



Ilija Trojanow

## EisTau

(Melting Ice)

Carl Hanser Verlag, August 2011, 176 pp. ISBN: 978 3 446 23757 5

### Like unto whited sepulchres

*Melting Ice* is an activist's book that recognizes the problem of activism – an angry, powerful, and often funny book.

Zeno Hintermeier, a glaciologist, is working as a lecturer on a cruise ship in the Antarctic. He is surrounded by his beloved ice – and passengers and journalists who, for all their concern about the environment, will soon return to their usual lifestyles. Hintermeier, on the other hand, is plagued by a nightmare in which he is sitting on a rock, clutching a handful of melting ice.

Things come to a head during an art installation. The passengers line up on the ice to spell out an SOS. For Hintermeier, only a genuine distress signal could do justice, so he invites the crew to join the formation, returns alone to the cruise ship, and sails off. When the ship is found, there is no sign of the hijacker, just a notebook, the text of which we have been reading.

Hintermeier's narrative, full of arresting images and poetic descriptions, is interspersed with memories of his childhood, his failed marriage, and the end of his academic career. These alternate with short, untitled and fiercely poetic chapters written as single sentences that provide an angry, energetic and anonymous commentary.



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**Ilija Trojanow** was born in 1965 in Sofia, Bulgaria, grew up in Kenya and now lives in Vienna. His work has won numerous awards, most recently the 2008 Berlin Prize for Literature, and has been translated into several languages.

#### Previous works:

*Angriff auf die Freiheit*, *Sicherheitswahn, Überwachungsstaat und der Abbau bürgerlicher Rechte* ('The Assault on Liberty', 2009, with Juli Zeh); *Der entfesselte Globus* ('The Raging Globe', 2008); *Der Weltensammler* (*The Collector of Worlds*, 2006);

#### Translation rights sold to:

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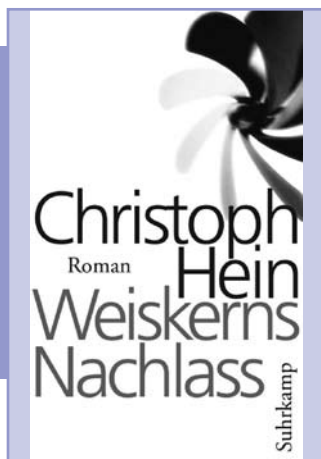
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**Application for assistance with translation costs:**  
Germany (see page 48)



Christoph Hein

## Weiskerns Nachlass

(Weiskern's Estate)

Suhrkamp Verlag, August 2011, 319 pp. ISBN: 978 3 518 42241 0

### Crash landing

*Weiskern's Estate* is classic Hein. In a case study at once social and psychological, the reader experiences the protagonist's bewilderment at contemporary society and anguish as he recalls incidents from his past that have led to his current plight.

Life doesn't seem to accord literature professor Stolzenburg the respect due to his age and profession. He slaves part-time at an institute for cultural studies, and finds it increasingly hard to uphold his high standards at a time of cutbacks and apathetic students. His real passion is his life work, a Complete Works of obscure librettist Weiskern. But will anyone publish it?

Soon the cracks in Stolzenburg's life start to show: an unexplained tax bill; being suspected by the police of offering faked documents for sale; assault by a group of schoolgirls. Everything comes to a head when he is on a flight to give a guest lecture, and suddenly the propellers stop working...

Hein's works have consistently achieved wide appeal, and this novel also turns a mirror on some universal aspects of European societies: ageing, the crisis of higher education, the plight of older people, rising street violence, generation gaps, and the marginalisation of literature in the digital age.



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**Christoph Hein** was born in 1944 and currently lives in Berlin. He has written novels, novellas, short stories, plays, essays and children's books. Suhrkamp Verlag acquired the world rights to Hein's works in 2002. He has garnered numerous literary awards for his work. When the Pen centres in East and West Germany merged, Christoph Hein was President of the German Pen Centre from 1998 to 2000.

#### Selected previous works:

*Frau Paula Trousseau* (2007; World English Rights sold to Metropolitan Books); *In seiner frühen Kindheit ein Garten* (2005; World English Rights sold to Metropolitan Books); *Landnahme* (*Settlement*, 2004); *Willenbrock* (2000)

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Praise for *Frau Paula Trousseau*:

'A courageous novel, beyond great gestures' (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*)

'The most beautiful work Christoph Hein has written so far.' (*Frankfurter Rundschau*)

'Christoph Hein's novels [...] have a charismatic aura.' (*Neuer Zürcher Zeitung*)