



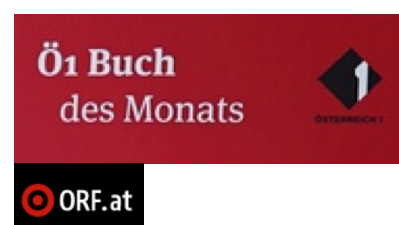
## THE LAST RED YEAR

SUSANNE GREGOR

Novel, German.

Release: 30th August 2019

World rights held by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt



Susanne Gregor's supremely readable novel gives readers an exceptional insight into an important chapter of recent European history. ... This is an expertly written, first-person narrative of a young girl coming to terms with her own shift into adulthood, set within a political landscape that is as fascinating now as it was then. The young narrator's preoccupation with friends and boys is more absorbing to her than the dramatic political developments she references, and reminiscent of Anne Frank's »The Diary of a Young Girl«. There is also something of Arundhati Roy's »The God of Small Things« in the thoughtful evocation of the minutiae of childhood within a narrow domestic life and the dynamics of family and neighbours. »The Last Red Year« is a beautifully written book that will find an appreciative readership in the English-language market.

NEW BOOKS IN GERMAN

The novel clearly shows that communism was not only a political system, but also profoundly shaped intergenerational relationships, teacher-student relations and, above all, gender relations. This detailed tracing of the political in the private field distinguishes the novel "The Last Red Year" and the perspective of a fourteen-year-old girl is ideally suited for this purpose: Her awakening view of the adult world, which she increasingly wants to be part of, diagnoses everyday life precisely and in many details.

Susanne Gregor is a narrator of great stature, not only her historical knowledge is impressive, but also her extraordinary talent to create a psychologically consistent constellation of figures. Never succumbing to the temptation of using stereotypes, her language gives a specific shine to scenes of every day life and has its own rhythm.

ORF »Ö1 Book OF The Month«, jury statement

Susanne Gregor's narration and language are characterized by an economic efficiency that turns everything she touches into something special. The fact that Susanne Gregor's novel »The Last Red Year« does not appear on any of the book prize lists calls into question the competence of various juries.

Radio broadcast ORF Ö1

Separation and togetherness are leitmotifs in this novel, which is characterized by an eloquent language and a variety of philosophical and literary allusions.

Magazine BUCHKULTUR

The sound, the narrative style of a teenager bring to life the scenery in a socialist town. The novel is by no means idealizing or euphemistic, but it makes clear how much more difficult, how much more complicated it was to grow up in these times and in this world. Susanne Gregor succeeds impressively in linking the worsening situation during the summer of 1989 on the borders with Hungary and Czechoslovakia with the individual story of a family. And it's also a novel that bridges the still existing boundaries between East and West biographies. The novel deserves high praise.

Radio broadcast HR2-KULTUR

Susanne Gregor portrays in even-tempered prose how the political upheaval that took place in 1989 fundamentally changed the life of a family.

VOGUE

Growing up in a time of upheaval: Susanne Gregor describes the naivety and discomfort of her fourteen-year-old protagonists in such an empathetic way, so true to life and with a focused language, but at the same time so exciting, that one might think that it's her own story. But even if she grew up at the same place as her protagonists, the author is a few years younger than her heroine Miša. All the more great is how she succeeds in depicting the atmosphere and the attitude towards life during this »last red year«, an adolescence in the era of the real socialism, an adulthood in a double sense.

NDR

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We need someone like Gregor in literature!

SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, about »Territories«

This tome, which eclipses much of the prose currently being published in Austria, combines textual density with linguistic precision in a unique fashion.

EX LIBRIS, about »Under Water«