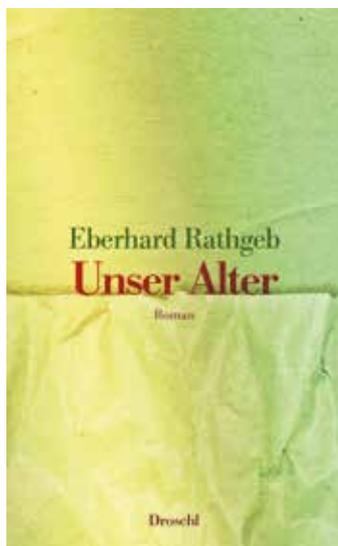




LITERATURVERLAG DROSCHL

www.droschl.com

Autumn 2022



Eberhard Rathgeb

Our Age. Novel. 112 pages

A book about age and growing old, that leaves no one untouched.

In his new novel, Eberhard Rathgeb takes an unsparing and at the same time empathetic look at growing old and does not deny himself a wink or two.

A man lives alone, has a friend with whom he writes messages, goes for walks and meets for conversations; he thinks about the vitalism and the storming and stressing of the young and becomes aware of his own fragility and finiteness. As it tweaks and groans physically, so is its creakiness. Mental resistance, rebellion and clinging to life determine his way of thinking. A closeness and intimacy is created for us readers, which turns the experience into a feeling of empathy.

With clear-sightedness and perspicacity, seriousness and humour, Rathgeb presents a book about old age and growing old.



Ilma Rakusa

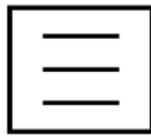
No day without. Poems. 248 pages

No Day Without is a lyrical chronicle of the past two years – personal, intimate and at the same time Ilma Rakusa's most political book. From October 2020 to February 2022, hardly a day goes by for her without a poem.

What has happened during this time: the ongoing Corona pandemic, the retaking of Kabul by the Taliban, the suppression of the democracy movement in Belarus and, most recently, Russia's terrible war against Ukraine. Ilma Rakusa is a cosmopolitan, a *femme de lettre* and an expert on Eastern Europe. The fact that these horrific and shocking events do not leave her untouched.

With all the upsetting events, it is a balm for the reading soul that there are also many other gems in this book that reflect impressions of the moment, dream protocols, sensual descriptions of nature, sounds and lights, but also fleeting thoughts and intimate remembrances—subtle observations of the ephemeral captured in pure poetry.

»Luminous poems by a great enchantress, written with a light flid soul, dreamlike, confident, playful, graceful and rich in mystery, even in the face of the darkest days of our New Present.«
(Clemens J. Setz)



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Bettina Hartz

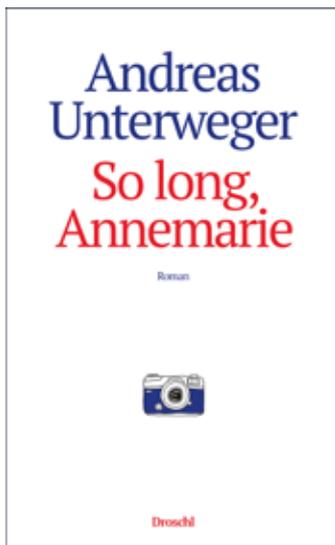
Red is the highest seriousness. Novel. 296 pages

Bettina Hartz's debut novel is a book, that fascinates with its vivid language and and its magical, fairytale-like style.

Milena is a writer and in her work she invents many things, for example her companion Hans, who takes on more and more real features for her. He is her conversation partner and lover, her other, repressed side, dark, sometimes threatening, but at the same time an emotional support. A support that Milena needs to come to terms with the traumas she suffered in the Balkan war years later in Berlin.

»A magnificent, densely woven novel that takes us to the historical heart of Europe and explores the questions: How to write? How to live? And how to reconcile the two?« (Sebastian Guggolz)

»Bettina Hartz describes so precisely that the narrated world appears as if in slow motion and things begin to speak.« (Julia Encke, Frankfurter Allgemeine Sontagszeitung)



Andreas Unterweger

So long, Annemarie. Novel. 280 pages

Andreas Unterweger brings the beginnings of adulthood to life in a clever and shrewd way.

Annemarie and Dani had a time full of laughing and crying, but now the relationship is over and done with. The year abroad in Nantes comes just at the right time for the 20-year-old young man. It is September 2001. The Western world is looking at the ruins of the Twin Towers, while Dani is in France looking at the shambles of his own life. He tries to be sure of himself and his feelings. His life is turbulent, also wistful, and of course witty and funny: amorous confusions, literary and political awakenings, life in the moment and lots of turning points.

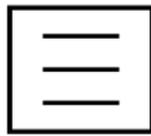
In the spirit of a flâneur, Dani lets his thoughts circle during his long walks, explores and portrays the city of Nantes, bows to French literature, such as Verlaine and Rimbaud or Houellebecq, and surrenders completely to *savoir-vivre*.

»In *So long, Annemarie*, Andreas Unterweger tells of the end of a love affair with wit and humour. He masterfully blends the experience of his main character with literary history.«

(Michael Wurmitzer, Der Standard)

»On the surface, it is a humorous, ironically based love story, but on the other hand, it reflects a piece of contemporary history that had grave consequences, full of subtlety and allusions.«

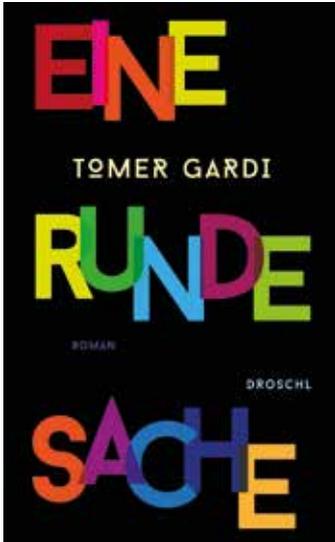
(Barbara Belic, The Red Micro)



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Spring 2022



© Shiraz Grinbaum



© Max Zerrahn

Tomer Gardi

And Nothing Ever Ends. Novel. 256 pages



Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2022

»First a Jewish author is chased through a German forest. Then the life of Raden Saleh is told. In different, subtly interrelated styles and genres, it is about the question of freedom. A firework!«, said the jury in its statement.

In *And Nothing Ever Ends*, two artists from two different centuries travel through linguistic and cultural spaces.

Experiences of foreignness, identity, life as an artist, and lots of politics are the major themes of the novel, in which the two storylines mirror each other.

First, Tomer Gardi, written in German, sends himself as a literary character with the talking German shepherd Rex and the elf king or even Goethe's Erbkönig at his side on a fantastic-adventurous odyssey, slapstick, funny and with many subliminal pinpricks. In the second part of the novel, translated by Anne Birkenhauer from Hebrew, we follow the 19th century Indonesian painter Raden Saleh from Java through Europe and back to Asia—a historical novel and at the same time a reflection of our times.

»A book bursting with associations—and, not least, downright entertaining.«
(Ulrich Noller, Deutschlandfunk)

»The question this book asks is ›How does one do away with the cultural corsets in which one is constrained?‹ And Tomer Gardi demonstrates that to us in very different, very entertaining ways.«
(Insa Wilke, SWR)

»Tomer Gardi—a writer between worlds, who also sends his characters off in search of a place in the world. What seems so light-footed is ingeniously knitted. An effervescent, breathless novel that negotiates the big questions of identity and home.« (Juliane Bergmann, NDR)

»One can confidently say that no author is currently stirring up German literature in such a way ... You will laugh out loud, cringe, enjoy and run along as soon as the author has you by the scruff of the neck.«
(Sophie Albers Ben Chamo, Jüdische Allgemeine)

Clemens J. Setz

Mind-games on Truth. Essay. 48 pages

»I think it's quite honorable and correct to invent quotations. I do it often,« says Clemens J. Setz's reflections on truth. How exactly does the Büchner-Prize-Winner take the truth here?

He comes up with original finds from literature, film and history. It is a witty, dexterous approach to the concept of truth. At the same time, Setz shows how fixed knowledge and (apparent) truths can be interpreted or called into question.

»Truth is a concept that people have used for centuries to castigate one another.«

»Here, as in his novels, Setz is completely in his element. A seductive read, after which one might be a little more careful with final judgments.« (Dierk Wolters, Frankfurter Neue Presse)

»Setz tries to find out how truth can be influenced, manipulated, by our memory.« (Antonio Pellegrino, Bayerischer Rundfunk)



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Spring 2022



Friederike Gösweiner

Rainbow White. Novel. 344 pages

A great novel about losses and upheavals, the pursuit of happiness and the question how to live a happy life in a world out of balance.

Rainbow White is a book about equality and happiness, about the necessity of mourning, the fundamental meaning of time and about Europe in the here and now.

At the beginning of the novel there is an ending: Hermann dies suddenly and unexpectedly. He leaves behind his wife and two grown children. All three grieve—each in their own way. Marlene, a teacher who has just retired, begins to help refugees; son Bob, a cosmologist and time researcher, retreats to nature at the far southern end of Europe; and daughter Filippa, a philosopher in Paris, wants more than ever to finally become a mother. For all of them, the question of a happy life arises anew and more urgently—while great social changes and developments are underway, which they follow skeptically.



Constantin Schwab

The Journal of Valerie Vogler. Novel. 128 pages

A surreal chamber play in the far north, in which a promising cultural assignment becomes a bloody nightmare for a young woman.

Journalist Valerie Vogler is invited to Spitsbergen by the extremely hyped four-member artist group AURORA. She is supposed to write an article about their next big work, but in order to do so she has to follow some »conditions« set by the collective.

However, it does not remain with an external view of the group's work; discrepancies and inconsistencies within AURORA become visible. The seemingly flawless and ingenious image starts to crack. Valerie Vogler becomes more and more involved in the opaque happenings and goings-on of the collective. What is really going on in the studio? And what are the artists Lasse, Gunnar, Per and Henrik really planning with the journalist? What at first looks like the opportunity for the big journalistic break turns out to be a hellish trip.

»Skillfully Schwab plays with the editor's fiction and convincingly creates an oppressive mood.«
(Thomas Leitner, Falter)

»A disturbing novel in the best sense.« (Teresa Preis, Buchkultur)

»A journey into a very special world composed in a straightforward and straightforward writing style. Absolutely recommended reading.« (Anke Schmeier, Instagram)