



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. Elisabeth Klar has received numerous prizes. The acclaimed debut "Wie im Wald" (In the woods) received the City of Vienna Sponsorship Award and was shortlisted for the Rauriser Literaturpreis 2015, in 2017 the novel "Wasser atmen" (Breathing water) was published and in 2020 the novel "Himmelwärts" (Heaven bound). Most recently published: "Es gibt uns" (There is us) (2023). <https://www.elisabethklar.at/>