

Georg Letham

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Ernst Weiss

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P H Y S I C I A N A N D M U R D E R E R



Translated from the German by Joel Rotenberg

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著者:Weiss, Ernst

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Ernst Weiss is in fact one of the few writers who may justly be compared to Franz Kafka...The book belongs to the very most interesting that I have come across in years. . . One is filled with impressions, excited and gripped by striking existent but unforgettably cast images, characters, and events. By the way: it is all very Austrian." Thomas Mann I wonder why Weiss isn't better known here. A doctor as well as a writer, he knew about the body as well as the heart, and you can trust him when he

describes how each can act on the other.” Nicholas Lezard , The Guardian Georg Letham: Physician and Murderer is a tragicomic and harrowing portrait of a morally defective mind. Written in a highly unreliable first person narrative, this unsung masterwork is an account of a crime and its aftermath: the scientist-hero (or scientist-villain) is tried, sentenced, and deported to a remote island where he is privileged to work as an epidemiologist. He seeks redemption in science, but in spite of himself he is a man of feeling. The book came out of the same fertile literary ground between the wars that produced The Man Without Qualities and The Sleepwalkers ; like those modernist classics and the works of Ernst Weiss’ friend, Franz Kafka, Georg Letham: Physician and Murderer is a prescient depiction of a profoundly unsettled society. Ernst Weiss (1882-1940), born in Brunn, Austria (now Brno, Czech Republic), spoke and wrote in German. He was a trained physician and surgeon and served as a ship’s doctor for many years. He met Kafka in Berlin in 1913, and was convinced to write full-time. Weiss, a Jew, committed suicide in Paris when the Nazis entered the city in 1940. Joel Rotenberg translated Chess Story and The Post-Office Girl by Stefan Zweig

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