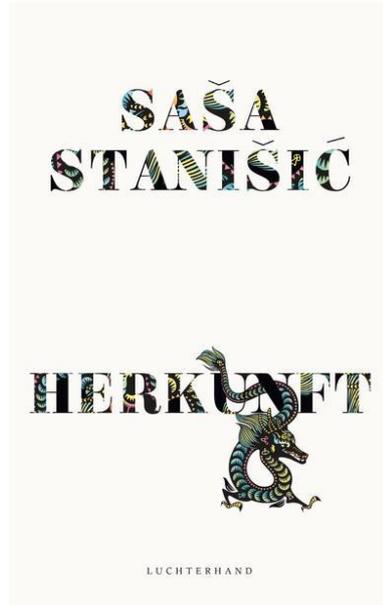


"Saša Stanišić is a poet and revolutionary who has found his true home in language." *Rolling Stone*

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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.



Saša Stanišić
Origins
[HERKUNFT]
Novel

Luchterhand HC
368 pages
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm
March 2019
Winner of the German Book Prize 2019
English sample translation available

"Origins is a book about the first coincidence in our biography: being born somewhere. And about what happens afterwards.

Origins is a book about the places that are my home, the ones in my memory and the ones I have invented. It is a book about language, moonlighting, youth and many summers. The summer when my grandfather trod on my grandmother's foot while dancing in such a way that I was almost never born. The summer when I nearly drowned. The summer when Angela Merkel opened the borders and which was very like the summer when I fled across many borders to Germany.

Origins is a farewell to my grandmother with her dementia. While I am collecting my memories she is losing hers.

Origins is sad because for me origin has got something to do with what I can no longer have.

My biographic writings, also this text, are like the name on the doorbell of a man long since dead that I can no longer remember – an attempt to preserve something that used to be important. To preserve it, but also to develop it further in one's mind, to get to the bottom of it."

"Saša Stanišić possesses a rare linguistic virtuosity and impressive wealth of poetic variations. His novel *Origins* focuses on recollection and the significance of one's roots and

one's identity. He strings together short stories, fragments, anecdotes of various places and times as one association leads to the next and passionately spins them into yarns.

Saša Stanišić plays a game with the reader: one surprising, often amusing or perhaps melancholy turn follows the previous one. The reader sympathises, joins in the fantasising, gets lost and yet is never without orientation. And yet the apparently easy reading flow does not shroud the view of the sometimes tragic and humiliating way characters are shoved aside. It is a narrative that should never really come to an end; that aims to store things past and enrich them with new ideas in order that in the final analysis life can carry on." *Statement of the Jury of the Eichendorff Prize*

Press

"Saša Stanišić is a poet and revolutionary who has found his true home in language." *Rolling Stone*

"One of the most intelligent, spirited and – last but not least – formally innovative books of this spring. A true pleasure to read." *Das Erste, druckfrisch*

"*Origins* is a narrative shape-shifter. And that is what is moving, wonderful, and amazing about this book." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*