

Finn-Ole Heinrich – *The Boy with the Robber's Hands*
Novel

*'Following his excellent narrative debut, *The Boy with the Robber's Hands* is Heinrich's first novel, written in a dense language rich in images, contemplating what makes us what we are. A great narrative talent.'* NEON Magazine

**'Got something for you,' he said and dug around in his pocket with the other hand. A little tin. He shook it and widened his eyes.
And that's how it started. Sometimes Samuel has ideas that are completely alien to me. His present was one of those ideas. It's not all my fault. None of it would have happened, under normal circumstances.**

Following his highly praised short story collection, *The Boy with the Robber's Hands* is Finn-Ole Heinrich's first novel. The award-winning author and filmmaker tells the story of Janik and Samuel, whose intense friendship is put to the test by a dramatic experience. Everything that previously held them together seems to have been questioned in a matter of minutes.

The two of them wanted to set out for Istanbul in search of a free and self-determined life. Yet even far from home, their origins never let them go: Janik's liberal parents who took Samuel in without a fuss and do so much right that it's almost unbearable; Samuel's mother Irene, the tramp who still has pride in her eyes for her son. In Istanbul, Samuel hopes to find his unknown father with Janik's help. But can they really enjoy the city after all that has happened?

In his clear and very characteristic language, Finn-Ole Heinrich describes the difficult time of coming of age as the story of a major search: for what makes friendship, for the boys' own identities, which sometimes means letting go of the past and their family origins, for sexuality and stability. The narrator takes us along on a journey that is sometimes painful, always touching, and stays page-turning to the very end.

Finn-Ole Heinrich *The Boy with the Robber's Hands*
Novel.

Hardcover | 208 pages | 15.90 Euro

ISBN 978-3-938539-08-8 | mairisch Verlag

In 2025, sales of "Räuberhände" (German Title) are around 110.000 copies.

It was mandatory school reading material in several German regions

Also, it's still played at the Thalia Theater Hamburg, one of Germany's most famous stages, since 2013.

It was turned into a full length feature movie in 2021:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-u7cEtSMEQ>

It has also been sold into Ukrainian and Bulgarian language.

More on the Internet: <https://www.mairisch.de/verlag/foreign-rights/fiction/>

The author:

Finn-Ole Heinrich, born in 1982, studied film directory in Hannover. His short story collection *die taschen voll wasser* was published by mairisch Verlag in 2005, picking up enthusiastic reactions from readers and critics, also his following books *Räuberhände* and *Gestern war auch schon ein Tag*. His first book for children, *Frerk, Du Zwerg*, won the prize for best german children's book in 2012; he won several more prizes in the years after for his recent books. Heinrich grew up in the small north German town of Cuxhaven and is currently living in Berlin. www.finnoleheinrich.de



Finn-Ole Heinrich (© Denise Henning)

Reviews for “Robber's Hands”:

‘A grandiose coming-of-age novel to the power of two... Heinrich is the great white hope of the literary scene right now.’ KULTURNEWS

‘Our heroes point the way. Because they make us happy, because they do great things or because they write excellent stuff. Like Finn-Ole Heinrich, 25, a student in Hanover who has just given humankind the gift of his first novel, *The Boy with the Robber's Hands*.’
BLONDMAGAZINE

‘Clear, confident style, unpretentious.’ BÜCHER

‘His narrative style reveals an unrivalled maturity. [...] Heinrich captures atmosphere brilliantly, writing not pretentiously but suggestively, with impressive images seemingly at his fingertips. This is someone who loves language, and the best thing is: it loves him back.’
Bielefelder

‘His sentences hit a spot that no writer has touched for a long time.’ justmag.de

More on the author:

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finn-Ole_Heinrich

Awards (amongst others):

- # Award for “Most beautiful German books” 2021
- # Thomas-Strittmatter-Award 2018
- # Literary Award Hamburg 2017
- # LUCHS-Award Germany 2014
- # German-French Youth Literature Prize 2014
- # German Youth Literature Prize 2012
- # Heinrich-Heine-Award Lüneburg 2012
- # Writer in residence for Goethe-Institut in Reykjavík, Iceland 2012
- # Literary Award Hamburg 2009
- # Kranichsteiner Literary Award 2008
- # Lower Saxony Nicholas Born Prize for Young Talent 2008
- # MDR Literature Prize Audience Award 2008
- # Erfurt Writer-in-Residence 2008
- # Literary grant from the Lower Saxony ministry of culture 2007