



Simplicissimus

Johann Grimmelshausen

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Mike Mitchell's translation of *Simplicissimus* was shortlisted for the Oxford Weidenfeld Translation Prize. "It is a violent and often all-too-realistic picaresque, set in war-torn Europe during the 17th-century Thirty Years War. *Simplicissimus* is the eternal innocent, the simple-minded survivor, and we follow him from a childhood in which he loses his parents to the casual atrocities of occupying troops, through his own soldiering adventures, and up to his final vocation as a hermit alone on an island. It is Rabelasian in some respects, but more down to earth and melancholy." Phil Baker in *The Sunday Times* "It is the rarest kind of monument to life and literature, for it has survived almost three centuries and will survive many more. It is a story of the most basic kind of grandeur - gaudy, wild, raw, amusing, rollicking and ragged, boiling with life, on intimate terms with death and evil - but in the end, contrite and fully tired of a world wasting itself in blood, pillage and lust, but immortal in the miserable splendour of its sins." Thomas Mann

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