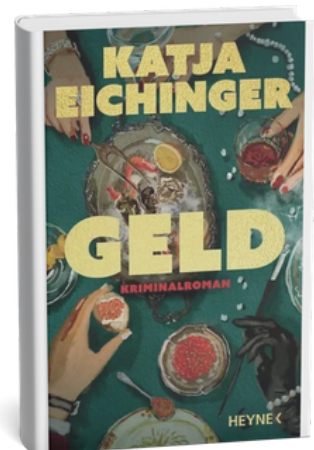
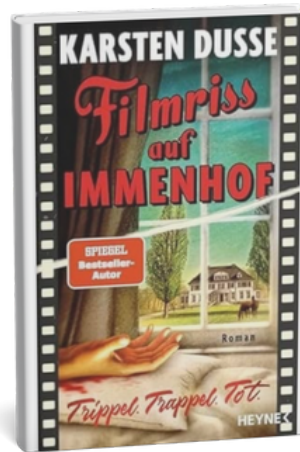
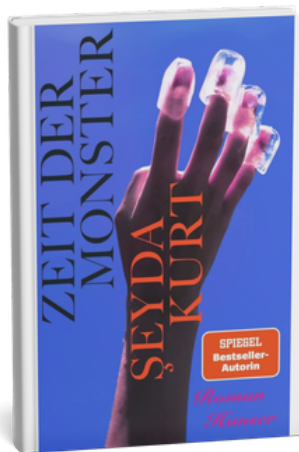


hartges & hartges Foreign Rights Catalogue

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS 2026



AGE OF MONSTERS

Şeyda Kurt

For readers of Ocean Vuong and Jesmyn Ward.

A prophecy spreads across the internet: the end is near. In a run-down neighbourhood where people hold together against all odds, young Sanya carries a gun in her backpack until she encounters a mysterious stranger.

In her powerful debut, Şeyda Kurt combines epic scope with warmth, humour and existential depth. As old certainties collapse, Sanya and her chosen family search for new ways of living.

A bold, life-affirming novel about community, resistance and the possibility of a different future.

“What a tribute to so many lives that were never told.”

FATİH AKIN

“I had completely forgotten what it’s like to be swept away by a great novel. Now I’m reading again, thanks to this powerful, intelligent and uncompromising tale of belonging,”

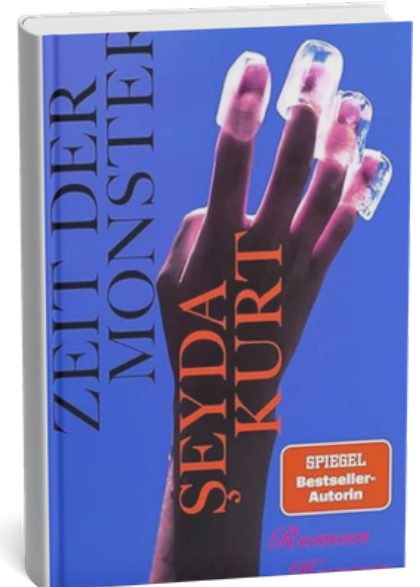
MELIKA FOROUTAN

“This is an important novel for our times. Something in this masterpiece is deeply rooted in all of us.”JOY DENALANE

“Age of Monsters strikes like a meteorite into German-language literature.” - MILO RAU

“A book about humanity in monstrous times — shimmering, vivid, and amazingly clever.” - BARBARA BLEISCH

Şeyda Kurt is a publicist, columnist, moderator, and theatre author. She studied philosophy, Romance studies, and cultural journalism in Cologne, Bordeaux, and Berlin. In 2021, Şeyda was awarded the Grimme Online Award as part of the team for the Spotify Original Podcast 190220 — One Year after Hanau. She was named one of the Journalists of the Year in the same year. In spring 2021, her non-fiction bestseller *Radical Tenderness — Why Love is Political* (HarperCollins Germany) was published, in which she examines love norms within the intersecting forces of patriarchy, racism, and capitalism.



Publisher: Hanser

Published: July 2026

Pages: 288

Genre: Literary fiction

All rights available



OLD PATHS

Alexa Hennig von Lange

For readers of Rachel Joyce and Clare Pooley. A father and daughter on a final journey through the Scottish Highlands.

When Liliane returns from her first holiday after her divorce, she receives an unexpected call from a hospital in Scotland.

Her eighty-nine-year-old father has travelled alone to the Highlands and suffered a heart attack in the wilderness.

Still dressed in beach clothes, Liliane immediately sets off to bring him home. But her father has other plans. He wants to walk to the northernmost tip of Scotland, just as he did as a student decades earlier. Reluctantly, Liliane joins him.

Together they follow ancient Highland paths, spend nights in remote stone shelters and endure storms sweeping across the landscape. Along the way, father and daughter begin talking openly for the first time about their family history: his childhood during the war in Potsdam, the early death of Liliane's mother, and the emotional distance that has shaped their lives. As the once-powerful father increasingly depends on his daughter, Liliane comes to understand how deeply his toughness influenced her own relationships, including the bond with her son.

His final journey becomes her new beginning.

An atmospheric and deeply moving novel about reconciliation, family and the possibility of finding one another again after years of distance.

****Alexa Hennig von Lange's storytelling is gripping, intelligent and deeply empathetic.**** Frankfurter Rundschau

Alexa Hennig von Lange became one of Germany's most successful authors of her generation with her bestselling debut *Relax* (1997). Since then, she has published more than twenty-five novels translated into numerous languages. She lives in Berlin with her husband and five children.



Publisher: DuMont
Published: September
2026
Pages: 304
Genre: Upmarket fiction
All rights available



MONEY

Katja Eichinger

Succession meets Anatomy of a Scandal. A literary suspense novel about family wealth, corruption and the true price of power.

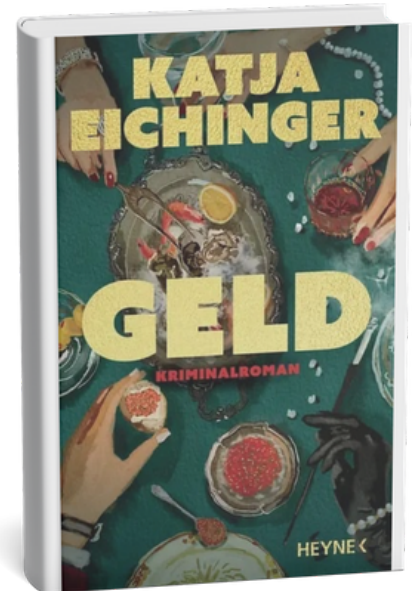
In her first major case at the Munich Regional Court, Karla Werfel finds herself caught in a labyrinth of wealth, power, and family guilt: the family patriarch and shady businessman Duschek stands accused of money laundering and unfair business practices. Whether through art deals with an aging pop star in Monte Carlo or shady real estate deals with the Austrian aristocracy, everything is obscured, disguised, and covered up.

When a key witness is found dead, the trial begins to unravel. Karla abandons her judicial neutrality and begins conducting her own investigation. When she herself becomes a target of the intrigues, it becomes clear to her: This money is dangerous.

“Brilliant! A contemporary, complex portrait of our world. But why does the pop star seem so familiar to me?”

Adam Clayton, U2

Katja Eichinger studied film theory at the British Film Institute before launching her career in London as a journalist for publications including the Financial Times, Variety, Vogue, Esquire and The Independent on Sunday. Following the success of BE, her acclaimed biography of her late husband Bernd Eichinger, she published the essay collections Fashion and Other Neuroses (2020), Love and Other Neuroses (2022) and The Big Blue — Côte d’Azur (2024). She also developed and co-produced the acclaimed ARD crime drama Asbest and the Kenyan feature film Nawi, Kenya’s official submission for the Academy Awards. She lives in Munich.



Publisher: Heyne
Published: November 2026
Pages: 352
Genre: Crime
All rights available



BLACKOUT AT THE IMMENHOF ESTATE

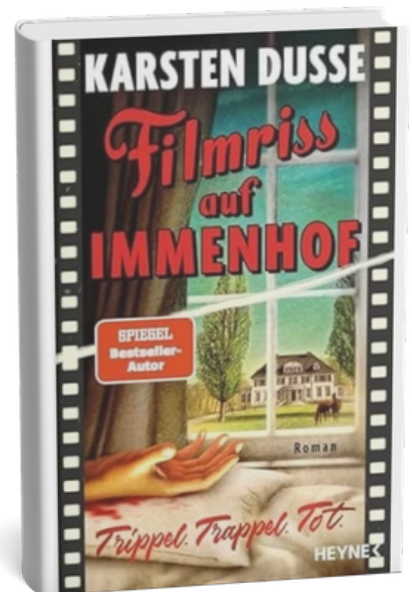
Karsten Dusse

Don't miss the new book by the author of the successful dark comedy series MURDER MINDFULLY which is published in over 30 territories with a Netflix adaptation and over 3.5M sold copies in Germany alone!

Criminal psychologist Sophia—divorced, mother of two teenagers, and recently separated—treats herself to a weekend at the Immenhof estate for her 45th birthday— Immenhof being for her the nostalgic epitome of an idyllic world and a sense of security.

After a retro party with pony romance and vodka Red Bull, however, Sophia wakes up with a blackout next to her ex-boyfriend's amputated hand. Since she apparently had a motive for committing the crime herself, she decides to investigate her own involvement right away.

Between childhood idyll and the murder, she reconstructs the night—and in the process, surprisingly finds her way back to herself.



Publisher: Heyne
Published: Jul 2026
Pages: 320
Genre: Crime
All rights available

KARSTEN DUSSE, born in 1973, is an attorney who studied in Bonn, Lausanne, and Los Angeles. His debut novel MURDER MINDFULLY became the best-selling paperback of 2020. The series has been translated into more than thirty languages and consistently tops bestseller charts. The Netflix adaptation reached No. 1 in the platform's Global Top 10. The author received the German Television Award, the German Comedy Award, and the German Audiobook Award. Karsten's audiobooks have achieved gold and platinum status.



THE APPLE COLLECTOR

Anja Jonuleit

SPIEGEL
Bestseller

For readers of Santa Montefiore and Lucinda Riley.

Nothing is ever forgotten: An isolated farmstead in southern Germany. An apple orchard in Umbria. And the dark secret surrounding a love that was not meant to be.

After the end of her relationship, Hannah travels to Castelnuovo, to her Aunt Eli's remote stone house. The house lies quietly in the Umbrian sun, surrounded by overgrown plants, permeated by the echoes of years gone by. While tidying up, Hannah discovers old letters — and stumbles upon a story that she cannot shake off.

In the days that follow, she roams the village, listening to the voices of the past — until she comes across an abandoned property with charred fruit trees. There lives a man whom everyone calls the 'apple collector': a keeper of old varieties, taciturn, secretive. But Hannah feels drawn to him — as Eli once did.

The deeper she delves into her aunt's life, the clearer it becomes: Eli's story is also part of her own. And some roots go deeper than one might think.

A poetically told novel about two women, about guilt, memory — and a place where what has been lost has not disappeared, but is waiting to grow anew.

'The German author creates powerful emotional cinema with her words.'

literaturmarkt.info

Anja Jonuleit, born in Bonn and raised at Lake Constance, worked for the German Embassy in Rome for several years. After a secondment to the embassy in Damascus, she studied Italian and English. Anja Jonuleit worked as a freelance translator and court interpreter before devoting herself entirely to writing. Her novels, which have been published since 2007, reach a large readership and are regularly on the SPIEGEL bestseller list.



- Publisher: Penguin
- Published: April 2026, Originally published by dtv in 2016
- Pages: 448
- Genre: Bookclub fiction



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY

Lucinde Hutzenlaub

For readers of Jojo Moyes and Anne Tyler.

Which is harder: holding on or letting go?

Two women, two fresh starts, and a life-changing journey at the other end of the world.

Joshua says the sky over New Zealand is bigger. Bluer. He is right. This sky tells different stories. Stories of hope, perhaps. Or survival. Karla and Sebastian were meant to spend their honeymoon in New Zealand. But Sebastian dies unexpectedly, leaving Karla's life in ruins. Even she cannot quite believe she still boards the flight to Christchurch alone.

When she makes an unscheduled stop at the apple orchard of ninety-seven-year-old émigré Marge, she discovers a collection of documents hidden in an old barn. They belonged to Dr Joshua Eichelbaum and reveal a dark chapter of German history.

More importantly, they uncover a connection between two very different women — a bond that reaches across generations and continents.

A deeply moving novel about starting over, an extraordinary female friendship, and a young widow's search for a future shaped by courage, love and hope.

Lucinde Hutzenlaub was born in Stuttgart, where she now lives after spending several years abroad. The bestselling author is also a communications designer, systemic coach and alternative practitioner. Readers of her long-running Donna magazine column Lucinde's World cherish her for her wit, honesty and warmth.



Publisher: Penguin
Published: June 2026
Pages: 336
Genre: Book Club
Fiction
All rights available



THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES

Dirk Gieselmann

A tender and deeply moving love story about time, longing and the courage to choose happiness — perfect for readers of David Nicholls and Kent Haruf.

Love ennobles every life. This is true even for Frieda and Georg, two people who didn't seek it out, but were found by it. Frieda is an elementary school teacher; Georg is a sales representative for medical equipment. When they unexpectedly meet for the first time, Georg is certain: this unknown beauty is the love of his life—and not the woman he dutifully calls every evening on his business trips. And Frieda, too, cannot get the tall man out of her mind. When they finally find each other again after a feverish search, Frieda presents her plan to Georg: They can be together—in a life outside of life, where only the present reigns, no past, no future. Not only to remain undiscovered, but also to keep their love as pure and beautiful as it was in that first moment. Only then, she says, is it possible. Georg agrees, and their story begins.

“The sad, beautiful, and wonderful story of a possible love. Told in such poetically rich language—this novel is music, a slow, magnificent blues.” Ewald Arenz

“‘THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES’ is a magnificent book. A love story, quietly thrilling, that manages the feat of simultaneously saddening and comforting its readers.”

Süddeutsche Zeitung, Tobias Haberl

Dirk Gieselmann, born in 1978, has been awarded the Henri Nannen Prize and the German Reporter Prize for his writing. His most recent work, »Atlas der Angst«, was published in collaboration with photographer Armin Smailovic. The play of the same name was staged at the Thalia Theater in Hamburg. Gieselmann lives in Berlin with his family.



Publisher: Ullstein
Published: July 2025
Pages: 224
Genre: Upmarket fiction
All rights available



ILLUSIONS

Volker Klüpfel, Michael Kobr

**SPIEGEL
Bestseller**

Germany's bestselling crime series with millions of copies sold takes on the madness of social media.

For Inspector Kluftinger, things could hardly get worse. Freshly elected to the local council, he already finds himself locked in battle with his political rival Langhammer. Then an influencer is found dead. Her body lies at the bottom of the spectacular Eistobel gorge in the Allgäu. Accident?

A fatal attempt to capture the perfect Instagram photograph?
Or cold-blooded murder?

As Kluftinger investigates, he is forced deep into the glittering world of digital self-promotion. Behind carefully filtered images he discovers jealousy, hatred and ruthless competition. Navigating a minefield of followers, likes and online fame, he soon realises that almost nobody in this world is what they appear to be. A razor-sharp and highly entertaining new instalment in Germany's most successful crime series.

"Germany's most successful crime series."
DER SPIEGEL

Michael Kobr, born in 1973 in Kempten in the Allgäu region, studied German and Romance Languages at the University of Erlangen before becoming a secondary-school teacher. He eventually left the classroom behind to focus on writing, reading tours, and family life. He lives with his wife and two daughters in the Allgäu region of southern Germany.

Volker Klüpfel, born in 1971 in Kempten in the Allgäu region, studied Political Science and History in Bamberg before working as a journalist in Germany and the United States. He eventually realised that writing suited him better and became a full-time author. He lives with his family in the Allgäu and spends any spare time he can find on sports, photography and the stage.



Publisher: Ullstein
Published: October
2026
Pages: 400
Genre: Crime
All rights available



STORM OVER CHRISTIANSØ

Michael Kobr

**SPIEGEL
Bestseller**

A gripping island mystery set on Bornholm — perfect for readers of Ann Cleeves and Jørn Lier Horst. Ann Cleeves meets the Baltic Sea.

Dark clouds gather over Bornholm. A major technology project threatens the fragile peace of the island — and a passionate environmental activist vanishes without a trace.

In the middle of the Baltic Sea, not far from the Danish island of Bornholm, lie the tiny Ertholmene islands.

A handful of residents. Spectacular nature. Picture-perfect fishing cottages. An idyll.

Until young environmental activist Anna disappears under mysterious circumstances. Could her disappearance be connected to her fierce campaign against a vast offshore wind farm planned off the coast?

Lennart Ipsen, head of Bornholm CID, boards the island ferry to investigate on the tiny island of Christiansø. But when a violent storm cuts the islands off from the outside world, he finds himself trapped.

As the wind lashes the coastline, Ipsen discovers that even this seemingly enchanted place has not escaped the pressures of the modern world. Beneath the idyllic surface lurk envy, greed and long-held resentments.

Michael Kobr is one of Germany's most successful bestselling crime writers. Together with Volker Klüpfel, he created the iconic Inspector Klüffinger series, which has sold millions of copies and dominated bestseller lists for more than two decades. A passionate traveller and long-time admirer of Bornholm, Kobr set his first solo crime series featuring investigator Lennart Ipsen on the Danish island he knows and loves so well.



Publisher: Goldmann
Published: June 2026
Pages: 400
Genre: Crime
All rights available



EVERYTHING IS A CASE

Simon Ammer

Austrian crime fiction with the wit of Richard Osman and the originality of Wolf Haas. Colonel Benedikt Kordesch Investigates again book 3

Colonel Benedikt Kordesch is enjoying a well-earned holiday. Together with his new partner Franziska, he is spending a few peaceful days on the shores of Lake Neusiedl. Unfortunately, tranquillity proves short-lived. Franziska's daughter announces an unexpected visit, bringing her young child along. Before Kordesch has fully processed the disruption to his romantic getaway, a human body falls from the sky and crashes through the roof of a nearby bungalow.

Kordesch's investigation soon leads him to HIGHER, a multinational energy-drink company that has built a private runway for sports aircraft on protected conservation land nearby. Another special exemption granted to a billion-euro corporation — and one that has not made the company many friends.

What begins as an impossible death quickly develops into a case involving environmental conflicts, corporate power and murder.

Writing under the pseudonym Simon Ammer, award-winning Austrian novelist Daniel Wisser has created one of the most original crime series in contemporary German-language fiction. Readers who enjoy eccentric humour, memorable characters and unconventional mysteries will find the perfect holiday read here.

Simon Ammer is the pen name of Austrian author Daniel Wisser, winner of the Austrian Book Prize and the Vienna Prize for Literature. His crime series featuring the eccentric Colonel Benedikt Kordesch combines sharp social observation, humour and mystery, and has earned a loyal readership in Austria and Germany.



Publisher: Droemer
Published: May 2026
Pages: 304
Genre: Crime
All rights available



MURDER IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Volker Klüpfel

The Thursday Murder Club meets Fredrik Backman: crime fiction with humour, heart and unforgettable characters.

“We’re interrupting our programming for a travel alert: Ms. Gabriele Zorn, currently driving south in a blue Audi, is asked to contact her husband immediately!”

No sooner have would-be writer Tommi and cleaning lady Svetlana heard the travel alert on the radio, the woman in question speeds past their camper in her car. They immediately set off in pursuit and track down the car at a rest stop. But the woman has vanished. Of course, Svetlana’s keen instincts immediately sense a crime. And indeed, they not only uncover some truly unbelievable crimes, but also delve deep into the abyss of human relationships. When Tommi digs a little too deep, he suddenly finds himself in mortal danger . . . Following the SPIEGEL bestseller first volume, here is the second case for the incredible Svetlana and Tommi, the would-be writer.

“The second book in the series is once again very funny, entertaining, and suspenseful. I was delighted to read more about Tommi and Svetlana, two characters I already loved so much in the first book. It’s the perfect book for anyone who enjoys quirky characters and offbeat, unpredictable crime novels.” Sabine Abel, BR Television

Volker Klüpfel, born in 1971, studied Political Science and History in Bamberg before working as a journalist in Germany and the United States. Together with Michael Kobr, he created the bestselling Inspector Kluftinger series, which has sold millions of copies and been adapted for film several times. The first instalment of his solo crime series became an instant SPIEGEL bestseller. MURDER IS THE BEST SOLUTION is the second novel in the series.

**SPIEGEL
Bestseller**



Publisher: Penguin
Published: April 2026
Pages: 352
Genre: Cosy crime
All rights available



THE BIRDHOUSE

Jan Weiler

***One of Germany's most widely read contemporary authors.
A novel about coming home — and about places that know more
about us than we know ourselves.***

*Whenever Leonard Beck checks his post, he expects bad news.
This time, his instincts are right.*

*A seemingly insignificant letter from his mother draws him back to the
Lower Rhine region after years away. A house is up for sale.
A house he never liked.*

*A house filled with memories he would rather forget.
And yet he finds himself irresistibly drawn to it.*

*Having recently lost his job at a theatre, Leonard returns not only to his
hometown but also to the unresolved questions of his past. He
reconnects with people who once mattered deeply to him and
repeatedly finds himself standing in front of the mysterious house
whose secret he was never able to uncover as a young man.*

*This time, however, he is determined to find answers.
To confront his fears.*

And perhaps even rediscover the great love he once lost.

“A tragicomic novel with whimsical and fairytale-like qualities.”
DIETER WUNDERLICH

Jan Weiler, born in Düsseldorf in 1967, is one of Germany's most popular contemporary authors. His debut *Maria, He Doesn't Like It!* became one of the most successful German-language debuts of recent decades. Alongside bestselling novels such as *The Awning Man* and *Munk*, he is widely known for his celebrated columns, screenplays, radio plays and audiobooks. He lives in Munich and Umbria.



Publisher: Heyne
Published: September
2026
Pages: 304
Genre: Upmarket
commercial
All rights available



THE LEFT-HANDERS

Heinrich Steinfest

A delightfully eccentric literary novel about friendship, fate and disappearance — perfect for readers of John Irving and Jasper Fforde.

Three sociable women, one bar, and a fateful evening that changes everything.

The three women have only one thing in common: they are all left-handed. Yet that is enough.

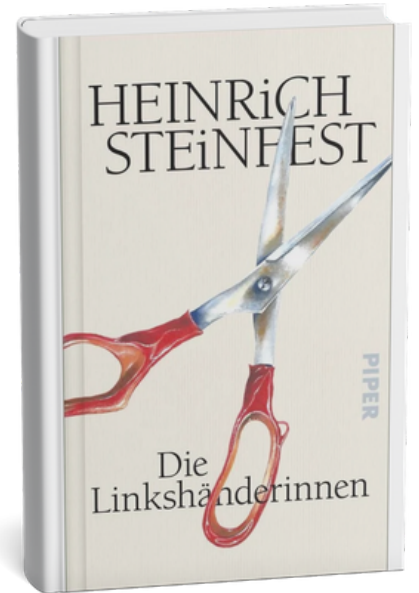
A chance encounter grows into a long-term venture — a small cocktail bar where everything is designed for left-handers. Thanks to their impeccable taste, stylish interior and gift for selecting exactly the right drink, the trio become something of a national institution. Until one evening, thirty-five French guests disappear. Without a trace.

Filled with wit, charm and Heinrich Steinfest's unmistakable originality, THE LEFT-HANDERS begins with an unexpected act of violence and, it must be said, ends happily.

"Heinrich Steinfest writes the most entertaining literature of our time."

DENNIS SCHECK

Heinrich Steinfest, born in 1961, is one of the most acclaimed voices in contemporary German-language literature. The award-winning author of the celebrated detective Cheng series has received numerous honours, including the German Crime Fiction Award, the Bavarian Book Prize and the Leo Perutz Prize. Twice nominated for the German Book Prize, he lives near Heidelberg.



Publisher: Piper
Published: July 2026
Pages: 112
Genre: Upmarket
commercial
All rights available



LOVE EVERYWHERE

Ronja von Rönne

A sharp, funny and deeply insightful novel about love, dependency and modern relationships — moving, funny and ultimately liberating - perfect for readers of Dolly Alderton and Sally Rooney.

Sabrina is only friends with the girl in the parallel class who has cancer because people admire her for it. Wilma wonders when she will finally be allowed to stop caring for everyone else — especially her impossible mother-in-law. Benni cannot cope with his girlfriend's professional success and makes her pay for it every single day.

And the girl with cancer?

She first has to learn that she deserves genuine love.

Ronja von Rönne's characters experience how dependency grows quietly, how intimacy turns into power, and how love can become both refuge and danger. With sharp wit, fearless honesty and immense empathy, she writes about the greatest risk we know: loving another person.

Praise for End in Sight and Today Is Unfortunately Not a Good Day:

"Her words need no story, no plot, no pathos. They need only themselves." ELISA VON HOF, BERLINER MORGENPOST

"Ronja von Rönne has the rare gift of turning even the most tragic moments into comedy. It gives her novels extraordinary strength." ULF KALKREUTH, RBB

"What Rönne masters better than most is sheer readability."
MARLENE KNOBLOCH, SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"Sharp, witty and occasionally tender."
SVEN PREGER, DEUTSCHLANDRADIO

Ronja von Rönne is an author and presenter. She writes for **Die Zeit**, among other publications. Since 2023, Ronja is the presenter of the programme **Unhappy** on ARTE. Her novel "End in sight" is being adapted for the cinema, and her book "Love everywhere" is due to be published by dtv in 2026. Ronja von Rönne lives and works in Berlin.



Publisher: dtv
Published: Jul 2026
Pages: 240
Genre: Upmarket commercial
All rights available



THE GENTLE POWER OF PAPER AIRPLANES

Gerhard Kummer

A touching debut novel about finding one's own path

A phone call changes everything: his father is ill. The narrator returns to the village of his childhood—to the old house, to his childhood bedroom, and to a time when everything still seemed possible.

While his father fights for his life in the hospital, the son embarks on an intense journey through his own past: memories of first loves, nights spent partying, music that shaped entire phases of his life, and the start of a life full of dreams. Amid hospital corridors, late-night conversations, and moments of silence, he realizes that at some point, one must confront one's own history—and that the future often begins exactly where one once came from.

With great warmth, humor, and a keen sense of life's big questions, Gerhard Kummer tells a story of family, farewells, new beginnings, and the power of memories.



Publisher: Ueberreute
Published: November
2026

Pages: 352

Genre: Upmarket
commercial

All rights available

Gerhard Kummer is a Viennese writer, known for his numerous stories published in leading magazines across the German-speaking world and, above all, for his legendary column RECENTLY IN LIFE ("Neulich im Leben") in **Die Wienerin**. **THE GENTLE POWER OF PAPER AIRPLANES** is his first novel.



ALPINE WINTER KISSES

Jana Lukas

For readers of Sarah Morgan and Jenny Colgan.

Sometimes Christmas finds you where you least expect it.

Graphic designer Nelly is on the verge of disaster. Faced with a major Christmas campaign and completely out of inspiration, she retreats to a secluded mountain cabin in the picturesque village of Schneeberg in search of fresh ideas.

Her plan gets off to a rocky start.

Quite literally.

Shortly after arriving, she drives her car into a ditch.

Her unexpected rescuer is Alex, the son of her landlady, who introduces her to his Christmas-obsessed hometown and its festive traditions.

As snow-covered forests, crackling fireplaces and the magic of the holiday season work their charm, Nelly and Alex gradually grow closer.

But Alex is hiding a secret. And when Nelly finally discovers the truth, her world is turned upside down.

A heartwarming Christmas romance full of festive charm, emotional depth and guaranteed feel-good magic.



Publisher: Heyne

Published: September
2026

Pages: 352

Genre: Romance

All rights available

Jana Lukas initially fulfilled one of her childhood dreams by becoming a police officer. After more than a decade working in criminal investigations, she turned to writing and has since delighted readers with her warm-hearted romantic novels. Under the pseudonym Ella Thompson, she also writes bestselling novels set on the picturesque East Coast of the United States. Her motto: happy endings are not guaranteed in life — but they certainly are in her books.



THE END OF THE WORLD IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Fritz Espenlaub

From the host of one of Germany's most successful narrative non fiction podcasts.

Understanding what comes next.

The big-picture book about the future of our world.

We are living through a profound global shift.

Certainties that seemed unshakeable only a few years ago are crumbling. Political instability, technological disruption and social fragmentation are reshaping our understanding of the future.

Fritz Espenlaub asks a different question: What if the crisis is actually an opportunity? What if this moment allows us to reclaim control of our future?

Why we need to break free from collective paralysis.

In this ambitious non-fiction debut, the host of the hit podcast The Peter Thiel Story offers a compelling vision of the world after the current era of upheaval.

With clarity and insight, Espenlaub analyses the forces shaping our present — from technological revolutions and geopolitical rivalries to the future of democracy and individual freedom.

An essential book for readers who want to:

- **understand the deeper causes of today's crises;**
- **explore how emerging technologies are reshaping society;**
- **actively participate in building a better future rather than merely reacting to change.**

Fritz Espenlaub is a journalist and podcaster working for Bayerischer Rundfunk and ARD, among others. His six-part podcast series The Peter Thiel Story became one of Germany's most successful podcasts, attracting more than eight million downloads. He also hosts ARD's weekly AI podcast and regularly comments on technology, artificial intelligence, geopolitics and the American tech industry.



Publisher: Droemer
Knaur

Published: October
2026

Pages: 256

Genre: Non-fiction

All rights available



THE PANIC YEARS

Verena Bahlsen

Love, expectations, and the courage to miss the life you thought you were supposed to have. When does real life finally begin?

The Panic Years are your thirties. The decade when, supposedly, everything should have fallen into place: marriage, children, career. Ideally all at once.

But what if none of those plans actually fit?

In this candid and deeply personal book, Verena Bahlsen reflects on the fears, doubts and liberating possibilities that arise when we step away from the life others expect us to live.

What happens when everyone around you is getting married while you remain stubbornly single? When your friends have established successful careers while you are starting over? When others move in with their partners and you are still clinging to a shared flat with friends?

*At some point, these questions force a more important one:
Who do I actually want to be?*

Warm, funny and refreshingly honest, THE PANIC YEARS explores partnership, motherhood, ambition and the search for a self-determined life. A book for anyone who needs a little courage to imagine a future on their own terms.

Verena Bahlsen is a brand strategist and writer. She joined her family's company, Bahlsen, in 2016 and left the business in 2022. She subsequently founded the branding agency Gezeiten and devoted herself increasingly to writing. She lives in Berlin.



Publisher: Tropen/
Klett-Cotta
Published: September
2026
Pages: 224
Genre: Non-fiction
All rights available



COUNTERFORCE. CIVIL SOCIETY STRIKES BACK

Arne Semsrott

Away with powerlessness and doom and gloom—it's time for a democratic counter offensive!

Much of what political activist Arne Semsrott described in his bestseller »Counterforce« as a grim scenario of a right-wing conservative shift has already become a bitter reality—and all without the AfD even being part of the government. Under the CDU/SPD coalition, we are witnessing a harsh border regime, the denigration of financially disadvantaged people, attacks on democratic civil society, an end to climate protection, and a politics of fear.

Stopping the Shift Toward Authoritarianism

What can we do? In his new book, Arne Semsrott uses numerous concrete examples to show how we can move from the defensive to the offensive.

This book proves: We have all the tools we need to turn the tide. We just have to use them.

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Arne Semsrott, born in Hamburg in 1988, is a political scientist and activist. He heads the research and transparency portal FragDenStaat, through which he was instrumental in the publication of the “NSU files,” among other achievements. He also founded the Freiheitsfonds, which he uses to help free people from prison. Together with Gilda Sahebi, he hosts the podcast Gilda con Arne. Semsrott is a two-time recipient of the Otto Brenner Prize for Critical Journalism. His bestseller Machtübernahme was published in 2024 by Droemer.



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Dr Frauke Brosius-Gersdorf is Professor of Public Law at the University of Potsdam, specialising in constitutional, social and education law. In 2025 she withdrew her candidacy for Germany's Federal Constitutional Court after losing political support within the CDU/CSU parliamentary groups. The debate surrounding her nomination sparked a nationwide discussion about judicial independence, political campaigning and democratic culture.



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