

## Book of the Month July 2010

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### Katharina Hagen: „Der Geschmack von Apfelkernen“ (The Taste of Apple Pips)

Originally published in 2008 by Kiepenheuer & Witsch in German, now translated into French as “Le goût des pépins de pomme” by publisher Anne Carrière.

Sometimes, reader’s comments are much more to the point of a book’s success than any professional review. Hence one comment on the German original of Hagen’s “Apple Pips” says: “The soul searching of her protagonist which the author shares with her readers has a healing quality”.

In her debut novel, Katharina Hagen introduces the reader to three generations of women from one family, connected loosely through the young librarian Iris who inherits an old house with a feral garden from her auntie Bertha in a romantic German university town.

When Bertha had fallen from an apple tree, the accident had her forget almost everything of her life, not even recognizing her own three daughters. Finding herself in this house full of memories and lost – often enough magical - stories and incidents, Iris wonders if she wants to keep this strange house in the first place, as she starts to dive into the hidden remembrances.

Katharina Hacker, born in 1967, has studied German and English literature in Germany and in London, before she started to work for the Zurich based James Joyce foundation, and Joyce was also at the centre of her doctorate. After two learned books about the Irish genius, Hagen published two children’s books, before she set out for her first novel which turned into an unexpected success, selling over 250.000 copies in Germany alone.

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