto de Kat breaks your heart with 200 words.”

—Scotland on Sunday

“With sentences like precisely directed light sources that illuminate paintings in an art gallery, de Kat creates unforgettable scenes and landscapes.”

—Badische Zeitung



Mario Lima
DEATH IN PORTO

Original title
Tod in Porto

Original publisher
Heyne Verlag, 2019
384 pp.



“Maybe the best of all Portuguese thrillers published to date.”

—Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung

“Suspense from beginning to end”

—Mainhattan Courier

“Mario Lima has landed a hit. DEATH IN PORTO is crime Fiction at its best – totally convincing with first-class police work and protagonists with cult status potential.”

—literaturmarkt.info



Péter Nádas
ILLUMINATED DETAILS

Original title
Világló részletek

Original Publisher
Jelenkor, 2017
1212 pp.



German Rowohlt
World English Farrar Straus & Giroux
Swedish Bonniers
French Phébus
Danish Rosinante

The memoirs of a giant of European literature. A spectacular work unfolding the life and world of Péter Nádas.

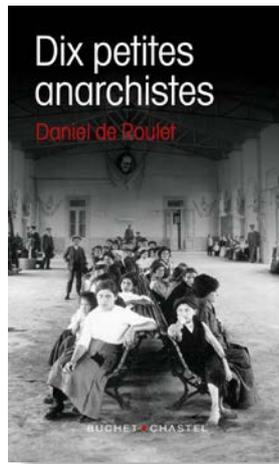


“A firework of remembrance in which each spark unfolds its own luminosity and above all triggers further memories.”

–Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

“Péter Nádas is the great surveyor of European landscapes of souls in the 20th century. Breathtakingly microscopic, a feast of details and nuances, epochal, an unsurpassable work of art.”

–Die Zeit



Daniel de Roulet
TEN LITTLE ANARCHISTS

Original title
Dix petites anarchistes

Original publisher
Limmat Verlag, 2017
144 pp.



French Buchet Chastel



Prix Bibliomedica 2019



“Daniel de Roulet tells without pathos but with lots of empathy and pace about the hope for freedom and of strong women in a time when migration from Switzerland was very common and people were expelled from their own country.”

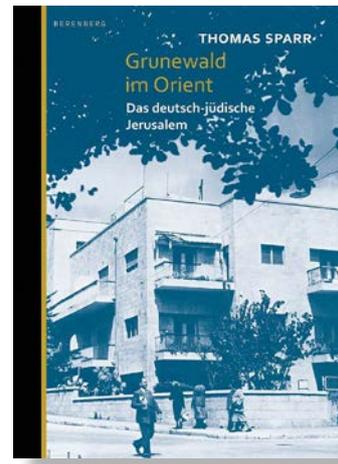
–20 Minuten

“A wonderful story about commitment, courage and exile.”

–RTS La Première

“A very political adventure.”

–L’Humanité



Thomas Sparr
GRUNEWALD IN THE ORIENT
The German-Jewish Jerusalem

Original title
Grunewald im Orient – Das deutsch-jüdische Jerusalem

Original publisher
Berenberg Verlag, 2018
184 pp.



World English Haus Publishing
Spanish Acantilado



“A melancholic, often touching, sometimes painful book. Inevitably so, Thomas Sparr tells of a vanished world. Only in the books of its former inhabitants, in their poems and letters, the spirit of Rechavia continues to live on.”

–MDR Kultur

“Sparr is known as a great connoisseur of German-Jewish intellectual life.”

–Die Welt

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