



THE LIMITLESS AND

BY SANDRA WEIHS



Das grenzenlose Und

Novel. German.

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Jürgen Ponto Prize for Best Debut 2015

»An astonishing debut (...): a thrilling, nightmarishly realistic, tough story about young people in contemporary society, written in very forthright language – it's a novel about death and, above all, about life.« Jury statement



New Books in German

»An extraordinary debut (and) a truly universal novel: Marie, wrestling with her negative thoughts, could be a teenager anywhere in the world. (...) It is a testament to Weihs's skill as a writer that when the novel reaches its tragic and deeply emotional conclusion, we are left feeling strangely positive and hopeful.«

18-year-old Marie is deeply disappointed by life. She feels not belonging to the world. She loathes the evenings with her housemates, and can't stand the advice that Sarah, the well-meaning medical attendant, tries to offer. Psychiatric hospital was even worse: she never wants to go there again, and this is the only reason she accepts the deal offered to her by her therapist, Willi. He promises to keep her out of medical institutions if she gives her word that she will attend every single one of her therapy sessions with him. Above all, she also has to promise that she won't contemplate suicide for at least one year. On one of her visits to Willi's office Marie meets Emanuel. Despite her conviction that people her own age are idiots, and the concern that Emanuel may be even more damaged than she is, she agrees to go on a date. They become involved and Marie mentions her desire to end her life. They make an outrageous agreement – but the results are quite different from what either of them expect ...

Sandra Weihs, born in Klagenfurt in 1983, lives in Upper Austria and Vienna. She studied social work, and works with deprived children, adolescents and families. Her debut novel, *Das grenzenlose Und* (*The Limitless And*), was awarded the 2015 literary prize of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation.

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