

Fürstenroman (Blue Blood on Edelweiss)

A trashy novel that doesn't take itself seriously.

It is May in Austria. The invited guests are pulling up to the magnificent castle of the royal family of Warthernberg. Today the youngest daughter, Anne-Sophie is to marry the Hungarian baron of Tatzmannsdorf! However when the bride and groom don't show up, the wedding has to be cancelled and Europe's royal family is left standing there looking stupid. What happened? Charlotte, the prince's oldest daughter, sent the naive groom to the mountains at midnight to pick edelweiss for his bride. She pulled his leg, saying that only then will the marriage be blessed with abundant children! Who falls in his black patent leather shoes, loses his memory, is found by a Czech poacher named Jan Tacatsch and kidnapped? Of course it is the idiotic Hungarian baron. Life is also hard on the stupid bride, Sophie. When she goes to look for her groom around four in the morning, she is buried by an avalanche. A bold old forest ranger finds the girl almost frozen to death on a slab of snow. Sophie is now snow-blind and cannot play the cello anymore. This catastrophe sparks a host of problems. The old prince Leopold gets drunk in his chambers. Charlotte's husband reveals his true colors: He only wanted to launder the royal family's illegal money in Hungary, a tax evader's paradise. (huh?) The heir to the throne, Prince Ferdinand has to take over the political business of his drunken father. His common wife Mary, who married into the family (she is from the United States and was an actress or singer in Hollywood, or something like that. The old duke doesn't really want to know exactly!), is on a self-fulfillment trip. She falls in love with a lonely monk who is teaching her pubescent and rebellious son, Maximilian, Latin verbs in a secluded monastery. As if everything weren't embarrassing enough, Prince Alexander, the youngest son of the royal family comes out of the closet. He admits his love for the family's server David, who used to work as a flight attendant for Austrian Airlines. Alexander's 17 year old niece is hopelessly in love with David as well. She decides to go and work in a

nursing home, which really annoys the old Prince. Princesses do not clean men's butts; they play the piano and golf. Sophie's health slowly improves, but only thanks to the chief physician of the private Salzburg clinic. He will sooner or later fall head over heels in love with Charlotte. Charlotte however has become anorexic and addicted to exercise, swallowed by feelings of guilt. She leaves determined to find the missing groom Andre von Tatzmannsdorf. In the dark Bohemian vagabond area where women are sold to German brothels for next to nothing, she finds a red-hot clue ...

This novel appeared in the fall of 2006 at Ullstein.

A parody / satire of the typical trashy novels about Austrian royalty. (Salzkammergut is where the "Sound of Music" took place) Hera Lind involves her readers for the first time by asking them: Should I let this guy or that one die now? Should I let him be good or bad? How do I solve this or that problem? Hm, I'll just leave it open and go on to the next chapter. After all people do that all the time. She gets tangled up in absurd contradictions (Hungary: tax evader's paradise?), but admits it and winks her eye. OK, I admit it, but I couldn't think of a better solution ... You feel like you're at the hairdressers reading about the royal families, but this time you laugh yourself silly.