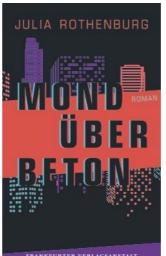# THE MOON OVER CONCRETE
BY JULIA ROTHENBURG

2021 WORTSPIELE Prize, Bavarian Radio 2

Mond über Beton
Novel. German.
Release: 2021
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»A great, magnificent, glorious book with a surprise ending that grips hard.«
Feridun Zaimoglu

»With her third novel Moon over Concrete, Julia Rothenburg, born in 1990, has become an indispensable figure in contemporary German literature.«
Salzburger Nachrichten

Twelve floors of steel wrap their arms around Kottbusser Tor, where the city's heart of concrete has been beating unsteadily since the early seventies. The press regularly writes of ›Kotti‹ as a dangerous urban hotspot, a drug hub. Mutlu, Barış, Aylin, Stanca, Marianne und Günther live here, in the Neues Zentrum Kreuzberg building. Their stories, a chronicle of personal misfortunes, are closely interwoven with the life of the neighborhood. When Stanca makes a terrible discovery one night and Mutlu's sons threaten to slip into the neighborhood's milieu of drugs, an impromptu vigilante group is formed. Meanwhile, what goes unnoticed is a completely different, all-encompassing danger writing its own ending in secret.

Julia Rothenburg offers empathetic portraits of characters struggling for a self-determined existence of their own choosing. A urban polyphony emerges, illustrating the emergence of cracks that can break apart individual lives and an entire community.

Julia Rothenburg was born in 1990 in Berlin and studied sociology and political science in Freiburg and Berlin. Her debut *Koslik is Ill* (FVA, 2017) was awarded the Retzhof Prize for Young Literature and the Scholarship for Literature from the German State of Baden-Württemberg. The accompanying radio play was nominated for the ARD Radio Play Prize 2020. Following *bright/dark* (FVA, 2019), her third novel *The Moon Over Concrete* was published in 2021 and won the the 2021 Wortspiele Prize from Bavarian Radio 2.