



by Clemens Setz  
Suhrkamp Verlag  
March 2011 / 350pp  
Fiction

🏆 Winner of the Leipzig  
Book Fair Prize 2011

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## The Unfinished Child

### *Die Liebe zur Zeit des Mahlstädter Kindes*

#### review

With his characteristic blend of grotesque imagination, beguiling detail, rich allusion and stylistic flair, Setz has followed up his award-winning novels with a remarkably versatile and intriguing collection of short stories.

Business cards develop welts and infect other objects with corrosion; a woman lives in an apartment on a Ferris wheel; a wife demands that her reluctant husband lock her in a cage. In Setz's fiction, the line between tenderness and horror constantly wavers. There is mesmerising beauty and lyricism in his details, and he has a knack for striking images and similes. Sometimes his metaphors are so apt that it seems amazing no one ever thought of them before: in Manhattan, one character has the feeling of 'turning the pages of a book when he walked northward through the streets with their ascending numbers'.

Setz's elegant and meticulous craft, his understated transitions between the everyday and the fantastic, the simple grace of his sentences, the precision of his imagery, the empathetic depiction of his characters' all-too-human idiosyncrasies, and his revelatory approach to mundane detail have established him as a young author of great distinction.

## press quotes

*'The Wunderkind of German literature' – Die Zeit*

## about the author

**Clemens J. Setz** was born in 1982 and now lives in Graz, Austria. He was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2009, won the Bremen Literature Prize in 2010, and is shortlisted for the 2011 Leipzig Book Fair Prize.

### Previous works include:

*Söhne und Planeten* ('Sons and Planets', 2007); *Die Frequenzen* ('The Frequencies', 2009)

## rights information

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