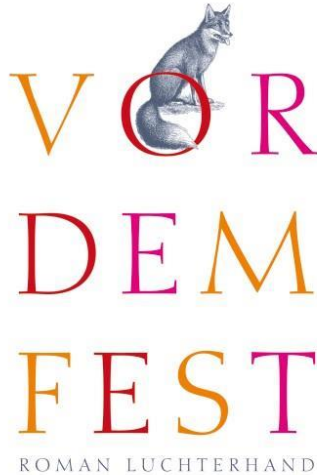


"A book like few others. Politically well-versed and stylistically a work of art." *Die Zeit*

SAŠA STANIŠIĆ



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Saša Stanišić
Before the Feast
[Vor dem Fest]
Novel

Luchterhand HC
320 pages
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm
March 2014

English sample translation available

Saša Stanišić, born in Višegrad in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1978, came to Germany when he was fourteen. He studied at the Deutsches Literaturinstitut in Leipzig. Stanišić has received numerous stipends and prizes, including the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize and the Leipzig Book Fair Prize. His books *Before the Feast* and *How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone* have been translated into numerous languages. For the short stories in *Trappers* he was awarded the Rheingau Literature Prize and the Schubart Literature Prize. Saša Stanišić lives and works in Hamburg.

It is the night before the village festival in Fürstenfelde. The village is still asleep. Except for the ferryman – he is dead. And Mrs. Kranz, the night-blind painter who wants to capture her village by night for the first time. A bell ringer and his apprentice want to ring the bells. The only problem is, the bells have disappeared. A vixen is looking for eggs for her young, and Mr. Schramm, who used to be a colonel, cannot decide whether to go and get some cigarettes or shoot himself in the head. They all have a mission. They all want to complete a task before the night is over.

None of them will admit to having observed the break-in in the village archive. The door of the building is still open. But it is not what has been stolen that is distressing those awake but what has escaped: old stories and memories, myths and fairy tales have broken out and are creeping with the people round the houses.

They all add up to make a novel about a long night, a mosaic of village life in which long-time residents and newcomers, the dead and the living, artisans, pensioners and unemployed demigods in soccer shirts all meet up.

- Prize-winner even before publication: First chapter awarded

the Alfred Döblin Prize and the Hohenems Literature Prize

- Awarded the Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse 2014
- Longlisted for the Deutsche Buchpreis 2014
- *How the Soldier Repaired the Gramophone* translated into 32 languages

Press

"A village in the Uckermark, fully in the present, yet rife with legends. In *Before the Festival*, this village tells its own story – a novel as a compelling multi-voiced chorale put in prose."

Leipzig Book Fair Prize Jury

"This novel should be read much like chocolate should be eaten: not too quickly and not all at one time." *WDR-Hörfunk*

"Stanišić writes so directly and poignantly about his homeland, foreignness, and the longing for peace, a humorous yet just as poetic book exuberantly filled with burlesque incidences and tragic-comical stories." *Focus*