



Agnes Hammer

Moving Targets

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Story

Momo is the best. Just a few more races and she'll have made it onto the county team. In all the areas of her life her biggest ambition is to be out there in the front, leading the field. Sarah, the grammar school girl, is beautiful and sad, just waiting for her prince to come along. Jenny is small and a bit plump and somehow doesn't quite fit in. All she wants is to escape this dull provincial existence - and never again to have to go to Saturday training in the shooting hall. Ette's main aim is to make some cash, and he doesn't care if it's at someone else's expense. Sarah loves Ticker, but Ticker does anything Ette wants.

Five teenagers in a small town somewhere in Germany. Their familiar world seems to have become restrictive; family relationships and friendships are growing fragile. School, free time and the shooting club suddenly aren't enough: the young people are starting to feel there must be something else to life. Just as Momo, Sarah, Jenny, Ette and Ticker's lives are already beginning to come undone, something happens that completely shatters their realities: there is a party, and Momo is raped. By Ette. While Momo, Jenny and Sarah are still trying to deal with what's happened, Ette manages to escape, not to turn up again until the shooting festival, of all things. What Ette doesn't know is that Momo has her late grandfather's pistol in her bag, and that she wouldn't hesitate for a second to aim it at him...

In punchy, powerful lines, Agnes Hammer depicts one summer's events in the life of these five teenagers.

Alternating between the perspectives of the five main characters, leaving their thoughts uncommented and unfiltered, she finds a language that perfectly expresses the teenage psyche. Moving Targets is a strong debut from a promising young author.

Unusual narrative perspective, clear and uncompromising style, wide scope for readers to identify with the characters.

Agnes Hammer's appeal lies in her unwillingness to compromise. She conveys the teenagers' feelings largely without comment, and leaves a great deal open. In doing so she shows that she takes her readers seriously, and also captures precisely what it's like to be a teenager today.

Agnes Hammer

Agnes Hammer grew up with five siblings in Westerwald in Germany, before she moved to Cologne for her studies in German literature and philosophy. Today she works at an institute teaching young adults from difficult social backgrounds. Since 2005 she has also worked as an anti-aggression trainer.

Agnes Hammer just got the "Kranichsteiner" scholarship for the extraordinary written title "Herz, klopf!" published by script5 about EUR 12,000 and a residence of three months in Paris. (<http://www.deutscher-literaturfonds.de/?k=4&sk=27>)

She also received the "Kurd-Laßwitz" scholarship this year. Even before publication, she was granted a scholarship by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia to finish her newest title, "Regionalexpress" (regional train).

Further titles by the author:

Nacht, komm! (script5, 2011)

Dorfbeben (script5, 2010)

Herz, klopf! (script5, 2009)

Bewegliche Ziele (Loewe Verlag, 2008)

Agnes Hammer lives in Düsseldorf and for many years used to teach at a facility that offers training to socially disadvantaged youths. She is also a qualified anti-aggression trainer. Agnes Hammer was awarded the "Kranichsteiner" and the "Kurd-Laßwitz" scholarship for her exceptional titles published by script5. Even before publication, she was granted a scholarship by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia to finish her latest novel, "Regionalexpress".

More titles by this author



Next Stop: Jihad



I'll Blog You Away!



Night, Come!



Village Rumours



A Beating Heart