



# The Child

*Pascale Kramer*

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## **The Child** Pascale Kramer

“Intense and bravely uncompromising. An adult study of pain, thwarted affection, and guarded privacies in a world at the edge of violent public breakdown. An impressive achievement.” —**DAVID MALOUF**, author of *Ransom: A Novel* and *The Happy Life: The Search for Contentment in the Modern World*

Simone and Claude live in a house with a lush garden, surrounded by a hedge that barely protects them from the growing violence and unrest in their low-income neighborhood. Simone mourns the loss of youth and possibility as Claude, a gym teacher who has been diagnosed with cancer, edges toward death. This is an unflinching portrait of a couple ravaged by illness and locked into mutual isolation—that is, until the arrival of a young boy brings hope and upsets their delicate *danse macabre* to devastating effect.

Pascale Kramer dissects romantic love’s psychic carnage while unsentimentally revealing the unique beauty born of an adult’s love for a child. As does Marguerite Duras, she wields spare language like a club and plumbs emotional depths rarely reached outside of poetry. A brilliant collision of hope and despair, *The Child* is a tour de force.

**Pascale Kramer** is the author of *The Living* and the recipient of numerous awards, including the Prix Shiller (Switzerland) and the Prix du Roman de la Société des gens de lettres (France). *The Child* is her second novel to be translated into English. Born in Geneva, she lives in Paris, France.

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