



Anne Weber, *Annette, ein Heldinnenepos*

Bound, 208 pages, 22 €

Matthes & Seitz Berlin

It's a November afternoon in Dieulefit in southern France, where Anne Weber meets 96-year-old Annette Beaumanoir during a film screening followed by a panel discussion.

And she is impressed by the vibrant elderly lady. When she sits next to her at the subsequent dinner, she learns during the course of the evening about her contribution as a teenager to the French Resistance, her decision to join the Algerian freedom fighters, and her escape from France to Tunisia after being sentenced to ten years in prison in her home country.

A book should be written about her, a HYMNE to her, about her sense of justice, her courage, and her steadfastness! This was Anne Weber's spontaneous reaction.

The result was a small but immensely powerful novel, which Anne Weber wrote as an ancient heroic epic, true to her initial inspiration. A form that, admittedly, at first seems daunting, but after just a few paragraphs recedes into the background, so excitingly and almost breathlessly does she tell the story of the unusual life of a girl from Brittany who never shied away from fighting for her convictions. The verse form and the sentences jumping over lines create an extraordinary tempo, full speed ahead, which magnificently illustrates Annette's seemingly uninterrupted commitment to equality and communist sentiments—especially as a practicing doctor and mother of three children.

An unusual and impressive book, written by a nonconformist and masterful author, published by a publisher not geared to mass taste!

Katharina von Uslar