

LITERATURVERLAG DROSCHL

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RIGHTSLIST 2017



Laura Freudenthaler: *The Queen Remains Silent*

Novel, 208 pages

An exceptional debut that tells the imponderables of an entire life in an inspiringly poetic manner

This novel retraces, in a remarkable manner, a lifetime in the secluded cosmos of a village from the fragments of memory of an old woman. This life's story is tragic. However, never does this woman perceive it as such – she rather carries its weight on her shoulders proudly, like a »queen«.

Fanny, the »queen«, is a woman worn out by fate who spends her remaining years by herself, keeping silent about the past. Rather than filling the journal her granddaughter gave her page by page with the tragedies of her experience she leaves it untouched on her nightstand. But in daydreams and sleepless nights she cannot escape the memories, and so she sees her entire life flash before her eyes in disturbing images. We witness Fanny throughout all her life's phases, from her childhood at her parents' farm in the 1930ies almost until her death.

These fragments of memory tell in dense, clear and touching stills how Fanny turned into an unapproachable, proud woman. This novel is a character painting that bears witness to the young author's profound insight into human nature, her high degree of sensibility, and ultimately her considerable literary talent.

Laura Freudenthaler's fine sense for atmosphere and emotions is impressive. Her carefully chosen language and narrative style create a stunning mix of perception, memory and re-living.

»Laura Freudenthaler's text is so convincing by his formal brilliance, intuition, and stylistic skills.« (Johanna Grillmayer, ORF)

»I have rarely read such an impressive and awesome first novel.« (Buchhandlung Anna Jeller, Wien)

»What an incredible voice!« (Susanne Barnsteiner-Bosch, Buchhandlung Lesbar, Weilheim)

»A lovely melancholia, a wonderful voice pulsates in this story. Laura Freudenthaler is a brilliant narrator, there is pure magic in her direct simplicity, and her pictorial language. A bright light!« (Marina Büttner, literaturleuchtet)

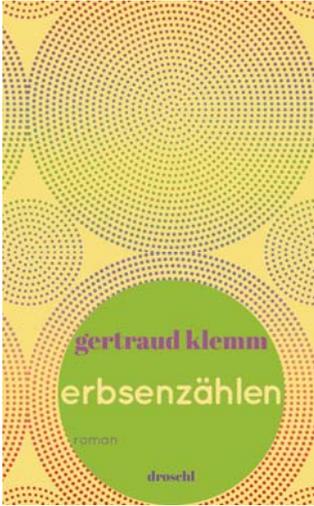
»Every chapter, every passage—well, honestly: every word leaves its mark.« (Literaturhaus Wien)

»Robert Seethaler's »A Whole Life« had a similar subject, and was a great success. Hopefully, this book will also receive such a fulminant reception. It is as silent. It is as precise. It is as good as Seethaler's.« (Wolfgang Huber-Lang, APA)

»Fanny is the daughter from the farm in the glen, she could also be the sister of Seethaler's stoical and suffering hero.« (Marie Frisé, FAZ)

»*The Queen Remains Silent* is a very special book that I liked immensely and that touched me profoundly. I read it in a weekend and could not put it down. Fanny grew dear to me, almost like a confidante. It is amazing how a young writer can tell this story with so much sensibility.« (Gudrun Suchanek, Buch&Boot, Altaussee, Austria)

»A rather stunning book – a significant topic, an unusual perspective, a clear language, an assertive style; the author knows her trade.« (Ute Pukropski, Libretto book shop, Oldenburg, Germany)



Gertraud Klemm: *Counting Beans*

Novel, 160 pages

A novel about the economics of love and sexuality, about the pitfalls of freedom and the art not to take decisions

Scathingly, but not without humour, Gertraud Klemm screens our lifestyles in today's world. Not mincing her words, she mercilessly dissects different life plans from varying walks of life from the post-war era up to Generation Z.

How can one live freely in a world bound by norms and rules? This is the question 30-year-old Annika, ends up facing. Doing her best to dodge all professional and private expectations, and rebelling against any kind of bean counting, she quits her steady job to wait tables and, occasionally, go to university. Career, marriage, children, owning a house – the status symbols that other people strive to accumulate are meaningless in her eyes.

Again and again, Annika violates the codes of the neo-liberal, traditional and performance-driven community of values, in an attempt to evade the imposed lifestyle. But how to combine ideals and reality amidst an emotional chaos with her partner, Alfred, who is double her age and to whose 13-year-old son Elias she is a stepmother, and has to take responsibility?

»Klemm did an amazing job: She created a novel that is as funny as sad, and that transports so much worldly wisdom in an entertaining way. A small but great book.« (Wolfgang Huber-Lang, APA)

»Klemm painstakingly hones the language of her sentences; she is a great observer who uses precision to uncover sore spots.« (Carola Eberling, Zeit ONLINE)

»Gertraud Klemm sports a keen eye and a profound interest in how people live. Most of all, she is gifted with a remarkable talent for language.« (ZDF aspekte)

»With her observation skills, original images, sharp-witted analyses and a good dose of sarcastic humour, Klemm empathizes with her protagonists.« (Eva Behrendt, Tagesspiegel)



Friedrich Kröhnke: *How Dauthendey died*

120 pages

A radical, unusual and at times more than comical tour de force in the footsteps of Max Dauthendey!

If a writer were to give a poetic lecture as the main character – a certain Kröck – does, he would be done for. Kröck, past his prime, an outcast in the literary world, moves into a little university town. *How Dauthendey died* is a rapidly told collection of excerpts from this poetry lecture that quickly grows into an intricate jungle of thoughts.

In his lectures, Kröck focuses on the tragic death of writer Max Dauthendey on the island of Java in 1918, and on his own role as Dauthendey's literary heir and exoticist. Plunging into Dauthendey's last years during WWI, he draws a sensitive portrait of this unjustly forgotten writer, tracing his journeys, his colourful verse, his illness and suffering in the distance and the longing for his beloved wife Annie.

But where is Kröck's place in all that? The longer he talks, the more he loses control over his lecture and his script. Losing sight of his true topics, reaching for support, he trails off, unexpectedly and painfully exposing himself.

Friedrich Kröhnke imposes an in many ways shocking poetry lecture on his protagonist – a radical, unusual and at times more than comical tour de force in the footsteps of Dauthendey!

»Friedrich Kröhnke celebrates Max Dauthendey's 150. birthday with his paradoxical-funny text as colorful as funny.« (Torsten Flüh, Night Out @ Berlin)



Andreas Kurz: *Looking through tree tops into the sky*

256 pages

Three weeks in the summer, a hike from Vienna to Budapest

With sensual intensity, Andreas Kurz describes his encounters in central Europe – landscapes, people, moods but also stagings of politics and national memory.

Looking through tree tops into the sky is a touching story on many levels – about how time passes, how it comes to a standstill in moments of abundance, about recollections and self-delusions. It breathes great affection for people and things and for everything that occurs to us daily.

» *Looking through tree tops into the sky* shines with all its memorable pictures, and embeds all kind of senses.« (Eva Walisch, profil)

»During the hike, the present is so very dense and poetic ... This book shows how to hike and to see mindfully.« (Helmuth Schönauer, Buchkultur)

»A remarkable book, so different, stirring against all expectations.« (Angelika Reitzer, literaturhaus.at)

Kurz »invites the reader to join his journey, his language is in strict time with the street ... By the way he re-writes his own (love)story, and in addition we learn the history of the countries Kurz passes by.« (BVZ)

»At times we long to be a child again, to experience the world exclusively through one's senses, to do nothing but feel and taste everything we stumble upon. To bite into a ripe peach and feel the juice trickling down from the corners of our mouths. Sometimes we long to only think about what we have to think about in this very moment. To think about »the next step, the next stroke of the broom« as Kurz quotes Michael Ende's Beppo, while taking us onto a trip, a quest towards this simplicity. On foot, step by step.« (Julius Burghardt, Lena Matzeit: Pfeil und Bogen)

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