

BRIXEN BRESSANONE
**WATER LIGHT
FESTIVAL**

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**THE STARDUST
MEMORY PROJECT**

2026

Maria

*from the kitchen
the eyes travel
outside, sometimes
removing the windows
and feeling
a hundred years
on the wind*

Maria was born in 1914 in Albeins. She was the oldest of ten children, two of whom died in infancy. Three brothers would later lose their lives in the war. Maria remembered the hours of waiting in the bunkers. When the air-raid sirens sounded, they would have to remove the windows from their hinges to keep them from cracking. Maria grew up, delivered milk, worked with the horses. Later she worked at a hotel, ironing and doing the housework. Everybody called Maria "Moidl". She loved to dance, played the accordion. After the wedding, she and her husband went to Merano for two weeks.

Later, Maria lived on the ground floor. A home stoup was hung at the entrance. Maria had lost a grandson and a daughter; she found strength in her faith. As she got older, she wouldn't leave the house as much anymore, but people would often stop by for a visit, family or friends. Maria enjoyed cooking for them. And there were always gingerini in the house, for the parish priest, she said.

The hallway had a stone floor, and a gas stove stood on it. It was used to cook special meals, such as blattln with sauerkraut. Often somebody would help Maria cook. There were long boards on which the blattln would be placed. People still remember the taste today.

When they think of Maria, they may be sitting in the kitchen with her, Mogenzucker sweets on the table, and the radio playing. It is playing folk music, or perhaps a recitation of the Holy Rosary. Maria would pray along, sometimes she would lift her eyes and look out the window, run her hands over her apron before getting up and going into the garden. There she would sometimes stand with her visitors and watch the wall lizards skittering over the warm stones. Maria enjoyed taking care of her garden. Larkspur, peonies, roses, snowdrops, spring snowflakes. She loved flowers, and many grew in her garden.