

DAY-IN, DAY-OUT.

by **Richard Rossmann**

'The day I stop work is the day I die.' When my grandfather died in 1958, my grandmother Thresl took on the farm and inn at Harhamhof, high in the Austrian Alps. Day-in, day-out, she worked the farm and ran the inn. Fifty years on, Thresl is 99 years old and still working. Rest is of no interest to Thresl: 'I'm glad to be busy. The day I stop work will be the day I die'. Thresl's independence was hard-won; in the years after the untimely death of her husband, life was hard, the work unceasing. The inn was deep in debt, and the farm yielded just enough to get by with the two children, both put to work early to replace their father. Yet, subsequent offers of marriage were turned down – 'I'm going to take orders from nobody.' But not everyone likes how she runs the Harhamhof. Some say Thresl is too old-fashioned – not modern enough – and one of these critics is her son. Hans has been keen to take on the Harhamhof for decades but by sheer force of will, my grandmother has placed herself beyond social conventions about how the elderly should be regarded. For her guests she remains mistress of a timeless world.

FACTS

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ORIGINAL TITLE

Tagaus, tagein.

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

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