

Gina Bucher  
Writer in Residence / May 2021  
Switzerland

Born in 1978 in Lucerne. Studied film studies, journalism and art history at the Universities of Zurich and Hamburg. Since 2014 she is active as writing coach in the youth literature laboratory JULL and in 2016 she established her own writing group "Die Stadtbeobachterinnen". From 2018 on she is writing book reviews for NZZ am Sonntag and is an editorial member of Essais agitées since 2019.

Besides the artistic field Gina Bucher deals with different areas of life and their intrinsic crises. *Ich trug ein grünes Kleid, der Rest war Schicksal* (Piper 2016) is the gathering of experiences about love from people between the ages of 60 and 95. The protagonists tell about the role of their dreams and longings in a wonderfully honest and blunt way. At the same time they reflect on disappointments and setbacks they have experienced. There is plenty of insightful talk about (un)romantic pragmatism and how to deal with the loss of love or the beloved, or not.

In *Der Fehler, der mein Leben veränderte* (Piper 2018) Gina Bucher gets to the bottom of the question of what failure means for people. In three chapters, based on interviews, the talk is about making mistakes as an everyday experience. The question is: 'What happened?' instead of: 'Who's to blame?' Failure is human and is just as much a part of life as hope and happiness, it can occur in all contexts of life. Gina Bucher thinks that we are "not as fragile as we think", even if it is often difficult to put the failure in words:

*"It is quite possible that you don't learn as much from mistakes as the saying goes. And just because the economy has found a brisk narrative to talk about mistakes publicly and wants to cultivate a culture of failure that is as open as possible does not mean that society is ready to talk relaxed about making mistakes."*

## Readings

Gina Bucher reads on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> as part of the event *Das Land liest*.