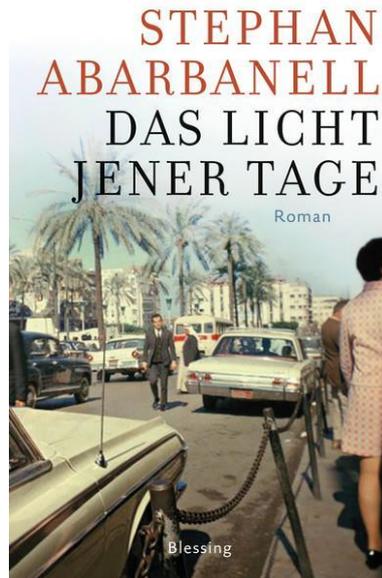


A trip to the Middle East becomes a journey into the past



Stephan Abarbanell
The Light of Distant Days
[Das Licht jener Tage]
Novel

Blessing
352 pages
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm
September 2019

Rights sold to:
The Netherlands (Signatuur)

Stephan Abarbanell, born in Brunswick in 1957, grew up in Hamburg. He studied theology and general rhetoric in Hamburg, Tübingen and Berkeley. He is now in charge of cultural affairs at *rbb Broadcasting*. His first novel, *Orient*, was translated into several languages.

After a pharma scandal, Robert Landauer, once an internationally respected doctor, risks a new beginning in Berlin. When he helps an unconscious young woman and drives her home, he meets her father, Fouad Tamimi. This is not the first encounter between the two men: their mutual history goes back to 1982 and war-torn Lebanon, when Tamimi saved Landauer's life but lost his big love, Sahira. All trace of her disappeared after the massacre in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Landauer agrees to help Tamimi look for Sahira. He sets off to the Middle East and not only finds himself confronting his own past but also stumbles across a story of unsuspected magnitude.

A gripping search for clues in the shadow of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Praise

"Stephan Abarbanell is a real gain for Signatuur: I know only a few authors who can cast complex political and cultural situations into such an accessible and compelling story with captivating characters and narrative threads about loss, guilt, betrayal, intrigue and love. What more does a reader want? The title of the book captures the atmosphere wonderfully, a little wistful and yet hopeful." *Juliette van Wersch, Publisher*

Signatur

"A literary page turner in the best sense: well researched, highly suspenseful, every page shimmering with poetic descriptions. Stephan Abarbanell has succeeded in writing a great novel, full of narrative twists, that brings you closer to the Middle East and its people with all their complexities and turmoil." *Pierre Jarawan, author of The Storyteller*

Press

"a suspenseful story about politics, friendship and love"
Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten