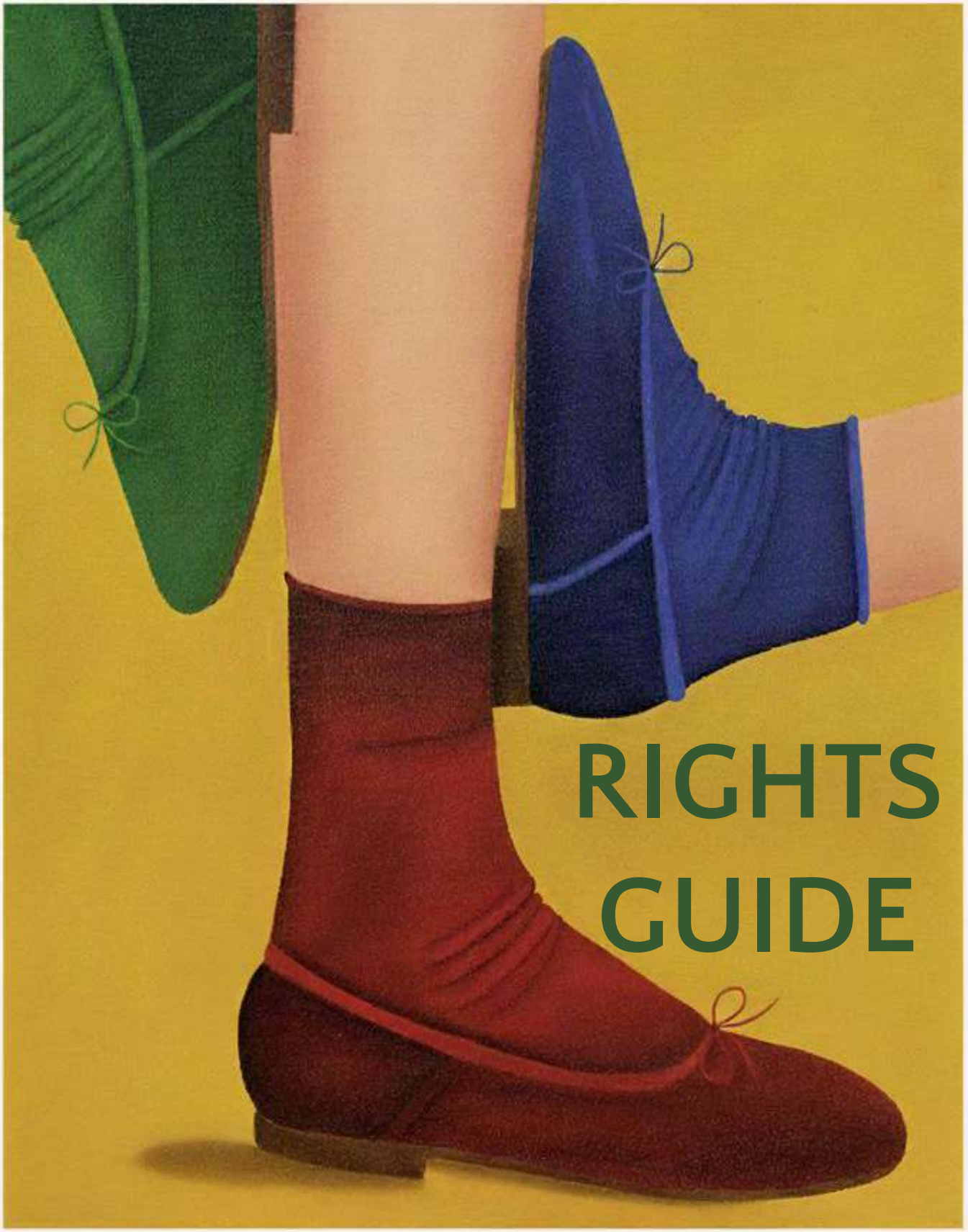
KIEPENHEUER & WITSCH



RIGHTS GUIDE

SPRING 2026

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Marie Menke

Killjoy

- An intense, atmospheric psychological drama about female friendship
- For readers of Caroline Wahl, Elena Fischer, Alina Bronsky and Elena Ferrante
- Topics: Female Friendship, Psychological Suspense
- English sample by Eleanor Updegraff available

February 2026 · 224 pages

© Annika Fußwinkel

Marie Menke, born in 1997, studied politics and sociology in Bonn, Taipei, Cologne, and Paris. Her prose has been published in literary magazines and she received the OffSpring Award from lit.Cologne. *Killjoy (Spielverderberin)* is her literary debut.

Years after a traumatic event and a pact of silence shattered their friendship, a young woman is forced to confront her manipulative former best friend and her own guilt.

Sophie and Lotte are village girls and best friends since childhood but their dynamic shifts when Romy, a free-spirited girl from the city, joins them in high school. The trio is carried by mutual fascination, but also rivalry, jealousy, and even obsession. When Sophie and Romy move to the big city after school, leaving the vulnerable Lotte behind, their friendship faces a breaking point. Then Romy suddenly cuts all ties to them and old wounds reopen, forcing Sophie to confront the buried memory of a fatal night that changed everything.

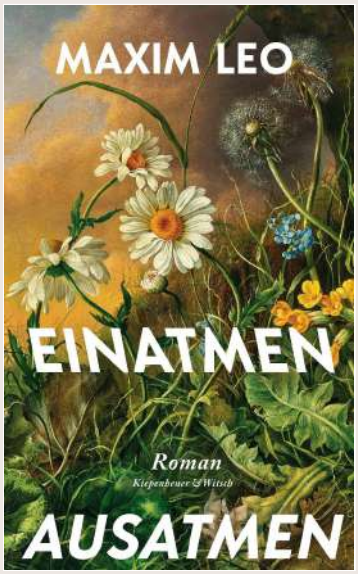
Marie Menke writes powerfully about an obsessive friendship between village youth and big-city anonymity, and the force that binds three young women together while threatening to destroy them.

Maxim Leo

Inhale. Exhale.

- Career madness meets the coaching circus – a funny and touching novel about the search for the right life
- For readers of Matt Haig, Fredrik Backman, and *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*
- Topics: Mindfulness, Corporate Burnout, Midlife Crisis
- English sample by Jamie Bulloch available

Rights sold to: France: Actes Sud



March 2026 · 256 pages

© Derek Hudson

Maxim Leo was born in East Berlin in 1970. In 2011, he was awarded the European Book Prize for his autobiographical book *Red Love. The Story of an East German Family (Haltet Euer Herz Bereit).* His books *Where We Are at Home (Wo Wir zu Hause Sind), The Hero of Friedrichstrasse Station (Der Held vom Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse)* and *When We Were Young (Wir Werden Jung Sein)* became bestsellers and were **translated into several languages**. His novel *Frankie* (together with Jochen Gutsch) has been **translated into 24 languages**.

A hilariously funny and deeply moving novel about the search for the right life - and the masks we wear to survive the wrong one.

Ruthlessly efficient Marlene Buchholz is set to become the CEO of the Aviola Group. There is just one problem: while her numbers are perfect, her colleagues view her as a complete disaster on a personal level. Facing an ultimatum to fix her "unempathetic" leadership style or lose the promotion, she is forced into a mandatory mindfulness retreat at a castle in rural Brandenburg.

Her coach is Alex Grow, a famous "soul whisperer" and celebrity wellness guru. But behind the facade of mindfulness, Alex is secretly on the verge of bankruptcy and battling debilitating panic attacks. What begins as a battle of wills soon spirals out of control.

Maxim Leo tells the gripping story of two people who must crash to find themselves, transforming a mandatory exercise into a profound journey through intergenerational trauma toward a truly authentic future.

Nefeli Kavouras

Centaur

- A light novel about a heavy topic: death as transformation
- Ingeborg Bachmann Competition 2025 and Hamburg Literature Prize 2023
- For readers of *Grief is a Thing with Feathers*, Karen Köhler and Jasmin Schreiber
- Topics: Magical Realism, Grief & Loss, Mother-Daughter Relationships
- English sample by Jamie Lee Searle available

February 2026 · 240 pages

© Stephan Obel

Nefeli Kavouras, born in 1996, works for mairisch publishing house and curates literary programs. In 2023, she was awarded the Hamburg Literature Prize for the manuscript of this novel, and in 2025, she read an excerpt from it at the prestigious Ingeborg Bachmann Prize.

***Centaur* is a wonderful, sometimes angry, and often humorous book about a mother-daughter relationship in an exceptional situation.**

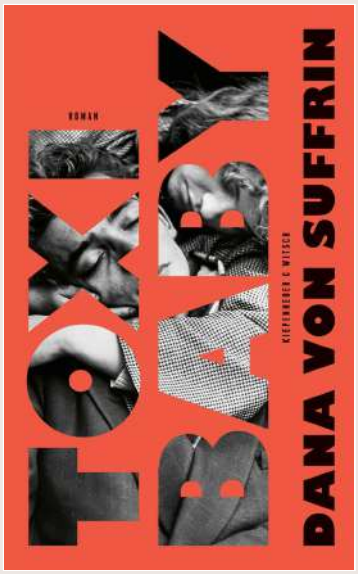
Georg has been dying for far too long. While his wife Ruth selflessly cares for him at home, she becomes estranged from their 15-year-old daughter Lea, who just wants a normal teenage life. But then, something unexpected happens: instead of dying, Georg transforms into something quite different. Confronted with this absurd new reality, Ruth and Lea must navigate their fractured relationship and find a way to finally let him go.

'Welcome, Nefeli Kavouras, to German-language literature. What a tender commotion you have created here!' - Saša Stanišić

Dana von Suffrin

Toxibaby

- The razor-sharp, tragicomic story of a codependent relationship by a multi-award winning author
- For readers of Sally Rooney, Ruth-Maria Thomas and Leif Randt
- Topics: Toxic Relationships, Modern Love, Complex Female Character
- English sample by Ruth Martin available



March 2026 · 240 pages

© Gunter Glücklich

Dana von Suffrin was born in 1985. She studied in Munich, Naples, and Jerusalem. She has received numerous awards, including the Klaus-Michael-Kühne Prize (2019), the Friedrich Hölderlin Promotion Prize (2020), the Chamisso Prize (2025) and her novel *Once More from the Top* (*Nochmal von vorne*) was longlisted for the German Book Prize in 2024.

***Toxibaby* is a relentless yet tender novel about a love that heals but also has the power to destroy, dissecting the relationship incapacity of an entire generation.**

The story follows "Sweetheart", a celebrated millennial writer craving love and acceptance , and "Toxibaby", a brilliant but paranoid and resentful alcoholic who blames late capitalism for his personal failures. The couple's relationship is a relentless cycle of ecstasy and despair, having survived thirteen breakups in under three years. While Sweetheart attempts to 'save' her partner she finds herself trapped in a bond defined by emotional abuse and unwavering devotion.

What begins as intoxicating love becomes a struggle for self-assertion, a game of dependence, and an intellectual showdown. Blending raw, vulnerable confession with dark humor and biting self-awareness, the novel explores the fine line between saving a relationship and destroying oneself.

Thomas Melle

House in the Sun

- *The Magic Mountain* meets Michel Houellebecq
- *"an intricate masterpiece"* – FAZ
- Shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2025
- Shortlisted for the Wilhelm Raabe Prize 2025
- #10 of the SPIEGEL Literature Prize Countdown 2025
- Recommended for translation by New Books in German
- Recommended for translation by Litrix.de
- English sample by Adrian Nathan West available

Rights sold to: **Bulgaria:** under negotiation / **Korea**: Minumsa / **Turkey**: Yapı Kredi

August 2025 · 320 pages

© Regina Schmeken

Thomas Melle, born in 1975, is an author and translator. His debut novel *Sickster* was nominated for the German Book Prize and received the Franz Hessel Prize for Contemporary Literature. He followed it up with the novels *3000 Euro*, *The World at My Back* (*Die Welt im Rücken*) and *House in the Sun* (*House in the Sun*), all of which were shortlisted for the German Book Prize. His books have been **translated into more than 20 languages**.

How much self-determination is possible when mental illness controls your life? What does someone who feels they have nothing left to lose truly long for? And what might ultimate happiness look like?

Welcome to the "House in the Sun", an institution that is both a wish-fulfillment machine and an abolition apparatus. Here, people who are tired of life or terminally ill voluntarily enter this state-funded clinic to have every conceivable wish granted – before quietly departing from life. But do those who no longer want to live really want to die?

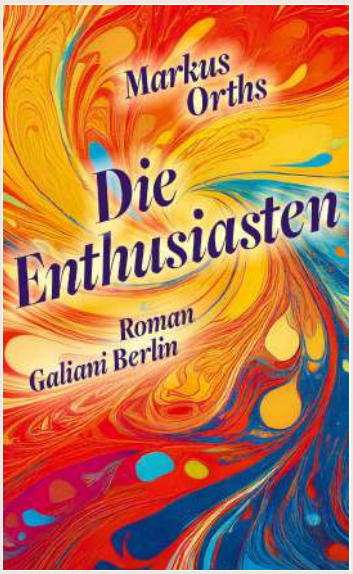
House in the Sun explores how a society and state can manage the increasing number of mentally ill individuals in the long term. It provocatively asks whether it's more efficient and cost-effective to simply abolish them.

Plumbing the depths of our longings and death drives, Thomas Melle offers a radical sketch of the human condition.

Markus Orths

The Enthusiasts

- The story of a lost manuscript, family trauma and the consolation an obsession can offer
- For readers of Laurence Sterne, Jonathan Safran Foer and Michael Chabon
- Topics: Obsession as Escape from Reality, Family Mystery, Tristram Shandy
- English sample by Eleanor Updegraff available soon



February 2026 · 368 pages

© Urban Zintel

Markus Orths, born in 1969, has published novels such as *The Staff Room (Lehrerzimmer)*, *The Chamber Maid (Das Zimmermädchen)* and *Catalina*. His books have been **translated into 18 languages**, adapted into films, and have won numerous awards.

A manic trip into literary obsession that hides a deep-seated family trauma

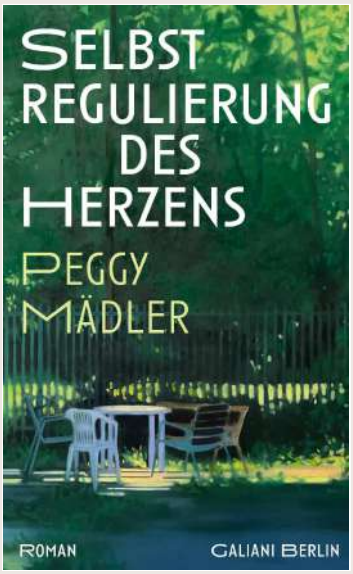
Vince is a literary scholar obsessed with the 18th-century author Laurence Sterne. He is drawn into a manipulative scheme when a mysterious man offers him the lost final book of Sterne's masterpiece. Vince's manic pursuit of the manuscript unearths his family's deepest traumas, blurring the lines between literary passion, reality, and a dark, elaborate fiction.

As the present crisis unfolds, the narrative weaves in flashbacks of Vince's mother whose sudden disappearance decades ago left a void the family tried to fill with linguistic games and various obsessions. Ultimately, Vince is forced to confront a reality that may be as constructed as the novels he adores.

Peggy Mädler

Self-regulation of the Heart

- A captivating portrait of human bonds in the shadow of state control
- For readers of Jenny Erpenbeck, Brigitte Reimann and Christa Wolf
- Topics: GDR History, Post-Reunification Society, Life in a Dictatorship
- English sample by Jamie Lee Searle available soon



February 2026 · 304 pages

© Wenke Seemann

Peggy Mädler, born in Dresden in 1976, is a dramatist and author. She is a co-founder of the artist group "Laboratory for Counterfactual Thinking", and was involved in the theater collective "She She Pop".

Peggy Mädler's novel follows the lives of a group of friends in East Germany, exploring the tension between political idealism and the retreat into private life.

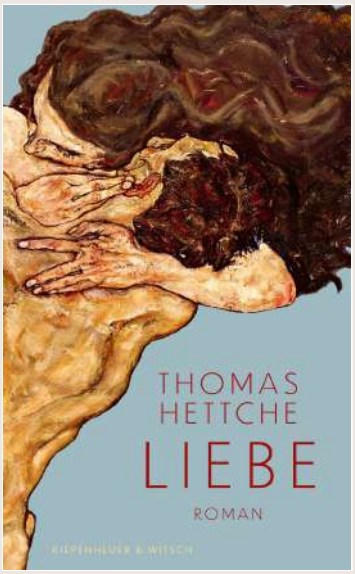
In the mid-1960s, young economist Georg and his friends Roland and Marlies are captivated by the promise of cybernetics, hoping to use self-regulation to reform the socialist planned economy. However, the suppression of the Prague Spring in 1968 shatters these intellectual dreams, leading to Roland's dramatic escape across the Danube and leaving his friends traumatized. Georg retreats into the private sphere, building a bungalow in a weekend settlement in Brandenburg, while nearby, the artist Mona establishes an unconventional community in a dilapidated farmhouse.

Narrated through alternating perspectives and a collective village chorus, the story spans from these early days to 2023, following this motley group through the early days of the GDR to the end of socialism and the disillusionment with the unkept promises of freedom.

Thomas Hettche

Love

- A philosophical meditation on late love and the fragility of happiness by a multi-award winning bestselling author
- For readers of Julian Barnes and John Williams
- Topics: Late-Life Romance, Existential Questions, the Essence of Love
- English sample available soon



March 2026 · 176 pages

© Joachim Gern

Thomas Hettche's essays and novels have been **translated into more than a dozen languages** and have won numerous awards, including the Premio Grinzane Cavour and the Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize. His novels *Heartstring* (*Herzfaden*) and *Peacock Island* (*Pfaueninsel*) sold over 100,000 copies and were shortlisted for the German Book Prize.

In his new novel, award-winning bestselling author Thomas Hettche explores the greatest of all emotions, telling the tender and passionate story of a late, unconditional love.

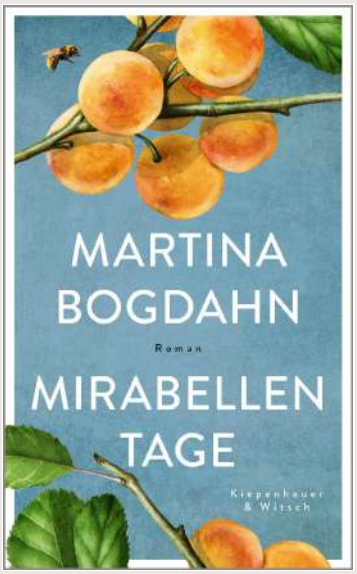
Max is an ocularist who makes artificial eyes. In his workshop, he shapes delicate glass spheres, adding coloured veins, irises and pupils. Max understands the silent language of glances. But at the age of sixty, he no longer believes in love at first sight. Until one summer evening, when he meets Anna and is overwhelmed by feelings of unprecedented intensity.

Anna feels the same way, but she is married, and so the two only ever have a few days to live out what cannot be. But the memories, the dreams, the shadows are always there. This plunges Max into despair, because he knows he has found his great love. And he senses that she will put him to an eerie test.

Martina Bogdahn

Where the Mirabelles Grow

- A story about letting go and finding a second spring in life
- 70,000 copies sold of her debut *Summer at the Old Mill*
- For readers of Dörte Hansen, Mariana Leky, and Ewald Arenz
- Topics: Feel-Good Literature, Grief & Loss, New Beginnings



April 2026 · 352 pages

© Beppo Minx

Martina Bogdahn, born in 1976, grew up on a remote farm in Franconia. She works as a photographer in Munich. Her debut novel, *Summer at the Old Mill (Mühlemsommer)*, was a major success and remained on the SPIEGEL best-seller list for months.

Martina Bogdahn takes us on a journey through an eventful summer, telling a humorous story of a life between routines, duties, and a sudden new perspective.

When the local priest of the quaint village Blumfeld dies unexpectedly, the orderly world of his housekeeper, Anna, is thrown into turmoil. She must organize his funeral and transport his ashes to the sea. To do this, Anna, in her early fifties, takes driving lessons from her former instructor and secret crush. As they explore the area around Blumfeld, enjoying the scent of ripe mirabelle plums, Anna begins to question her life of service and faces a decision that could lead her into the unknown.

Kat Menschik, Monika Helfer

Who Are You?

- A masterful story about closeness, loneliness, and the power of storytelling
- Richly illustrated by Kat Menschik
- From the author of the #1 international bestseller *Last House Before the Mountains (Die Bagage)*
- Topics: Psychological Fiction, Illustrated Literature, Mystery

February 2026 · 96 pages

Monika Helfer is a multiple award-winning Austrian writer. Her novels *Last House Before the Mountains* (*Die Bagage*), *Library for the War-Wounded* (*Vati*) - both published in the English translation by Bloomsbury - and *Lion-heart* (*Löwenherz*) were bestsellers. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Austrian Literature Prize, the Solothurn Literature Prize, and the Johann Peter Hebel Prize. Her works have been **translated into over 20 languages.**

Kat Menschik is an illustrator. Her books have won numerous awards.

A subtle and ambiguous story about a mysterious encounter that spirals into a psychological game of truth and lies.

One day, a girl appears at the narrator's door with a 1,000-schilling note and an implausible story, only to disappear shortly after. Years later, a young woman forces her way into the narrator's life, claiming to be that very girl. A lurking dance begins in which closeness and distance, truth and deception blur.

Monika Helfer's narrative is a vexing game that remains exciting and abysmal to the very end, congenially accompanied by Kat Menschik's iridescent illustrations.

Sebastian Hotz

Sidekick

- A sharp media satire for media-savvy millennials
- 60,000 copies sold of his debut *Mindset*
- For readers of Marc-Uwe Kling and Heinz Strunk
- Topics: Media Satire, Show Business

April 2026 · 304 pages

© Max Sand

Sebastian Hotz, born in 1996, is known as "El Hotzo". His social critiques on Instagram and Twitter reach over a million people daily. His debut novel *Mindset* was published in 2023 and was a major bestseller.

Sebastian Hotz's second novel is a masterful play on the cultural conflicts of our time, telling a fast-paced story about generational shifts in show business.

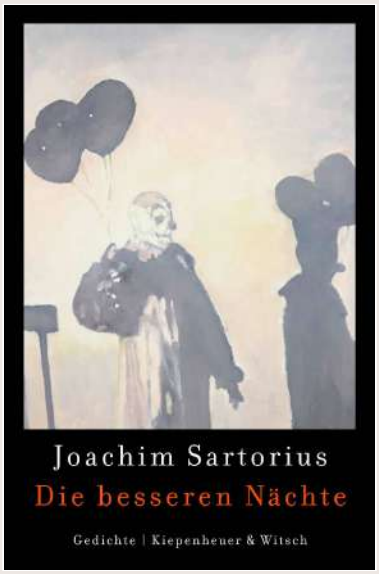
After decades of TV history, legendary showmaster Falk Anders announces his retirement. His long-time sidekick, Boris, firmly believes he is the natural successor. However, their boss Marianne has other plans, favoring an influencer to reach a younger demographic. When Falk decides he isn't ready to quit after all, a shocked - and drunk - Boris takes matters into his own hands: he shoves Falk into the trunk of his car and drives off.

A dramatic and absurd chamber drama unfolds on the German autobahn orchestrated by Marianne who exploits the situation and spurs on both men to sell the kidnapping as a planned mockumentary.

Joachim Sartorius

The Better Nights. Poems

- Celebrating the author's 80th birthday in 2026
- A poetic inventory of a life and a map of memories
- Reflects on travel, love, and the ravages of war



February 2026 · 80 pages

© Courtesy of the Estate of David Armstrong.

Joachim Sartorius, born in 1946, is a poet and translator who grew up in Tunis. He is a former director of the Berliner Festspiele and has published eight poetry collections which were **translated into several languages**.

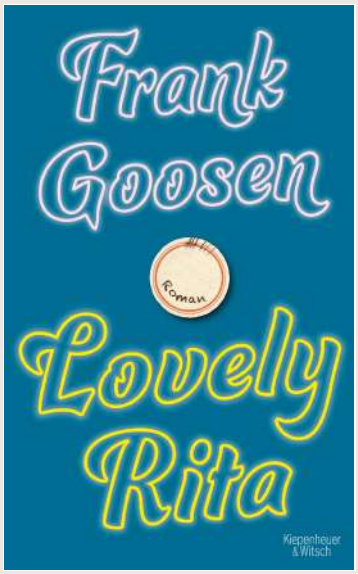
In his new collection, poet Joachim Sartorius asks if the nights when a poem succeeds are truly the better nights, taking stock of his life through verse.

The poems serve as journeys through a Mediterranean world that is both real and mythical, visiting places like Sicily, Tunis, and the Levant. At the center of the volume are four poems addressing current wars, contrasting destruction with the enduring power of touch, warmth, and the sea. It is a book about what passes and what remains.

Frank Goosen

Lovely Rita

- A warm and humorous novel about a disappearing biotope: the corner pub
- For readers of Nick Hornby, Roddy Doyle, Fredrik Backman
- Topics: Pub Culture, Disappearing Communities



February 2026 · 256 pages

© Martin Steffen

Frank Goosen lives in Bochum and has published numerous successful books many of which have been adapted for stage or film.

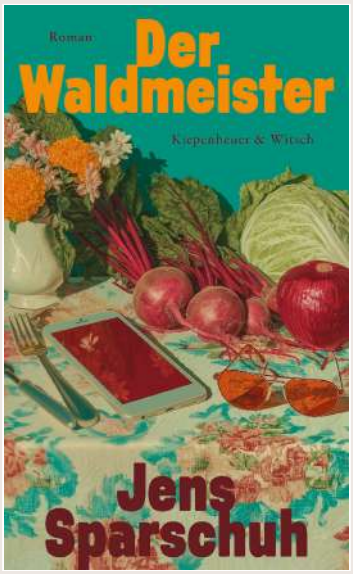
In Frank Goosen's new novel, we journey through the life stories of three unconventional women

The legendary Haus Himmelreich pub, one of the last of its kind in a dying coal-mining town in the Ruhr area, is set to close. The narrator uses this as an opportunity to visit for the final hours, encountering quirky regulars and wild stories. However, the true spirit of the pub, landlady Rita Urbaniak, is missing. Though she has run the place since the 1970s and raised her niece there, she doesn't show up for the finale. As the narrator digs deeper, he begins to suspect a major secret behind her absence.

Jens Sparschuh

The Forest Maestro

- A light-hearted and entertaining novel about a fresh start featuring a grumpy but lovable Berlin food critic
- Topics: Culinary Fiction, Humorous Novel, New Beginnings



February 2026 · 368 pages

© Joachim Gern

Jens Sparschuh, born in 1955, is an author of novels and radio plays. He received among others the Anna-Seghers-Preis (1988), the Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden (Radio Drama Prize of the War Blind, 1989), the Prix Chronos (2018) and the Günter Grass Prize (2019). Rights to his books have been **sold to France, Italy and Russia**.

Jens Sparschuh serves up a warm-hearted story about Odo Weingaertner, a retiring food critic whose scathing final review leads to an unexpected new life.

After his scathing critique of a country inn, Odo travels there to settle a dispute with the landlady, Senta. Through a series of mishaps, including losing his apartment, he ends up working as a cook at the very inn he panned. The novel is full of culinary adventures, misunderstandings, and a blossoming romance, all told with Sparschuh's signature charm and wit.

Wolfgang Schorlau

The Unstoppable Rise of Minister Karsten Richter. A Satire

- A scathing political satire on the climate crisis and our current government
- From the author of the bestselling Dengler crime series
- Topics: Political Satire, Environmental Activism, Berlin Politics

February 2026 · 160 pages

© Reiner Pfisterer

Wolfgang Schorlau is a bestselling author known for his meticulously researched political crime novels, which have sold over 1.7 million copies. He received the German Crime Fiction Award (2006), the Stuttgart Crime Fiction Award (2012, 2014) and the Stuttgart Ebner Stolz Business Crime-Fiction Prize (2019).

Wolfgang Schorlau delivers a biting commentary on a political milieu that prioritizes power over the planet, centering on a politician whose career is threatened by his own mother.

In 2025 Berlin, the gas lobby pushes for Karsten Richter to become minister to avert climate neutrality measures. However, Richter's mother, a first-generation climate activist, decides to intervene, kidnapping herself to send a message about her son's lack of environmental conscience. A dramatic and absurd game of cat-and-mouse ensues in the corridors of power.

Ina Bhatter

Three Days in the Snow

October 2025 · 176 pages

Rights sold to Czech, Netherlands, France • English sample available

An inspirational novel about the search for the light within us

Trapped in the relentless noise of a high-pressure city life, Hannah rents a secluded winter cabin to unplug. There, a young girl suddenly appears, striking up a friendship with her. Through their magical friendship in the snow, Hannah must rediscover her forgotten childhood longings to reclaim the person she always wanted to be.

Leif Randt

Let's Talk About Feelings

September 2025 · 320 pages

Shortlisted for the Wilhelm Raabe Prize 2025 • English sample available

A coming-of-middle-age-novel

In his boutique, 41-year-old Marian, son of two famous parents, sells what might be the most beautiful clothes in the world – though the shop rarely turns a profit. When his mother dies, Marian believes it to be the start of the less joyful half of his life. Yet what follows is a year of transformation.

"Leif Randt captures the tone of a present in which identity is negotiated to a decisive extent through self-staging." - **WDR**

Daniela Dröscher

Young Woman with Cat

Rights sold to Spain • English sample available

Ela has spent her whole life – quite literally – in her mother's shadow. Her father blamed her mother's overweight body for the family's unhappiness. Now an adult, Ela is faced with her own ailing body. As she unconsciously struggles with the question of whether she truly deserves her own happiness her body begins to revolt and she has to find a balance between her body, mind and: expectations.

"Mentioning Daniela Dröscher in the same breath as Annie Ernaux is absolutely appropriate." - **DLF**

August 2025 · 320 pages

Daniela Dröscher

Lies About My Mother

Rights sold to China, Denmark, Egypt, Italy, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine • Shortlisted for the German Book Prize • Over 110,000 copies sold • NBG • English sample available

Film adaptation to be released in 2026

Daniela Dröscher writes about growing up in a family dominated by a single topic: her mother's body weight. Is this beautiful, headstrong, unpredictable woman too fat? Her husband says yes - a verdict she is forced to endure day after day. Unsparingly and convincingly, Dröscher brings this 'chamber play called family' to life. Ultimately, this is a tragicomic novel about a resilient woman who never stops fighting to be the master of her own life.

August 2022 · 448 pages

Maxim Leo

The Hero of Friedrichstrasse Station (Der Held vom Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse)

Commercial fiction, first published in 2022

- **Film Premiere: December 2025**
- *"The game of deception, self-deception and merciful fraud, which Wolfgang Becker so masterfully unfolded in* Good Bye, Lenin!*, returns once again in his last film (he died at the end of filming)."* – **DIE ZEIT**
- **Book rights sold to:** Czech: Beta / France: Actes Sud / Netherlands: Signatuur / Russia: Polyandria

Joachim Meyerhoff

Oh, This Void, This Unspeakable Void (Ach, diese Lücke, diese entsetzliche Lücke)

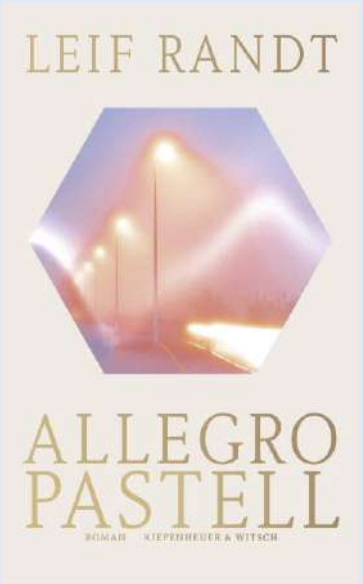
Literary fiction, first published in 2015

- **Film Premiere: January 2026**
- Book sold over 600,000 copies
- **Book rights sold to:** Latvia: Veikals Upe / Netherlands: Signatuur

Leif Randt

Allegro Pastel

Literary fiction, first published in 2020

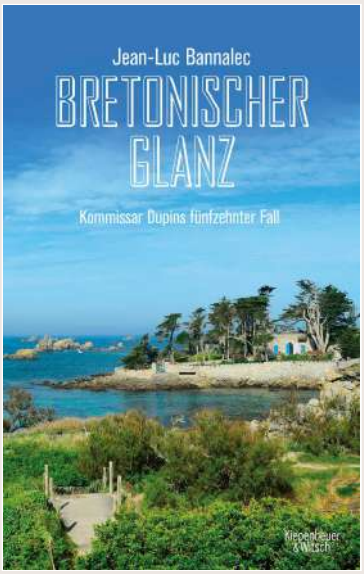


- **Film Premiere: February 2026 at Berlinale**
- **Book rights sold to:** Brazil: Bestiário / Bulgaria: Colibri / Croatia: Vuković & Runjić / Denmark: Straarup&Co / Greece: Elkystis / North Macedonia: TRI Publishing Centre / Netherlands: Leesmagazijn / Norway: Aschehoug / Russia: Ad Marginem / Serbia: Blum / Sweden: Forum / UK (World English): Granta editions

Jean-Luc Bannalec

Breton Glamour (The Fifteenth Case for Inspector Dupin)

- Set in Roscoff, the “most English” town in Britanny, famous for its onions
- Over 6 million copies of the bestselling series sold and translated into 19 languages
- Complete English translations of the first ten titles available



June 2026 · 320 pages

Jean-Luc Bannalec is the pen name of Jörg Bong. His crime series featuring Inspector Dupin has been adapted for television, sold over 6 million copies and was **translated into 19 languages**. In 2016, the author received the title “Mécène de Bretagne” from the region of Brittany. Since 2018, he has been an honorary member of the Académie littéraire de Bretagne. Most recently, he has received the HomBuch book fair award for Franco-German relations and the honorary citizenship of Concarneau.

In the latest installment of the bestselling series, Commissaire Dupin is called to the northern coast of Brittany where a crime fiction festival and a murder shakes the town of Roscoff.

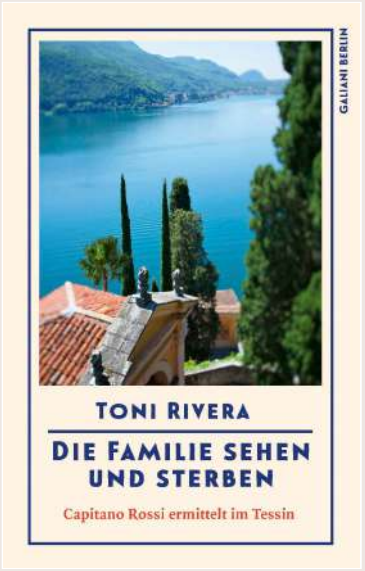
While enjoying a meal, Dupin learns that a young woman has been stabbed. The town is already in chaos due to protests by ferry employees and mysterious activities within the "Brotherhood for the Protection of the Roscoff Onion." As threatening slogans appear on walls, Dupin realizes this case is more dangerous than any before, leading him deep into the local culture and conflicts.

Further Titles

Toni Rivera

Seeing the Family and Dying

- Start of a new crime series set in Ticino
- Features a cynical, food-loving investigator with family troubles
- For readers of Andrea Camilleri and Martin Walker
- Topics: Mafia Mystery, Family Secrets, Police Procedural



March 2026 · 288 pages

Toni Rivera is the pseudonym of a celebrated author known for his distinct voice and suspenseful storytelling.

Two deaths where something doesn't add up. A powerful brother involved in shady dealings. An ambitious assistant who intimidates him. And an unpunished crime that still cries out for revenge.

When his assistant, Inspector Gemma Crivelli, texts him the police code for 'murder' twice, Capitano Enzo Rossi first thinks she has made a mistake because the days when there was anything to investigate in southern Ticino are long gone. When Rossi begins to investigate, admittedly a little rusty and with a pronounced tendency to improvise, he is shocked to find that his own family seems to be involved. For Rossi, a dangerous game of loyalty and betrayal begins...

Lenz Koppelstätter

When the Storm Rests. The Third Case for Gianna Pitti

- The third case in the Lake Garda series
- From an author with over half a million books sold
- For readers of Jean-Luc Bannalec, Pierre Martin, Gil Ribeiro and Sophie Bonnet
- Topics: Cold War Espionage, Terrorism, History

May 2026 · 256 pages

Lenz Koppelstätter, born in 1982 in South Tyrol, is a reporter and author. He is the creator of the successful Commissario Grauner series, set in South Tyrol, and the Gianna Pitti mysteries, set at Lake Garda.

The Pitti family faces a seemingly unsolvable mystery that leads them to the Villa Feltrinelli and deep into the history of terrorism and the Cold War.

When a man researching the mysterious death of publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli over 50 years ago is found shot dead, Gianna Pitti and her uncle go undercover at the legendary villa. The clues connect the murder to Nobel Prize winner Boris Pasternak and Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Koppelstätter uniquely combines suspense, a holiday atmosphere, and Italian contemporary history.

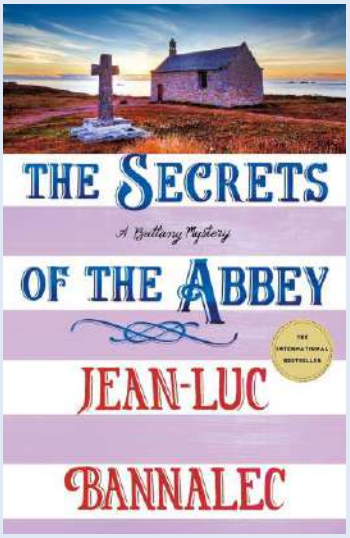
Further Titles

Jean-Luc Bannalec

The Secrets of the Abbey (Bretonische Nächte. 11)

Crime fiction, first published in 2022

- **English** translation to be published by St. Martin's Press in April 2026
- Over 6 million copies of the series sold
- **Rights to the series sold to:** Bulgaria / Czech / Croatia / Estonia / France / Hungary / Italy / Latvia / Lithuania / Netherlands / Poland / Romania / Russia / Serbia / Slovenia / Spain / Sweden / Turkey / USA (World English)

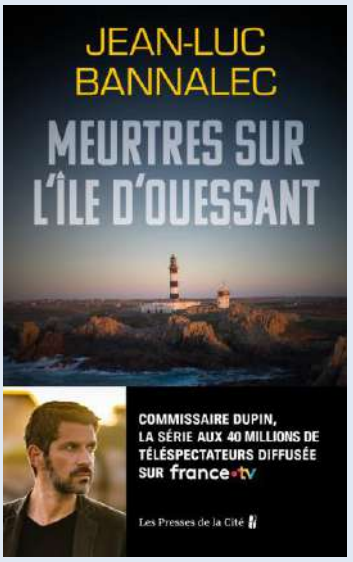


Jean-Luc Bannalec

Meurtres sur l'île d'Ouessant (Bretonische Sehnsucht. 13)

Crime fiction, first published in 2024

- **French** translation to be published by Presses de la Cité in April 2026
- Over 6 million copies of the series sold
- **Rights to the series sold to:** Bulgaria / Czech / Croatia / Estonia / France / Hungary / Italy / Latvia / Lithuania / Netherlands / Poland / Romania / Russia / Serbia / Slovenia / Spain / Sweden / Turkey / USA (World English)



Gil Ribeiro

Largas Sombras en Fuseta (Lost in Fuseta. 2)

Crime fiction, first published in 2018

- **Spanish** translation published by Ediciones Maeva in June 2025
- Over 1 million copies of the series sold
- **Rights sold to**: Czech: Euromedia / Portugal: Escafandro / Spain: Maeva

Ulrike Herrmann

Money as a Weapon. How the Economy Decides on War and Peace

- From the author of the international bestseller *The End of Capitalism*
- For readers of Carlos Masala, Thomas Piketty, and Adam Tooze
- Topics: Geopolitics, War Economics, China, Russia, EU, Nato
- English sample by David Shaw available soon

March 2026 · 336 pages

© Andrew James Johnston

Ulrike Herrmann, born in 1964, is the economics correspondent for *taz*. Her book *The End of Capitalism (Das Ende des Kapitalismus)* was **translated into 12 languages** and sold over 140,000 copies in Germany alone.

In a world drifting toward a third world war, economic power - not just firepower - will decide the victor, as the ruinous costs of conflict expose the vulnerabilities of Russia, China, and the West alike.

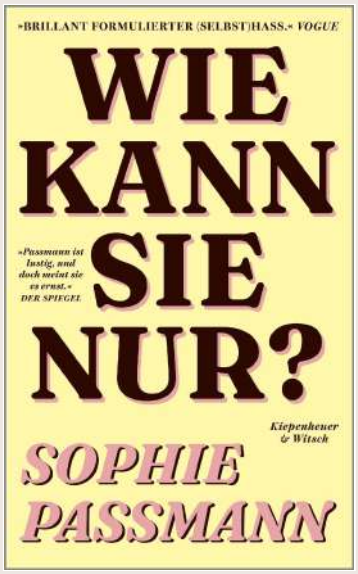
Using the war in Ukraine as a starting point, Herrmann analyzes conflict through an economic lens, arguing that understanding the financial realities of warfare - from sanctions to arms manufacturing - is essential for the West to deter aggressors. She illustrates how Russia's economic development makes permanent war likely and how China's economic struggles influence its aggression toward Taiwan.

The book offers a fascinating look behind the scenes of the new world order and what Europe must do to secure peace.

Sophie Passmann

How Dare She?

- On the daily madness of being a woman on the internet – highly relatable
- #1 bestselling author with 350,000 copies sold
- For readers of *Trick Mirror* and observers of pop culture and feminism
- Topics: Digital Feminism, Pop Culture Analysis, Online Misogyny
- English sample by Lizzy Kinch available soon



March 2026 · 240 pages

© Max Strohe

Sophie Passmann, born in 1994, is an author and presenter. Her books *Old White Men (Alte Weisse Männer), Growing Pains (Komplett Gänsehaut)* and *Pick Me Girls* were chart-topping bestsellers. Rights to her books have been **sold to China and the Netherlands.**

Sophie Passmann examines the zeitgeist like no one else: smart, self-reflective, and highly entertaining

Botox or aging gracefully, posting too many selfies on Instagram, or jumping on every beauty trend on TikTok? Women on the internet are under constant scrutiny. Every like can become an indictment, every comment a political issue. "How dare she?"

Sophie Passmann is herself part of this contradictory world of female self-representation on social media. With radical self-criticism, she dissects the phenomena shaping an entire generation: from the ascetic discipline of Hailey Bieber to the calculated "brat" attitude of Charli XCX, all the way to the neurotic perfection of Taylor Swift. Why are we all so fascinated by women who are performing for us - while hating them for exactly that?

Aladin El-Mafaalani

Communities of Mistrust. On the Appeal of Populism and Conspiracy Theories

- A structural diagnosis of the crisis of trust facing all Western democracies
- From a leading sociologist and bestselling author
- Topics: Sociology of Trust, Political Polarization, Conspiracy Theories, Social Analysis

Rights sold to: Netherlands: Bot Uitgevers

November 2025 · 128 pages

© Jennifer Fey

Aladin El-Mafaalani is one of Germany's most prominent sociologists and public intellectuals. He holds the Chair for Sociology of Migration and Education at the Technical University of Dortmund. A former department head at a state Ministry, he possesses a rare blend of academic rigor and political experience. In 2023, he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. His books have been **translated into Chinese, Italian and Russian.**

A sharp, structural diagnosis of why our society is drifting apart—and why "trusting no one" has become the new collective identity.

We live in an era of over-complexity. From the climate crisis to global pandemics and economic instability, the world has become too complicated for individuals to grasp fully. Paradoxically, while we need trust in experts and institutions more than ever to function, this very complexity creates the perfect breeding ground for suspicion.

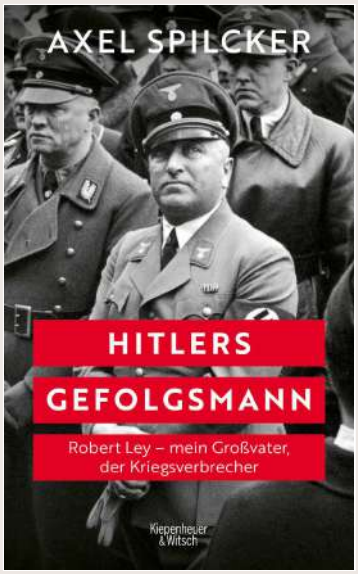
In *Communities of Mistrust*, leading sociologist Aladin El-Mafaalani argues that this is not just a passing phase of political polarization, but a structural shift. He traces how individual skepticism solidifies into communities of mistrust - groups united not by shared values, but by a shared rejection of the system.

Precise, urgent, and devoid of moralizing, this book offers a crucial roadmap for understanding the rationality behind the rise of populism and conspiracy ideologies in the 21st century.

Axel Spilcker

Hitler's Henchman. Robert Ley – My Grandfather, the War Criminal

- The grandson of a high-ranking Nazi war criminal breaks the silence and confronts a burdened family legacy
- For readers interested in biographies and WW II history
- Topics: Nazi History, Intergenerational Trauma, Family Secrets



May 2026 · 272 pages

© Maya Claussen

Axel Spilcker, born in 1963, has been working as a journalist since 1993, including as an editor at Focus. He has twice received the prestigious Wächterpreis from the German daily press for his investigative journalism.

Axel Spilcker tells the story of his family which was overshadowed by the legacy of his grandfather, Robert Ley, a leading figure in the Nazi regime, who only escaped judgement in the Nuremberg Trials by committing suicide in his prison cell.

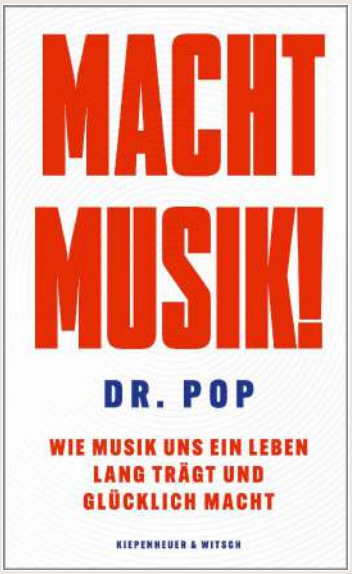
Eighty years later, his grandson sets out to search for clues. Based on exclusive documents, including the unpublished memoirs of Ley's last partner, Spilcker reveals a family history marked by name changes, greed, hatred, and suicide.

Hitler's Henchman is a multi-layered story of guilt, identity, and the responsibility subsequent generations bear.

Dr. Pop

Make Music. How Music Sustains Us Throughout Our Lives and Makes Us Happy

- "The Bas Kast of music" explores how music makes us healthier, happier, and smarter
- Topics: Music Therapy



April 2026 · 336 pages

© Marvin Ruppert

Dr. Pop (Markus Henrik) is a musicologist and comedian with a weekly radio show. He tours the country with his live programs and appears regularly on television.

Musicologist Dr. Pop writes an enthralling book about the miracle weapon that is music

We all often feel blue and wonder how to deal with our many problems. But there is a remedy that improves life in the long term, without any risks or side effects. In this book, Dr Pop has collected the most astonishing findings and describes how music makes us smarter, happier and more human.

Did you know, for example, that elderly people who learn to play the piano for the first time suddenly become better at parallel parking, that in some places dance classes are available on prescription, and that schools where more music is played have less bullying?

It's true: music saves lives and makes life better.

Dagmar Kieselbach, Thomas Hallet

Should I Stay or Should I Go.
20 Questions for your relationship

- A self-help guide for people in midlife questioning their long-term relationships
- For readers of John Gottman, Julie Schwartz Gottman and Esther Perel
- Topics: Relationship Counseling, Marriage Therapy

January 2026 · 288 pages

Dagmar Kieselbach and **Thomas Hallet** have been married for over 30 years and have two adult children. Both had successful careers in the media industry but also completed training in systemic couple's therapy, now running a joint couple's counseling practice. They consistently advise couples together, offering a powerful dual perspective on the dynamics of long-term partnership.

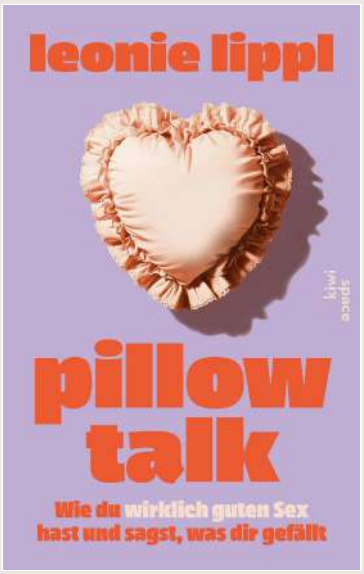
***Should I Stay or Shoud I Go?* explores the complex situation of mid-life partnerships - has the relationship run its course, or can it be revived through active effort?**

Written by a couple who work as couples therapists, this book dismantles romantic myths and offers a realistic path to renewal or a self-determined ending through 20 central questions, workbook parts, honest case studies, and concrete, actionable rituals without tired advice clichés.

Leonie Lippl

Pillow Talk. How to Have Really Good Sex and Say What You Like

- Your pleasure guide to the sex you desire from a certified counselor
- Includes tips, myth-busting, and communication exercises
- For readers who are too young for *Come as You Are*
- Topics: Sex Education, Intimacy & Communication, Sexual Health



February 2026 · 272 pages

© Martina Bogdahn

Leonie Lippl, born in 1998, is a certified sexual and couples counselor who shares her expertise on relationships on Social Media. Her English language Instagram account @itsleonieida has over 300,000 followers.

Sex therapist Leonie Lippl explains how to get the most out of sexual encounters with yourself and others, covering everything from fun facts to serious questions about pain or desire.

The book answers questions like "What do I need for good sex?" and "How do I communicate what I want?". Lippl provides concrete tips on techniques and facts about the body, while also addressing how to handle situations where sex isn't working as imagined. Her guide is designed to help readers discover their own sexuality in a relaxed and confident way.

Lea Banasch

The Anchor Within. 33 Essays on Change, Trust and Inner Strength

- From a SPIEGEL bestselling author and holistic therapist
- Provides concrete, scientifically sound tools for everyday life
- For readers of Brianna Wiest, Leon Windscheid and Karin Kuschik
- Topics: Mental Health, Self-Help, Resilience

February 2026 · 288 pages

© Boris Breuer

Lea Banasch, born in 1993, is a holistic therapist, nutritionist, and naturopath with her own practice. She has been sharing her expertise on social media since 2021 to educate and inspire a large following.

Therapist Lea Banasch invites readers to change their perspective with clear, empathetic essays that address the often invisible inner struggles we face.

Banasch writes about the fear of failure, unhelpful patterns, and blocking thoughts, offering the core message that you are not alone. She integrates central psychological concepts in an understandable way, providing readers with concrete solutions and "coaching to go."

The book is a guide to finding clarity, confidence, and serenity in turbulent times, helping readers lead a self-determined life.

Gesina Demes, Annika Prigge

For the First Time. On Growing Up, Being a Woman and All the Feelings In Between

- "Real Girl Shit": Relatable stories about and for women in their 20s
- For readers of Dolly Alderton and Florence Given
- Topics: Female Friendship, Quarter-Life Crisis, Millennial/ Gen Z Life

March 2026 · 320 pages

Gesina Demes is a content creator and consultant. **Annika Prigge** is a journalist. They have hosted the *End Zwanni* podcast together since 2024.

Gesina Demes and Annika Prigge touchingly, honestly, and hilariously write about breakups, new beginnings, self-doubt, and the moments that shape life in your twenties.

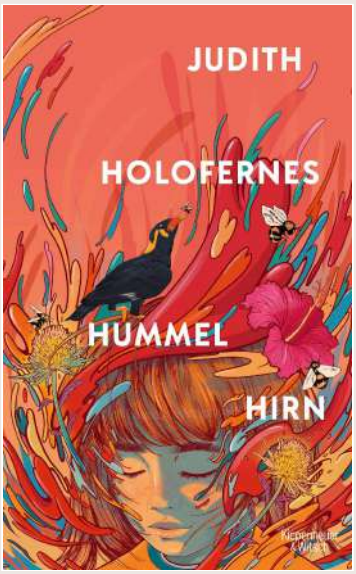
The authors share funny and touching stories from all aspects of life—from first jobs and moving in with grandmothers to sexual anxieties and the search for self-worth. This narrative non-fiction book invites readers to feel seen and understood, emphasizing that friendship is the bond that holds everything together.

"A love letter to friendship and to life." - Caroline Wahl

Judith Holofernes

Bumblebee Brain

- A memoir about neurodiversity and growing up "different"
- Tender, tragicomic, and inspiring
- Topics: Neurodiversity, Music, Creativity



March 2026 · 304 pages

© Marco Sensche

Judith Holofernes is a singer, songwriter, and author. As the lead singer of *Wir sind Helden*, she shaped a generation of German music fans.

***Bumblebee Brain* is a story of adaptation and the comical failed attempts to fit in, told by a dreamer who moved through the world like a "drunken bumblebee."**

Judith Holofernes looks back on her childhood in the 70s and 80s, before terms like neurodiversity were common. She tells of her training as a people pleaser, her nonconformist mother, and her journey to becoming a rock star. It is a book about how she managed to carry her own unique qualities into adulthood, proving that one can be both nice and special.

Matthias Brandt

Saying No. On July 20, 1944, My Parents and Personal Responsibility Today

- A resonant wake-up call against forgetting and an urgent plea for vigilance

March 2026 · 128 pages

© Arne Lesmann

Matthias Brandt, born in Berlin in 1961, is an actor and author. He is the son of former Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt. He has received numerous awards for his work, including several Grimme Prizes, the Carl Zuckmayer Medal, and the German Language Prize (2025). His books sold more than 500,000 copies.

In the face of democracy's new threats - fueled by racism and xenophobia Matthias Brandt steps forward politically. This book is based on a powerful speech he delivered in 2025 at the Berlin-Plötzensee Memorial Center, commemorating the resistance fighters of July 20, 1944 - a group that included his own parents.

The current resurgence of right-wing extremism served as the deciding factor for Brandt to publish this work. He reflects on the courage and motives of the July 20 conspirators and other resistance fighters, examining their actions from a modern perspective and questioning what consequences history demands of us today.

Daniel Schwartz

Journey to the World's Glaciers

- A travelogue exploring glaciers as climate indicators and memory archives
- Includes photographs by the multi-award-winning Swiss photographer and author
- Topics: Climate Change, Nature Writing, Travel Photography

April 2026 · 336 pages

© Navid Kermani

Daniel Schwartz, born in 1955, is a multi-award-winning Swiss photographer and author. In 1987-1988, he was the first foreigner to document the Great Wall of China in detail. Since 1980, he has published reports, essays, and long-term projects in exhibitions and books. He has been traveling to glaciers around the world for many years.

Daniel Schwartz has spent twenty years travelling the globe - from Uganda to the Swiss Jura - to document glaciers and the fascinating stories locked within their ice.

In the Ruwenzori Mountains in Uganda, Schwartz thinks of the Greek geographer Ptolemy, who wondered in ancient times whether the source of the Nile lay there. On Nanga Parbat, he finds the remains of the failed Nazi expeditions of the 1930s in the thawing ice. At the southern foot of the Swiss Jura, he not only traces the millennia-long journey of erratic boulders, but also accompanies his nearly 90-year-old father on his last hike to one of them. He photographs the Birch Glacier from a helicopter at the last possible moment – the next day, it crashes into the valley and buries the village of Blatten.

He combines these personal experiences with literary sources from antiquity to the present day and showcases glaciers in all their diversity: as a dwindling archive of climate history, an archaeological site and an intangible repository of memories.

Joschka Fischer

Who Are We? Germany in Search of its Identity

- A visionary roadmap for Germany's geopolitical future from its former Foreign Minister
- For readers of Henry Kissinger, Timothy Garton Ash, Francis Fukuyama, and those interested in the future of the transatlantic alliance

May 2026 · 208 pages

© mauritius images / Guido Schiefer / Alamy / Alamy Stock Photos

Joschka Fischer, born in 1948, served as Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany from 1998 to 2005. Following his active political career, he held a guest professorship at Princeton University and established himself as a globally sought-after consultant and strategic analyst. His numerous bestsellers have cemented his reputation as a leading international voice on foreign policy and geopolitics and were **translated into several languages**.

Joschka Fischer delivers a penetrating analysis of German politics amidst a global era of disruption, asking how the nation must adapt to secure its sovereignty.

As the first quarter of the 21st century concludes, the world is undergoing radical transformations: intensifying great power rivalries, the AI revolution, and the rise of the Global South. What does this mean for Germany - the world's third-largest industrial power, yet a country that remains militarily hesitant and historically post-national?

Fischer argues that with the US retreating as a security guarantor and Europe facing existential threats, the status quo is no longer tenable. He explores how Germany can justify the trust earned from former enemies after 1945 while courageously confronting the new military, technological, and political realities required to survive in a transformed world.

Bent Freiwald

A Day in the Life of the Brain. How to Make Smarter Use of Your Brain in Everyday Life

- A book that helps you understand yourself and your body to better manage everyday life
- For readers of Giulia Enders, James Clear and Matthew Walker
- English sample by Sharon Howe available

September 2025 · 304 pages

Rights sold to: Brazil: Pensamento / **China:** CITIC Press / **Greece**: Patakis / **Italy**: Rizzoli / **Korea**: RH Korea / **Netherlands**: Balans / **Romania**: PUBLICA / **Russia**: Alpina / **Spain**: Obelisco / **Turkey**: KURALDISI / **World English Rights**: Leap/Bonnier Books

© Markus Tedeskino

Bent Freiwald, born in 1993, studied cognitive science and writes as a journalist for the online magazine *Krautreporter*. In 2022, he launched the newsletter *Das Leben des Brain* (*The Life of Brain*), where he shares findings from neuroscience. After it was named "Newsletter of the Year" at the 2023 Golden Blogger Awards, he turned it into a popular podcast of the same name. Freiwald has also received the Grimme Online Award and the Fast Forward Science Award for his work. In 2023, he was also named one of *Medium Magazin*'s "Top 30 under 30" journalists.

Whether we're dreaming at night, exercising in the morning, trying to concentrate at work, or having that infamous "one beer too many" late at night – our brain is working around the clock. It's essential to our well-being – at least when everything is running smoothly. Bent Freiwald explores all the things our brain does and shares surprising insights that can help us navigate everyday life more effectively.

Following the course of a perfectly ordinary day, brain expert and science journalist Bent Freiwald explains the incredible feats the human brain performs on a daily basis – and how you can apply that knowledge to become more disciplined, eat healthier, trust your gut, or move on from a breakup. His goal: to entertain without oversimplifying.

Bruno Preisendörfer

Keywords That Made History

- Recounts 80 years of German history through 15 legendary slogans
- Topics: German History, Cultural History, Post-War Society

March 2026 · 432 pages

Bruno Preisendörfer is a renowned author of cultural-historical non-fiction. His "time travel books" to the eras of Goethe, Luther, Bach and Bismarck were bestsellers and sold rights to **China**. In 2016, he received the NDR Kultur Non-Fiction Prize. Rights to his book *Phrases that Changed the World (Sätze, die die Welt Verändern)* were **sold to Israel and Korea**.

Bestselling author Bruno Preisendörfer uses influential slogans like "Prosperity for all" and "We can do this" to explore the moods, hopes, and realities of German history from 1945 to today.

Who doesn't immediately hear the sound of John F. Kennedy's legendary 'Ich bin ein Berliner' in their ears – a sentence that seemed like a spontaneous confession, but was in fact carefully rehearsed in Willy Brandt's office. Quite different: Günter Schabowski's legendary 'immediately, without delay,' which heralded the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 – and proved Honecker's bold claim that the Wall would 'still be standing in 50 or 100 years' to be a lie.

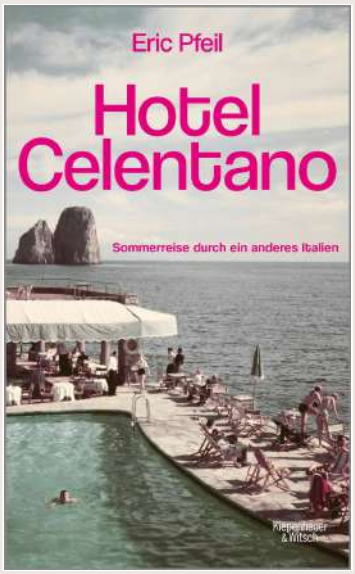
Preisendörfer's book opens up surprising perspectives on well-known turning points and deconstructs myths such as the 'economic miracle' or the 'miracle of Bern'. An intelligent and entertaining book that shows how yesterday's words shape today's reality.

Further Titles

Eric Pfeil

Hotel Celentano. A Summer Trip Through a Different Italy

- A narrative travel guide to the mythical Italy of pop culture
- Topics: Travel Literature, Italian Pop Culture, Music History



May 2026 · 304 pages

© Ina Kalvelage

Eric Pfeil, born in 1969, writes about film, literature, and music for publications like *FAZ* and *Rolling Stone*. His previous books on Italian music were major successes.

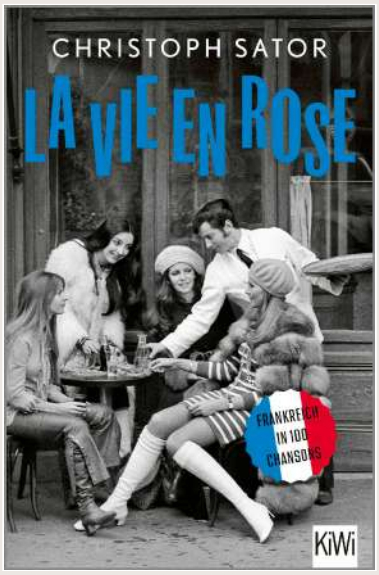
Eric Pfeil takes us on a summer journey through Italy, visiting places that have been unjustly forgotten or never became famous but hold the key to lightheartedness.

During a dreary winter, Pfeil maps out the locations where the mythical Italy of songs and films was born. He visits the Tuscan club where Mina gave her farewell concert, the sets of spaghetti westerns, and the retreats of jet-set stars, searching for the unsung attractions of the Bel Paese, combining a spirit of discovery with a deep love for Italian culture.

Christoph Sator

La Vie en Rose

- A journey through the history of French chansons



March 2026 · 368 pages

© Antje Gemeinhardt

Christoph Sator, born in 1963, grew up right at the French border, with direct access to record stores and the French way of life. Today, he heads the dpa office for Southwestern Europe in Rome.

In *La Vie en Rose*, Christoph Sator takes us on a journey through the history of chanson, from Aznavour to Zaz. Along the way, he tells us countless stories and anecdotes about the country of *savoir-vivre*.

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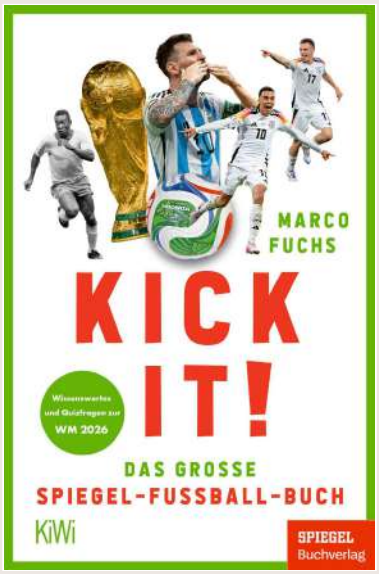

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Marco Fuchs, born in 1974, has been working as a journalist for more than 20 years. Since April 2017, he has been working in the sports department at SPIEGEL, focusing on football. In addition to analysis and interviews, he is passionate about curiosities and history.

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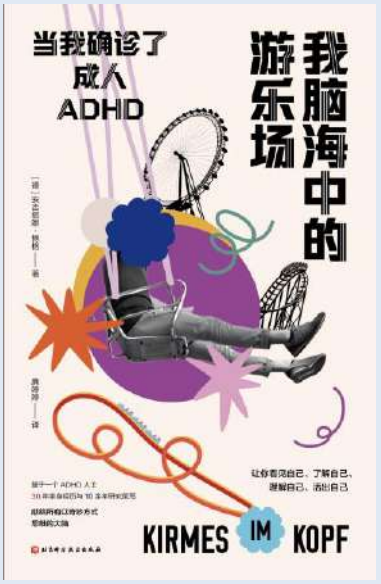

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