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DESIRE AND MELANCHOLY

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF



Verlangen und Melancholie

Novel. German.

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Since his wife passed away nine years ago after a leap from 43 meters height, Hinrich lives alone. He wallows in memories of Irene, the mother of his daughter and a translator for high Italian literature. He remembers the summers in Italy, their journeys to Rome and Pompeji, where they lingered in front of the frescoes of the Villa dei Misteri for hours to understand their meaning. They loved cinema, the melancholy of the black-and-white images, but were also seduced by something light. However, what has really happened nine years ago? And what does the letter with the black edging contain? Only a journey to Warsaw can bring light into the dark.

Desire and Melancholy is charged with emotionally subtle suspense, a novel which takes the reader on a quest. Slowly but relentless, the protagonist discovers the truth about his wife's death. Bodo Kirchhoff's masterful novel is about aging and longing, describing the desire to stay eternally young and a melancholy that turns out to offer some solace at the end.

»Bodo Kirchhoff is a great writer, comparable to John Updike.«

Denis Scheck, Druckfrisch (TV show)

»Love in its finest facets«

Martin Lüdke, SWR

»Only a few writers are able to write about the essence of pain, desire and love like Bodo Kirchhoff«

Christoph Schröder, Kulturspiegel

Bodo Kirchhoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His last two novels *Desire and Melancholy* (2014) and *Love in Broad Strokes* (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella *Widerfahrnis* has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@ frankfurter-verlagsanstalt.de

WWW.FVA.DE