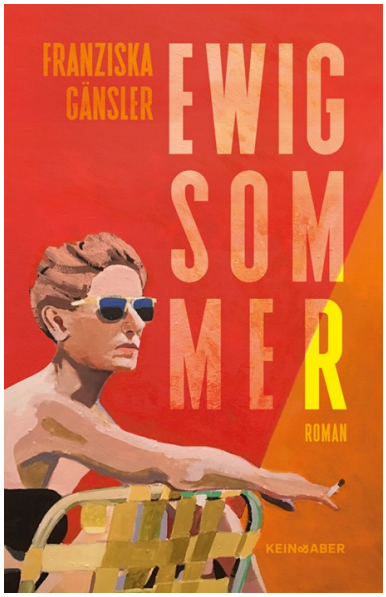


by Franziska Gänsler
Kein & Aber
July 2022 / 208pp
Fiction

🏆 the English translation of EWIG SOMMER has made the NEW YORK TIMES BEST BOOKS IN 2025 SO FAR

We are delighted that this book has now been published in English translation.

Eternal Summer

Ewig Sommer

review

An enthralling work of literary fiction for which the film rights have already been sold, *Ewig Sommer* is the debut novel by Franziska Gänsler. Set in a not-too-distant future, it imagines southern Germany in the grip of climate change, with two strong female protagonists meeting as forest fires rage around them. Written in rhythmic, atmospheric prose, this thought-provoking novel challenges our complacency about the environment and poses a haunting question: 'Whom can you trust?'

Gänsler has chosen a classic opening for her novel: 'A stranger came to town.' The setting is a spa town in southern Germany, where forest fires have subjected local hotels to a strict booking policy: no reservations, only walk-ins. The stranger in question is a woman named Dori, who arrives with her daughter, Ilya, at protagonist Iris's old family hotel. Iris offers them a room but resents the disruption to her routine of sunbathing and reading.

Gradually, however, Iris develops an interest in Dori and particularly Ilya, for whom she is concerned after she sees her playing outside without a mask. Iris's neighbour, Baby, is suspicious of Dori – she thinks she must be hiding from someone. As Iris spends more time with Dori, there is a hint of mutual attraction. When a man begins calling the hotel, looking for a girl and a woman he claims is his mentally unstable wife, Iris tells him there are no newcomers in town and rejects his offer of money.

Watching Dori care for Ilya, Iris is reminded of her own childhood: her grandfather didn't believe her mother was fit to look after her. Annoyed by her initial lack of female solidarity, she helps Dori trick her husband into thinking she has left town. On their return, with a dangerously dehydrated Ilya, they find the fires have got worse; an evacuation is being planned. That night, a group of climate protestors show up at the hotel and, along with Baby, they drink and dance. Dori falls asleep and Ilya wanders off outside, though eventually is found safe and well. The episode prompts a noticeable change in Dori. The next day, it finally rains, and her husband arrives to collect her.

Ewig Sommer is an evocative, claustrophobic read set in a world of extreme climate change, which draws us deep into Iris's perspective and examines non-physical abuse in relationships. The constant presence of the fires creates a dramatic backdrop to this delicately balanced story of friendship, trust and solidarity.

Rights sold to: France (Edition Astrid Franchet); film option.

Read more on the publisher's website here: https://www.keinundaber.ch/buecher/ewig-sommer/

press quotes

> *This novel draws you into a world on fire, an abusive relationship and story of longing that will be burned into your mind long after you close the covers.*

Catherine Venner, translator (http://catherinevenner.co.uk/)

> *Gänsler's language is calm and unerring. Parallel to the fatal consequences of the climate crisis, she also narrates the history of women.*

Spiegel

> *[Gänsler's] debut is a feminist climate-fiction novel that gets under the skin in many different ways. This says a very great deal for the book: now is the right time to read Ewig Sommer.*

Cornelia Geißler, Berliner Zeitung

about the author



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Franziska Gänsler was born in Augsburg in 1987. She studied art and English in Berlin, Vienna and Augsburg. In 2020 she was shortlisted for the Blogbuster Prize and was a finalist at Berlin's 28th Open Mike competition. Franziska Gänsler lives in Augsburg and Berlin. *Ewig Sommer* is her debut novel.

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rights information

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