

Géza Bereményi: Baby Vadnai
Literary fiction, 296 pages
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In Budapest in the 1970s, where a single day is an eternity, Dobrovich is starting out on a career as a writer. When he and a friend suspect they might be brothers, he starts to make investigations about the father. More and more secrets are uncovered. In Budapest in the 1940s, where one day is a life, and war is closer and closer, the young men swarm around the captivatingly beautiful Baby Vadnai. Will Dobrovich be able to get to the bottom of the secret? If he does, what will he see there? How do love and hate alternate time and again?

Baby Vadnai is a historical novel, with almost palpable descriptions of the people and places of Budapest that was, and shows with rasping cruelty how people function in war; but it is also a study of feelings, which speaks with demonic power of the irrationality of love, desire that burns to become hate, and the desperate action of searching for a mother and a father. How do we repeat, with our character and choices, the fate of our ancestors? This pulsing exciting novel, much of which is based on reality, gives a fascinating answer to these questions and others.

"In those days Dobrovich's enquiries were laconic, and he only had to ask one question for people to open up to him gratefully. He had the key to them.

Living in a passageway between eras, he classified the fictitious stories he heard from others. He researched in muddled, secondary sources. Because for him, the possible was more exciting, and indeed truer, than the bygone reality itself. Or not. Not the bygone reality. Because reality remains forever in the possible, claimed Dobrovich, for instance in the stories of the four girls."

Géza Bereményi

Géza Bereményi was born in 1946 in Budapest. In 1970 he graduated in Budapest as a Hungarian and Italian teacher, and in the same year published a volume of short stories entitled *A svéd király* (The Swedish King).



He wrote and later directed films, wrote plays and song lyrics, the latter mainly with Tamás Cseh, a singer and performer who became a cult figure in socialist times. He has been awarded the Kossuth, the Attila József and the Béla Balázs prizes.

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