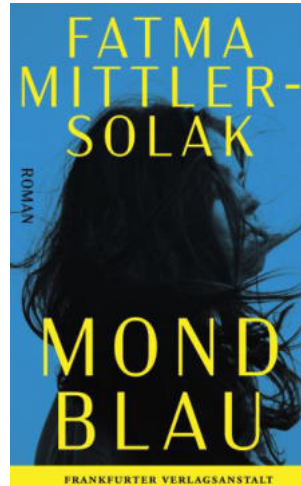




SISTER MOON BY FATMA MITTLER-SOLAK



Mondblau
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Fatma Mittler-Solak tells a story of heritage, motherhood and obsession – gripping, tender and deeply moving

Ayla wanted to prove to everyone that it is possible: children, a career, the perfect life. But what happens when the one friendship that held everything together turns out to be an abyss?

»Ayla could barely bring herself to say it out loud. But, and this was the truth: Victoria had slipped out of her life, silently and cowardly. Silently and viciously. Silently and wrongly. Victoria's absence from Ayla's life now felt hostile.«

As different as the friends are, they are also inseparable: Victoria is the sun for Ayla – blonde, light-hearted, radiant. But Ayla wants to shine too – with top grades in her A-levels and a law degree. Yet at 42, with the birth of her fourth child, Ayla finds herself in not just a career crisis, but an existential one. Her first three children are blonde like her husband, the newborn has dark hair like herself. Ayla does not recognize it as her own, believing there has been a mix-up. Just now, when she needs her best friend more than ever, Victoria slips away from her. The more she looks into the reasons for the growing estrangement between them, the clearer it becomes to her: she is being betrayed. Ayla questions all her certainties – and risks losing everything.

In her debut novel, Fatma Mittler Solak writes with intensity and grip about a woman who wants to prove herself to everyone: her Turkish parents, her colleagues, her husband, her children, her best friend – and who, in the midst of the roles she tries to overfulfil, loses herself. The moment her self-image finally begins to crumble, she is in danger of falling into an abyss. Was Victoria's friendship a deception?

Fatma Mittler-Solak, born in Frankenthal in 1977, studied political science and educational science in Heidelberg. She is a TV presenter and writes the parenting column for the magazine *Der Spiegel*. Fatma Mittler-Solak lives in Heidelberg with her husband and three children.