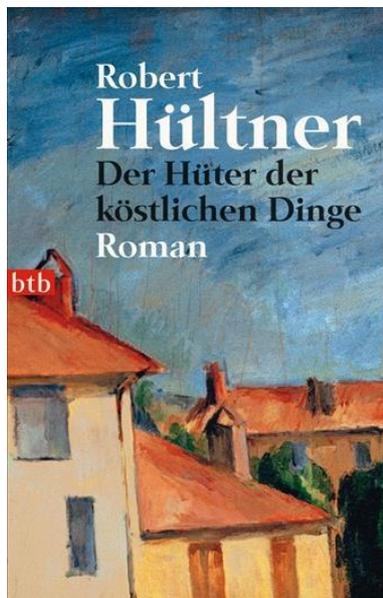


When enemies become friends – a German soldier fights for the Resistance and is protected by French villagers



Robert Hültner
The Guardian of the Precious Things
[Der Hüter der köstlichen Dinge]
Novel

btb Taschenbuch
416 pages
Format 11,8 x 18,7 cm
May 2008

Robert Hültner was born in 1950. He has worked, among other things, as an assistant stage director, drama adviser and director of short films and documentaries, has travelled with a movie company bringing films to villages with no cinema of their own, and has restored historic films for the Museum of Film. He has won many awards for his Inspector Kajetan novels, including the German Prize for Crime Fiction (twice), the prestigious Glauser Prize and the Tukan Prize.

www.robert-hueltnr.de

When Johannes Huck leaves his home village at the end of the 1930s to go to war, he has a feeling of liberation. He hurls himself into the riskiest of operations with wild determination. Disguised as a deserter, he is to join the partisans and spy out their tactics. The plan is a success, and Jean Huc, as he is now called, finds shelter on a remote farmstead known as La Granne. Through his protectors, he indirectly makes the acquaintanceship of the other villagers – sympathizers; traitors; the desperate; the undecided; and last but not least the oddball Numa, who, with his archaic and anarchistic love of life and almost Schvejk-like naivety, will be the only one to survive the turmoil of the war unharmed. Huck shares their work and worries, and there comes the time when he has become so fond of the people and their countryside that he is no longer able to carry out his orders. But then he is exposed as a traitor. Against the background of true events, Robert Hültner writes of wishes and desires that don't follow the laws of war and peace; he writes of the gentle caress of the wind; of a quiet glass of wine. And he writes of the guardians of these precious things, those people who only follow their own rules.

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de