



Björn Bicker

What We Inherit

286 pages
Euro 19,95 € (D)
published in March 2013
ISBN 978-3-88897-818-0

Elisabeth is an actress at a renowned theatre. Her life with Holger, a doctor, is what we would call orderly and successful. Until, that is, a stranger calls and insists he is her brother. He's already in the city and wonders if they might meet.

When they do, he shows her a photograph of her father and his mother taken at the Munich Olympics. 1972: the year Elisabeth was born and now, she discovers, the year of her half-brother's birth. Can Elisabeth tell him any more about his father?

Elisabeth sets out on her own quest and eventually begins to write a letter to the brother, telling him about the life of the father and of her family. A life spent in the frosty shadow of German history, a life that clings to her like a second skin. Tracing her father's past, she finds herself in his birthplace in that twice-defeated land where, for Elisabeth, past and present, fiction and reality fuse. Real and imagined ghosts of German history appear before her: the political and the private, love, hate, truth and deceit, theatre and reality. Each grows rampant, tendrils entwining with the other. Across eras.



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Björn Bicker was born in 1972. He studied literature and philosophy before working at the Burgtheater in Vienna. Between 2001 and 2009 he was engaged as dramaturge at Munich's famous Kammerspiele theatre, where he co-devised the "City Projects" – highly-regarded theatre work at the interface of artistic and political practice. Bicker is dramatist (theatre and radio) and essayist and lectures in dramaturgy and writing for the stage. His book *Illegal* was published by Antje Kunstmann in 2009. He lives in Munich.

Other titles of the author

Illegal. We are many. We are here. 978-3-88897-554-7

So, what do you believe? 978-3-95614-094-5