



## THE CAT AND THE GENERAL

BY NINO HARATISCHWILI

Novel. German. 768 p.

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### Shortlist German Book Prize 2018 – Jury evaluation:

Every sentence here attests to the joy of storytelling. From the first page, the reader is right in the middle of this novel of guilt and atonement, feverishly following the general's plan for revenge. He wants to atone for a crime in which he himself participated during the Chechen war. Narrative threads full of questions run below the novel's thriller-like surface: What effect does the »toxic past« have on the present? Are wars never over? Why does the Georgian family living in Germany long for home, even though life there was hell? The characters – all of them »stuck between times and worlds« – are brimming with vitality, and everything is told with powerful imagery and sensuousness: Great cinema!

A powerful novel of guilt and atonement. Nino Haratischwili is an extraordinarily gifted writer whose striking imagery and fluid prose animate this tale of recent history and its harrowing impact. Engaging and suspenseful, this skillfully plotted story is an original take on universal themes of revenge and justice.

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Nino Haratischwili is a natural phenomenon on the German literary scene.

Jochen Hieber, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

Nino Haratschwili is a gripping and fearless narrator. She has the gift to breathe life into her characters and to give them a shape with just few sentences. Nothing human is alien to this author. Nino Haratischwili enriches the German-language literature with an exciting voice whose echo reaches far to the East. (...) This is opulent narrative art, cleverly staged.

Martina Läubli, NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

Nino Haratischwili's novel »The Cat and the General« (...) is a great and exciting novel about the dealing with a war crime that occurred during the First Chechen War, written like a crime novel with many entanglements. I was thrilled by this novel and the author would be a great book prize winner.

Alf Mentzer, HR2 KULTUR

»The Cat And The General« gives a merciless and precise glimpse on Russia during the period of change (...) impressive!

Andreas Platthaus, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

Nino Haratischwili has written an enormously compelling novel of almost Tolstoyian power. It tells of war and peace, guilt and atonement, revenge, betrayal, and spying, but of course also of love and death. »The Cat And The General« is in the best sense what one calls a page-turner. You dive into the world of the characters, share their fears and joys and forget the time. Nino Haratischwili is a great narrator with psychological empathy and a long breath.

Heide Soltau, NDR KULTUR

Like a Greek Moira, Nino Haratischwili weaves her fate. Insanely exciting, rich in images and enwrought with the troubled feelings of hatred, love, guilt, lack of atonement and revenge. (...) A phenomenal dice roll.

Ruthard Stäblein, HR2 KULTUR

Nino Haratischwili peers into the very depth of her characters' souls. (...) A story like a classic tragedy. Nino Haratischwili explores crime and punishment, wars inside heads and the evil within us all.

DEUTSCHE WELLE

Nino Haratischwili has a gift that is unique within the contemporary German language literature – her novels are grand opera!

Insa Wilke, SWR »Lesenswert« TV broadcast

Nino Haratischwili is an author of powerful linguistic images and unafraid of pathos. The Cat and The General is a comprehensive, powerfully eloquent novel about guilt, revenge and atonement that maintains the tension until the very last page. Rich in variety, opulent and inspiring!

Birgit Koß, DEUTSCHLANDFUNK KULTUR

Victims and perpetrators, followers and heroes, fanatics, seduced, traumatized, exiles and war profiteers – they all appear on stage. Nino Haratischwili rotates the Rubik's Cube – a central motif – to ever new constellations, the result is a breathtaking drama with historical depth, psychological finesse and high tension over 750 pages. A terrific horror scenario set in Chechnya, but universally valid for all war and crisis zones of the world.

Cornelia Zetsche, BAYERISCHER RUNDFUNK

A masterfully composed novel (...) Anyone who wants can think of Dostoevsky: »The cat and the general« is a breath-taking guilt-and-atonement piece, with characters that one forgets much less quickly than others.

Thomas André, HAMBURGER ABENDBLATT

I am binge-reading the book, cannot stop, I am living with the characters, I share their fears, I just want to go on reading, unable to do something else. It's amazing! And beyond that, it's a very intelligent plotted novel – Nino Haratischwili is a gifted narrator.

Heide Soltau, NDR

Artistically gifted, linguistically opulent and it never becomes wordy or boring – it's such an absorbing, exciting epos that the reader not only can't put it down, but once he has finished he wants to start over again. This novel is worth reading and a legitimate nominee for the German Book Prize 2018!

Melanie Brandl, OBERBAYRISCHES VOLKSBLATT

## **Booksellers**

The most talented storyteller of our generation!

Maria-Christina Piwowarski, BUCHHANDLUNG OCELOT BERLIN

I'm speechless. I haven't read such a powerful novel since the previous book of the author, »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)«. Her way of playing with language, of transforming trivial things into something meaningful and significant – that's overwhelming. I'm excited, I have no words to describe how happy I am to read this book.

Vera Theus, THALIA SOLINGEN

The "hunger for reading" is back – thanks to Nino Haratischwili! Once I started reading, I couldn't put it down. Once again the author demonstrates her talent to create characters that are interesting and authentic, a gift that I admire a lot. Again and again she proves herself to be a master of linguistic virtuosity. This book is one of the highlights of this year!

Simone Finkenwirth, BLOG KLAPPENTEXTERIN and HUGENDUBEL LEIPZIG

I instantly started to binge-read this novel and I am absolutely thrilled – I hope it will reach at least as many readers as »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)«!

Katja Schneider, STORIES! DIE BUCHHANDLUNG HAMBURG

An overwhelming book! One gets caught up in the maelstrom of her narrative, that's probably the expression that best describes the incredibly powerful impact this book has on me. The multifaceted characters, the wonderful, poetic language – puzzle piece by puzzle piece with an increasing intensity the story unfolds and it's ending leaves the reader breathless.

Gebine Schad, HUGENDUBEL LANDSHUT

I'm completely thrilled by the wonderful language and the exciting story!

Petra Dressing, THALIA KAISERSLAUTERN

Haratischwili gives voice to people in the countries of the Caucasus region – it is up to us readers to listen to them and to pass them on to others. OVERWHELMING! For me it is the best novel that she has written so far and I really hope we will be able to read a lot more from her.

Marie-Luise Grimm, HUGENDUBEL WÜRZBURG

I'm absolutely thrilled by this novel! Nino Haratischwili is an awesome storyteller. I'll keep my fingers crossed for the German Book Prize!

Claudia Hutzfeldt, BUCHHANDLUNG AM GÄNSEMARKT ECKERNFÖRDE