



Evelyn Grill

# VANITAS OR HOFSTAETTER'S DESIRE

Novel

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Long listed for the "Deutsche Buchpreis 2005".

It was not love that drove the ambitious lawyer Alois Hofstätter into marriage with the actress Olga, the much older widow of a deceased client; it was her standing and her fortune, her mature erotic charisma and the not insignificant circumstance that she was expecting his child. Hofstätter's true and eternal love belongs to art, and his passion to gambling. His wife pays his debts, and the child has meanwhile grown into a youth, in whom the practising aesthete finds compensation for the unreasonable physical and intellectual demands of his fading wife. The structure of the illusory upper-middle-class world that satisfies the decadent vanity of both is brittle – in the field of tension between outward prestige and inward discontent. A bitter power struggle which ultimately leads to a cata...

## EVELYN GRILL

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).