



Charlotte: A Novel

By David Foerkinos

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Charlotte: A Novel By David Foerkinos

Internationally literary phenomenon, multiple award-winner, and massive bestseller with over 500,000 copies in print in France and rights sold in 20 countries, *Charlotte* tells the story of artist Charlotte Salomon?born in pre-World War II Berlin to a Jewish family traumatized by suicide.

Obsessed with art, and with living, Charlotte attended school in Germany until it was too dangerous to remain, fled to France, and was interned in a bleak work camp from which she narrowly escaped. Newly free, she spent two years in almost total solitude, creating a series of autobiographical art?images, words, even musical scores?that together tell her life story. A pregnant Charlotte was killed in Auschwitz at the age of 26, but not before she entrusted her life's work to a friend, who kept it safe until peacetime. The result, an extraordinary novel *avant la lettre*, was eventually published as *Life? or Theatre?* (and now reissued by Overlook), a unique, relentlessly complete artistic expression.

In *Charlotte*, David Foerkinos?with passion, life, humor, and intelligent observation?has written his own utterly original tribute to Charlotte Salomon's tragic life and transcendent art. His gorgeous, haunting, and ultimately redemptive novel is the result of a long-cherished desire to honor this young artist. Infused with the emotion of a writer who connects deeply with his subject, and masterfully and sensitively translated by Sam Taylor, *Charlotte* is a triumph of creative expression, a monument to genius stilled too soon, and an ode to the will to survive.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[A] novel that resembles poetry with one reverberating sentence stacked over another. Within this crystalline form pulses every shade of emotion, from elation and amusement to longing and sorrow, the surrounding white space emblematic of all that was taken from this young genius. Foenkinos’ unique homage is exquisitely empathetic and stunningly tragic.”

- *Booklist (starred review)*

“A searing portrait of a brilliant artist.”

- *Kirkus*

“A sensitive and deeply moving novel.”

- *Paris Match*

“Stamped with humility and elegance.”

- *Lire*

“David Foenkinos is the literary discovery of the year.”

- *Nouvelles Semaines*

About the Author

David Foenkinos is a screenwriter and the author of fourteen novels translated into forty languages, including *La Délicatesse*, *Les Souvenirs*, and *Je Vais Mieux*. In 2011, with his brother, he adapted his book *La Délicatesse* for the film *Delicacy*, starring Audrey Tautou and François Damiens.

Sam Taylor is a novelist and translator. He is the author of *The Amnesiac* and *The Island at the End of the World* and has translated more than a dozen novels from the French, including Laurent Binet's acclaimed *HHhH* and the bestselling *The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair*.

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