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# A Foreign Affair

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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Kate, just 17, is swept off to Essenheim, a tiny country somewhere beyond Switzerland, by Crown Prince Rudi who plans to make her his official, temporary mistress to ensure that his uncle abdicates in favour of him. Clear so far? Also travelling are George, an English journalist, Sonia, an Essenheimisch student revolutionary and Aleks, Essenheim's first poet whose works are oddly familiar - 'I moved at random in isolation similar to that of a mass of fog drifting at a considerable altitude across mountains and valleys...' Just as Kate begins to grasp the complicated politics of Essenheim, there is a military coup, she's threatened with marriage to Colonel Schweiner, then the revolutionaries gain control, but are rapidly overthrown by Essenheim's capitalist who is replaced by a populist movement - the agile trimmer of a Crown Prince landing on his feet throughout. Though Kate's insides melt in his presence, she never really likes Rudi who is pushed in the river by good old George, with whom Kate escapes in the end. A busy book, humorous and quite demanding, appealing most, I think, to fairly sophisticated girls with some sense of politics and satire. Perhaps I'm being perverse in finding Kate's presence more unlikely than the situation itself, but as the author says in his Note, 'Don't take it seriously. It is for fun.'

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