

## Rechnitz, and The Merchants Contracts Seagull Books - In Performance



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### **Reviews**

*Comprehensive guide! Its this sort of very good go through. It generally is not going to price too much. Its been designed in an remarkably basic way which is simply following i finished reading this pdf where really changed me, affect the way i really believe.  
(Prof. Jeremie Blanda DDS)*

## RECHNITZ, AND THE MERCHANTS CONTRACTS SEAGULL BOOKS - IN PERFORMANCE



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Seagull Books. Paperback. Condition: New. 240 pages. Throughout her career, Elfriede Jelinek was maligned by the media for her unrelenting critique of Austrias refusal to account for its complicity in the Holocaust and her provocative deconstructions of pornography. But her central role in shaping contemporary literature was recognized internationally when in 2004 she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for for her musical flow of voices and counter-voices in novels and plays that with extraordinary linguistic zeal reveal the absurdity of societys clichs and their subjugating power. However, few of her works are available in English translation, least of all her ground-breaking plays. This volume collects two of her recent dramatic works, *Rechnitz: The Exterminating Angel* (2008), which won the prestigious Mlheim Dramatists Prize, and *The Merchants Contract* (2009). In *Rechnitz* a chorus of messengers reports what they have been told about the circumstances that led to the massacre of 180 Jews, which actually took place towards the end of World War II during a wild party for provincial Nazi administrators at a castle in the AustrianHungarian border town of Rechnitz. Rather than being a docu-drama, Jelineks text focuses on the transmission of historic memory. If *Rechnitz* is Jelineks best performance text, then *The Merchants Contracts*, her comedy of economics is her most accessible work. With capitalism having gone global and Wall Street as its neo-mythical Walhalla, English has taken over as the markets universal language. Even in their respective native languages, speculators lingo and media spin is babble to the ears of most small investors, who, after all, were and continue to be the biggest losers worldwide in the economic crisis. The play nevertheless has the alienating effect and universality of a Brechtian fable. In the age of global economy, Jelinek turns a merchant of Vienna into a...



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