

A shepherdess, a petulant teenager, a smart sheepdog and 616 sheep



Beate Rygiert
Sheep Summer
[Schäpfchensommer]
Novel

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Beate Rygiert studied theatre, music and Italian literature, after which she worked as a theatre dramaturg before venturing into the world of freelancing as an artist. After studying at the art academy in Stuttgart, the film academy in Ludwigsburg and at the New York Film Academy she started writing books and screenplays, for which she has been awarded prestigious prizes such as the Würth Literature Prize and the Thomas Strittmatter Screenplay Prize.

Elke is never as happy as in spring, at the beginning of the grazing season, when in the morning she is standing on a hill high in the Black Forest looking down at the lights of the distant villages in the Rhine valley. Elke is a shepherdess and, like her mother and grandmother before her, runs "Lamb Farm". The only fly in the ointment is to be found in the growing financial problems facing the family business.

But then not only does Elke's big love – Chris, who many years previously broke her heart – unexpectedly return to the place of his birth and childhood, but her sister Julia is also suddenly standing at her front door with an unwilling Zoe in tow. The girl has got into bad company and social worker Julia wants Elke, living as she does on a remote farm, to take Zoe in – she'll pay, of course. No thank you is the one thought both Elke and Zoe have. But it's not long before it is clear that the two mismatched women are not as different as they think ...