

Summary

PhD thesis on "To save humanity ..." The life and work of Julia Franck aims at presenting the biography and interesting work of the Berlin writer. In spite of getting acquainted with her literary output, it will remain an undiscovered card for me, because we will find many insinuations on the pages of her novels, combining waking and dreaming, mixing fiction with a fairy tale and folk beliefs with truth, the power of symbols and unimaginability.

Julia Franck's work oscillates against two poles, first of all violence in various aspects and faces, and secondly a sea of sensuality and passion. Both poles and a mosaic of motifs create an excellent picture of the reality created by the writer. These two planes determine the fate of the heroes created by the writer. Julia Franck's special prize proves the uniqueness of her writing, which she received in 2007 for *Die Mittagsfrau* (*The Noonday Witch*). In my opinion, the work of a prozator is unique, because it reflects in it like in a mirror, the power of autobiographical motifs. An attentive reader in many places, events and people will find a personal baggage of the writer's experiences. Julia Franck was not afraid of hard work - she was a cleaning lady, waitress, nurse, babysitter, journalist, she transcribed Gerhart Hauptmann and his wife's journals. This richness and variety of experiences mature and flourish in her heroes, giving a rich harvest.

Literary critics emphasize that her prose is characterized by a pictorial description, linguistic intensity, insight into the narrative. For me, as a recapitulant of her works, it is of particular value that the theme of her novel is the history of Germany, skilfully woven into the background. Her work proved that she did not only remain Fräuleinwunder, but a skilled, talented writer whose work in Poland is almost unknown, outside the narrow circle of Germanists. Julia Franck's work is determined by the events of her life. With a stigma, she left her family with her in the Berlin-Marienfelde refugee camp, the premature death of her friend, her foster families, or the Children's Home. In addition, loneliness and a sense of rejection, a difficult relationship with her mother and late contact with her father, because at the age of fourteen, will not remain unnoticed in her writing achievements. All this determines her way of looking at the world. I must strongly stress the fact that Julia Franck's father was abandoned by his mother in early childhood. This trauma will always remain in the heart and mind of the writer. Piling up question marks and the lack of answers to them will become

a contribution to writing the novel *Die Mittagsfrau*. This vastness of pain, suffering, rejection, alienation, loneliness and loss of identity is very visible in her prose creation. This is the literary legacy of the Berlin writer, on the one hand strongly saturated with violence, on the other hand very warm, sensual and attractive. All this makes that her works seem so interesting and remarkable for me.