

REINHARD KAISER-MÜHLECKER

Dark Forest, Foreign Soul

SHORTLISTED
FOR THE GERMAN
BOOK PRIZE
2016

A deeply human novel about family tragedies and entanglements, told with epic power

Alexander leaves the small village he grew up in and joins the army. A restless soul, he pays only sporadic visits home, leaving his younger brother Jakob to run the family farm on his own while their father secretly sells off piece by piece the land they are to inherit. As time passes, it's the unfathomable that determines their lives: people perish, a woman is murdered, seemingly without a motive, a young man hangs himself; there are rumours about someone being blackmailed. With great poetic calm and atmospheric strength, Reinhard Kaiser-Mühlecker tells about people who are bound by kinship, by murder and by a longing to escape all this: the entanglement, the accursed talk, the tightness of the place they live in and the tense atmosphere of a close-knit community. A timeless story of two brothers who are looking for salvation.

- **A young author who writes like an accomplished master craftsman**
- **For readers of Robert Seethaler's bestselling novel *A Whole Life* and John Williams's *Stoner***
- **Atmospheric, mythical, powerful**

"The way you write is simply marvelous."

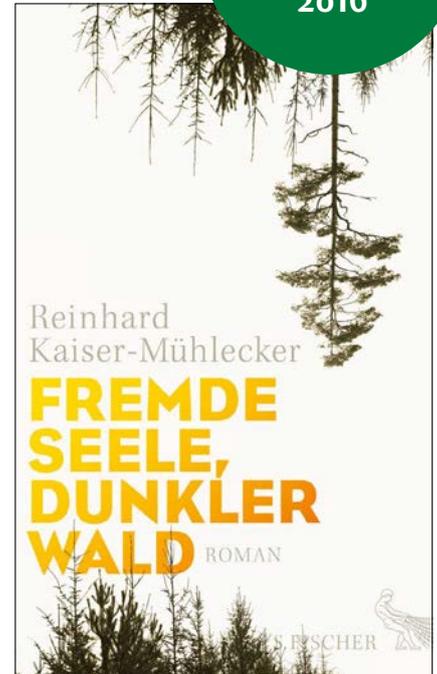
Siegfried Lenz

"Reading his work is a profound joy."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung

"...the author whose books are chiseled into timelessness." Paul Jandl, Die Literarische Welt

REINHARD KAISER-MÜHLECKER, born in Austria in 1982, studied agriculture, history and international development in Vienna. Among his novels are *Der lange Gang über die Stationen* (2008), *Magdalenaberg* (2009), *Roter Flieder* (2012) and *Schwarzer Flieder* (2014), together with the short story collection *Zeichnungen* (2015). He has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Berlin Art Prize and the Grand Austrian State Prize.



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