



WALTER NOWAK WON'T GET UP / WALTER NOWAK BLEIBT LIEGEN

JULIA WOLF

Novel, German

March 2017

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Nicolas Born Prize for
best young author 2017



Awarded the Nicolas Born Prize for best young author 2017, statement of the jury:

In her novel *Walter Nowak bleibt liegen*, the second part of her America trilogy, the author Julia Wolf, born in Gross-Gerau in 1980, gives a pensioner from the Hessian province a distinctive voice. Walter Nowak, who lies wounded on the floor of his own bathroom, is presented to the reader by a powerful, tender, funny and unforgiving inner monologue. This story, which begins in the swimming pool, is testimony to Julia Wolf's great linguistic talent. Her novel revolves around the consequences of a life under wrong conditions. The author masterfully succeeded in designing a highly individual, quirky inner perspective on the Federal Republic of Germany.

Awarded the Robert Gernhardt Prize 2018 for her novel project »Old Girls«:

Julia Wolf is a language artist (...). Her protagonists are unreflecting, unregenerate and leading an unspectacular life. Nevertheless, the author succeeds in captivaitng the reader with her linguistically concise ›soul journeys‹. The jury of the Robert Gernhardt Prize praised her latest novel project as a successful mixture of distance and warm-heartedness.

Press quotes

«Walter Nowak Won't Get Up» is the stirring portrait of an aging man. (...) The 37-year-old writer Julia Wolf has written a narrow, sparkling novel. With great sensitivity, Julia Wolf shows us the life of this 68-year-old man, probably a very typical life for the Federal Republic of Germany and the post-war generation. The story of Walter Nowaks it's exciting and psychologically plausible so that the reader is deeply moved by the tragediy of the life of Walter Nowak.

Literatur Spiegel

Julia Wolf develops an incredibly artistic stream of consciousness, a highly musical language (...). Within 150 pages the reader learns about a human destiny, a father-son relationship, marriages, the relationship of Walter and his grandfather, about a childhood in the fifties and about growing up as a illegitimate son of a GI - all this is narrated in a wonderfully musical language and in a very funny way - a very beautiful book.

Ulrich Matthes, German actor, in the TV broadcast »Das Literarische Quartett«, ZDF

It is such an efficient language, and at the same time the author makes it shine. A very great book.

Christine Westermann, in the TV broadcast »Das Literarische Quartett«, ZDF

For a long time I have not read a German book, which succeeds in maintaining such a coherent sound for the whole story. This is incredibly virtuosic.

Thea Dorn, in the TV broadcast »Das Literarische Quartett«, ZDF

We are thrilled by Julia Wolf who has become a shooting star in the literary scene for being extraordinarily talented in playing with the language and who is on top of that a very intelligent and witty narrator. (...) Julia Wolf has a good eye for very special and captivating stories – we will definitely read more from this young woman!

HR »Hauptsache Kultur«, German TV broadcast

A fascinating novel: with great linguistic refinement, Julia Wolf describes the precarious condition of Walter Nowak. A leap from a ten-meter high springboard is nothing compared with the drop height of the life explored by the author.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

An amazing elaborated text with great linguistic finesse.

3Sat Buchzeit (TV broadcast), Sandra Kegel

Arthur Schnitzler blended with »Nouveau roman«.

3Sat Buchzeit (TV broadcast), Barabara Vinken

An intoxicating narrative.

3Sat Buchzeit (TV broadcast), Katrin Schumacher

For an extract from this daring text, the author received the 3sat Prize at the Klagenfurt Literature Competition last year, and the entire work justifies this advance. The stream of consciousness, full of swirls and cascades, allows us to immerse into the life of her protagonist.

Kölnische Rundschau

A grandiose inner monologue – entirely in the wake of Arthur Schnitzler.

Titel Kulturmagazin

In every great novel there is often a small one. With just 159 pages, Julia Wolf resists the trend of creating a thousand-page novel – »Walter Nowak bleibt liegen« already belongs to my personal favorites for this year's German Book Prize.

Blog pinkmitglitzer

Entirely told from Nowak's point of view, Wolf conveys his state of confusion and the haphazard nature of his memories in an inner monologue that makes surprising use of an ongoing stream of consciousness. There are unique glimpses into the life of a man who is not a typical protagonist, and beautiful, well-observed descriptions of physical activities. Wolf displays her stylistic and technical mastery throughout, as half-sentences and word associations effectively reflect Nowak's state of mind. Her excellent control of language and rhythm was on full display – and duly rewarded – at the prestigious Ingeborg Bachmann awards in 2016.

New Books in German

Literary mastery A literary masterpiece!

hr2, radio station

Through her virtuosic handling of language of Julia Wolf has created a fascinating novel that is fun.

hr info

»Walter Nowak bleibt liegen« by Julia Wolf is a panopticon of a male condition, a tour de force through the mind of an aging man (...). The text has got a drive of which it is difficult to escape. Her novel, in its peculiar synthesis of form and content, testifies to great literary mastery.

Stuttgarter Zeitung

The way Julia Wolf sketches with a few sentences oppressed pain and missed chances is simply magnificent. She plays on the complete claviature of emotions – unsentimental and exciting. Chapeau!

Groß-Gerauer Echo

And why does it work? Why is this great fun to read? Because Julia Wolf is such a great, exact and daring author.

MännerWege

Quotes of the jury at the 2016 Ingeborg-Bachmann Competition

Julia Wolf manages to turn water and the impending loss of consciousness into an expression of an entire life and a great hope. This piece continues to grow deeper, more complex and more differentiated as it unfolds – magnificent.“

Hubert Winkels, Jury member Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis

A stupendous study of manhood!

Sandra Kegel, Jury member Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis

A text about the passing of time, taking us into the inner world of an aging man by means of a monologue. I was very impressed by this carefully crafted piece.

Stefan Gmünder, Jury member Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis

This text could have been read at the Bachmann Preis 25 years ago and would have deserved a prize at the time. The good thing: It will still be worth reading 25 years from now. Great literature!

Klaus Kastberger, Jury member Ingeborg-Bachmann-Preis

Press commentary on the 2016 Ingeborg-Bachmann Competition

Julia Wolfs contribution to the Bachmann prize readings which received the 3sat prize, tells the story of an old man who recalls his life while lying on the ground after a potentially fatal swimming accident. Age, decline, and the desire to take stock of one's life when faced with these mounting challenges- all topics which have been tackled by many authors before Julia Wolf, yet she does it so very expertly.

Die Welt

Sad, but devised in such an expertly manner. The author shines a sympathetic, yet cool light on the death of an alpha leader, a man who kept the world at a distance and seems incredulous when faced with his own extinguishment. Impressive.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

An exquisitely crafted excerpt of a literary novel. “Falling Down” is an intense, finely chiseled, deliciously mean approach to the inner world of a man who, in his seventies, experiences a midlife-crisis (...) That coming from an author who was born in 1980 is an accomplishment in itself.

Frankfurter Rundschau

A stream of consciousness with a strong undertow.
Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung