

Ursula Poznanski

Saeculum

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Story

They went into the woods to seek the Middle Ages and all the adventures, conundrums and challenges that would arise. Instead, the Middle Ages found them, and a terrible secret was uncovered.

Five days spent deep inside a forest, far away from the nearest village, to live the way people did during the Middle Ages, with no electricity, no mobiles, and not even matches – normally, this would not be Bastian's scene. His life revolves around his medical studies, but now he has fallen for Sandra, and she wants him to take part in this live role-play. When they find out about the location, one of the participants, Doro, claims that the place where they intend to gather is cursed. According to a legend, a Count once lived there. He had two sons, a legitimate one and a bastard, who was thrown out of the castle and forced to live a life of poverty, far away. When the Count died, the rejected son pleaded to be allowed to visit his father's grave. The rightful heir was afraid that his brother was seeking to secure their father's property, and gave orders for the bastard and his followers to be horribly massacred inside the family crypt. Just before he died, the illegitimate brother cursed his relations, the castle and the ground on which they stood. No one who enters this forest, Doro told them, will ever return. Of course, nobody takes her seriously. But then strange things happen and it is impossible to leave the forest. Did they make a mistake in not taking the curse seriously?

Ursula Poznanski

Ursula Poznanski was born in Vienna, and spent ten years studying all sorts of subjects at the university there, before abandoning all hope of getting a degree and getting to grips with real life as a medical journalist. After her son was born, she started writing books for young readers. Her first book, *Erebos*, won numerous prizes (including the German Children's Literature Prize awarded by the Youth Jury), and made her famous around the world. In the meantime she has become one of Germany's most successful authors, and she also writes best-selling thrillers for adult readers. She and her family live to the south of Vienna.

Press commentaries

'Saeculum is just as suspense-packed as *Erebos*, its setting is well defined, the characters are pleasantly mysterious and it will have many a surprises for you.' *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

'This Austrian woman is a genius.' *Brigitte*

'Ursula Poznanski asks difficult questions of her teenager readers without giving them the answers on a plate.' *Fridjof Küchemann, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

'The name Poznanski has become a guarantee for gripping YA thrillers.' *Bücher*

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Cryptos



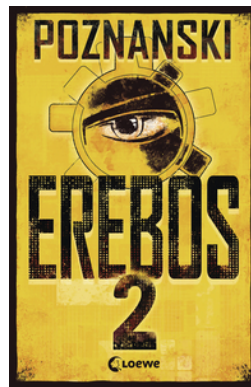
Pauline the Flop-Fairy



Oracle



Erebos



Erebos 2



Number Universe



Shelter



Letter Jungle