



by Linus Reichlin
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Fiction

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He Er

review

He satisfyingly combines crime and literary fiction. What drives the action is not so much the desire to know as the need to cope – or to stop attempting to cope.

The novel has two narrative strands, which remain separate until its last chapters. The first begins with two middle-aged men, Sean and Angus, receiving the dying wish of old Alasdair in the Stornoway hospital on the Hebridean island of Lewis. His wish is that they go to Germany and tell his daughter “not to do it. The photo. Tell her not to do it, for the love of her father”. What this photo is will not be revealed to the reader until the narrative strands intertwine; nor will the source of Angus’ deadening sense of guilt. All we know is that it is somehow connected to this photo, which is somehow connected to the Lewis men’s annual cull of guga birds on a nearby island. The other strand follows Hannes Jensen, a former policeman who is the protagonist of Reichlin’s two previous novels.

Although the narrative moves towards moments where truth is revealed and explained, its motive force remains the characters’ attempts to deal with guilt, betrayal and jealousy.

press quotes

'Elegantly and boldly narrated across genre boundaries, Er is a captivating story'– XAVER Stadtmagazin

'A little jewel for crime-novelconnoisseurs'– krimi-couch.de

'A brilliant exercise in betrayal, honour, illusion, mistrust, lust and shame'– Stern

'This is a small but almost perfect novel about one of the biggest themes of world literature: jealousy and betrayal.'– Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung

about the author

Linus Reichlin lives in Berlin. His first two Jensen novels *Die Sehnsucht der Atome* (2008) and *Der Assistent der Sterne* (2009) remained in the *KrimiWelt* charts for months. Linus Reichlin was awarded the German Crime Prize in 2009. In 2010 the magazine *Bild der Wissenschaft* awarded *Der Assistent der Sterne* the title Science Book of the Year.

www.linusreichlin.de

Previous works include:

Die Sehnsucht der Atome (2008); *Der Assistent der Sterne* (2009)

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included Joseph Roth, Heinrich Böll and Erich Maria Remarque. Today Kiepenheuer & Witsch continues to publish leading contemporary German, Austrian and Swiss writers, as well as international authors in translation. Its list includes among many others the book prizewinner Kathrin Schmidt, Frank Schätzing, Uwe Timm, David Foster Wallace and J.D. Salinger. Its non-fiction subjects cover sociology, psychology, history and biography. Kiepenheuer & Witsch is part of the Holtzbrinck Group.