

WOMAN, IDLE

Laura Vogt

translated by Caroline Waight

After *What Concerns Us*, Laura Vogt's new book explores friendship, maternity and polyamory

Please, email a.marti@heloisepress.com for printed proofs

SYNOPSIS: In the Swiss mountains, Romi and Szibilla arrive at Nora's childhood home to find their longtime friend has retreated into silence. With Nora refusing to speak and her mother keeping them at arm's length, Romi and Szibilla are forced into an uneasy time together over the next five days. Their mutual acquaintance will bring out their own insecurities as friends, lovers, and mothers, unexpectedly confronted with themselves and their own choices. This is a novel that masterfully blends daily-life reflections with suspense. Insightful yet easy to read, readers will be captivated by the mystery surrounding the silent woman. A novel impossible to put down.

Told in alternating voices, *Woman, Idle* explores two main questions: What kind of women have I become? What kind of women do I want to be?

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY: Laura Vogt (Teufen, 1989) studied cultural studies and literary writing. Her debut novel, *So einfach war es also zu gehen* (2016) featured at the Solothurn Literature Days and PROSOMOVA. In 2022, we published her second novel, *Was uns betrifft* in English (*What Concerns Us*). In addition to prose, she also writes poetry, plays, and journalistic texts. She lives with her family in eastern Switzerland.

TRANSLATOR BIOGRAPHY: Caroline Waight is an award-winning literary translator. Her translations include books by Laura Vogt, Caroline Albertine Minor, Ingvild Rishøi, Maren Uthaug, Asta Olivia Nordenhof and Dorthe Nors. Most recently, she was a finalist for the 2023 PEN Translation Award and received a special commendation at the 2023 Warwick Prize for Women in Translation.



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by Laura Vogt
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HÉ/OÏ'SE

PRESS

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HéloisePress

4 Pretoria Rd

Canterbury CT1 1QL

T: 01227 500382

E: a.marti@heloisepress.com

www.heloisepress.com

SALES

Inpress Books

(UK) Ltd

T: 0191 230 8104

E: enquiries@inpressbooks.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION

BookSource

T: 0141 642 9192

E: customerservice@booksource.net

RIGHTS

World

E: a.marti@heloisepress.com

Also by Laura Vogt

WHAT CONCERNS US

"A beautiful examination of female interiority. Vogt is not afraid to ask difficult questions. In what ways does motherhood bring us to our limits? What are the consequences of believing a child doesn't need a father?" (Elizabeth McNeill, *Chicago Review of Books*)



Rahel and Fenna grew up in an all-female household with their mother and her female partner. Now Rahel strives to reproduce the traditional family unit but she is haunted by an unsettling pregnancy, postnatal depression and compulsive breastfeeding, while having mixed feelings about her singing career. Will she ever recover her own voice after motherhood? Meanwhile, Fenna, a declared feminist, wonders whether she consented to the intercourse with Luc which left her pregnant. *WHAT CONCERNS US* is a punchy contemporary read that scrutinises gender roles within our society, examining what it means to be a mother and the nature of femininity, as well as how to remain independent in a variety of different types of relationship.

Laura Vogt's neorealist style gives us a first-hand experience of what it is to be female in different situations and stages in life. The crafted descriptions of Rahel, Fenna and Verena are uncompromising and genuine, showing us how women can experience and feel their own bodies. *WHAT CONCERNS US* is full of physical sensations, uncomfortable thoughts and rough truths about the choices we make.