

Diogenes

Esther Schüttpelz
Without Me

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Original title: *Ohne mich*



She's mid-twenties, just finished with her studies, and divorced practically as soon as she's married. What do you do when your first great love crashes and burns? The narrator of Esther Schüttpelz' debut novel is still looking: for the reason why they split up; for a plan for the future; for friendship and intimacy and intoxication and forgetting. Sharp-witted, vulnerable and hilarious, she tells the story of the year after and in-between.

»You can pay for the second wedding yourself«, Mum says.«
Esther Schüttpelz

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
208 pages
11.6 x 18.4 x 1.6 cm
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Awards

- 2024 *Ohne mich* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Popliteraturpreises‹
- 2023 *Ohne mich* nominiert für den ›Debütpreis des Harbour Front Literaturfestivals Hamburg‹
- 2023 ›lit.Cologne Debütpreis‹ für *Ohne mich*
- 2023 ›Tagespreis Internationales Festival Junger Literatur WORTSPIELE‹ für *Ohne mich*

Praise

Without Me

»The Gen Z main character, by whom the work feels up-to-date, shines with self-irony. With all her edginess, she feels charming, humorous and real.« – Vanessa Büchel / bluewin.ch, Zurich

»A debut with a fast pace and increasing narrative density.« – Karoline Pilcz / Buchkultur, Vienna

»Esther Schüttpelz narrates with intelligent wit and radical urgency.« – Jury of the ›lit.Cologne Debut Prize‹

»What draws the reader into her trains of thought is her nonchalant and clever narrative tone.« – Sabine Schreck / tip, Berlin

»Her debut novel impressively demonstrates the author's writing talent.« – Petra Pluwatsch / Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne

»*Without Me* is the best debut I have read so far this year.« – Jan Drees / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

Esther Schüttpelz

»Here is someone who knows how to use language and narrates in such a thrillingly witty and fast-paced way that it leaves you almost breathless.« – Petra Pluwatsch / Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne

»Esther Schüttpelz knows how to capture the small and large doubts of the Now in a very zeitgeisty way.« – Sarah Kessler / Emotion, Hamburg

»Esther Schüttpelz shows how it can feel to be stuck between your own ideals and reality.« – Carlota Brandis / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Photo: Julia Spilmann / © Diogenes Verlag

Esther Schüttpelz, born in Werne in 1993, studied law in Münster and worked as a lawyer before becoming an author. For her novel *Without Me*, she received the ›lit.Cologne Debut Prize‹ in 2023. She lives near Münster.



Green Wave
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2026