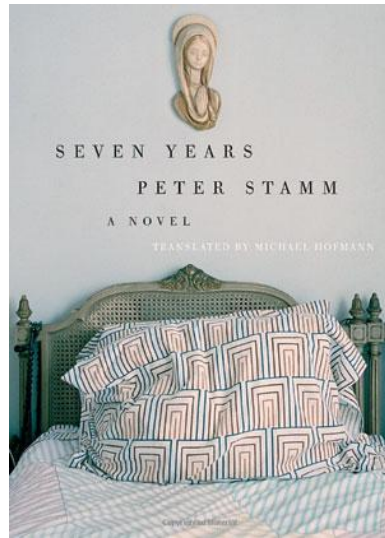


**Seven Years
(*Sieben Jahre*)
by Peter Stamm**

Organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver and EUNIC Canada-Vancouver, the next appointment with the EU Book Club will be with a Swiss novel:



Alex has spent the majority of his adult life between two very different women—and he can't make up his mind. Sonia, his wife and business partner, is everything a man would want. Intelligent, gorgeous, charming, and ambitious, she worked tirelessly alongside him to open their architecture firm and to build a life of luxury. But when the seven-year itch sets in, their exhaustion at working long hours coupled with their failed attempts at starting a family get the best of them. Alex soon finds himself kindling an affair with his college lover, Ivona. The young Polish woman who worked in a Catholic mission is the polar opposite of Sonia: dull, passive, taciturn, and plain. Despite having little in common with Ivona, Alex is inexplicably drawn to her while despising himself for it. Torn between his highbrow marriage and his lowbrow affair, Alex is stuck within a spiraling threesome. But when Ivona becomes pregnant, life takes an unexpected turn, and Alex is puzzled more than ever by the mysteries of his heart.

Peter Stamm, one of Switzerland's most acclaimed writers, is at his best exploring the complexities of human relationships. *Seven Years* is a distinct, sobering, and bold novel about the impositions of happiness in the quest for love.

(Text: www.amazon.ca)

Peter Stamm is a Swiss novelist, short-story writer and radio dramatist, who has just turned 50. Like his father, he studied accountancy and worked for five years as an accountant. And although he has long since left that world, his characters, the *New York Times* once noted, "often act and think like book-keepers, calculating their experiences in terms of ratios and costs, gains and losses."

His cool and sparse writing style has been translated into English by **Michael Hofmann**. His best-known books are *Unformed Landscape* and, more recently, *Seven Years*.

"Peter Stamm's talent is palpable," said the reviewer, Sarah Fay, in the *New York Times*. "But what makes him a writer to read, and read often, is the way he renders contemporary life as a series of ruptures. Never entirely sure of their position, his characters engage in a constant effort to establish their equilibrium."

Saturday, November 16, 2013 – 4:00 to 6:00 pm

**Istituto Italiano di Cultura
Suite 500 - 510 West Hastings Street, Vancouver**

Admission is free, but please register by e-mail: eubookclub.vancouver@shaw.ca

Note: The English translation of the book, published by Other Press in 2011, can be purchased either online via www.amazon.ca (hardcopy and e-version) or ordered at Indigo/Chapters; it is also available at the Vancouver Public Library.

AMAZING OFFER! The Swiss Consulate has ordered 10 copies of the book and can provide it to the participants of the event **free of charge**. Order your personal copy today at vancouver@eda.admin.ch - first come, first served!