

Dear Josef | Peter Pahl

This book takes the reader into the 20th century, its political context, into the story of a generation who experienced all that happened in Germany after the Second World War. Young Peter and his family are the protagonists: his mother and brother Claus, with whom he has a deep and moving bond. They live in Heiligenstadt, a small town in Thuringia, which was not affected by war. To most children, war was adults' stories. Most women, were war widows. Mothers fought difficulties of life, they had to bring home bread for their families. This is a pure description of daily life: seasons, school, family holidays, discoveries, new and old friends. Peter and his mates are looking for new games, treasures, love, experiences and, suddenly, they find their future. Through a child's eyes, the reader gets the chance to live American soldier's arrival, then Russian's one, the upcoming DDR.

"I made myself a promise". My brother took up his fork and looked at me, closely. Mom looked up at me, waiting. I looked at them both: "I'll never, ever again, no matter what, hold a gun."

This is an educational novel, in which children need to answer soon the hardest questions of life around truth, politics, religion, justice and, above all, around their fathers' stories.

Peter Pahl was born in 1940 in Meinigen, Thuringia. He grew up in Heiligenstadt, where he stayed until he was 17. His mother educated him, who helped him develop his free attitude. After completing his formation, he left the DDR and moved to Berlin. He got married in 1961 and he has three daughters. His retirement has represented for him the possibility to try something new: writing.

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Contacts:

Ginevra Grasso

Europa Buch

Friedrichstr. 171 | 10117 Berlin

Tel.: 030652124314

Mail: info@europabuch.com