

Hemingway in Venice: the story of an old man and his love of the sea



Hanns-Josef Ortheil
He Dreamed of Lions
[Der von den Löwen träumte]
Novel

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English sample translation available

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.

When Ernest Hemingway travels to Venice in 1948 he is in a severe crisis. Deep depressions have meant that he has not published any novels for a long time.

In the solitude of a country house on the lagoon he tries to get back to writing. He finds a hold in the friendship with a young fisherman who goes duck hunting with him. His love of an eighteen-year-old Venetian woman also shows him the way back to life.

Gradually a novel set in Venice comes into being, while the young fisherman senses the atmosphere of a very different story: that of an old man and the sea ...

Press

"Hanns-Josef Ortheil is a novelist experienced in dealing with a plot and skilful in creating suspense: an epic poet." *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

"You cannot really expect much more in the way of inner movement in a piece of literature." *Deutschlandfunk Kultur on The Mediterranean Journey*

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