



by Lorenz Langenegger

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Fiction

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## Out Here In the Rain

### *Hier im Regen*

#### review

A much respected young playwright whose work is performed in some of the most innovative theatres in Germany, the author now publishes his first novel in which some will recognise echoes of Robert Walser.

Jakob Walter, the book's flawed and self-absorbed hero, wakes up one Friday morning on what turns out to be Swiss National Day (1 August). Unfortunately this passive near-thirty-year-old hadn't listened when his wife mentioned she'd be at home with her parents over the weekend. With his pet tortoise, the other stabilising force in his life, recently deceased, three long, lonesome days stretch ahead. What could be better than looking up his best friend from his bachelor past? But Ralf, he discovers, has been missing for a week, presumed dead, so at random he simply gets into a train and moves on. His subsequent encounters prompt a re-evaluation of key events in his life. Perhaps happiness is not just an incidental condition after all, but something one can strive to achieve?

A slow-burner, but all the richer for it, this is a work of substance and subtlety.

## press quotes

*'The special quality in Lorenz Langenegger's writing for me is the subtlety of his observation, the delicacy of the shifts depicted in his texts, his feeling for the undercurrents of a dialogue, of an apparent normality. For that is what makes this young writer stand out from many of his generation. He refrains almost entirely from the sensational.'* – John von Düffel

*'[He wins for his] strong characterisation and humour.'* – Jury of the 2006 Schaubühne Prize for Drama

## about the author

**Lorenz Langenegger**, born in 1980, lives and writes in Zurich. His subjects at university were Theatre Studies and Politics, and in 2006 he won the playwriting competition sponsored by the Schaubühne theatre in Berlin. His plays have been performed both there and in the National Theatre of Mannheim. He is a member of the group of writers called *Die Autören*.

### Previous works include:

*Plays: Nordwärts* (2005, UA Zurich); *Nah und hoch hinaus* (2008, UA Mannheim); *Überfall. Auf der Suche nach Edith Kletzhandler* (2008, UA Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz) – all with S. Fischer.

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