

Leona Stahlmann

The Flaw

A bold debut by an exciting new voice.

About the Book

When you realise you are different from everyone else in your village, the course you take in life will not tolerate half measures. Leona Stahlmann writes in an unparalleled manner about home, belonging and sexual awakening in a rural setting. Mina is growing up in the deepest Black Forest. Soon she realises that she's different from her friends. Only Vetko, an outsider, seems to understand her. The two quickly become close and their secret relationship takes on sinister aspects: desire and pain become blurred, and the limits of their experiences increasingly encroach on their lives. Mina feels that her desire is flawed. What's wrong with her? And when Vetko demands something that she's not willing to give, she runs away to the city. But will she find something there that feels just like her connection with Vetko? In unusual, vibrant language, Leona Stahlmann writes about people and human nature, and the full brutal force with which they can collide.

"The Flaw' has tremendous poetic power. (The book) sensitively explores the gap between desire and its suppression, between individuality and the desire for the norm." Hamburger Abendblatt

"In her debut novel 'The Flaw', Leona Stahlmann shows an unusual understanding of sexuality, identity and home." ZEIT online

"Full of suspense and forgoing any voyeurism, Stahlmann's story tells of Mina's search for sexual identity with a precision and poetry that is rarely found." NDR Culture



Specifications

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LEONA STAHLMANN, born in 1988, lives in Hamburg and works as an author, copywriter and event organiser. In 2017 she won the Hamburg Förderpreis for Literature, was a scholarship holder of the novel workshop of the Literatureforum in the Brecht-Haus, Berlin, in 2018 and also won the first Wortmeldungen Förderpreis Award. The Flaw is her debut novel.