

2023 Non-fiction/Fiction

Loel Zwecker

The Power of the Powerless How Common People Made the World a Better Place, and What It Means for Us Today

It wasn't kings, commanders, revolutionary leaders or CEOs who shaped the course of history in positive ways. Time and time again, common people were actually the ones who challenged those in power, inspired and forced major social changes for the better. The peasants in the Middle Ages who rose up against the social division between rich and poor; the Diggers community that developed a concept of sustainable growth; the abolitionists who succeeded in ending slavery; labour protests; and the women's movement are just a few of the numerous movements driven by common people.

Common people developed innovative strategies and unusual forms of protest, boldly engaged in civil disobedience, or forged surprising coalitions to achieve their goals. But the power of the supposedly powerless is often overlooked, when in fact their actions and ideas are crucial in confronting today's problems, such as social inequality, the rise of autocrats and populists, the climate catastrophe and in fueling civil society's will to combat it.

With vivid examples, renowned non-fiction author Loel Zwecker describes which reforms and revolutions were most beneficial and enduring, and what we can learn from them to effect necessary changes, such as redistribution, climate justice and sustainability.

An illuminating and inspiring look at history, highlighting less known, yet significant patterns, processes and the overarching potential for transformation, that can encourage us in facing the future.

- Germany: Tropen/Klett-Cotta Verlag
- Approx. 300 pp., ms: April 2023



Loel Zwecker (b. 1968) is an author and freelance editor. He completed his doctoral thesis on art and politics and lectured Art History at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. He has written for newspapers (Süddeutsche Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Le Monde, among others) and authored several books that were translated into various languages. Most recently, he published *Vom Anfang bis heute: Eine kleine Geschichte der Welt* [From the Beginning to Now: A Brief History of the World] (2018).

Daniel Etter

Forest Garden

My Forest Garden and the Future of Agriculture

Our agriculture has a problem, be it conventional or organic. It emits enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, yet at the same time it is suffering from climate change. There are, however, solutions. Agriculture could be different—more sustainable and regenerative, instead of destructive.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and farmer Daniel Etter embarks on a journey across Europe to discover how agriculture can continue to work in the future. He considers different ways of managing his farm in the foothills of the Pyrenees to farm both sustainably and profitably. He visits pioneers of alternative agriculture, including the forest gardening expert Michael Crawford in England, and Perrine and Charles Hervé-Gruyer's flagship permaculture farm in Normandy; he works with farmers in Spain who are battling constant drought. He visits the fields of Gut & Bösel in Brandenburg, Germany, where the owners are experimenting with regenerative agriculture, and talks with scientists about the future of our food supply. Following the cycle of the gardening year, he presents these concepts and reports on his travels and describes what happens in his garden in the different seasons: what thrives and grows, which vegetables and fruits he harvests, and the changes he makes to help his farm defy climate change.

A forward-looking book that demonstrates how we can feed ourselves without devouring our planet.



- Approx. 260 pp. with illustrations/photographs
- Germany: DVA/PRH, ms: June 2023



Daniel Etter is a photographer, author and filmmaker. He has won the Pulitzer Prize and a World Press Photo Award for his photographic work, and the Hansel-Mieth Prize, among others, for his texts. He writes and/or photographs for the NYT, Spiegel, Geo, NZZ and

many others. Together with Marco Maurer, he published "Meine italienische Reise" [My Italian Journey], which was on the German bestseller list for several weeks.

Ingke Brodersen

Farewell, Martha The Story of the Jewish Inhabitants of My House

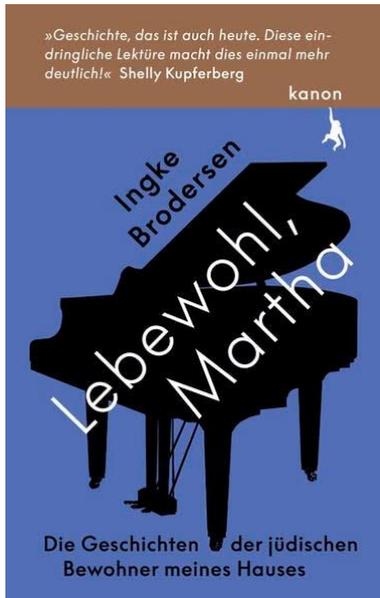
"This book tells of twenty-four people who disappeared. Deported in 1942, from the house in which I live. It also tells of others who escaped. I didn't get to know any of them until years after I had moved in. Here, I tell their stories — and the stories of people seeking refuge today."

In 1939, Hanns-Stephan is twelve years old. He stands on the platform of London's Liverpool Street station — saved by the Kindertransport. His mother dies in a hail of bombs. His father, Siegfried Jacob, a lawyer, goes into hiding in Berlin and survives. Siegfried's home becomes one of the so-called "Jew houses", a place where expropriated Jews are forced to live before they were deported.

When Ingke Brodersen in the 1990ies moves into an apartment on the fourth floor of this very house, she knows nothing about Siegfried or the pianist Martha, or any of the others. In an impressive piece of research, the author reconstructs the lives of these persecuted individuals. She also turns her attention to the displaced of today: Aziz and Rana from Kabul or Safed from Bosnia. The resulting book is a moving testimony to remembrance, empathy and humanity.

"Impressive research into a house's history, by which its Jewish inhabitants are given back their own histories as individuals." — Prof. Michael Wildt

"History is also the present. This haunting read reminds us of that once again!" — Shelly Kupferberg



- Germany: Kanon Verlag (publication April 2023)
- Approx. 280 pages

The historian **Ingke Brodersen** was head of the publishing house Rowohlt Berlin, and edited a multilingual European magazine for the Goethe-Institut. She led democracy and communication training courses in Berlin schools, and has been mentoring refugees since the 1990s. Brodersen has written and edited numerous books, many of which deal with Judaism, Jewish history, and National Socialism. They include the catalogue for the opening of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, *Stories of an Exhibition: Two Millennia of German-Jewish History*.

*

Kirsty Bell **The Undercurrents**

The Undercurrents: A Story of Berlin is a dazzling work of biography, memoir and cultural criticism told from a precise vantage point: a stately nineteenth-century house on Berlin's Landwehr Canal, a site at the centre of great historical changes, but also smaller domestic ones.

When her marriage breaks down, Kirsty Bell - a British-American writer, in her mid-forties, adrift - becomes fixated on the history of her building and of her adoptive city. Taking the view from her apartment window as her starting point, she turns to the lives of the house's various inhabitants, to accounts penned by Walter Benjamin, Rosa Luxemburg and Gabriele Tergit, and to the female protagonists in the works of Theodor Fontane, Irmgard Keun and Rainer Werner Fassbinder. A new cultural topography of Berlin emerges, one which taps into energetic undercurrents to recover untold or forgotten stories beneath the city's familiar narratives. Humane, thought-provoking and moving, *The Undercurrents* is a hybrid literary portrait of a place that makes the case for radical close readings: of ourselves, our cities and our histories.

'From the first moment I heard Kirsty Bell read from her writing, I have yearned for the book she was then working on. And now here it is, perfect and perfectly balanced, a clear-eyed and beautifully written account about place, about consciousness. I treasure *The Undercurrents*, and so will you.'

-- Hilton Als, author of *White Girls*

"[A] deeply absorbing...highly original and atmospheric book...[Bell] ably guide[s] us on a poetic exploration of the layers and depths in this troubled, thrilling, world capital."

—*New York Times Book Review*

- UK: Fitzcarraldo Edition, US: Other Press, Germany: Kanon Verlag, Spain: Errata Naturae, Italy: EDT, Turkey: Siren
- Approx. 280 pp.



Kirsty Bell is a British-American writer and art critic living in Berlin. She has published widely in magazines and journals including *Tate Etc.* and *Art in America*, and was contributing editor of *frieze* from 2011-2021. She was awarded a Warhol Foundation Grant for her book *The Artist's House*, and her essays have appeared in over seventy exhibition catalogues for major international museums and institutions such as the Whitney Museum for American Art, The Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, and Tate, UK. Her approach to writing is rooted less in her degree in Art History and English Literature from Cambridge University (1990-93) than in her hands-on experience with contemporary art production, while working in galleries and curating exhibitions.

Annette Kehnel

We've Done It Before – A Concise History of Sustainability

- NDR Non-Fiction Book Prize 2021

“Recycling, sharing, co-operation – it was all happening before! Annette Kehnel, a medievalist, argues that we have to go further back in history to think our future afresh, and save the planet. She offers surprisingly practical examples and introduces remarkable individuals from the last two thousand years. This is set to be a bold and exciting book – a must-read!”

--Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History, Oriel College, Oxford

Sharing, swapping, giving and recycling – living as we used to!

Communities that functioned on the basis of sharing on the Monte Subiaco in Italy, sustainable fishing at Lake Constance, common lands in the UK, the economy of transient grazing among Alpine shepherds in the south of France, banks providing microcredit in Bologna and other Italian cities (Monti di Pietà) and crowdfunding to finance bridges in Avignon; progressive thinkers who analysed capital five hundred years before Marx; systems to provide collectively for those in need like the Fuggerei (social housing) in Augsburg; second-hand markets in Paris and the Beguines who lived in female communities based on the idea that less is more and who planted exquisite self-sufficient gardens in the middle of medieval cities like Antwerp and Bruges ...

Pre-modern history is full of inspiring and amazing examples and concepts that are ripe for rediscovery. And we urgently need them as today's challenges – finite resources, the twilight of consumerism, growing inequality – are pressing, but we are having difficulty finding new ways forward, because we still think and act according to nineteenth-century concepts that have become completely dysfunctional in the twenty-first century.

Historian Annette Kehnel shows us that we have to go further back in history to find inspiration for our future and provides surprising and vivid examples from medieval and

early modern history. Her work is full of fundamental and inspiring alternatives to the status quo and its leading doctrine. Growth and returns were not always the measure of all things; we acted and lived differently and we could do so again. This amazing book takes a stimulating and revelatory look at a past that has the power to change our future.



- Germany: Blessing Verlag (5th print run), Arabic: Kalima, Korea: Korea National Open University, World English: Profile Books
NL: Atlas Contact
- Approx. 340 pages



Annette Kehnel has held a chair in Medieval History at the University of Mannheim. She has published numerous works on her main focus of research: cultural and economic history and historical anthropology. She received the prestigious NDR Non-Fiction Book Prize 2021 for her book "Wir konnten schon anders. Eine kurze Geschichte der Nachhaltigkeit“.

*

Żanna Słoniowska **The House with the Stained Glass Window**

„Żanna Słoniowska writes beautifully; with empathy, sensitivity and with real political impact. As a Ukrainian from the multicultural city of Lviv, she provides an important new voice in Polish literature!”

Olga Tokarczuk

In 1989, Marianna, the beautiful star soprano at the Lviv opera, is shot dead in the street as she leads the Ukrainian citizens in their protest against Soviet power. Only eleven years old at the time, her daughter tells the story of their family before and after that critical moment - including, ten years later, her own passionate affair with an older, married man. Just like their home city of Lviv, which stands at the crossroads of nations and cultures, the women in this family have had turbulent lives, scarred by war and political turmoil, but also by their own inability to show each other their feelings. Lyrically told, this is the story of a young girl's emotional, sexual, artistic and political awakening as she matures under the influence of her relatives, her mother's former lover, her city and its fortunes.



Żanna Słoniowska was born in 1978 in Lviv and is a journalist and translator. She now lives in Kraków. She is the first winner of the Znak Publishers' Literary Prize, for which her novel was chosen from among over a thousand entries. In 2016, Żanna Słoniowska won the Conrad Award, the Polish award for first novels.

- Poland: Znak, Ukraine: The Old Lion Publishing House, UK: McLehose, Germany: Kampa, France: Delcourt, Spain: Alianza Editorial, Italy: Piemme, Ethiopia: Hohe Publisher, Serbia: Dokaz, Croatia: Ljevak
- Approx. 272 pp. (+ updated forward)

Press:

The House with the Stained-Glass Window is remarkable, a gripping, Lvivian evocation of a city and a family across a long and painful century, at once personal and political, a novel of life and survival across the ages (*Philippe Sands*)

Few novels will engage the heart and mind as cohesively as this emphatic performance that

triumphs through its depiction of the human stories overshadowed by history. (Eileen Battersby *Financial Times*.)

Dans *Une ville à cœur ouvert*, Żanna Słoniowska raconte le combat de femmes à Lviv, en Ukraine, cité symbole des changements politiques de l'Europe. Visite guidée avec la romancière. (...) Il serait dommage de ne pas profiter de l'exceptionnelle porte d'entrée qu'est ce roman aux accents boulgakoviens proposé par Żanna Słoniowska. (Marianne Payot *L'Express*)

À elles quatre, ces femmes symbolisent leur ville briguebalée par l'Histoire, malmenée par les occupations successives. Dans ces pages envoûtantes, Żanna Słoniowska éblouit par sa faculté à mêler les époques, mais aussi l'art et l'amour, l'intime et la politique. (Laurence Caracalla *Le Figaro Magazine*)

Słoniowska writes subtly and beautifully - every phrase conjures up images, casting colourful lights just like the stained-glass window of the title. (Sylwia Chutnik)

This story could only have happened in Ukraine. And then again it could have happened anywhere, because the blood on the blue-and-yellow flag is just the beginning of an intimate tale about four generations of women. (Zofia Fabjanowska-Micyk *Zwierciadło*.)

Słoniowska is a fascinating story-teller who also gives insight into the reality of life in Ukraine. This is an astonishing literary discovery. (Justyna Sobolewska *Polityka*.)

This novel was written as a challenge to crushing, cruel history; it arose from a desire to give a voice to the individual experiences of women. But at a certain point it turns in a direction contrary to its original ambitions, and the counter-history disappears in the fog of exploding smoke grenades. (Dariusz Nowacki *Gazeta Wyborcza*.)

