

## ***Prix de littérature de l'Union européenne 2012 – subventions à la traduction par l'Union européenne***

**Wahlström & Widstrand, Suède, 2011, 240 pages**

**Territoires vendus: Danemark, Roumanie, Croatie,**

**Macédoine, Bulgarie, Lituanie, Serbie, Pologne**

*Une maison avec une bibliothèque énorme, pleine de livres. Une chambre à la fois effrayante et invitante. Une femme. Dans son deuxième roman, encensé par la presse, Sara Mannheimer raconte l'histoire d'une femme traumatisée par son interruption de grossesse, mais déterminée à conquérir le monde intellectuel qui l'entoure.*

*Handlingen* is Sara Mannheimer's second novel, after the critically acclaimed *Reglerna* (The Rules). Here, the author continues to explore the development of different vulnerable mental states. The protagonist is a woman who is driven by a desire to conquer The Library, containing the educated world and the entire global collection of literature. Underlying this neurotic need to control the world around her, and to master the theoretical complexity of Roland Barthes and Julia Kristeva, is her overwhelming grief over a failed pregnancy. Magic and realism are intertwined in Mannheimer's poetic writing, and she succeeds once more in depicting the often well concealed fragility of everyday life, erasing the fine line between reality and imagination. Stylized and weighted with symbolism, *Handlingen* is a portrayal of a human being's obsession with spiritual purity, and with replacing the weakness of the body with an unassailable intellectual identity.

### **Presse:**

»I come to think of the Belgian minimalist Jean-Philippe Toussaint. Mannheimer's language is more flowery, but there is the same investigating of the everyday life, the same precise sense for details, the same imaginative twisted humour and thin veils of irony.« - Fabian Kastner, Svenska Dagbladet



Sara Mannheimer grew up in Gothenburg and has studied in the USA, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, before settling down in Stockholm. Besides writing, she runs the glassworks *Stockholm Heta Glas*. Her debut *Reglerna* from 2008 was nominated for the **August Prize** and won the **Borås Tidnings Debut Prize**.



»*Handlingen* gives me a strong urge to read – and to live.« - Ulrika Knutsson, Sveriges Radio

»In her language high-flown terms mix with everyday language, scholarly terminology with clichés and, first and foremost, irony mixes with the most clear-sighted naivety. I am constantly stricken with cheerfulness while reading this profoundly serious book. The narrator gets herself in difficult situations that always have an amusing part.« - Ingrid Elam, Dagens Nyheter