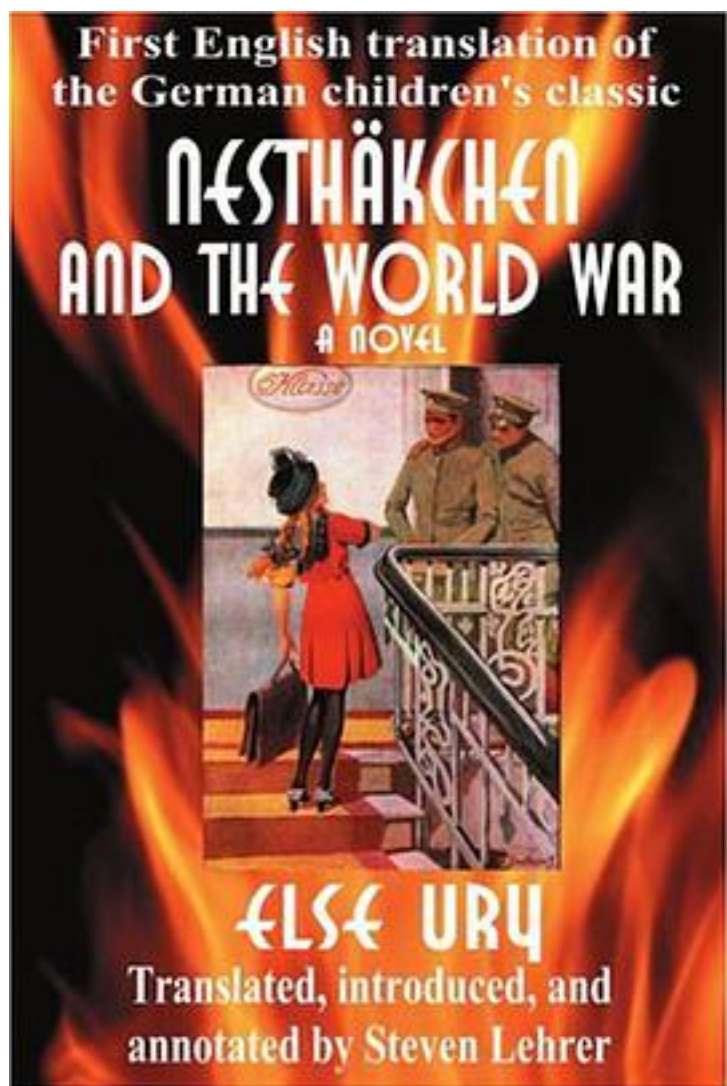


Nesthakchen and the World War



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A recent survey of German women revealed that 55% had read Else Ury's "Nesthkchen" books. Even more had heard them read over the radio or had seen the television serialization. Germans call a spoiled child or family pet a Nesthkchen. Else Ury's Nesthkchen is a Berlin doctor's daughter, Annemarie Braun, a slim, golden blond, quintessential German girl. The ten book series follows Annemarie from infancy ("Nesthkchen and Her Dolls") to old age and grandchildren ("Nesthkchen with White Hair"). "Nesthkchen and the World War," the fourth volume in the series, is the tale of a pre-adolescent girl growing up in Berlin at the outbreak of World War I. It presents a charming, skillful evocation of a long-vanished world, while Steven Lehrer's annotations put the story in historical context. "Nesthkchen and the World War" conveys a timeless lesson, for children as well as adults, about the nature of war. Wars often begin with an outpouring of patriotic sentiment. World War I started this way, and Else Ury's description of German war-euphoria in 1914 is chilling. But when the narrative ends, in mid 1916, the war could no longer be mistaken for a noble, patriotic adventure.

作者介绍:

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