Newcomers
Subtitle: Book Two
Lojze Kovačič?

TARGET CONSUMER:
• Lovers of modern literary fiction
• Readers of memoirs
• Readers of Bohumil Hrabal’s Harlequin’s Millions and Wiesław Myśliwski’s A Treatise on Shelling Beans
• Professors and students interested in European fiction and comparative literature, particularly Slavic or Slovenian literature
• Readers interested in European and Slovenian history

In this second part of the famous Slovenian writer’s autobiographical novel, the narrator details the dangers and humiliations of his boyhood living in occupied Slovenia in the Second World War.

The second part of Lojze Kovačič’s autobiographical novel, considered by some to be the most important Slovenian novel of the 20th century, describes his half-German family’s life in Ljubljana during the Second World War. The young protagonist Bubi is a perpetual outsider -- exiled from Switzerland in 1938, his family returns home to Ljubljana, where their half-German background makes them stick out in local society. Reeling from the loss of his home in Switzerland, and surrounded by a language he can’t quite master, Bubi confronts the challenges and humiliations of growing up in a strange environment.

Narrated with uncanny naïveté, the novel flits between memories of tenderness and shocking violence as Bubi navigates friendship, family, and his burgeoning sexuality in a land under hostile occupation.

• Major Slovenian author
• The Newcomers is widely considered the most important Slovenian novel of the twentieth century
• This is the second installment, dealing with the narrator's coming of age in occupied Slovenia during the Second World War
• A poignant study of memory and exile

"Kovacic impressively catches the mood of the early years of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The volumes are masterpieces. They are bitter, but grippingly intense in their description... Newcomers is a mnemonic sleight of hand of botanical exactitude, a weighty historical document whose significance will only grow." --Sign and Sight

"Epic and panoramic... Newcomers turns stereotypes on their heads, as novels of the century should do--stereotypes such as the dignity of rural poverty, the unifying sanctity of the Slovenian language, and the noble heroism of resistance." --Erica Johnson Debeljak, Context

"One of the major Slovenian prose writers of the last sixty years." --Words Without Borders

Series Overview: At the brink of the Second World War, a Slovenian-German family is exiled from their home in Switzerland. Their young son poignantly narrates the arduous journey back to Slovenia, and their hardscrabble existence in a rural area under foreign occupation.

Author Bio: Lojze Kovačič was born in Basel in 1928 to a German mother and Slovenian father. In 1938 the family was exiled to Slovenia, where Kovačič lived until his death in 2004. He is considered to be one of Slovenia's most significant authors, and Newcomers is widely regarded the most important Slovenian novel of the twentieth century. He received the Prešeren Award for life achievement in 1973, and the Kresnik Award for best novel in 1991 and 2004 for Crystal Time and Things of Childhood. In addition to his novels and short story collections, Kovačič also published a number of books for children and young readers.

About the Translator: Michael Biggins has translated works by a number of Slovenia’s leading contemporary writers. He currently curates the library collections for Russian and East European studies and teaches in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, both at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Residence: Ljubljana, Slovenia (deceased) Hometown: Basel, Switzerland
"Kovačič's prose style--long paragraphs interspersed with ellipses--creates a restrained tempo in which Alojz's immediate surroundings are constructed through each successive word or phrase. The spaces between thoughts permit a brief window for a new perception to register in his consciousness." -- Tyler Langendorfer, The Quarterly Conversation

"Like the war its characters are wading into by the end of the first book, Newcomers is not concerned with justifying itself. Therein lies its paltry transcendence." -- Zack Hatfield, The Los Angeles Review of Books

"Kovačič builds up a gritty naturalism, directing our attention to a single criterion of truth: the bearing of witness to the cataclysms of history, and the trauma of their aftermath." -- Erik Noonan, MAKE Literary Magazine

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**Newcomers**

Lojze Kovacic?

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**Author's Previous Titles (Sales Track)**

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