



Evelyn Grill

## THE ROMAN LIGHT

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Two sisters and their good-bye of a mother who eludes her children and their demands until the end of her life.

Xenia is a painter. When she gets a scholarship and is invited to Rome, she sees her chance to no longer live in the shadow as an artist. Xenia has just arrived in Rome when she receives a call by her sister from her homeland: Their mother, a famous writer, has collapsed at a lecture and is in a coma. The mother for whom her own prestige has always been more important than her family, her art more important than her children: Because of her Xenia shall travel back, turn down the chance to assert herself – not least towards the mother? The mother's silence and death and her own distance force Xenia to grapple with her childhood, with her mother's egoism and not least with her own art – the egoism of the daughter. Xenia stays: because of her mother who is unreachable for her approaches, and...

### EVELYN GRILL

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born in Garsten, Upper Austria in 1942, Grill is a freelance writer living in Freiburg im Breisgau and since 2017 back in Linz. In 2017 she was awarded the OÖ-Landeskulturpreis für Literatur.

Published by Residenz Verlag: "Vanitas oder Hofstätters Begierden" (Vanitas or Hofstaetter's Desire) (2005, nominated for Deutscher Buchpreis), "Der Sammler" (The Collector) (2006, awarded the Otto-Stoessl-Preis), "Wilma" (new edition 2007), "Das römische Licht" (The Roman Light) (2008), "Das Antwerpener Testament" (The Antwerpian Will) (2011), "Der Sohn des Knochenzählers" (The bondedigger's son) (2013) "Der Begabte" (The Talent) (2019) and most recently "Der Nachlass" (The Legacy) (2022).