



by Julia Weber
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Fiction

🏆 Shortlisted for the Swiss
Book Prize 2017

All is Well Here

Immer ist alles schön

review

A beautiful debut about a struggling single mother, *All Is Well Here* considers how lonely and frightening life can be both as a child and as an adult.

The novel tells the story of Anais, her brother Bruno and their mother Maria, who is different from other mothers. It starts with a holiday at a campsite where Maria abandons her children to go dancing. After the family returns home, the reader learns about their life through a series of episodes recounted by Anais. It soon becomes apparent that the mother is troubled in a lot of ways and that she is battling with alcoholism. Eventually Maria walks out, leaving the children on their own. Anais and Bruno retreat further into an imaginative game in which they recreate natural landscapes from within their apartment. Fantasy and reality flow into each other until they become one. The novel ends with the authorities breaking into the flat to get to the children.

Weber writes in a distinctive, ethereal prose using carefully-chosen language to convey the puzzling complexity of a child's view of the world.

press quotes

*Julia Weber precisely depicts a broken world,
immediately transforming painful reality into
literary truth.*

– Neue Zürcher Zeitung

about the author

Julia Weber was born in 1983 in Moshi, Tanzania. Her family returned to Zurich in 1985. She studied creative writing at the Literaturinstitut in Biel from 2009 to 2012. In 2012 she founded Literaturdienst (www.literaturdienst.ch), and she is also the co-founder of the art action group 'Literatur für das, was passiert'. *Immer ist alles schön* is her debut novel. Weber lives in Zurich with her husband and child.

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