

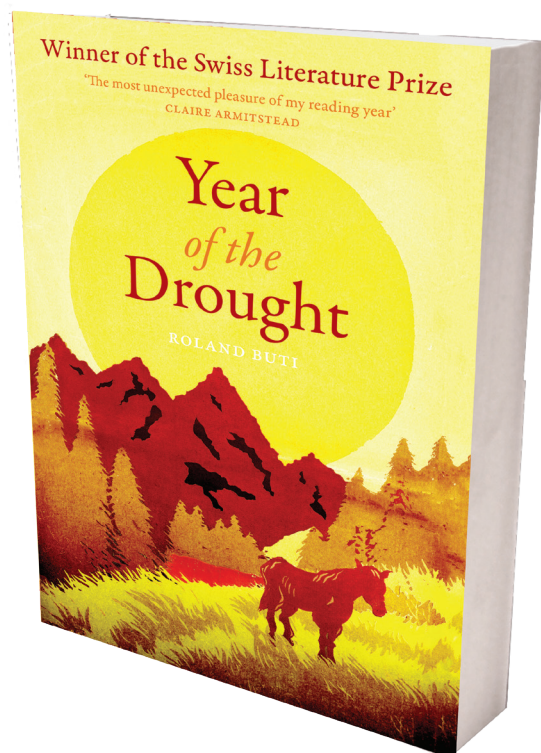
PRESS RELEASE

YEAR OF THE DROUGHT • ROLAND BUTI • LITERARY FICTION

21 JUNE 2018 • £8.99 • 978-1-910400-76-0 • BFPB • 160PP

WINNER SWISS LITERATURE PRIZE

WINNER PRIX DU PUBLIC DE LA R.T.S.
WINNER PRIX DES LECTRICES EDELWEISS



“It was the month of June, in the year 1976. I was thirteen. It was the start of the summer holidays. It was the year of the drought.”

The Sutters have been farming on the Swiss plateau for generations, but now the household teeters on the brink of ruin. The crops are audibly roasting; the ventilators in the new hen-house are breaking down; even the family sheepdog, Sheriff, has taken to fainting in the unheard-of temperatures.

When a mysterious guest arrives at the farm, she quickly becomes a focus for dreams that have long been suppressed – of freedom, art and sex. With only his injured dove and his comic books for company, thirteen-year-old Auguste observes helplessly as his family and his carefree childhood dissolve in the heat.

A tender, funny, elegiac novel about a lost rural way of life, *Year of the Drought* is a perfect companion to Robert Seethaler's *A Whole Life*. Taking place over one apocalyptic summer, it evokes several worlds – of childhood, of traditional farming, of patriarchy – at the very moment of their destruction.

- **LEAD TITLE. A multiple prize-winner in Switzerland, including the Swiss Literature Prize (the ‘Swiss Booker’)**
- **Terrific reviews for the trade pb**
- **Comp title: A WHOLE LIFE by Robert Seethaler**

‘This deceptively slim and deadpan novel combines the relentlessness of classical tragedy with an oddball humour that is both disorientating and charming. It was the most unexpected pleasure of my reading year.’
CLAIRE ARMITSTEAD

‘Having won multiple awards in Switzerland, this powerful coming-of-age novel about a boy watching his family implode now appears in an eloquent English translation.’ **GLASGOW HERALD**

‘weaves a touching coming-of-age tale into an elegy for a dying rural life... terrific’ **BIG ISSUE**

‘Year of the Drought is precise and powerful... a stunning evocation of an epochal change in rural life, affecting in equal measure animals, people, plants, the soil, and even the air itself..’ **DIE ZEIT**

‘A beautifully constructed, imaginative and delicate novel that concentrates the heat like a magnifying glass’
NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

‘A great novel.... masterfully evokes not the end of the world, but the end of a world ... a beautiful and very moving book’
LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR

‘This is great literature . . . a book that concerns a vast public’
JURY OF THE SWISS LITERATURE PRIZE

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