



**ŚWIAT KSIĄŻKI**  
**FALL/WINTER 2011**  
RIGHTS GUIDE



Świat Książki

**Weltbild**

# CONTACT

Agata Pieniążek

Rights Manager

Phone: (+48 22) 517 5018; mobile: +48602210197

[agata.pieniazek@weltbild.pl](mailto:agata.pieniazek@weltbild.pl)

ŚWIAT KSIĄŻKI

Weltbild Polska Ltd

ul. Hankiewicza 2

02-103 Warsaw, Poland

# SPIES, LIES AND LOVE IN MAGDALENA PARYS' DEBUT NOVEL

Franz asked Magda to take a parcel across the border, give it to his brother and come straight back. She froze. It was impossible to refuse him, but what would happen as a result? That was what went through her mind, but she didn't ask any direct questions, nor did he say any more about it. She will never forget that day when she stood on the German-German border. She has a perfect memory of the thin German woman who told her to strip naked and who took away Franz's parcel - the one she was supposed to be delivering to his brother. At that moment she had said all the prayers she knew to herself. She had always done that, even at Socialist Youth meetings in Poland. Sometimes it helped. This time it hadn't. The thin German woman slowly undid the parcel.

(AN EXCERPT)

# THE TUNNEL UNDER BERLIN

MAGDALENA PARYS, *TUNEL*, NOVEL, NOVEMBER 2011, 310 PAGES

A superb thriller with psychological, social and moral dimensions. It is set over a broad time frame in German and Polish Danzig/Gdańsk, Poland, Berlin divided by the Wall, and the whole of Germany, both East and West. The novel starts with a prologue set in the year 2000 describing the mysterious disappearance of Klaus, who is lured away from home by deceit. Could this event have any connection with what happened in 1981, when a young man called Franz escaped through a 148-metre long tunnel dug from East to West Berlin? Why was it that immediately after his escape all those who were mixed up in the affair were interrogated by the American secret service? Who is actually behind the tunnel's construction?

The novel has a highly original structure, consisting of different characters' accounts which supplement and explain each other. Among them we find: Magda, a Polish girl who has gone to East Germany on a scholarship and fallen in love with Franz, who coldly uses her as he plans his escape to West Berlin; two brothers from a Polish-German family who have been separated and brought up on opposite sides of the Berlin Wall; and Victoria, who escaped from East to West in a car boot. All the characters are in some way connected, through family ties, emotional bonds, their origin, or common activities. They have all been forced to change place and live elsewhere, either through necessity or by accident. And they have all known Franz, the most mysterious character of all. But we only get a picture of the whole story at the end. This is a novel about life, love and History with a big H, the kind that has an effect on three generations of characters - the entire story covers eighty years, right up to the present day.

*The Tunnel Under Berlin* is lucidly written with great verve and a sense of drama. It is consistently structured with well-organised sub-plots - the sort of book you read

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:** WORLD

**Magdalena Parys** (b. in 1971). When she was twelve her family emigrated to Germany. She is a journalist, and also works at a University of Berlin where she takes care of foreign students who are new to Germany, and runs a small chain of bookshops. She is working on her PhD thesis on literature and is also bringing up three children. *The Tunnel Under Berlin* is her first novel.

