



by Hannes Köhler
Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt
February 2025 / 224pp
Fiction

Ten Pictures of a Love

Zehn Bilder einer Liebe

review

‘Ten Pictures of a Love’ is an accomplished novel that speaks to contemporary debates around gender roles, motherhood, and masculine identity.

The novel focuses on a relationship that – on paper, at least – sounds unworkable. Luisa, 31, and David, 19, first meet on the Greek island of Milos in 2012 when Luisa is married to Holger and newly pregnant. David has just left school and is on holiday with his parents before starting his law degree. ‘Love in Ten Pictures’ follows their developing relationship from the point when they re-encounter one another in Berlin in 2019 through to October 2023, and is set against personal, societal, and familial changes.

Luisa and David are two very different yet equally well-drawn protagonists. David has abandoned university and joined two of his friends in a boat restoration business. In 2019 one of the friends invites a casual acquaintance – Luisa – to their business launch party. David recognises Luisa as she dances and Luisa remembers the ‘little poet’, as she had dubbed him on Milos. The connection between them builds from there.

Luisa learns to share the care of her daughter Ronya with David in their new family unit, to which David would love to add a biological child of his own. His desire for a child drives a wedge between him and Luisa and threatens to destroy their blended family. The couple

also have to contend with the loss of David's parents in an accident and the death of Luisa's mother.

The novel is written in the third person and portrays the couple's relationship through ten episodes from their initial meeting in 2012, through to the final episode in 2023, which brings the couple and Ronya back to the island of Milos where they first met. Each episode has two sections showing the contrasting perspectives of David and Luisa. The minor characters reflect the diversity of contemporary Germany and the diverse nature of modern families.

'Ten Pictures of a Love' stands out for its immediacy and the relevance of its themes. Readers will empathise with the characters and their dilemmas and feel invested in the success of Luisa and David's relationship. Hannes Köhler's charming love story will resonate with readers of David Nicholl's *One Day* and Benedict Wells' *The End of Loneliness*.

Find out more:

<https://www.fva.de/Buecher/Neuerscheinungen/Zehn-Bilder-einer-Liebe.html>

press quotes

I started this book on a train journey. It gripped me from the opening paragraph, so much so that I was upset that my enjoyment was interrupted by arrival at my destination!

Deidre McMahon, NBG Reader

“In David and Luisa, Hannes Köhler has created fascinating characters: complex, contradictory, clever. I fell more in love with them – and their love – with every page. A great text that I could not escape!”

Julia Wolf

“Hannes Köhler is a truthful and tender storyteller.”

Daniela Dröscher

Hannes Köhler has succeeded in one of the most difficult exercises with his novel: Telling a story about love in a way that makes you want to read it. The subject of parenthood is also dealt with successfully. The strength of Hannes Köhler’s new novel lies in the description of everyday, yet formative moments of life and love.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

about the author



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Hannes Köhler, born in 1982 in Hamburg, works as a freelance author and translator in Berlin. He studied Modern German Literature and Contemporary History in Toulouse and Berlin. Among other things, he has been a participant in the Literary Colloquium Berlin's prose workshop, the Goldschmidt Program for German-French literary translation, and a recipient of the Academy of Arts Döblin Grant for his work on *Zehn Bilder einer Liebe* ('Ten Pictures of a Love'). His debut novel *In Spuren* ('Traces') was published in 2011. His highly successful novel *Ein mögliches Leben* ('One Possible Life') (2018) won the Ravensburger foundation prize for best family novel of the year. It was followed by *Götterfunken* ('Spark of the Gods') in 2021. *Ten Pictures of a Love* is being released in spring 2025 by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt.

Previous works: *In Spuren*, mairisch, 2011; *Ein mögliches Leben*, Ullstein, 2018; *Götterfunken*, Ullstein, 2021.

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