THE LADY WITH THE LITTLE MAGHREBIAN DOG

2018, fiction, literary
128 pages (16960 words)
Dana Grigorcea

A feather-light dance around the desire for affection, love and art.

Anna is a dancer. Well-married, she leads a fine life. Then she encounters Gürkan. He approaches her on the lakeside promenade, and nothing is ever the same again.

The Lady with the Little Maghrebian Dog tells of an extraordinary love affair in Zurich, from the heart of a society that only wants to indulge in the good life. In a bright, shimmering setting, an image emerges of a heterogeneous society in which exoticism and belonging, as well as the role of art are to be renegotiated.

A ravishing tale of the desire for sense and sensuality, and across time, an homage to Anton Chekhov.

REVIEWS

»Dana Grigorcea conjures up a world of flowers and sunlight, of music and dance and theatrics with relish. She allows her Anna to spin the silk in this web just as an elegant spider. We understand from the dance of the words alone, that Anna is so much a part of this world that she wouldn't exist without it. Despite this, Anna still craves more than anything to be in Gürkan's arms. And so this pirouetting novella elegantly enchants and entraps us without our noticing - just as the bee Anna tries one day in vain to rescue from the cocoon of a spider.«
   Der Bund

»Stylish and narrative beauty as in this novella is rare in todays literature. Mastering such, not needing to hide away in the comparison to Chekhov and having so much to say as Dana Grigorcea has is an achievement in itself.«
   Luzerner Zeitung

»A virtuosic literary piece.«
   Frankfurter Rundschau

»Required reading with a healing effect for when you think you've again found the man or woman of your dreams.«
   Die ZEIT - Buchtipps

»A ravishing novella about the desire for passion and an artful homage to Chekhov.«
   SWR 2 - Book of the Week

»An homage to the arts, literature, bodies ... Dana Grigorcea's clear and graceful style is a delight. A plea for the ephemeral nature of happiness.«
   Deutschlandfunk

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
German, Doerlemann

AVAILABLE MATERIAL
German pdf
English sample

RIGHTS SOLD
Albania Botimet Menschen
France Éditions Albin Michel
Slovakia Inaque
»Dana Grigorcea is proving again that she can write wonderfully.«
Nicola Steiner, Literaturclub SRF

»A tender universal novella with intrinsic value.«
rbb

»A pas de deux of poetics and poetry, full of grace.«
Süddeutsche Zeitung

»Dana Grigorcea has come a long way from the Danube Island to the Limmat. They are worlds apart, geographically and in also almost every other regard. With her novella, this master stroke of serenely melancholy prose, she has transformed every earthly heaviness into feather-light effortlessness and elegance. «
Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Dana Grigorcea succeeded in writing a beautiful and tender novella.«
Neues Deutschland

»Romantic love, based loosely on Chekhov. ... More cheerful, hopeful, dancing than his. A charming little book.«
Tagesanzeiger / Berner Zeitung

»An enjoyable novella about love. And much more than that.«
MDR Kultur

»A tribute to Zurich ... A bittersweet tale ... Dana Grigorcea conjures up a world of flowers and sunlight, of music and dance and theatrics with relish. «
Tagesanzeiger

»Grigorcea's writing is both concise and atmospheric. She is able to capture the emotional lives of her main characters as well as the essence of Zurich, giving a sense of what it is like to live and love in the city. The novella reads as a wake-up call, encouraging readers to follow their hearts and engage fully with life.«
New Books in German

»A fascinating contrast of the light and floating and the feelings that develop between the two of them. I admired that a lot.«
Dorothea Westphal, ZDF Blaues Sofa

»This novella is a dance around the desire for affection, love and art. ... A little book full of longing for sense and sensuality. A declaration of love to art, and especially the performing arts. However, testingly other themes appear. The question of integration, society and how it deals with foreigners.«
Leseschatz

»A modern, globalized version of Chekhov's novella, a love across all class and cultural differences, no trivial feat even today.«
MDR

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DANA GRIGORCEA
was born in 1979 in Bucharest. She studied German and Dutch philology in Bucharest and Brussels, Film and Theatre Direction in Brussels and Journalism in Krems. Grigorcea was awarded the 3sat Prize in Klagenfurt at the Ingeborg Bachmann competition 2015
for 'An Instinctive Feeling of Innocence'. Her debut novel, 'Baba Rada. Life is Temporary and So is The Hair on Your Head' has been awarded with the Swiss Literary Pearl 2011. After living in Germany and Austria for many years, Dana Grigorcea now lives in Zurich with her family.