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

Ingeborg BACHMANN
(Klagenfurt, 1926 - Rome, 1973)

- Poet, playwright, author, essayist, translator
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- Modernism
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**Ingeborg BACHMANN**
(Klagenfurt, 1926 - Rome, 1973)

- Poet, playwright, author, essayist, translator
- Modernism
- Influences:
  - Heidegger's and Wittgenstein's philosophy of language
  - componist Hanz Werner Henze
  - poet Paul Celan
  - novelist Max Frisch
  - Gruppe 47
  - etc.
## Introduction

### Structure of the novel & characteristics of each chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>part</th>
<th>1: <strong>HAPPY WITH IVAN</strong></th>
<th>2: <strong>THE THIRD MAN</strong></th>
<th>3: <strong>LAST THINGS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>main character</td>
<td>Ivan</td>
<td>father</td>
<td>Malina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genres</td>
<td>fairytale, interview, letters, notation</td>
<td>34 dreams, analyzed with Malina</td>
<td>dramatic dialog, letters, notation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level</td>
<td>emotional</td>
<td>subconscious</td>
<td>rational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>last sentence</td>
<td>Vienna is silent.</td>
<td>It is the eternal war.</td>
<td>It was murder.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"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
Allright then see you tomorrow.
Sleep well!" (Malina 23)
"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  
Allright 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 Jubilate"
- "House Austria"
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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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)
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.
Conclusion

Correspondence of Contrary Elements

Fascist
- language
- abuse
- murder
- fascism
- holocaust
- "private fascism"

Utopian
- music
- Princess of Kagran
- "A day will come ..."
- "Exultate Jubilate"
- "House Austria"
- utopia as path of salvation


Bibliography


Conclusion

Bibliography


Bibliography


Thank you!