

## A beautiful novel about the passion for writing

HANNS-JOSEF  
ORTHEIL



Hanns-Josef Ortheil  
**The Pencil and the Paper**  
[Der Stift und das Papier]  
Novel

Luchterhand HC  
384 pages  
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**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.

After the publication of *The Berlin Trip*, his second children's diary from when he was a child, Hanns-Josef Ortheil was often asked how he was able to write such an impressive book as a twelve-year-old. He has taken a closer look at this question in *The Pencil and the Paper*. Step by step he tells us how, with the help and instruction of his father and mother, he taught himself to write. He describes how he practiced and how these practice pieces gradually turned into small writing projects he thought up himself and worked hard at.

This book is the poignant story of a boy who did not talk for a long time and who had to search for his own path to speaking and writing. And in spite of all the adversities appearing on the wayside, it is the story of a child prodigy that from an early age possessed a feeling for writing and had a gift that outdazzled all others: the ability of observation and with unerring confidence putting what he had seen into the right words.

### Press

"This novel is indispensable for anyone interested in the art of writing." *Osnabrücker Zeitung*

"A book filled with fantasy, with a very picturesque language."  
*People*

"A moving book filled with veracity." *Bremer Weser-Kurier*