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# *THE DAY THAT FRANK Z. CAME TO THE ›GREEN TREE INN‹*

BY BRITTA BOERDNER



**Am Tag, als Frank Z. in den Grünen Baum kam**

Novel. German.

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**»Britta Boerdner's prose is abundant with strong images and surprising plot turns. She creates a convincing arch between the atmosphere of the 1960's in the German provinces and the influence of American culture and American music history, condensing broad perspectives in a light, yet precise manner, letting them unfold within the framework of her novel.«**

Jury Statement, Writer's Residency Program on the Island of Sylt

There are many GIs stationed in the Wetterau region, between 1958 and 1960 even Elvis Presley. American soldiers and German ›Fräuleins‹ roam the streets hand in hand; many children are born out of wedlock these days and less generous observers call the ›Fräuleins‹ ›Ami-Liebchen‹ or ›GI-mistresses‹. Yet, the everyday routine of the people in Randstetten, a small town in this region, remains largely untouched by the wild 60s, flower power and beat music.

In the summer of 1969 all that seems to change abruptly when Frank Z's car breaks down in the small town. The hippie from Laurel Canyon rents a room in the local *Green Tree Inn* since his car cannot be repaired until the replacement parts arrive. The musician from California arrives in that sleepy town like a bolt of lightning, with his long dark hair and his washed out jeans he is immediately the talk of the town on this Saturday. Things are going to change, everything is going to change, Ev is certain of that. Ev is the seventeen year-old daughter of the house, her mother Rosie is running the *Green Tree Inn*. The girl falls in love with Frank Z. but she will not be the only one whose life is touched by the musician. While not everyone seems to be thrilled about it, the process of change is set into motion.

Britta Boerdner has great intuition when it comes to the mood and the mental state of her protagonists; she skillfully captures the atmosphere of the time and brings it to life through language. »The Day That Frank Z. Came to the ›Green Tree Inn‹« is a riveting story and Britta Boerdner's insightful way of telling it demonstrates the great talent of this extraordinary novelist.

**Britta Boerdner** was born in Fulda. After training as a bookseller, she majored in American studies, German studies and historical ethnology in Frankfurt on the Main. Her debut novel *What Remains Hidden* was published in 2012 by FVA. In 2015 she received a grant from the Hessian Council for Literature which brought her to the Emilia Romagna (Bologna). Based on a sample from her novel *The Day That Frank Z. Came to the ›Green Tree Inn‹* she was invited to be a writer in residence on the island of Sylt. She lives in Frankfurt on the Main.

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