

## "A powerful story." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*



**Rights sold to:**

Lithuania\*, Slovenia (Litera)

**Jens Petersen**, born in 1976, studied medicine in Munich, Lima, New York, and Buenos Aires. He works as a neurologist at the University Hospital Zurich. He was awarded several prizes, among them the Aspekte Literaturpreis and, for an excerpt from the novel he is currently working on, the prestigious Ingeborg Bachmann Preis in 2009.

Dr. Jens Petersen  
**The Housekeeper**  
[Die Haushälterin]  
Novel

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt  
176 pages  
Format 12,5 x 20,0 cm  
February 2005

Sixteen-year-old Philip Merz is just beginning to come to terms with the death of his mother when his father is made redundant, starts drinking heavily, reviving old love-affairs and finally falls down the stairs to the cellar. In desperation, Philip decides to advertise for a housekeeper. Things change dramatically after he offers the job to Ada, a Polish student...

The Housekeeper is a novel that works on many levels: depicting the various generations within a family, it is also a searching exploration of a father-son relationship, and has a new take on the perennial subject of first love. Jens Petersen's portrait of a young adult is both laconic and witty.

**Press**

He gets his novel humming right from the very first page and, with the help of a load of ludicrous, sometimes even slightly tasteless details and ideas, keeps the momentum up." *Der Spiegel*

"[...] even after only a few pages of this artlessly artful prose it becomes apparent that the novelist writing here is able to combine his feeling for language and his talent for observation." *NZZ*

"For me, Ada was a gift of the sort that makes you wonder why you hadn't been wanting to have it for ages.' This is a little like the way it is with Jens Petersen's wonderful debut novel

The Housekeeper." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*