

Peter Henisch BLACK PETER

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Das Songbook zum \"Schwarzen Peter\"

Peter Henisch's novel follows the title's hero over the course of half a century on his search for his father and happiness. It's the story of the son of an Austrian tram conductress and a black American serviceman, born 1946 in Vienna. At this time, and indeed up to the 1970s, there were hardly any coloured people in Vienna and they were not regarded as a threat. By the 1990s, when Peter Jarosch briefly and unsuccessfully returns there after a spell in New Orleans, the issue of "foreigners" has become one of the most politically explosive in Austria. Peter's colour, however, is not the essence of what makes him different. The real point is that he simply feels different. This is brought home to him in childhood when, cast as one of the Three Kings in the Nativity play, he, for obvious rea...

PETER HENISCH

Born 1943 in Vienna; post-war childhood followed by reconstruction-era puberty; studied philosophy and psychology; co-founded "Wespennest" literary magazine with Helmut Zenker in 1969; a footloose author since the 1970s. Henisch's debut novel "Die kleine Figur meines Vaters" was first published in 1975 (English translation "Negatives Of My Father" published in 1990). Many novels followed, including "Die schwangere Madonna" (2005), "Eine sehr kleine Frau" (2007), "Mortimer und Miss Molly" (2013), and "Suchbild mit Katze" (2016). He has received numerous awards, including the Austria Kunstpreis. Most recently published by Residenz Verlag: "Der Jahrhundertroman" (2021).