



*Agnes Hammer*

## Village Rumours

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## Story

### GRIPPING MURDER MYSTERY

Mattes is handicapped: he hears everything – whispers across the room, the train a mile away, the car behind closed doors...His ears make no distinction between these sounds, so he has to live in a very quiet surroundings.

Mattes is also 19 years old and has to live with his grandmother in Auroth, a tiny remote village in the woods. Mattes used to live in Cologne, but it was too loud in the city. So he writes songs for his band, plays the Harmon at the local service and generally lies low. Things change abruptly when his aunt Lena, who is only a few years older than him returns to the village. She has just recently been fired from her job doing forensic linguistics for the police.

Organized by the local priest a bus trip to a church near by the seeming harmony of the village is suddenly destroyed: Jakob, the former mayor of Auroth is brutally murdered during a choir rehearsal and the murderer seems to be one of the villagers from Auroth. Lena and Mattes are shocked and intrigued. But

they are even more shocked when they realize that no one wants to talk to them or the police about the possible motives or background of this murder. Very slowly Lena and Mattes start to uncover layers and layers of unspoken village history – and the threat becomes more serious than they admit to themselves. At first it is just threatening letters, then Lena's car is tampered with resulting in an almost fatal accident. With Lena in hospital, Mattes now decides to solve the case himself. Like a historian he starts investigating the biographies of the villagers making startling discoveries that lead him back to betrayals in World War II.

## 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 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



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A Beating Heart