

A Novel of Art,
Marriage, and Reckoning

ABOUT THE BOOK

Ingrid is a 40-year-old painter living in Stockholm with her husband Hemming, a sculptor whose career never took off. Over the years, Hemming has gradually taken control—managing their art gallery, directing Ingrid's artistic output, and making decisions about her work without her input. When Hemming signs an exclusivity contract with a lucrative gallery on her behalf without her knowledge or consent, Ingrid reaches a breaking point.

Furious and suffocated, she seeks clarity on the ski slopes. But while speeding down the mountain, lost in thought, she crashes into Uri, a young nomad traveling the world after his father's death. The collision awakens something in her—possibility, desire, a different way of living.

As Ingrid recovers in the hospital, fearing she may never paint again, she finds an unexpected kindred spirit in Uri. Their connection is immediate and dangerous. As the two become increasingly close, Ingrid must confront fundamental questions: What does she want? Who is she without her marriage? What is she willing to sacrifice—and what is she no longer willing to endure?

WHY THIS BOOK MATTERS

Art & Identity — Ingrid's journey is about reclaiming her creative voice and sense of self. Her art is not separate from her identity; it is her identity.

Power & Agency in Marriage — The slow erosion of Ingrid's agency within her marriage is the emotional core. This is not dramatic conflict, but quiet suffocation—and what happens when someone finally fights back.

Desire & Recklessness — Her connection with Uri awakens something suppressed in Ingrid: spontaneity, desire, the willingness to be reckless. The novel doesn't shy away from the messy nature of forbidden attraction.

Freedom & Its Cost — What does freedom truly cost? The End of the Storm wrestles with this question without offering easy answers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Laor was born in 1954 to Holocaust survivors and grew up in Beersheba, in southern Israel. He spent 42 years in the high-tech industry, including nine years in Silicon Valley, where he earned an MBA from California State University. In addition to a degree in Electrical Engineering, he also holds a degree in General Literature from the Open University of Israel.

An avid hiker and skier, Michael has completed treks across Israel, the Alps, Central Asia, and the US—experiences that inform the mountain and adventure settings in his fiction. His deep interest in visual art and decades of voracious reading of literary fiction laid the foundation for his own creative work.

Throughout his career, Michael wrote numerous short stories, some of which received recognition and awards. After retiring from technology, Michael decided to devote himself fully to writing. The End of the Storm is his first published full-length novel.

AT A GLANCE

- ✦ Contemporary Literary Fiction
- ✦ Approximately 90,000 words
- ✦ English language

READER REVIEWS

"Engaging... Very emotional."

★★★★★

"Captivating."

★★★★★

"A fab read!"

★★★★★

"If you love second chances... This is it."

★★★★★

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