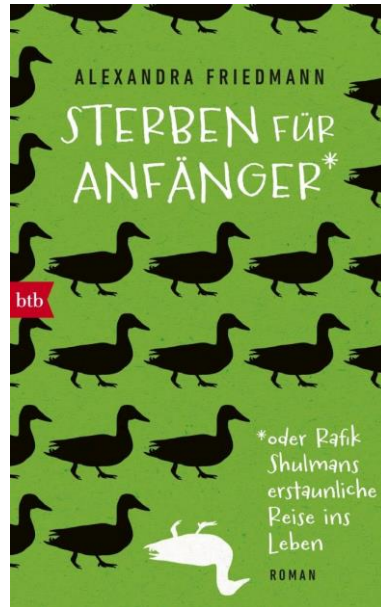


A novel packed with wit, wisdom and charm



Alexandra Friedmann **Dying for Beginners or Rafik Shulman's Astonishing Journey to Life**

[Sterben für Anfänger oder
Rafik Shulmans erstaunliche
Reise ins Leben]
Novel

btb
320 pages
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Alexandra Friedmann, born in Belarus in 1984, came to Germany with her family in the late 1980s. After taking her Abitur she went to Paris, where she studied literature and journalism at the Sorbonne. She now lives in Berlin with her husband and their two daughters.

Rafik Shulman, the son of Jewish immigrants from what used to be the Soviet Union, has put it into his head to work in a hospice after finishing university. At the hospice he gets to know not only terminally ill patients but also the immensely fun-loving Charlotte.

The combination confuses him – since his father lost his life in Chernobyl death has always been something that was not spoken about. His permanently offended mother and his querulous grandmother are sure he has gone round the bend. Why does he have to go and work in a hospice of all places? With all those "lazy vegetables"?

While the two women are driving him crazy at home with their exaggerated care and attention, the encounter with Charlotte brings about a far-reaching change in the shy young man. He starts looking for a meaning in life – a search which is as funny as it is profound and which takes him to the wise cantor Golan, to a terrifying Jesus on the cross and finally to himself.

Press

"As funny as profound, and read through in one sitting."
GUIDO

"Wit, wisdom and melancholy, a novel full of emotion." *Elbe
Weser Aktuell*

"A funny, sad novel, at times quite close to cliché, but

absolutely worth reading." *WDR5 Scala*