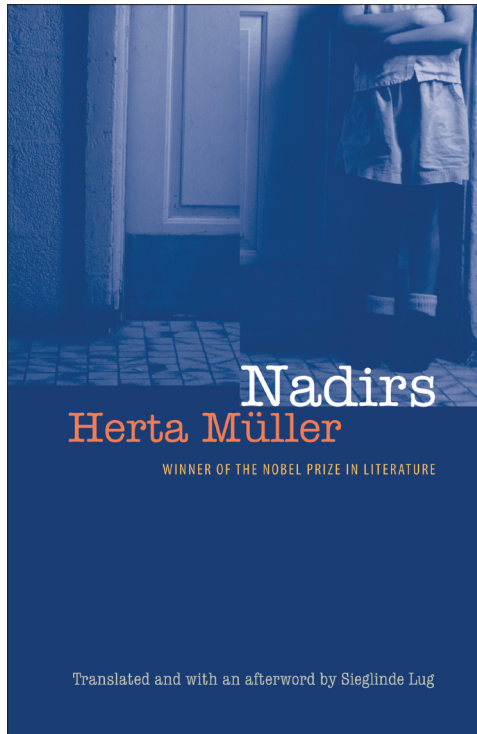


FROM NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR HERTA MÜLLER



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The University of Nebraska Press also published last year's winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, J. M. G. Le Clézio, author of the novel *Onitsha* and the short story collection *The Round and Other Cold Hard Facts*. Another of Le Clézio's short story collections, *Mondo and Other Stories*, is forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press.

Nadirs

Herta Müller

Translated and with an afterword by Sieglinde Lug

\$16.95 paperback

\$21.25 Canadian/ £9.99 UK

126 pages • 6 x 9 • 978-0-8032-8254-4

EUROPEAN WOMEN WRITERS SERIES

About the Book

Juxtaposing reality and fantasy, nightmares and dark laughter, *Nadirs* is a collection of largely autobiographical stories based on Herta Müller's childhood in the Romanian countryside. The individual tales reveal a child's often nightmarish impressions of life in her village. Seamlessly mixing reality with dream-like images, they brilliantly convey the inner, troubled life of a child and at the same time capture the violence and corruption of life under an oppressive state.

About the Author

Herta Müller has been one of the most prolific and acclaimed German-language writers of the last decade. Born in 1953 in the Banat, a German-language region of Romania, she emigrated to West Berlin in 1987 and currently resides in Hamburg. She has received numerous literary awards, including the Kleist Prize. In 1998 her novel *The Land of Green Plums* was awarded the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Visit this book's Web page:

<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Nadirs,671386.aspx>

Click here for more information about the 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature:

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2009/index.html

Praise for *Nadirs*

“A work of striking originality and power.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Müller, who won the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for *The Land of Green Plums*, is considered one of the most gifted contemporary German-language writers, a claim this newly translated collection of stories would seem to prove. Once again, Müller takes us back to Communist Romania. But unlike her previous work, *Nadirs* is a very personal book, as much about Müller’s own family sagas as it is about the inescapable scares of communism. . . . Originally published in German ten years ago, this book was well worth the wait; it is an important achievement in contemporary Eastern European literature.”

—*Library Journal*

“[*Nadirs* features] prose whose power manifests itself in the psychological observations of its author/narrator. . . . Müller creates a singular voice that is both brutally honest and dreadfully sad. The observations are made with fearless simplicity. . . . Owing gratitude to Lug’s splendid translation, *Nadirs* is a grave, yet compellingly told series of vignettes which should force readers to look as much within themselves as within the text.”

—Brian Budzynski, *Review of Contemporary Fiction*

“Despite the pessimism and sense of oppression that run from the title through the final sentences, the reader is enriched by the precise observation and the unflinching honesty in the portrayals of the surroundings and the self, conveyed by the author’s consummate artistry. . . . The range of Müller’s artistry makes it difficult to convey the full resonance in an English rendering, yet Sieglinde Lug has provided a readable and accurate translation that will make Müller more accessible to an American audience.”

—Calvin N. Jones, *South Atlantic Review*

“The sudden appearance of words in unfamiliar semantic contexts turns her texts into sensual landscapes of beauty and pain. The translator, Sieglinde Lug, has accomplished this in a highly convincing manner and is able to give the reader a taste of Müller’s unique language. “

—Irena E. Fürhoff, *International Fiction Review*

“This is not a sentimental book, but Müller’s keen sense of showing rural life as opposed to describing it, make this a very emotional and disturbing one.”

—Michelle Kaske, *Booklist*

“The 15 stories are melodious but sober in tone, echoing an overwhelmingly oppressive social atmosphere. It’s bluntly stated that boys are injured in local factories and mothers’ lives are unrelentingly harsh; meanwhile, Müller imbues a trip to the barber or a ride on the intervillage bus with colorful, surreal twists. . . . Most of these impressionistic pieces are bursting with breathtaking, earthy details.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Additional Information

Events

For an up-to-date listing of author appearances, visit the Author Events and Book Signings page on the UNP Web site at: <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/Catalog/ProductEvents.aspx?SearchOnLoad=true>

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Nobel Prize Interview with Herta Müller

Listen to Herta Müller's telephone interview following the Nobel Prize announcement (in German): http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2009/muller-interview.html

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University of Nebraska Press author recipient of 2009 Nobel Prize for Literature

LINCOLN, Neb. (October 8, 2009)—German writer Herta Müller, whose short story collection *Nadirs* was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 1999, is the winner of this year's Nobel Prize for Literature.

Müller was born in 1953 in the Banat, a German-language region of Romania, and the stories of *Nadirs* are based on her experiences growing up there. *Nadirs*, Müller's first published work, was originally published in Romania under the title *Niederungen* in a censored format. The complete manuscript was smuggled to German in 1984 and published in full. Müller herself immigrated to West Berlin in 1987. She has received numerous literary awards, including the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Nadirs, which was published as part of the University of Nebraska Press's European Woman Writer's series, is one of just five of Müller's books available in English. The stories in *Nadirs*, told from the standpoint of a young girl, weave together a bleak picture of Banat, where violence and poverty are rampant, and the vivid dreams of the narrator. The judges praised this unique writing style, saying "with the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose, (Müller) depicts the landscape of the dispossessed."

Müller is the second University of Nebraska Press author to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in as many years. Last year's winner, J. M. G. Le Clézio, has published a short story collection, *The Round and Other Cold Hard Facts*, and a novel, *Onitsha*, with the University of Nebraska Press. Another of Le Clézio's short story collections, *Mondo and Other Stories*, is forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press next year.

Müller will receive her prize at a Dec. 10 ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

About the University of Nebraska Press: Founded in 1941, the University of Nebraska Press (UNP) is a non-profit scholarly and general interest press that publishes 160 new and reprint titles annually under the Nebraska and Bison Books imprints respectively, along with 20 journals. As the largest and most diversified university press between Chicago and California, with nearly 3,000 books in print, the University of Nebraska Press is best known for publishing works in Indigenous studies, history and literature of the American West, literary translation, and sports history. UNP has also had a long-standing dedication to making available the best literature from around the world. With nearly 200 translated titles currently in print from five different languages, including two titles by J. M. G. Le Clézio, the 2008 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature and one title by the 2009 winner, Herta Müller, the number and breadth of translated titles has distinguished UNP as one of the largest, most active American publishers of translated work. UNP's translations and other titles have won numerous awards, and the press as a whole was named *ForeWord Magazine's* Independent Press of the Year for 2008.

A distinctive member of the University of Nebraska community, UNP supports the missions of research, teaching, and service. In addition, UNP's sustained commitment to publications on the peoples, culture, and heritage of Nebraska reflects decades of service to its home state. Learn more about UNP at www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

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