

THE CAT AND THE GENERAL

BY NINO HARATISCHWILI

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2018
deutscher
buch
preis
Nominiert
Shortlist

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Die Katze und der General

Novel. German.

Release: 31st August 2018

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English sample available

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. 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? ... everything is told with powerful imagery and sensuousness: Great cinema!«

Chechnya, 1995: Nura is seventeen when the outbreak of war shatters her dream of seeking freedom and autonomy, born on the day that Natalia handed her a Rubik's Cube and left. She'd meant to escape the confines of the village where clans reign and Islamic guards have a watchful eye over everyday life, but the war ends up changing everything.

Moscow, 1995: The young Alexander Orlow fears for his future. A backpack full of books and his mother's expectations on his shoulders, he leaves behind the love of his life to fight the war at the North Caucasian front.

Berlin 2016: Alexander Orlow has become a multi-billion-dollar oligarch, known as »the General«. He has turned his back on Russia and moved to Germany. His nineteen-year-old daughter is obsessed with her father's past and when she begins asking questions, the images of war suddenly come rushing back to Alexander. The darkest and most violent of them: the night that left a young Chechnyan woman with nothing but a colorful cube and himself with an unbearable sense of guilt. But the General feels the day of reckoning coming ...

After her celebrated epic novel »The Eighth Life (for Brilka)« Nino Haratischwili has once again turned towards the abyss that lies beneath the rubble left behind by the crumbling of the Soviet Union. »The Cat and the General« is a gripping psychological exploration of crime and punishment. As within a Rubik's Cube, the protagonist's fates revolve around a shared axis of love and guilt – a deadly game must come to a head.

Nino Haratischwili, born in Georgia in 1983, writing in German, is an internationally bestselling and award-winning novelist, playwright and director. »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« has been awarded the prestigious BDI Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy 2015, the Anna Seghers Prize 2015, the Lessing Prize Stipend 2017, the Bertolt Brecht Prize 2018 and the Schiller Prize 2019. The English translation by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin won the PEN Translates award 2016 and the Dutch edition (Atlas contact 2016) was longlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. Her novel »The Cat And The General« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018.

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