



THE PENPAL

by Sarah Klewes



SYNOPSIS

Director Sarah Klewes is merely twelve years old when she meets writer Claretta Cerio, 65 years her senior, in Tuscany. They begin a pen friendship that lasts 15 years. Then Claretta dies. The world loses an exciting author – and Sarah loses a dear friend. She is left with a box full of letters – and the feeling that Claretta somehow is still there. With the letters in her luggage, she travels to Italy in 2022 to remember her friend – and dares to glimpse into the past.

In a mix of fictional scenes and documentary interviews, the portrait of a fascinating writer unfolds. Despite numerous strokes of fate, Claretta Cerio was independent, passionate and an exciting contemporary witness.

FESTIVALS

2023
57 Hof IFF

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Sarah Klewes · PRODUCER Susann Schimk

Germany 2023

80 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

DIE BRIEFFREUNDIN

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Gender,
Arts/Culture, POV

CONTENT CATEGORIES

Hybrid

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German, Italian, English

PREMIERE

Germany (2023)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

[solo:film GmbH](#)

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COPRODUCTION COMPANY

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TRAILER