

The story of a mute child that must invent his life in order to find happiness



Hanns-Josef Ortheil
The Invention of Life
[Die Erfindung des Lebens]
Novel

Luchterhand HC
592 pages
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm
September 2009

- Selected by new books in german
- Sample translation available

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Italy (Keller Editore)

Hanns-Josef Ortheil, born in 1951, is one of the most important contemporary German authors and has received many awards for his work, among them the Brandenburg Literature Prize, the Thomas Mann Prize, the Nicolas Born Prize and the Hannelore Greve Literature Prize. In 2009 he became the first director of the newly founded "Institute for Literary Writing and Literary Studies" at the University of Hildesheim. His novels have been translated into more than 20 languages.

This story follows the life of a young man from childhood days to his first success as a writer.

He grows up as the only surviving child of his parents, who lost four sons during and after the Second World War. His mother loses her speech, and to begin with her last son lives by her side without ever saying a word. It is not for many years that he is able to release himself from the clutch of his family and embark on a career in Rome as a pianist, which, however, is a failure. After returning to Germany, one of his old teachers makes the fascinating suggestion that he try his hand at writing.

He must invent life over and over again, and the fact that after unbelievable highs and their ensuing crashes it all turns out well in the end is only just short of a miracle.

Press

"Hanns-Josef Ortheil is one of the most productive and reflective authors that contemporary German literature has to offer." *Stuttgarter Zeitung*

Also available:

Das Verlangen nach Liebe [The Longing for Love], 2007

Sold to: Lithuania (Gimtasis Zodis), Romania (Rao)

Fermer [Fermer], 2007/1979

Die geheimen Stunden der Nacht [The Secret Hours of The Night], 2005

Sold to: Russia (Family Leisure Club)

Die weißen Inseln der Zeit [The White Islands of Time], 2004

Die große Liebe [The Great Love], 2003

Sold to: Poland (Vizja), Russia (Family Leisure Club)

Lo und Lu [Lo and Lu], 2001

Sold to: France (Editions Jacqueline Chambon), Poland (Spoleczny Instytut Wydawniczy)