

Contact: Matthew Koreizwo

Publicity Assistant | Other Press

212.414.0054 x223

matt@otherpress.com

# *Paper Kisses: A True Love Story*

by

*Reinhard Kaiser*

*Translated by Anthea Bell*

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*“[This] gem of a story provides readers with a fresh, intimate angle from which to view the devastating effects of Hitler’s war on the world.” - Publisher’s Weekly*

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**A**t a stamp auction in Frankfurt, Germany in 1991, Reinhard Kaiser discovered a packet of letters that immediately captivated him. Sent by a young Jewish geologist to his lover in Sweden, these letters - ordinary, sad, and dramatic at the same time - tell the story of a love that blossomed under traumatic circumstances.

**R**udolf Kaufmann met Ingeborg Magnusson in Italy in 1935 and the couple quickly fell in love. They spent just a few days together before they had to part. He came once to see her in Stockholm; she went once to Germany. After that they had to make do with an exchange of letters. **PAPER KISSES** allows these letters to speak for themselves as sincere expressions of longing and hope while contextualizing them within the historic and cultural forces that inexorably drove the young lovers apart.

**K**aaiser’s literary detective work frames the narrative, making **PAPER KISSES** not only

the story of the star-crossed lovers but also the chronicle of one man’s investigation into their fate. He tracked down photographs, documentary records, and surviving members of the couple’s families, piecing together their story and rewriting World War II on a personal scale in the process.

**R**einhard Kaiser, writer, translator, and editor, was born in 1950 and now lives in Frankfurt. He has won several literary prizes and awards for his books, including **PAPER KISSES**, and is a member of the German PEN Club. His books have been translated into several languages, including English, French, Italian, Swedish, Greek, Japanese, and Chinese.

**A**nthea Bell’s translations include the works of the Brothers Grimm and E.T.A. Hoffmann. In 2002 her translation of W.G. Sebald’s *Austerlitz* won the Kurt Wolff Translator’s Prize from the Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes. She lives in Cambridge, UK.

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Paper Kisses by Reinhard Kaiser

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