



Elisabeth Klar

BREATHING WATER

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Rich in imagery, this novel takes us up close to one of the definitive feelings of our time: fear

Spending a year in Antarctica and enduring the polar night in a research station takes stamina and determination. That is what Erika appears to have: a renowned bioacoustics specialist, she listens to whales, goes on long dives and challenges herself by practising aikido. Barely anyone knows that she does all of this in order to fight back a paralysing fear, the fear of a world that threatens to overwhelm her. Then musicologist Judith, a young woman full of contradictions, appears in her circle of friends. As the two women grow close, Erika suspects that Judith has given in to the same force that Erika is battling against. Perhaps she went crazy, or then again, perhaps she found a counter-spell and saved herself...

ELISABETH KLAR

born 1986 in Vienna, studied comparative literature and transcultural communication. She works in software development and runs literature workshops for children and young adults. Klar has been awarded numerous prizes and was a finalist in the FM4 competition Wortlaut (2013). Her acclaimed debut novel *Wie im Wald* was accorded the City of Vienna Sponsorship Award and was included in the Rauris Literary Prize 2015 shortlist. Her second novel, "Wasser atmen", was published in 2017. Most recently published: "Wasser atmen" (2017) and "Heavenwards" (2020).