



Angelika Overath
Airport Fish
[Flughafenfische]
Novel

btb Taschenbuch
176 pages
Format 11,8 x 18,7 cm
September 2011

Angelika Overath, born in 1957, is a reporter, literary critic and lecturer. She has published two novels and received several awards, including the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize for her journalistic work and the Ernst Willner Prize in the Ingeborg Bachmann Competition.

Against the background of the transit lounge of a futuristic airport, "Airport Fish" expands and varies the ancient themes of love and death.

There wasn't a connecting flight. Elis is wandering round the transit lounge, filled with doubts about her life as a magazine photographer. Suddenly she stands still in front of a huge aquarium. There are fish from all the tropical seas swimming over the coral banks and anemone fields, while a stream of passengers flows past the glass case. When she discovers Tobias cleaning the glass panes, she begins to get interested in this man. He, too, has been watching her, but for a reason she doesn't suspect. She speaks to him. He gives her some information about the fish symbioses, seahorse fathers, the reproduction of coral; she tells him about her travels, an unhappy love affair. They are talking at cross purposes, and yet they feel a cautious intimacy which can change everything. In the meantime, an aging biochemist in the smoking area is drinking his way into a final marriage monologue.

Angelika Overath writes novels as "reports out of intimacy". She opens confusing and touching interiors where it seems there is nothing happening.