

**Albert Bonniers Förlag, Suède, 2015**

**Carl Hanser Verlag, Allemagne, 2016, env. 200 pages**

*Ce nouveau roman du célèbre auteur Lars Gustafsson est une étude sur l'art, l'amour, l'identité et la déception. Sur l'échiquier littéraire, sa prose se situe quelque part entre celle d'Anthony Trollope et de Franz Kafka. »La prescription du docteur Wasser« est un voyage à travers l'univers thématique de ses romans précédents.*

»I am a winner.«

The opening sentence of Dr Kurth F. Wasser's memoir is, perhaps, a summary of his life. There is no doubt that these are the notes of a gambler's life.

The former physician, once a leading expert of sleep disturbances, is looking back on his career as a highly acclaimed medical authority, a member of the government's council on medicine, and a respected humanitarian personality. Having been admitted into his life by way of his autobiographical notes, however, we find that his entire life has been a high-risk adventure on a tightrope walk of deceit, skilful make-believe, and a remarkable talent for seduction.

The Dr Kurth Wasser who obtained his medical credentials from a university in East Germany in the 1960s has not existed for many years. The author of the memoir is someone else entirely, who managed to steal and occupy the papers of his alter ego and his life after a traffic accident in the 1960s.

#### **Further Information:**

In his books Gustafsson combines sober language and a unique fascination with the limits of knowledge. The alternation between the fictitious and the authentic, between mystery and critical reflection, results in a dialectical figure ultimately dedicated to the question of the inner nature of the self.

His novels *The Dean*, *The Tennis Player* and *Mrs Sorgerdahl's Lovely White Arms* have already fascinated millions of readers in Europe and the USA. For his works Gustafsson won the Goethe Institute's *Goethe Medal* in 2009 and the Swedish Academy's *Nordic Prize* in 2014, the »consolation prize« for members of the Nobel Prize committee who are unable to nominate one another.



#### **Presse:**

»Lars Gustafsson has an uncompromising vision of the utter complexity of modern life... He loves to play with possibilities and solutions in a manner that is refreshingly affirmative.« – Eric O. Johannesson, *The New York Times Book Review*



»The delightful short novel (The Tennis Players) is of the category we might call transatlantic literature – a tradition begun with de Toqueville, within which the Old World responds to the New, or vice versa, with varying degrees of puzzlement and pleasure... the goofy and ingenious storyline combines elements of European learning and sophistication with the author's new experience of an American emphasis on hard competitive athletics, and super-high technology.«  
- John Updike, *New Yorker*