

A biographical novel on Heinrich Heine's later years and his last great love



Henning Boëtius
The White Abyss
[Der weiße Abgrund]
A Heinrich Heine novel

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Henning Boëtius was born in 1939, studied German and philosophy and gained his PhD in 1967. Boëtius has authored a wide range of publications that include novels, essays, poems and non-fiction. His novel *Phoenix from Ash* has been translated into many languages. He is also well known for his crime novels.

Paris, ca. 1850. Bed-ridden and terminally ill, Heinrich Heine wants to prise one final work from the jaws of death: His memoirs are to be his magnum opus. It's been a long time since he last attended an illustrious bohemian dinner – instead, he receives occasional visits from German exiles and French artist friends.

One day, Elise Krinitz seeks him out. The young woman admires Heine, and hopes to find in him a mentor for her own literary ambitions. He tenderly and ironically calls her 'Mouche', and they soon embark on a platonic, but nonetheless passionate affair. Yet when Heine dies on the 17th February 1856, his memoirs are lost forever.

Steeped in the fascinating panorama of 1850s Paris, Boëtius's novel is a unique portrait of the final years of the great German poet Heinrich Heine.