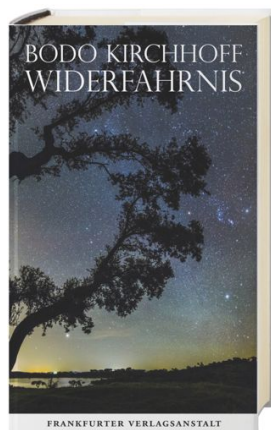


ENCOUNTER

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF

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Widerfahrnis

Novella. German.

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

»In the heart of presence.« Richard Kämmerlings, Die Literarische Welt

»One is swept along by the narrative art of Bodo Kirchoff that is unparalleled in contemporary German literature.« Hajo Steinert, Die Literarische Welt

Until recently, Reither ran a small publishing company in the big city, now he lives a solitary life on the edge of the Alps. In the evening, his pondering over a mysterious book is interrupted by the sound of the doorbell. He opens the door and right there and then, the encounter which will take him to Sicily within three days, begins. The hand that takes him there is Leonie Palm's. Leonie used to own a hat-shop. But now that the world lacks faces that look good with hats on and writers have come to outnumber readers, they both had good reasons to quit. Yet, an even stronger bond between the two is provided by the fact that neither of them is prepared for true love anymore. Upon arrival on the Mediterranean, after three full days in the car, this love does hit them and they are joined by a girl who does not speak a single word. She is just there ...

In his novella *Widerfahrnis*, Bodo Kirchoff presents the parable of a twofold fall: into love, without being able to fully feel it and into humanity, without being good enough.

Bodo Kirchoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His last two novels *Desire and Melancholy* (2014) and *Love in Broad Strokes* (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella *Widerfahrnis* has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016 and the Dutch edition (Lebowski 2017) has been longlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The Chinese translation of *Widerfahrnis* was announced as the 21st Century Best Foreign Novel of the Year 2017

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