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The Box: Tales from the Darkroom

By Grass, Gunter. Winston, Krishna, Translator.

Houghton Mifflin. 1 Cloth(s), 2010. hard. Book Condition: New. In an audacious literary experiment, a follow-up of sorts to *Peeling the Onion*, the late Nobel Prize winner Günter Grass writes in the voices of his eight children as they record memories of their childhoods, of growing up, and especially of their father, who was always at work on a new book, remaining at the margins of their lives. Their contradictory memories happy, loving, accusatory piece together an intimate picture of this most public of men. There too was Marie, Grass's assistant, perhaps even his lover, who took snapshots for him with an old-fashioned box camera. But her images revealed a truth beyond the ordinary detail of life, depicted the future, and even told what might have been. Was Marie's enchanted camera a source of inspiration for their father, they wonder? Did it represent the power of art itself? "It may not be a memoir, but it is an exercise in soul-searching. This is a novel of great humility, questioning whether the measure of a life really is a life's work. [The author] shows a remarkable willingness to kick a hole in the usual self-importance of a prize-winning author." NYTBR 194.



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