



Manfred Wieninger

A PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

Eine Unschuldsvermutung

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Die präzise recherchierte Aufarbeitung eines Kriegsverbrechens, zugleich ein schonungsloses Porträt der Nachkriegszeit, die sich der Auseinandersetzung mit dem Naziverbrechen verweigert.

Kapfenberg in the Austrian Steiermark region, 1957: In the course of a custody battle, Anna Koinegg reports her child's father, a former member of the Waffen-SS, for having participated in the execution of Jews. The accusation relates to the shooting of 29 Hungarian Jewish forced labourers in Jennersdorf in the early days of 1945, in which he was supposedly involved. But the political mood favours suppression and the charges are brushed under the carpet – until in 1966 the German authorities become involved and the case lands on the desk of former Spanish Civil War activist and detective Hans Landauer. Together the Mannheim lawyers and the disagreeable inspector from Vienna travel to Jennersdorf, to brake the wall of silence and uncover the traces of a massacre that nobody wants to remembe...

MANFRED WIENINGER

was born in 1963 in St. Pölten, where he also lives today. He studied literature and pedagogics and has written essays and travel reports for a range of publications, including Literatur und Kritik, Wiener Zeitung and Datum. Manfred Wieninger is the author of a seven-part crime series featuring the crooked "discount detective" Marek Miert, who gets in and out of trouble in the East-Austrian town of Harland. Most recently published: "Der Mann mit dem goldenen Revolver". He was awarded the Theodor Kramer Preis for his historical novel "223 oder Das Faustpfand", which was published in 2012.