

Fascism vs. Utopia in Ingeborg Bachmann's *Malina*

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Elements of Fascism and Utopia
- 3 Conclusion

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The author

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(Klagenfurt, 1926 - Rome, 1973)

- Poet, playwright, author, essayist, translator



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- Poet, playwright, author, essayist, translator
- Modernism
- Influences:
 - HEIDEGGER's and WITTGENSTEIN's philosophy of language
 - composer Hans Werner HENZE
 - poet Paul CELAN
 - novelist Max FRISCH
 - Gruppe 47
 - etc.



Structure of the novel & characteristics of each chapter

<i>part</i>	1: HAPPY WITH IVAN	2: THE THIRD MAN	3: LAST THINGS
<i>main character</i>	Ivan	father	Malina
<i>genres</i>	fairy tale, interview, letters, notation	34 dreams, analyzed with Malina	dramatic dialog, letters, notation
<i>level</i>	emotional	subconscious	rational
<i>last sentence</i>	<i>Vienna is silent.</i>	<i>It is the eternal war.</i>	<i>It was murder.</i>

Language

"Me tonight?
Well no, if you can't
But you're the one who
Right. But I don't want to go
But I don't think you, I'm sorry
I'm telling you I have no
You better go, I had completely
forgotten
You did, so you're
Alright then see you tomorrow.
Sleep well!" (*Malina* 23)

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 Alright then see you tomorrow.
 Sleep well!" (*Malina* 23)

"I'm sorry?
 No?
 Then I didn't express myself clearly.
 There must be some mistake.
 The number is 723144.
 Yes, Ungargasse 6.
 No, there isn't.
 There is no woman here.
 I'm telling you, there was never
 anyone here by that name. (...)
 My name?
 Malina." (*Malina* 224)

Types of elements

Fascist

language

abuse

murder

fascism

holocaust

Types of elements

Fascist

language

abuse

murder

fascism

holocaust

Utopian

music

Princess of Kagran

"A day will come ..."

"Exultate Jubilare"

"House Austria"

Coalescence of the Contrary Elements

“Once upon a time there was a princess, once the Magyars rode up into the broad land whose expanses were yet unexplored, once upon a time the willows rustled on the Danube, once upon a time there was a bouquet of Turk's-cap lilies and a black mantle . . . My kingdom, my Ungergassenland, which I have preserved with my mortal hands, my glorious land, now no larger than the hot plate on my stove which is beginning to glow, while the rest of the water drips through the filter . . . I have to watch out that I don't fall face first onto the hot plate, that I don't disfigure myself, burn myself, then Malina would have to call the police and the ambulance, he would have to confess his carelessness at having let a woman burn halfway to death.” (*Malina* 222-23)

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Conclusions

- Fighting the supremacy by rejecting the role of victim and stepping out of the circle of violence.
- Striving to an ideal of sublime harmony in spite of knowing that it is not possible in this world.
- By fighting fascist forces and nurturing utopian ideas we expand our limitations.

Correspondence of Contrary Elements

Fascist

language

abuse

murder

fascism

holocaust

"private fascism"

Utopian

music

Princess of Kagran

"A day will come ..."

"Exultate Jubilare"

"House Austria"

utopia as path of salvation

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Thank you!