



Roger Salloch

Is a novelist, short story writer, photographer, screenwriter and critic.

He was born in New York and his work has appeared widely in publications such as The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Paris Review, Ploughshares and The North Atlantic Review among others.

A novel, "Along the Railroad Tracks", was translated into Italian and published in 2016 ("Una Storia Tedesca", by Miraggi Edizioni).

The same novel was translated into French and published in Paris in 2017. Miraggi has now also agreed to translate a new novel, "Vanilla Ice Dream", in 2019.

In November 2018, Salloch's long short story, "In Germany", received recognition by Glimmer Train Press as one of the best 25 stories they had received

out of 1500 in their 2018 Fiction Open. It will be published in 2019 by The New England Review.

Along the Railroad Tracks

(A German Story)

Published in 2016

176 pages

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Berlin 1935, fascists are in charge. Three individuals try to protect themselves and their identity. Reinhardt Korber is a school teacher, a painter, a solitary, resistance figure, not the usual hero. Lotte and Rebecca are young girls madly in love with him. Korber's work leads them to compare him to Balthazar, one of the three kings who saved Jesus from Herod and the massacre of the innocents. In 1935 in Berlin that is not an accidental comparison.

One girl, Rebecca, invents a spy who follows her around and, supposedly at Korber's request, (because he is so in love with her) reports back to him in detail on where she goes, what she does, what she is wearing. When Rebecca's Jewish family, goes into exile, Rebecca is jealous of Lotte who will be left behind. To take revenge, she writes a completely imaginary and totally erotic report by the spy about what she and the teacher did together the week before, did in the studio, after school. She sends it to Lotte. Furiously jealous, Lotte denounces the teacher to her parents as a pedophile. Her father is probably the real pedophile, but since he is a good Party member, only his wife knows, and says nothing. A disciplinary board discovers it is all a fiction but nevertheless feels the teacher must be reassigned. Lotte follows Reinhardt into the woods one day, and guilty and miserable about the trouble she has caused, tries to seduce him.

In that moment, Reinhardt Korber's life, and history itself, almost changes. His own form of inner emigration hasn't saved Reinhardt from a young girl's passion. He decides to take his father's old revolver to the east Prussian conference of elementary school teachers. He is determined to shoot the keynote speaker, the shaman who can mesmerize the crowds, get quiet souls to resort to folly, massacre the children of Bethlehem and ruin a century....

- "A German Story is a courageous text, masterfully written, in which the force of what happens along the railroad tracks in the story is the author's capacity to open multiple scenarios of what might happen, along those same railroad tracks, -- a major symbolic success."

From ***Il fatto quotidiano*** (Milan daily)

- "A resistance novel without a hero, a novel oscillating between light and dark, thanks to the excellent poetic density of the narrative, its maximum attention to detail, and to minor characters that reminds us of Don Delillo. And he would not be displeased at the comparison."

From ***Satisfaction*** (Major Italian literary monthly)