



## LOVE IN BROAD STROKES

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF



### Die Liebe in groben Zügen

Novel. German.

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**A great narrative panorama about marriage as a life project in an era that glorifies the present moment.**

Vila and Renz are a couple who keep up with the times. Both work in television; they have a grown-up daughter, a flat in Frankfurt and a summer house in Italy. So far so good... but they are both plagued by a longing for love. The novel is set in the year when Vila falls in love again with an intensity she has never known before. You only drown once in a lifetime without dying, she thinks. Renz fails to realize what is going on, because he is entangled in a love story of his own. But the main reason he is blind to Vila's romance is that he sees her lover, who has rented their house in Italy for the winter to write a book about St Francis of Assisi and Sister Clare, as some strange kind of saint.

Bodo Kirchoff's novel is a tale of three love stories that open up new horizons, and of a disappointed friendship that limits them. The main characters are Vila and Renz, whose lives are already winding down when, for Vila, everything seems to start again. She allows herself to experience the emotions others back away from. She uses her last reserves of strength to create happiness and intimacy for herself amidst the trivial reality that surrounds her. Vila believes it is better to love in broad strokes than settle for a comfortable but loveless existence. Ultimately, though, Vila realizes that what really makes a marriage is its ability to endure.

»This is storytelling which has no rival in contemporary German literature.«

Deutschlandradio

»A fantastic novel about marriage, adultery and, above all, love.«

Der Tagesspiegel

»Certainly the hitherto most important opus of Kirchoff's oeuvre, a great novel, splendidly well done.«

Süddeutsche Zeitung

**Bodo Kirchoff**, 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