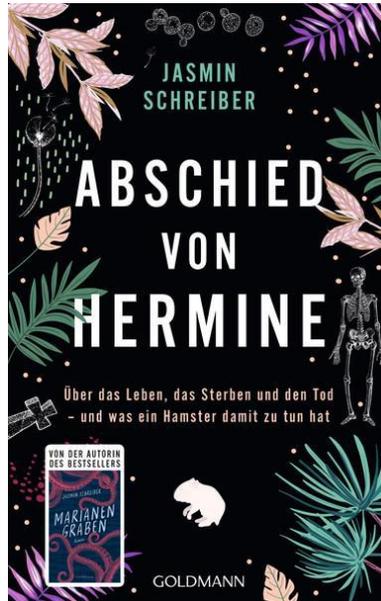


What is life, and why is death inevitable? What happens when a body decomposes? Do animals and plants experience grief?



Jasmin Schreiber
Goodbye to Hermine
[Abschied von Hermine]
On life, dying and death – and what a hamster has to do with it all

Goldmann
288 pages
52 b/w illustrations
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm
March 2021
With 30 b/w illustrations

Jasmin Schreiber (b. 1988) studied biology and is now an author. In 2018, she won the Digital Female Leader Award and was named blogger of the year. Death and dying are the subject of her writing, while science is the focus of her biology podcast Bugtales.fm. She faces her internet insecurities via the handle @LaVieVagabonde. Her first novel, *Marianengraben*, was published by Eichborn in Spring 2020.

Everyone has to die. You, me, the animals in the wood, that plant on the office windowsill: sooner or later, it'll take all of us. When death enters our lives, it brings with it pain and leaves behind gaps in our ranks and hearts. It conjures up emotions such as anger and helplessness, we feel unfairly treated and are in shock – and it just hurts so much.

In this book, we'll take the edge off this big and serious subject, and find out what life is and why death exists (and has to exist) at all. We observe the small-scale dying that happens in our bodies every day, and then look outwards: we meet an immortal jellyfish deep underwater, and collect pine cones from ancient mountain trees. What does growing old actually mean? What really happens when we die? Using the example of my late hamster Hermine, we also learn what happens when a body decomposes. And why this process brings with it opportunities, too – for others. We also investigate the emotional world of death: do animals grieve? How do trees react when one of them is felled? And what does any of it have to do with us?

Precise, entertaining, and told with charming ease, Jasmin Schreiber's book is dedicated to all things death, from the tiniest cell to the big, existential 'Why?'

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de