

German Book Prize: Shortlist

Terézia Mora • Necati Öziri • Anne Rabe •
Tonio Schachinger • Sylvie Schenk • Ulrike Sterblich



Terézia Mora

Muna oder Die Hälfte des Lebens

Luchterhand Literaturverlag, August 2023

Jury evaluation:

A young woman falls for a man. The woman's name is Muna, the man's name is Magnus, and the love that binds the two together is poisoned, not pure. Muna pays a high price for their togetherness. How much coldness can a person take without breaking, without losing herself completely? With Muna, Terézia Mora presents us with a headstrong, courageous protagonist who, despite her strength, throws herself into a toxic relationship. The book is about seduction, abuse, psychological violence and self-empowerment. From the very first sentence, Mora's straightforward, laconic prose generates a pull that is impossible to resist. "Muna oder die Hälfte des Lebens" is a novel that stays with you.



Biography:

Terézia Mora was born in Sopron, Hungary, in 1971 and has lived in Berlin since 1990. She received the German Book Prize in 2013 for her novel "Das Ungeheuer". She was awarded the Georg Büchner Prize in 2018 for her complete works. Terézia Mora is also one of the most renowned translators from Hungarian.

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Necati Öziri **Vatermal**

claassen Verlag, July 2023

Jury evaluation:

Arda, a young man, is in hospital with organ failure. Writing a farewell letter to the absent father he has never met, he looks back on his life so far: conflicts with his alcoholic mother, a sister who runs away from home, endless hours at the immigration office, but also his first love and time spent with his friends Savaş, Bojan and Danny. In "Vatermal", Necati Öziri captures the sound of the street: angry, quick-witted, funny and tender. His youthful heroes try to find their way in a society in which they never really arrive. Öziri opens our eyes to this German reality.



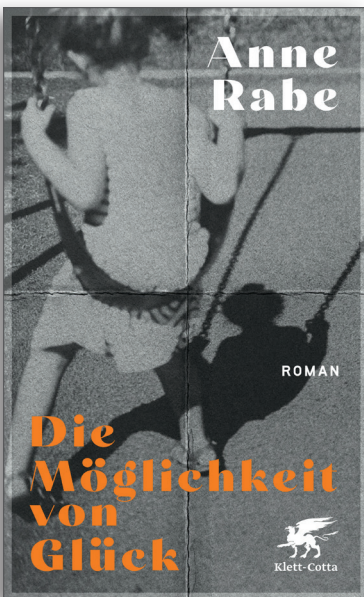
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Biography:

Necati Öziri studied philosophy, German language and literature and modern German literature in Bochum, Istanbul and Berlin. As a playwright, he writes for the Maxim Gorki Theatre, Mannheim National Theatre and Schauspielhaus Zurich. As a curator, he also directs the International Forum of the Berliner Festspiele Theatertreffen. Necati Öziri lives in Berlin.

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Anne Rabe

Die Möglichkeit von Glück

Klett-Cotta Verlag, March 2023

Jury evaluation:

Anne Rabe describes a childhood in peripheral East Germany, growing up in the chaos around the fall of the Berlin Wall and the political changes that followed, and the escalating violence of the 1990s. The parents' generation despairs of ever really arriving in this new reality. Based on extensive archival research, Anne Rabe demonstrates how strongly the cultural climate of East Germany was influenced by unresolved war experiences. Through this sharp analysis and a very emotionally charged family story, she succeeds in making a galvanizing contribution to current debates about the roots of violence and misanthropy.



Biography:

Anne Rabe, born in 1986, is a playwright, screenwriter and essayist. Her plays have won numerous awards. For several years now, she has also been writing essays and lecturing on the topic of coming to terms with the past in East Germany. Anne Rabe lives in Berlin. "Die Möglichkeit von Glück" is her prose debut.

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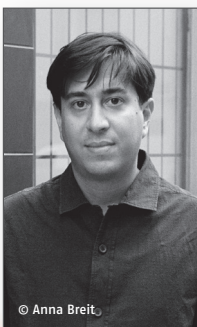


Tonio Schachinger **Echtzeitalter**

Rowohlt Verlag, March 2023

Jury evaluation:

Tonio Schachinger's "Echtzeitalter" pulls off the feat of being a coming-of-age novel that is as sensitive as it is understated. Stylistically brilliant but never obtrusive, it recounts the story of Viennese high school student Till: the disintegration of his family, his friendships and first love, and his diabolical teacher Dolinar with his despotic but also formative lessons about literature and language. An analysis of Austrian society that rivals Thomas Bernhard in terms of clarity and incisiveness, even as it remains rather quiet and gentle in tone. Last but not least: a literary reflection on the world of real-time computer games that is unparalleled in its subtlety, lucidity and lack of clichés.



Biography:

Tonio Schachinger, born in New Delhi in 1992, studied German language and literature at the University of Vienna and language arts (creative writing) at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. His first novel, "Nicht wie ihr", was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2019 and received the Bremen Literature Prize Förderpreis (advancement award). Tonio Schachinger lives in Vienna.

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Sylvie Schenk **Maman**

Carl Hanser Verlag, February 2023

Jury evaluation:

In her new book, Sylvie Schenk goes in search of clues leading to the life story of her mother, of her family and thus to her own roots, her own being. Artfully interweaving facts and fictions, she condenses them into a literary biography that counters her mother's voicelessness with a narrative in which poverty, shame, trauma and doubt also find expression. The result is a quiet yet forceful text that attempts to explore – without sentimentality but with great empathy and historical curiosity – what we call origins.

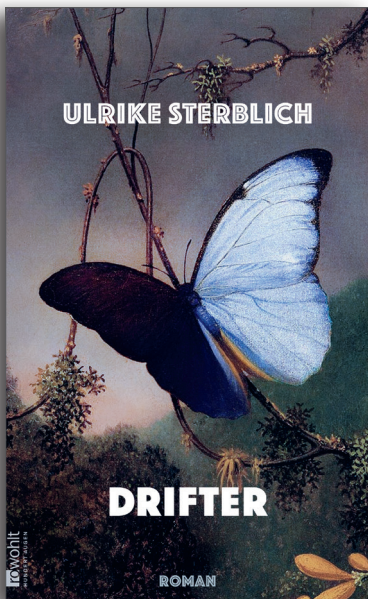


Biography:

Sylvie Schenk was born in Chambéry, France, in 1944, studied in Lyon and has lived in Germany since 1966. She has published poetry in French and has been writing in German since 1992. Sylvie Schenk lives near Aachen and in La Roche-de-Rame, Hautes-Alpes. Her most recent novel was "Roman d'amour", published in 2021.

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Ulrike Sterblich

Drifter

Rowohlt Hundert Augen, July 2023

Jury evaluation:

“Drifter” by Ulrike Sterblich is one rousing ride: a vicious satire on the literary scene, the PR industry, art, social media, stock managers and hero worship. At the same time, the book tells of the deep friendship between the protagonists Wenzel and Killer – a male friendship the likes of which has rarely been seen in prose. The Mephistophelian figure of Vica is unique: unforgettable, enigmatic and seductive. Laying false trails, Sterblich leads us on a truly merry chase. A masterful story about the great void.



Biography:

Ulrike Sterblich is a political scientist and author from Berlin, where she still lives today and also became known as the host of the series of stage talks and readings “Berlin Bunny Lectures”. Her successful memoir about the city divided by the Berlin Wall, “Die halbe Stadt, die es nicht mehr gibt”, came out in 2012. In 2021, Ulrike Sterblich published her debut novel “The German Girl”.