



October 2023

Dear friends of Diogenes,

Nobody wants to think it, let alone say it, but our world has become a little less hopeful these days. Yet our authors have always had the good sense to write against this kind of blues and we can consider ourselves lucky to have them. Their books make us think of something else and let us believe in something. And because the world going mad is all everybody writes about, we found some books that changed our mood. These stories, in turn, incited us to bring you a collection of books that is wired a bit differently.

As a child, nothing got me more excited than a visit to the zoo with my always impeccably dressed aunt Agnes. The moment we arrived I would immediately drag her straight from the ticket booth to a flight of stairs leading under the reptile house. As she firmly held my hand she would lean down and ask me if I did, or did not, want to continue. And I knew, I wanted to, and I did not. Finally, we went down the stairs, and with every step I came closer to my alien love. The thick wooden door was always open, it smelled musty, and a light bulb hung from the ceiling, reflecting on this strange animal with its shiny fur. The tapir stood on an island of fresh hay, looking lonely and curiously at its visitors. I would have liked to set it free, but I knew then I would never see it again. In any event, it would have never occurred to me that this peculiar creature would move into our publishing house one day.

With *DIOGENES TAPIR* we are presenting you books that encourage us to face each other again, and all that goes along with it, books that invite us to roam the here and now, so we may be better equipped to face the future. Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette will take us to a cabin deep in the Canadian wilderness, Raffaella Romagnolo to a tree in the far east, Peter Zantingh into the dilemma that love often is, while Doris Dörrie introduces us to the Balinese goddess of rice, and Stefan Hertmans to the most intimate and courageous debates of our time.

Beyond that, you will find that these pages are full of other surprises, more than I can possibly fit in this letter.

Thank you for everything, let's keep on reading.

Sincerely yours,

Philipp Keel