

PRESS RELEASE

Award-Winning German Book *An Inventory of Losses* Published in Indonesian

Judith Schalansky's *An Inventory of Losses*, a German-language book of stories that won the prestigious Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize, can now be enjoyed by literature lovers throughout the Indonesian archipelago. The book, whose original title is *Verzeichnis einiger Verluste*, was translated from German into Indonesian through **Goethe-Institut's** Translation Grant Program and published on 12 November 2020 by **Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia**.

A story about an extinct tiger species, a forgotten island in the Pacific Ocean and other stories are among the twelve packed into *An Inventory of Losses*. It is a book about loss: something that is missing, something that is longed for, assuming that nothing and existence are complementary and need each other, like yin and yang, leaving an empty space and at the same time having to be filled again.

The German writer Judith Schalansky, born in 1980 in Greifswald, excels in the use of various linguistic styles to transform details into stories based on extensive research that explore space and blur the boundaries between reality and imagination, between reality and myth, and between fact and fiction.

The book was awarded the Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize in 2018. The prize is awarded annually by the city of Braunschweig and Deutschlandfunk and goes to German-language works that have a significant influence on the development of German literature and authors. Before being translated into Indonesian, her book had already been translated into 20 foreign languages.

According to Schalansky, the book is like a close relationship to someone she's known since childhood. "This book is like any other book, born from a desire for sustainability, from a desire to bring the past to the present, to elevate the forgotten and to give a voice to the silenced. Writing will not bring anything back but it can turn everything into an experience. This book pays equal attention to discovery and loss as well as to the idea that presence and absence are perhaps only slightly different as long as there is memory," says Schalansky.

The work so captivated Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia that they decided to publish Schalansky's book because her writing brought human consciousness to space and time with all its occurrences. It is available at Gramedia bookstore, Obor's website, via Obor's social media and other marketplaces. It is also available as an e-book version.

"Judith Schalansky is able to move emotions and cognition to engender care for humanity and all forms of civilization. For the Indonesian context, the call to protect and care is important for the sustainability of the nation's civilization," says Andreas Haryono, Editor of the Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

Translation Grant Program

The Goethe-Institut's grant program "Translations of German Books into Other Languages" supports non-German publishers in publishing German-language literature. The aim is to ensure non-German speaking readers access to current works of contemporary literature, literature for children and young people, important academic titles, and non-fiction works.

The program serves cultural policy goals and is an important guiding instrument for cultural and educational foreign policy. In the nearly 40 years of its existence, the program has provided financial support for the publication of approximately 6,000 books in 45 languages.

Some German-language books that have been translated from German into Indonesian through this program include:

- *Sang Guru Piano* (original title: *Die Klavierspielerin*) by Elfriede Jelinek, Nobel Prize winner from Austria
- *Planet Magnon* by Leif Randt
- *Sang Petinju* (original title: *Der Boxer*) by Reinhard Kleist
- *Kisah Seekor Singa yang Tidak Bisa Menulis* (original title: *Die Geschichte vom Löwen, der nicht schreiben konnte*) by Martin Baltscheit
- *Dongeng Negeri Bulan* (original title: *Märchenmond*) by Wolfgang and Heike Hohlbein
- *Momo* by Michael Ende
- *Mimpi Selalu Indah* (original title: *Träume wohnen überall*) by Carolin Philipps
- *Malaikat Pelindungku yang Menakjubkan - Ketika Mama Sakit Kanker, Sebuah Cerita untuk Ibu dan Anak* (original title: *Mein wunderschöner Schutzengel - Als Nellys Mama Krebs bekam*) by Kerstin Hermelink

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