Diogenes

Book factsheet

Stefanie vor Schulte
Boy with a Black Rooster

Published by Diogenes as *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn*
Original title: *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn*



Eleven-year-old Martin has nothing but the shirt on his back, and a black rooster which is both a protector and a friend. The villagers steer clear of the boy, finding him strange; far too smart and kind. They would rather mistreat him than acknowledge his talents. When Martin meets a travelling painter and seizes the chance to leave the village with him, he is led into a terrible world which, thanks to his compassion and understanding, he is able to resist, becoming a saviour for those even more innocent than he is.

Contemporary Literature
224 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 1.8 cm
September 2021

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Awards

2022 *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn* auf der Longlist ›Deutscher Hörbuchpreis‹ in der Kategorie Bester Interpret (Robert Stadlober)
2022 *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn* auf der Shortlist für den ›Rauriser Literaturpreis‹
2021 *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn* auf der Longlist des ›Magic, Pop und Ewigkeit‹ Literaturpreises des Literaturhauses Augsburg
2021 ›Mara-Cassens-Preis‹ des Literaturhauses Hamburg für das Debüt *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn*
2021 *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn* im Rahmen des Harbour Front Literaturfestivals Hamburg für ›Klaus-Michael Kühne-Preis‹ nominiert für das beste Romandebüt
2021 *Junge mit schwarzem Hahn* auf der Shortlist Bloggerpreis ›Das Debüt‹

Praise

Boy with a Black Rooster

»Stefanie vor Schulte's novel demonstrates that it takes the wisdom of a child to understand cruelty.« – Hannah Küppers / Sächsische Zeitung, Dresden

»This enigmatic plot, studded with symbols, and vor Schulte's concise, distinctive narrative style will be remembered for a long time.« – Ulrike Frenkel / Münchner Merkur, Munich

»An inspired debut from Stefanie vor Schulte!« – Jana Felgenhauer / Barbara, Hamburg

»A gruesomely beautiful fairy tale for grown-ups.« – Jan Ehlert / NDR Podcast, Hamburg

»A great rhythm, beautiful sentences, atmosphere: a joyful cultural experience.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg



Photo: Gene Glover / © Diogenes Verlag

Stefanie vor Schulte, born in Hanover in 1974, studied Theatre and Costume Design. She lives in Marburg with her husband and four children. Her first novel *Boy with a Black Rooster* was awarded the 2021 ›Mara Cassens Prize‹ for the best German-language debut. Her second novel *Snakes in the Garden* was published in September 2022.



The Thin Horse
256 pages
2024



Snakes in the Garden
240 pages
2022

Praise (cont'd)

»*Boy with a Black Rooster* is gripping, uncanny, a look into the human abyss. And yet, there is magic in this child.« – Peter Helling / NDR Kultur, Hamburg

»Stefanie vor Schulte's novel is full of poetic power and with a language characterized by images.« – HR Kultur, Frankfurt

»This appears light as a feather, yet elaborately crafted all the same.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / ›Mara Cassens Prize‹ laudation

»Stefanie vor Schulte has composed this novel like a fairy tale for adults. Cruel, poetic, and with a fairytale ending. A wonderful debut.« – Claudia Ingenhoven / NDR Kultur, Hannover

»Stefanie vor Schulte has presented an enigmatic debut of peculiar beauty.« – Meike Schnitzler / Brigitte, Hamburg

»A ray of light in gloomy times, beautifully narrated and extraordinarily touching.« – Dagmar Kaindl / Buchkultur, Vienna

»And - this is important - she has proven that for this there exists a language filled with poetry, wit and courage.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»Stefanie vor Schulte's sentences are short, concise and incredibly clear. And they are also intensely vivid.« – Uwe Badouin / Oberhessische Presse, Marburg

»Stefanie vor Schulte's debut novel, *Boy with Black Rooster,* is an engrossing and enchanting fairy tale for adults, offering readers some ideal (post-) pandemic escapism.« – New Books in German, London

»Dystopian and poetic at the same time.« – Britta Schmeis / Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»Halfway between macabre tale and surrealist epic, *Boy with a Black Rooster,* with its many ambiguities, is as reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch as it is of Giambattista Basile's *Tale of Tales* (adapted for the cinema by Matteo Garrone).« – Camille Thomine / Lire - magazine littéraire, Paris

»A debut that is both admirable and truly unique.« – Jean-Baptiste Hamelin / Page des Libraires, Paris

»[...] connecting life and death with great intelligence and narrative proficiency.« – Pierre Deshusses / Le Monde des livres, Paris

»Wow, what a book! Fabular but true, this meticulously crafted and deceptively simple tale stole my heart, broke it, and put it back together again. Vor Schulte is unflinching in her depiction of the worst of humankind, its cruelty and violence, but she also shows how love and kindness can flourish in even the darkest times. A beautiful, heart-rending book.«
– Victoria MacKenzie / Author of "For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain"

Praise (cont'd)

»This novel is a danse macabre, a memento mori, a vision of good and evil pared down to the bones. *Boy with a Black Rooster* beckons the reader into a nightmare landscape of war, famine, plague and madness, and Stefanie vor Schulte's storytelling verve is such that we make the journey gladly.« – Sam Thompson / Author of "Communion Town", nominated for the 2012 ›Booker Prize‹

»I absolutely love this book! The plot untangles perfectly, and I could smell and taste every scene. It feels like an old story, one of those that stays with you forever, but every part of it is surprising and wonderful. I want to go straight back and read it all again.« – Siân Hughes / Author of "Pearl", nominated for the 2023 ›Booker Prize‹

»A thoroughly entertaining story.« – Declan O'Driscoll / The Irish Times, Dublin