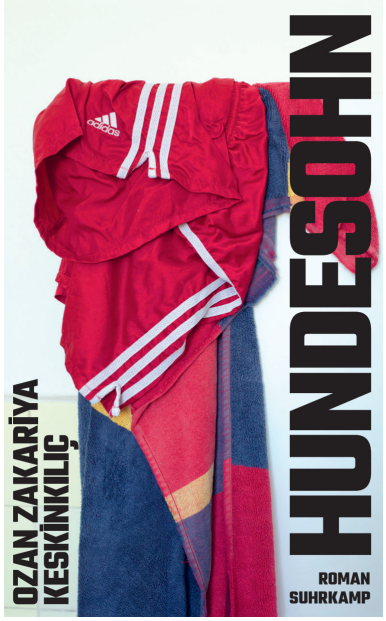
new books in german



by Ozan Zakariya Keskink?l?ç
Suhrkamp Verlag
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Fiction

The English language translation rights to the book have sold.

This page will be updated once an English language translation is published.

Son of a Dog

Hundesohn

review

Ozan Zakariya Keskink?l?ç's debut novel 'Son of a Dog', is a lyrical, atmospheric meditation on memory, desire, identity, and longing. Its poetic style and emotional depth make it a strong candidate for English-language publication, and will appeal especially to readers of Ocean Vuong, Garth Greenwell, and Édouard Louis.

Told from the perspective of Zeko, a gay, Muslim man living in Berlin, this novel elegantly blurs the line between past and present, reality and dream, charting the emotional terrain of a man reckoning with the ghosts of his youth, and the run-up to reunion he both dreads and desires.

Structured around a countdown – 'In nine days I will see Hassan again' – the novel traces Zeko's daily life in Berlin while building toward a meeting with his childhood friend and former love, Hassan, in Adana, Türkiye. Zeko participates in therapy sessions, has flings with men he meets via dating apps, enjoys intense philosophical talks with his punk best friend Pari, and loses himself in dreamlike memories of hazy summers in Türkiye. He remembers Hassan's charm and volatility, and the complicated closeness they shared, as well as the chilling moment when Hassan accidentally killed a stray dog: a symbol of power and fragility that reverberates throughout the novel.

The countdown eventually ends not in reunion, but in release, when

Pari surprises Zeko with a ticket to Marseilles, sensing what Zeko cannot admit: he does not truly want to see Hassan. In Marseilles, Zeko finds unexpected clarity. The narrative turns from longing to liberation, culminating in a tender, freeing hook-up with a trans man, a moment that closes the novel with quiet triumph.

Keskink?l?ç's writing is poetic and contemporary, blending present-tense introspection with experimental fragments, second-person narration, and recurring motifs. The prose moves fluidly between German, Turkish, and English, offering a rich, multilingual texture that reflects the complexity of diasporic identity. Zeko's voice is intimate and wryly reflective; his thoughts on queerness, masculinity, and cultural belonging feel raw and precise.

'Son of a Dog' resists narrative convention and easy resolution. It is a meditation on desire; rather than a coming-of-age story, it is a reckoning with the impossibility of returning to the self you once were. Keskink?l?ç has written a powerful, slow burn of a novel that captures the ache of missed connections and the joy of redemption.

Find out more:
https://www.suhrkamp.de/rights/book/ozan-zakariya-keskinkilic-son-of-a-dog-fr-9783518432549

about the author



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Ozan Zakariya Keskink?l?ç was born in 1989 and studied political science in Vienna, Berlin, and Cambridge. In 2022, his first collection of poetry, *Prinzenbad* (Prince's bath), was published by Elif Verlag, and in 2023, he published the non-fiction work, *Muslimaniac: Die Karriere eines Feindbildes* (Muslimaniac: The career of a bogeyman) with Verbrecher Verlag. His work has been published in prominent periodicals and anthologies and has been translated into multiple languages. He has been nominated for the Clemens Brentano Prize and the Dresden Poetry Prize, and received the Wolfgang Weyrauch Advancement Prize in 2025. *Hundesohn* (Son of a Dog) is his first novel.

Previous work: *Muslimaniac*, Verbrecher Verlag (2023), *Prinzenbad*, Elif Verlag (2022)