



Martin Lechner

## ASTRAY

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**With “Astray”, Martin Lechner offers us another enigmatic and superbly entertaining game of deception.**

Powerfully eloquent, funny and expressive, the novel tells of Lars, a school drop-out who evades military service in favour of community service in the workshops of a psychiatric hospital. There, Lars finds refuge from his mother, whose abusiveness is worse than that of any raging patient. This is also where Lars meets Hanna, a patient who swiftly gets him tangled up in all manner of delightful scuffles, but whose radical attitude soon takes on a threatening scale. Was it her who torched the workshop leader’s car? How long before the flames of their passion also devour Lars’ fragile attempts to find his place in the world? And can those who’ve gone astray ever find their way back to an orderly life?

### MARTIN LECHNER

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Born in 1974, Lechner studied philosophy and literature at the University of Potsdam. He has been published in literary magazines such as “Bella triste”, “manuskripte” and “Edit” since 2005. His celebrated debut novel “Kleine Kassa” (Petty Cash) was longlisted for the German Book Prize 2014, his short story collection “Nach fünfhundertzwanzig Weltmeertagen” (After five-hundred and twenty days of sea) (2016) was shortlisted for the Clemens Brentano prize 2017. Lechner currently lives in Berlin and received funding for his work on “Der Irrweg” (Astray) from the Senate of Berlin.