



Martin Leidenfrost

# THE DEAD IN THE RIVER

The unsolved case Denisa S.

With photos

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A slovakian elderly care nurse's death and a story about the new Europe and its old borders. "I think that one can not let this horrifying story rest, and I am sure that others feel the same as I do." Elfriede Jelinek

"Everything started when I, an Austrian living in Slovakia, read about a Slovak who had been found dead in one of Austria's rivers - naked." The last time Denisa Soltisová was seen alive, she was wandering around in an Austrian city; it was January the 19th 2008, at night, only wearing underwear. Days after this incident she was found - dead and naked. The 29-year-old woman was a college graduate, Slovak and worked round-the-clock as an elderly care nurse. The police closed the case: "Suicide". Yet the autopsy, performed in Slovakia, showed traces of violence. It is 700 kilometres from Ratkovská Lehota, where Denisa lived, to the place she died. Two different worlds that are parted by 700 kilometres, linked only by commuting busses, full of nurses. Two different worlds in which Ma...

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born in 1972 in Lower Austria, studied film and Slavic Studies in Vienna and Babelsberg; freelance writer, writes feuilletons and columns, among others for "Die Presse". He lives near Bratislava, Slovakia, 35 km from Vienna. For his column "Die Welt hinter Wien" (The world behind Vienna) he was awarded the "Writing for CEE", the international journalist's prize, in 2007.