



WAITING FOR THE SNOW

BY KAROLINE MENGE



**Awarded the
Ulla Hahn Prize for Literary
Debut 2018!**

Warten auf Schnee

Novel. German.

Release: 31 August 2018

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»Karoline Menge tells the story of a broken family from the perspective of the sixteen-year-old girl Pauli. At the same time, it is also the story of the disappearance of a place and its inhabitants. Elements of the horror film move the plot forward. The novel impresses with its fluent metaphors and explores existential themes like the loneliness of the individual and the threat to the civilization and nature, ultimately the entire world.« Jury statement of the Ulla Hahn Prize 2018

Ever since their mother left, one afternoon in January, the sixteen-year-old Pauli and her adopted sister Karine have had to fend for themselves. Being the elder of the two, Pauli has tried to uphold a daily routine. But the supply of preserves their mother made before she disappeared is dwindling and though it's only November, the horizon already appears rather menacing. After the last of their fellow villagers have left and as the landscape glows with sinister pale green moonlight, that Pauli begins to feel irresistibly drawn to the hills on the horizon. It's the unknown behind those hills that seems to swallow everyone, first their father and later even Powel the tall boy with the peculiar face, the only person Pauli has confided in. In search of an explanation, Pauli's thoughts wander back into the past. Dark stories come to light, her fear of loneliness, the life of an outsider, a vague threat that seems to be coming from within as much as from without. Finally, Pauli realizes that she'll have to take action, and quickly, before the snow begins to fall.

»Waiting for the snow« is a straightforward début novel. Karoline Menge's precise language creates a dense atmosphere, calm and captivating, nothing short of hypnotic. Skillfully, she employs archaic fairytale motives and weaves them into a modern story that lures the reader deeper and deeper into its uncanny fictional world. With a courageous heroine at its center who overcomes her darkest fears, »Waiting for the snow« tells the tale of a family whose members bring disaster upon each other.

Karoline Menge was born in 1986 in Berlin, then studied literary writing in Hildesheim. Her short stories have been published in a number of anthologies, she was voted second in the Würth prize for literature and in 2015 she received a grant from the state of Lower Saxony. In addition to her work as a novelist, Karoline Menge also writes screenplays. She currently lives in Berlin. »Waiting For The Snow« was awarded the Ulla Hahn Prize for Literary Debut 2018.

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