



**THOMAS MONTASSER MONSIEUR JEAN
AND HIS FEELING FOR HAPPINESS**

**After *A Very Special Year* the new novel by Thomas Montasser.
A very special read. Follow Monsieur Jean on his road to happiness.**

»With the best will in the world he had no idea what he was going to do with all the time that was now left to him on this earth. He didn't even know how much time that was. Well, of course there were a few things he still had to deal with. Because simply to go and leave would not have been his style. Monsieur Jean was proud that he always brought matters to a conclusion. To a happy conclusion. And there were a few things that were as yet unfinished.«

For many years Monsieur Jean worked as concierge in the famous grand hotel *La Tour au Lac* in Zürich. When he is suddenly made to retire, he asks himself what he is going to do with the rest of his life. But then he picks up his little note book, where he has carefully and discretely noted down the wishes and secrets of the hotel guests and its staff – and suddenly he has a plan. Too many things that have not yet reached a satisfactory conclusion are waiting for someone who can change the situation. Unobtrusively, as is his nature, Monsieur Jean begins to pull the strings. With his inherent feeling

for people he intervenes in the fate of those who have so far lacked a special talent for happiness.

Monsieur Jean's greatest challenge is, however, Anastasia Feodora Baljanina, a young Ukrainian woman with big plans and a small budget. Her attempt to open a charming little cafe in the middle of Zürich seems doomed to swift failure. But Monsieur Jean, her first customer, doesn't leave things to chance in her case, but knows how to change the course of events and so help the little *Cafe de Balzac* and Anastasia's happiness to blossom. Because he has a couple of really unusual ideas . . .

»Monsieur Jean loved the fact that the office of concierge gave him a certain authority and dignity, while at the same time the uniform allowed the man to retreat behind the office – to become invisible. He had perfected this art on invisibility so well over the years that he could, as if at the flick of a switch, disappear from the consciousness of his fellow beings.«

- With light-footed elegance and imagination Thomas Montasser sends his Monsieur Jean on an irresistible journey into happiness.

- A wonderfully moving novel for everyone who still has dreams.

THOMAS MONTASSER worked as a journalist and university teacher, and also ran a small theatre group. He wrote major historical novels (*Die verbotenen Gärten* [The Forbidden Gardens]) and also, under the pen-name Fortunato, children' books (*Zauber der Wünsche* [The Magic of Wishes]). The father of three children, he lives with his family in Munich. Following *Ein ganz besonderes Jahr* [A Very Special Year] (Thiele Verlag 2014) the author is presenting us with a new novel of particular magic which will enchant you all.

- World Rights. Sold to France and Poland.
- Hardcover: Thiele Verlag 2015 (256 pages).