



by Veit Heinichen

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Fiction

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The Serenity of the Strong *Die Ruhe des Stärkeren*

review

Travelling home to Trieste from a security meeting in preparation for the upcoming opening of the Slovenian border, Commissario Laurenti finds himself embroiled in a scene of murder – the enbalmer Marzio Manfredo has been killed in the train. No angel, it transpires: Manfredo was a contract killer himself preparing to wreak havoc at the ceremony. Add some influential politicians and VIPs to be kept safe throughout the official celebrations, an aggressive pitbull terrier, some right-wing propaganda, a crooked real estate investor, embezzlement, his assistant's new lover and the ups and downs of family life and the wearied Commissario won't be getting much sleep. But there will be plenty of good food, and once again Trieste proves an alluring setting for strong crime writing.

With a loyal readership both at home and further afield, Heinichen has found his place in this competitive genre. Trieste's answer to Wallander and Montalbano could surely work well in the Englishspeaking countries, too. But perhaps best to go back and start with the first in the series. Laurenti is a moodily enticing figure, ripe for the picking. As *Der Spiegel* puts it, here is 'a detective whose character touches the reader and whose *faux pas* are charming.'

press quotes

'Like Henning Mankell, Vázquez Montalbán and Andrea Camilleri, Veit Heinichen has created a detective who combines the typical qualities of his kind with individual quirks ... Someone you want to go investigating with again and again.' – Maike Albath, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

about the author

Veit Heinichen, born in 1957, worked as a bookseller and for various publishing houses. In 1994 he co-founded Berlin Verlag which he managed until 1999. In 1980 he visited Trieste for the first time, was beguiled by the city, and now lives there as a writer and journalist.

Previous works include:

Five novels with Detective Proteo Laurenti, all published by Zsolnay: *Totentanz* (2007); *Der Tod wirft lange Schatten* (2005); *Tod aus der Warteliste* (2003); *Die Toten vom Karst* (2002); *Gib jedem seinen eigenen Tod* (2001). *Triest. Stadt der Winde. Oasen für die Sinne* (2005, Sanssouci, together with Ami Scabar).

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