

"In a train, you don't always need to travel as far as the terminus."



Anna Flóri: Arrivals

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In a train, you don't always need to travel as far as the terminus.

Where you have Arrivals, you also need to have Departures. But what if this platform is in Auschwitz? Anna Flóri's novel travels on a double set of rails: one story is that of the ruthless everyday of persecution and life in the concentration camp, the other story unfolds in our days and shows the search for love, the merciless estrangement of the third generation.

A forty-year-old woman abruptly decides to leave her children behind in Budapest and take a job in Western Europe. Her good-bye is not only to her children but also to the man whom she has never been sexually involved with, while their relationship is one based on a certain kind of loveless co-dependence.

Meanwhile, the man continues his never-ending struggle with a mother who keeps interfering with his life, while he also attempts to understand his own relationship with "his" woman. Subtle undertows are discernable in family histories: even though the man's and the woman's grandparents never actually knew each other, they did meet – both in their lives and in their deaths. As for the man and the woman, while they met, they never recognised themselves in each other.

The time is perhaps now.

This journey and the distance might provide the opportunity to know each other and themselves. To know their past. To know their destiny.

Motifs and questions recur in the two stories. In this cathartic novel, the past casts long and silent shadows, but next to them, as in a strange refraction, appears the possibility of happiness in the present and a perspective seldom believed in: perhaps there is such a thing as finding the road to home again.

Anna Flóri

Anna Flóri is a journalist, she was born in 1966 in the south-east Hungarian town of Hódmezővásárhely.

She spent her early childhood in provincial Hungary and had turned eight when her parents moved back to Budapest. She graduated from Eötvös Loránd University where she specialized in Hungarian and Aesthetics.



She debuted her career at the Hungarian Radio, and even though she has gained experience in most areas of journalism over the past 20 years, radio journalism has always remained closest to her. She has worked as news editor for the European news television, Euronews, since April 2013.

Inquiries and translation rights:

István Láng Foreign Rights Manager lang.istvan@lira.hu Tel: +36-1-235-5030 Fax: +36-1-318-4107
Magveto Publishing House Ltd. Danko u. 4-8. H-1086 Budapest Hungary www.magveto.hu