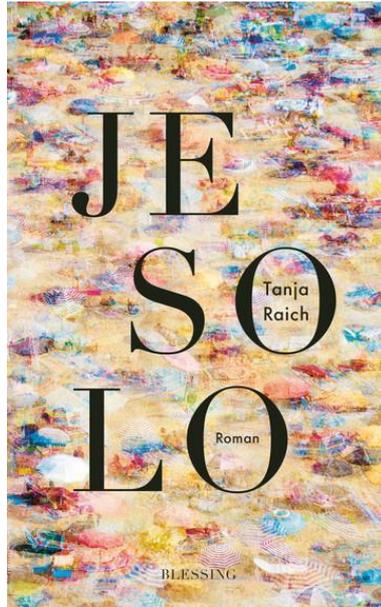


A dissection of family and motherhood – biting and with piercing wit



Tanja Raich

Jesolo

[Jesolo]

Novel

Blessing

224 pages

Format 12,5 x 20,0 cm

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English sample translation available

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Tanja Raich, born in 1986, studied German and history. She has published in various literature magazines and anthologies and has been awarded a number of prizes and scholarships, including the Start-Stipendium of the Austrian Federal Chancellery for her "Jesolo" project, the Frontiere - Grenzen literature prize, the Rom-Stipendium of the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the Exil-Literaturpreis. Tanja Raich lives in Vienna.

Children are not an issue for Andrea. She has a job that is OK. For many years she has been in a relationship with Georg which is OK. And every year they have a nice holiday in Jesolo. As far as the future is concerned, Andrea doesn't want to commit herself, but Georg would like a foundation for a life together. There seems to be no way out of this dilemma.

Upon returning from a holiday together everything changes – Andrea is pregnant. Torn either way, Andrea decides to keep the child – and in doing so makes one compromise after the other: she takes out a loan although she never wanted to borrow money from the bank; she moves into the house of her parents-in-law although she never wanted to live under one roof with them. Andrea is showered with advice and forced into a maternal role she never saw as hers and cannot identify with.

This is a haunting novel in the tradition of Elfriede Jelinek and Marlene Streeruwitz about ten months in the life of a young woman that not only reveals the entire ambivalence of partnership, pregnancy and family but also shows how difficult, if not to say impossible it is in view of role expectations in our society, to assert oneself.

Press

"an honest, emancipated book" *EMOTION*

"With a lot of understanding for all her characters, Tanja Raich

writes in concise sentences of the dissension that spreads in the course of adulthood." *Spiegel Online*

"Very clearly and with a bitterly angry look at this conformist society, Raich guides us through the weeks of pregnancy" *Der Standard*