



TOP TITLE IN AUTUMN 2020:

## THE TIME IN BETWEEN By MINKA PRADELSKI



**Es wird wieder Tag**  
Novel. German.  
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English sample available

**December 1946: Bärel is the first Jewish child born in the Catholic hospital since the end of the war. His parents, Klara and Leon Bromberger, decide not to look back anymore and to only care for the future. But a fateful encounter throws Klara back into the past. She starts to write her memories down ...**

»This one makes the impression he has seen the world before«, comments the doctor on the newborn, the hospital's first Jewish child since the end of the war. The nuns, who were still in need of someone to be the Saviour in the nativity play, sneak him into the crib: »Jesus was also born as a Jew«.

Ice flowers were the only flowers Klara and Leon Bromberger had at their wedding in January 1946. It was a celebration without family since Klara and Leon are the only survivors. A golden watch is the last remaining souvenir. Less than a year later, expecting the birth of their son Bärel, they both want to move on and to look forward. But during a walk in a park, Klara is suddenly struck: The short and obviously pregnant woman is Liliput, her former camp commander! Klara can no longer speak or eat. She even stops looking after Bärel. Her husband is desperate. He sees only one way out for Klara: »Start writing, Klara, get it out there. Avert the evil on paper! Chain it with your words!«

Klara dares to look back into the abyss and writes herself back to life. She describes: Her father's elegant shoe shop, the ghetto Zamość and the hasty farewell, the escape, the strangely flashing eyes of old Piasecki, her work in the casino in Lublin – the cave of the lion. Klara writes about the camp, the hunger, the freezing cold, about Martha's bell-bright, unforgettable *Hail Mary* – and about the delicate, ice-cold commander with the child's voice, they called Liliput.

Minka Pradelski was born in 1947 in the DP camp Zeilsheim (Germany) as a child of Holocaust survivors. After her internationally successful novel »Here Comes Mrs. Kugelman« (FVA 2005) her new book is about a chapter of German history whose contemporary witnesses are dwindling. Pradelski impressively combines the voices of her three protagonists into a moving narrative: Klara's deeply tragic and touching story, Bromberger's rough, loving temperament and baby Bärel's cheeky viewpoint complement each other. Pradelski addresses the in-between her characters find themselves in during the post-war period, as close to death as they are to life. Surrounded by their memories which might light up any second, they struggle for a future.

**Minka Pradelski** is a German sociologist and documentary filmmaker. She worked as an assistant with Clemens de Boor at the Sigmund Freud Institute on the project »The aftermath of massive traumatization among Jewish survivors of the Nazi era« and as an honorary member of the USC Shoah Foundation. Pradelski lives in Frankfurt am Main.

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