



I AM THE GIRL MY MOTHER WARNED ME ABOUT

BY DEMIAN LIENHARD



**Awarded the
Swiss Literature Prize 2020!**

&

**Nominated for the
Klaus-Michael Kühne Prize
of the Harbour Front Festival**

**Ich bin die, vor der mich meine
Mutter gewarnt hat**
Novel. German.
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» *That's a whole bunch of dead people one might think, but I disagree. In the valley I come from, that's perfectly normal.* «

Except for the high bridge, there is nothing special about the little town Alba lives in. The bridge is 25 meters high, on a windless day the fall lasts 2,08 seconds and statistically the street underneath is the most dangerous in all of Switzerland: The school-year is far from over and her class is already down by three students. Meanwhile in Zurich, students are protesting, they are fighting for cultural freedom, against housing shortage and drugs on the streets. »Deflate the state!«, that's their war-cry. The world seems to be upside down and Alba is caught right in the midst of it all while dealing with her very own problems. One of them: Jack. Shortly after Alba's ›accident‹, the two of them become a couple. For the moment, Alba is happy, but no one knows better than Alba that there must be a snag – especially when it comes to happiness.

Demian Lienhard's story of the highs and lows in his protagonist's life is strikingly original, full of intelligent humor and subtle tragedy. The reader follows his refreshingly rebellious and likeable narrator through the blistering 1980's and 1990's which were informed by growing social problems and an insurgent youth movement. The narrative voice itself is the glowing core of this novel, a sparkling mix of *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, *La Boum* and an irresistible warmth, black humor and wittiness – you'll be ready to follow her wherever she goes, even if it's a trip to hell.

Demian Lienhard was born in 1987 in Baden/Switzerland. He has completed his Ph.D in classical archaeology and works as a research fellow at the Goethe University in Frankfurt on the Main. He has received numerous stipends and has won awards and competitions with his unpublished works. In 2016, he participated in the »24. open mike« in Berlin and in 2018, he ranked second in the »Prenzlauer Berg writing contest«. »I am the girl my mother warned me about« is his debut novel.

» *›Time is a great healer.‹ But I knew: That's a lie. Time doesn't heal anything. Going by. That's all she's capable of. And she's not even very good at that.*

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91
hartmann@fva.de