



A sample translation of this title is available on the NBG website

Cordula Simon

## How to Sleep *Wie man schlafen soll*

Residenz, August 2016, 196 pp

## Nightmare city

Three men struggle for survival in this unique blend of dystopia and social critique.

Set in a nameless steppe after the earth has been destroyed by an ecological catastrophe, three men seek a better life in Lightraff, a city built around a huge oil refinery. Lightraff is a tightly controlled ecosystem, entirely organised around eight-hour shifts designed to keep people from interacting with each other. Koslov, Schreiber and Haye share an apartment, but only meet when all three suddenly lose their jobs, as apocalyptic events become more and more frequent. Suddenly the apartment is overcrowded and Lightraff, a place that seemed utopian to the three men, reveals itself as a trap.

Simon's third novel is both a compelling dystopia and an incisive critique of capitalism. Her artificial city is an intriguing take on life in a megacity, familiar to today's city-dwellers who often navigate life and work in a hostile environment without sufficient social safety nets. For the people of Lightraff, not being in work equals a death sentence. As such, this is very much a book of and for our time.



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**Cordula Simon**, born in 1986 in Graz, studied German and Russian studies in Graz and Odessa, where she lived from 2011-2015. She is a member of the literary group 'platform' and coordinates the 'Jugend-Literatur-Werkstatt Graz' for young writers. She has published numerous articles in publications including *manuskripte*, *lichtungen*, *Zeit-Campus* and *Fleisch*. She has received the literary advancement award of Graz (2012) and was a fellow of the *Literarisches Colloquium Berlin* (2013).

**Previous works:** *Ostrov Mogila* (2013), *Der potemkinsche Hund* (2012)

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