

Stories about death – pulsating with life



Heike Fink
My Year With Death
[Mein Jahr mit dem Tod]
How I got to know the great unknown better

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Heike Fink was born in 1968 and grew up between vineyards and cooking pots in Swabia. She studied literature and sociology and has worked as a journalist and food critic. Since 2000 she has been writing screenplays and making documentary films.

It is there at a friend's grave: the dismay at the realisation that one's own life is finite! What is Death, that state no one can evade? Does the unavoidable become more bearable by looking at it straight in the eye?

Heike Fink tries to find out. For a whole year she sought the company of people who fostered a special relationship with death. She spoke to undertakers, a cemetery gardener, the director of a hospice and a physicist who had had a near death experience. A crime scene cleaner tells her of his experiences and she speaks to a terminally ill singer whose voice only wants to sing Yiddish songs. These are stories full of wit and poetry, some of them are sad, others sentimental, but they are always candid and very poignant.