



# SPES MEANS HOPE

## BY AMANDA LASKER-BERLIN



### **Spes heißt Hoffnung**

Novel. German.

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»Atmospherically dense like Marguerite Duras.« DIE ZEIT, reviewing *Iva Breathes*

»Her art is political. The fact is: she has something to say, and say it she does it. Amanda Lasker-Berlin is a name to remember.« MDR, reviewing *Elijah's Song*

»The author, only 27-years young, has succeeded in writing a novel of great psychological depth with the power of language. Often, after a highly acclaimed debut, the second novel cannot reach the level of the first. With Amanda Lasker-Berlin this fortunately is not the case.« WDR5, reviewing *Iva Breathes*

The skin of ten-year-old **Spes** is as sensitive as a butterfly's wing. When will she throw off her gauze cocoon and finally be able to fly? **Mirjam** travels to a country in upheaval. How do you tell a story when everything is in ruins? **Paul** is on the run from his photo, plastered on front pages. It's only an accusation, but what is the truth? **Achura** fears a catastrophe, the end of her political career. But would she take back what she said?

Spes, Mirjam, Paul and Achura are each at a turning point. How do you reinvent yourself without losing yourself? Can enough strength be found for a utopia, for a new beginning? Amanda Lasker-Berlin tells the story of four characters, trying to break free from classifications and overcome a crisis. Rapidly intercut perspectives, colliding points of view and voices form together an energy that gathers its power with each page. *Spes Means Hope* is a novel that is bursting with our present moment, and one that widens our view of what is important.

**Amanda Lasker-Berlin**, born in Essen in 1994, studied fine arts at the Bauhaus University in Weimar and studied stage direction at the Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg, where she lead a production of Herta Müller's *Atemschaukel*. Her drama *ICH, WUNDERWERK AND HOW MUCH I LOVE DISTURBING CONTENT* premiered in 2021 as part of the Autor:innentheatertage at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin and was awarded the Hermann Sudermann Prize. Her first novel *Elijahs Lied* (FVA, 2020) was awarded the debut prize at lit.COLOGNE, followed by the novel *Iva Breathes* at FVA in 2021. She lives in Frankfurt am Main.

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