

"Stavarič (...) is a language worker who takes us on a journey into an enchanted and magical world." *Die Zeit*



Michael Stavarič
Gotland
[Gotland]
Novel

Luchterhand HC
352 pages
21 b/w illustrations
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Michael Stavarič was born in Brno (former Czechoslovakia) in 1972 and read Bohemian studies and journalism/communication sciences at the University of Vienna, where he now freelances as a writer, translator and lecturer. He has received numerous scholarships and awards, among them the Adelbert-von-Chamisso-Prize. His latest teaching commitments include the Stefan Zweig lectureship at Salzburg University and a literature seminar at Bamberg University.

A fanatic Catholic mother, a dentist with her own practice next to an abbey church in Vienna, interprets the Bible literally – and dangerously so. What does this do to the son? To a young man who longs to have a father and develops all manner of lusts the older he gets? He becomes a seeker, especially after his mother's death. He turns into a journeyman in the name of God, whom he hopes to find on Gotland, that distant place of his mother's yearnings, the place she said was where she had met his father. An uncanny, holy and also insane place ...

"He does exist, that God who swims on the water, who floats on the water and never sinks; who looks at all the people waiting on the shore and waves to them. He simply has to exist. He seems close and at the same time distant, a shadow on the ceiling, how dark the sky is today, much darker than the stormy sea, silent the fish within it and heavy their bellies."

Press

"An exploratory intoxication that stimulates one's own mental cinema with crazed images of Gotland as a mysterious place, somewhere between paradise and

zombieland." *FAZ*

"The interplay between deceptive harmonious realism and unchained fantasy is what distinguishes this novel of immense compositional energy and passion for storytelling."
NZZ

"This is a remarkable story told in a digressive and experimental manner. The playful, intertextual narrative conceals a pleasingly unpredictable twist that keeps its readers guessing." *New Books in German*