

Sibylle Mulot
Neighbours

Published by Diogenes as *Nachbarn*
Original title: *Nachbarn*



Book factsheet

General Fiction
352 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
February 1995

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Awards

- 2007 »Writer in Residence« am University College Dublin.
- 1995 Erster Preis »Éditeur en langue allemande« des Salon de l'Alsatique de Marlenheim für »Nachbarn«.
- 1995 Jahresstipendium für Schriftsteller des Ministeriums für Wissenschaft und Kunst Baden-Württemberg.

Praise

Neighbours

»A necessary and topical book.« – Beate Pinkerneil / Focus, Munich

»A political theme, developed in a subtle and highly original fashion.« – Gunhild Kübler / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Extremely exciting, like an ingeniously conceived crime story.« – Martin Luchsinger / Tages-Anzeiger, Zürich

Sibylle Mulot

»From her previous novels about the innocent years of childhood and on the subject of neighbours, we have come to know Sibylle Mulot as a shrewd, clever and extremely entertaining author.« – Elke Heidenreich

In the small provincial town of Parisey at the foot of the Vosges Mountains, the world still appears to be in order. Surrounded by shimmering poplar groves and cool pebble lakes, its friendly inhabitants still live in a 19th century dream, and they consider legends and sagas to be far more important than politics from the city. Rue St-Sauveur is a particularly harmonious street. This is where the town's nobility lives, a number of elderly gentlemen with turbulent histories: Lorain the power station director, for example, and Gibet the mayor, Delmont the printing press proprietor and a few others.

Tolerated rather than esteemed, mother and daughter Pasteur have lived out a shadowy existence in the town ever since René Pasteur lost his life under mysterious circumstances during the final days of the war. And then one day it becomes known that Mayor Gibet is to receive the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Someone breaks his silence, and two old men start an astonishing war against each other, almost a holy war, in which the insanity of the last days of the war is relived.

A story, told with the poetic charm of the 19th and the urgency of the 20th century, in which a place and its inhabitants are as vividly alive as one's own next-door neighbours.



Photo: © Isolda Ohlbaum

Sibylle Mulot was born in Reutlingen in 1950. She studied German and Romance languages in Tübingen, Zurich, Toulouse and Rome and completed her doctoral thesis on Robert Musil in 1977. She went on to train as a journalist at the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. She lived and worked as a freelance writer from 1980 until her death on 28 December 2022 in Tübingen.



The Irresistibles
160 pages
2007



The Manufactures
400 pages
2005



Perfect Happiness
176 pages
2001



Innocent Years
240 pages
1999



The Horoscope
128 pages
1997



Declarations of Love
176 pages
1994