



ENCOUNTER | WIDERFAHRNIS

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF

Novella, German

225 p.

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**German Book Prize
2016!**

German Book Prize 2016, statement from the jury:

Bodo Kirchoff writes about the unprecedented journey of two people without a destination and with nothing but a direction – the South. They are driven by the age-old longing for love, for red wine, Italy, an adventure later in life. When they pick up a young vagabond along the way, they find themselves once again confronting the elementary themes of their past: loss, parenthood, radical new beginnings. In a densely woven narrative, Kirchoff succeeds in negotiating the great motifs of his literary oeuvre in a small space. At the same time, he writes about our present and about how two melancholy seekers of good fortune encounter the people who, in this day and age, are setting out in the opposite direction, from South to North. Kirchoff's *Widerfahrnis* is a many-layered text that masterfully interweaves private and political existential questions and releases the reader out into the open.

Press quotes

This book is the essence of the literary work of Bodo Kirchoff. This novella has not crept into the longlist – it comes in a triumphal procession. This autumn, you will not find any other piece of literature with more precise prose. Kirchoff's book will have a validity that goes far beyond current topics like the refugee issue and book prize lists.

Andreas Platthaus, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

One of the best books of the season: Bodo Kirchoff's masterly composed novella *Widerfahrnis*, a poetological masterpiece!

Andreas Platthaus, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

In the heart of presence: A beautiful simple beginning and an end, so complex and sad and dense, as only few are able to in Germany. Bodo Kirchoff is a master storyteller; his *Widerfahrnis* affects us all.

Richard Kämmerlings, Die Literarische Welt

Bodo Kirchoff is an author who succeeds in everything: Writing great dialogues. Creating scenes, developing them and, with a dreamlike sureness, interrupting them at the right time. He also has a language of rare and traditional elegance. (...) Entirely great literature.

Christoph Schröder, ZEIT online

Widerfahrnis is an amazing book!

Anne Haening, Spiegel Online

It's an art to write about love and grief just because there are so many who feel and try it. It's overwhelming how Kirchhoff shows us within a few pages the real life [...].

Judith von Sternburg, Frankfurter Rundschau

Widerfahrnis is a Road Novella which begins almost dreamlike and leads out from the world of banality and threatening to the middle of the present. [...] *Widerfahrnis* is narrower, more concentrated, and perhaps more playful than Kirchhoff's two previous novels but no less solemnly in the evocation of great moments of despair and happiness.

Ulrich Rüdener, Süddeutsche Zeitung

Kirchhoff has written a completely flawless text, in which mythical motifs and contemporaneity are interlinked in a captivating and compelling way. An author at the height of his art!

Markus Schwering, Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Kirchhoff connects current world politics with a deeply personal story. For him it is about the question of responsibility and compassion. But above all, Kirchhoff tells a love story, as detached as tender, in the sunset of life.

Stefan Gohlisch, Neue Presse

overwhelming ... accurately ... respectful ... You have to read on and on – luckily!

Sabine Zaplin, B5 Aktuell BR

Kirchhoff masters his instruments. He is a first-rate storyteller.

Ruth Fühner, hr2 Kultur

A small masterpiece!

Inken Steen, Radio Bremen

Bodo Kirchhoff has once again written a great book. There is so much life in it, even if the two protagonists missed more than they seem to have experienced.

Frank Statzner, hr info

Bodo Kirchhoff is a very prolific author of the peak of his art [...]. In *Widerfahrnis* he creates pictures of stirring beauty.

Philipp Haibach, Rolling Stone

Widerfahrnis is one of the best books Bodo Kirchhoff has ever written.

Martin Lüdke, Faust Kultur