



LITERATURVERLAG DROSCHL

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IRIS HANIKA



Iris Hanika, born in Würzburg in 1962, has lived in Berlin since 1979. She was a staff writer for the Berlin section of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and contributed a chronicle to *Merkur* magazine (summer 2000 – summer 2008).

Publications: *Katharina oder die Existenzverpflichtung* (*Katharina; or The obligation to exist, story*, 1992). *Das Loch im Brot* (*The hole in the bread, chronicle*, 2003), *Musik für Flughäfen* (*Music for airports, short prose*, 2005). *Die Wette auf das Unbewusste oder Was Sie schon immer über Psychoanalyse wissen wollten* (*The bet on the unconscious or what you always wanted to know about psychoanalysis*, with Edith Seifert, 2006), *Berlin im Licht. 24 Stunden Webcam* (*Berlin in the light. 24-hour webcam*, ed. With Stefanie Flamm, 2003).

In 2006, Iris Hanika was awarded the Hans Fallada Prize.



Iris Hanika: *Treffen sich zwei*

Novel, 240 pages

**Over 100000 copies sold
(25.000 hard cover copies, 80.000 paperbacks)**

Shortlist German Bookprize 2008

**The perfect lovestory for the generation of 40something
Situated in Berlin**

You don't know where, you don't know when – but at some point love will strike, that's for sure. In this novel, two people, already well accustomed to single life, are struck completely out of the blue. He has the most fascinating eyes in the world, and her beauty sweeps him off his feet. *Treffen Sich zwei* (lit.: *Two People Meeting*) is a romantic novel for adults, a heimat novel set in Berlin's Kreuzberg district. It's about desires and anxiety, about the professional life of a systems coach and the fits of a gifted hysteric, about self-help sex books, music, lyrics, classic passages about love, and with a good deal of alcohol and urine therapy thrown in for good measure. Iris Hanika is a sensitive and unerring observer of the emotional condition of her contemporaries. The wittiness, accuracy and elegance in her writing demonstrate why this eternal theme in literature continues to touch every one of us to this day.

Rights sold:

German Paperback (btb Random House)

German audiobook (Der Audio Verlag)

German radioplay (NDR)

French (Les Allusifs)

Serbian (Mono&Manjana)

Lithuanian (Gimtasis Zodis)

Spanish (Salamandra)

Ukrainian (Dnipro)



Iris Hanika: *Das Eigentliche* (*The ultimate thing*)

Novel, 176 pages

Hotlist 2010

European Union Prize for Literature

Nominated for the Prize of SWR-Bestenliste 2010

SWR Bestenliste April 2010: Platz 3

SWR Bestenliste Juni 2010: Platz 7

SWR Bestenliste Juli 2010: Platz 9

Highly recommended by the leading feuilletons

The real, the ultimate thing – this is something different to each of us. To Hans Frambach, it is the crimes of the Nazi era which have made him suffer as long as he can think. They are the reason why he became an archivist at the Institute for the Management of History in Berlin. He is wondering, however, if it was time for a change of profession. Bewilderment with the past is also what preoccupies his best friend, Graziela – until she meets a man, who desires her, and makes her recognise the carnal encounter of the sexes as the ultimate thing. A concept, however, she now starts to doubt. However, is it legitimate to hold National Socialism responsible for all of this? Isn't it rather their inability to be happy that makes Hans and Graziela such peculiar characters? They themselves deem their unhappiness to be not God-given, but Nazi-given.

This is a novel about Germany ailing with its Nazi past, and therefore by no means a historical novel but a very contemporary one. From where this ailment stems is common knowledge, but its manifestations vary. That is why this is also a novel about life at middle age, about the time when the certainty to be on the right way in life has vanished, and it is just as much about loneliness as it is about friendship.

»This book withstands a second reading, as it shows, in literature's abundant ways, the antagonism of remembrance. Remembrance weighs heavily on the lives of Hans Frambach und Graziela Schönbluhm who do not have anything in common other than their suffering over the NS crimes. They have involuntarily become surrogates of the real victims but seem to have accepted this role. Subsequently, they slowly free themselves from their horrible spell and turn from the real thing in history to the real thing in their own lives: It is impossible to live with this blame. To have illustrated this again so vividly after 65 years of intensive discussion is the merit of this novel – which was written, as must be said, after and in spite of Auschwitz.« (FAZ)

»An author who writes wittily, sincerely and without the slightest sensationalism.« (Spiegel)

»Iris Hanika is looking for "the ultimate thing" und poses the question how to escape his own life through reappraising the NS past.« (SWR)

Rights sold:

German Paperback (btb Random House)

Italian: Atmosphere Libri

Latvian: Amber Line

Romanian, Vivaldi

Bulgarian: IG Elias Canetti

Czech: Dauphin

Serbian: Mono & Manjana

prepared:

Mazedonian: TRI publishing

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Please contact Annette Knoch (annette.knoch@droschl.com) if you are interested in a reading copy or press reviews and visit our homepage www.droschl.com for further information.