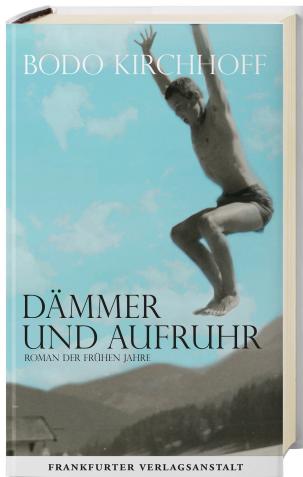


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DUSK AND TURMOIL
A NOVEL OF THE EARLY YEARS
BY BODO KIRCHHOFF



Dämmer und Aufruhr
Roman der frühen Jahre
Novel. German.
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As he sets out to bring to life the eros of childhood and youth within an autobiographical novel, Bodo Kirchhoff takes us into narrow-minded, penny-pinching post-war Germany. It is these decades of dusk, these decades of turmoil, that will ultimately turn the boy into a writer.

Whose voice is it we hear when someone tells a tale from way back when? From the very same room in a small hotel by the sea, his parents had occupied decades earlier, when they'd still helped themselves to large servings of bliss, the last few of those, in fact, before they'd separated, the writer seeks to explore the emergence of his sexuality. And while he does employ professional distance in the telling of the story of his youth, putting it out there for anyone to claim, this story also remains the very path that took him into writing in the first place.

In »Dusk and Turmoil«, Bodo Kirchhoff, approaches early biographical themes within the framework of a novel, telling his own but also his parent's stories. The beautiful young actress from Vienna and the dashing one-legged young man from Hannover who is talented but penniless – a match made by the war. Both are determined to escape the plight of these times, each in their own way. The marriage is doomed and the narrator sent off to boarding school at eleven, a dramatic escalation of small events, once again beyond all that is conceivable through language, a dance on an alluring blade of violence. With this most recent work, Bodo Kirchhoff – who will be seventy on the 6th of July 2018 – continues his grand literary project to consolidate language and sexuality to a point where neither will expose the other as he tells a story of eros throughout childhood and adolescence, a story of what was and what it inspired.

Bodo Kirchhoff, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His novels *Desire and Melancholy* (2014) and *Love in Broad Strokes* (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella *Widerfahrnis* has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016 and the Dutch edition (Lebowski 2017) has been longlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The Chinese translation of *Widerfahrnis* was announced as the 21st Century Best Foreign Novel of the Year 2017.

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