

# *Picus Verlag*

**Foreign Rights 2021**

**Fiction**  
**Non-fiction**  
**Children's books**



# INVENTING THE WORLD

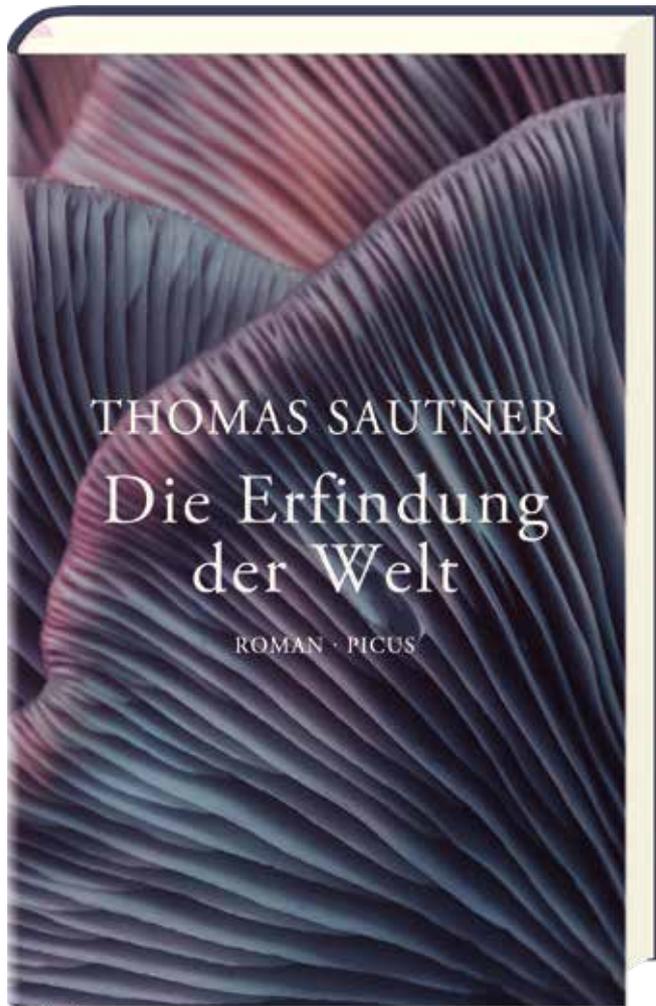
**Thomas Sautner**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Die Erfindung der Welt**

**fiction**

What makes life worth living?  
Thomas Sautner ponders the  
existential questions of life.



**Thomas Sautner**, born 1970. Picus published his novels »Fuchserde«, »Milchblume«, »Die Älteste«, »Das Mädchen an der Grenze« and most recently »Großmutters Haus« (2019).

When author Aliza Berg is anonymously commissioned to write a novel, she is at first hesitant but curious nonetheless. A mysterious donor transfers a generous amount of money to Aliza's bank account and, in exchange, sets certain conditions: The book is supposed to be about life in all its complexities and should be based on the people living in Litstein, a small village in the Austrian countryside. So, Aliza travels to Litstein and starts her research. Throughout her stay she befriends the town's residents and gets a taste for the slower life which leads her to wonder: What makes life worth living?

Thomas Sautner's new novel about the beauty and value of life.

**408 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**

# ESCAPED



**Felix Kucher**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Sie haben mich nicht gekriegt**

fiction

**Felix Kucher intertwines the lives of two women who both face fascism in their own way.**



**Felix Kucher**, born 1965. Picus published his novels »Malcontenta« and most recently »Kamnik« (2018).

Felix Kucher tells the stories of two extraordinary women and their lives in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Tina Modotti is born into poverty and forced to work in a factory at a very young age while Mary S. Rosenberg grows up well-situated in Bavaria. She is groomed to one day take over her father's bookstore despite wanting to attend university to become a doctor. Over time, she learns to love her profession. Tina finds her way from Northern Italy to Hollywood, to the Spanish Civil War and the Mexican Revolution, fighting for communism.

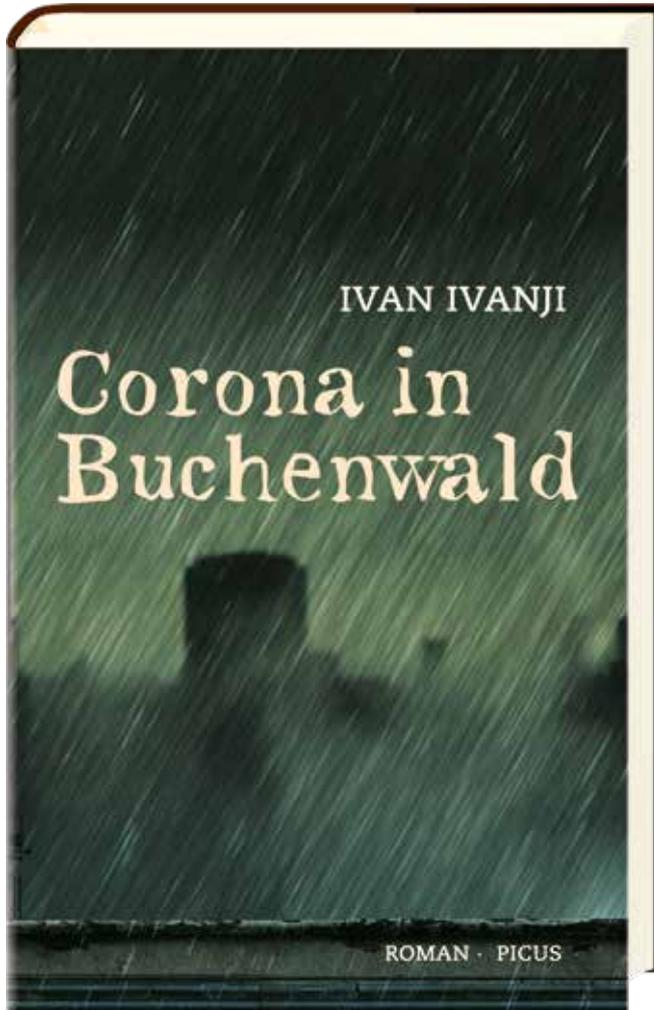
While Tina's and Mary's lives couldn't be more different, both are determined to play their part in countering fascism.

**504 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



# CORONA IN BUCHENWALD



**Ivan Ivanji**  
**ORIGINAL TITLE:**  
**Corona in Buchenwald**  
fiction

**Twelve survivors gather for a Decamerone during the pandemic.**



**Ivan Ivanji**, born 1929 in the Banat, worked as a journalist, diplomat and translator of Tito. Picus published most of his novels, including »Schlussstrich«, »Tod in Monte Carlo« and most recently »Hineni« (2020).

In April 2020, twelve Holocaust-survivors come together in Weimar to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. While the official celebrations are cancelled due to the pandemic, they are determined to honour the occasion. However, as one of them tests positive for COVID, the entire group is forced to quarantine. To pass time, they decide to tell each other stories, like in Bocaccio's Decamerone – night per night, each person shares a special anecdote ...

Twelve survivors, twelve stories – Ivan Ivanji's latest novel about tales of prosecution, banishment, death and most importantly: survival.

**256 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**

# JOHANNA'S LIFETIME PERFORMANCE

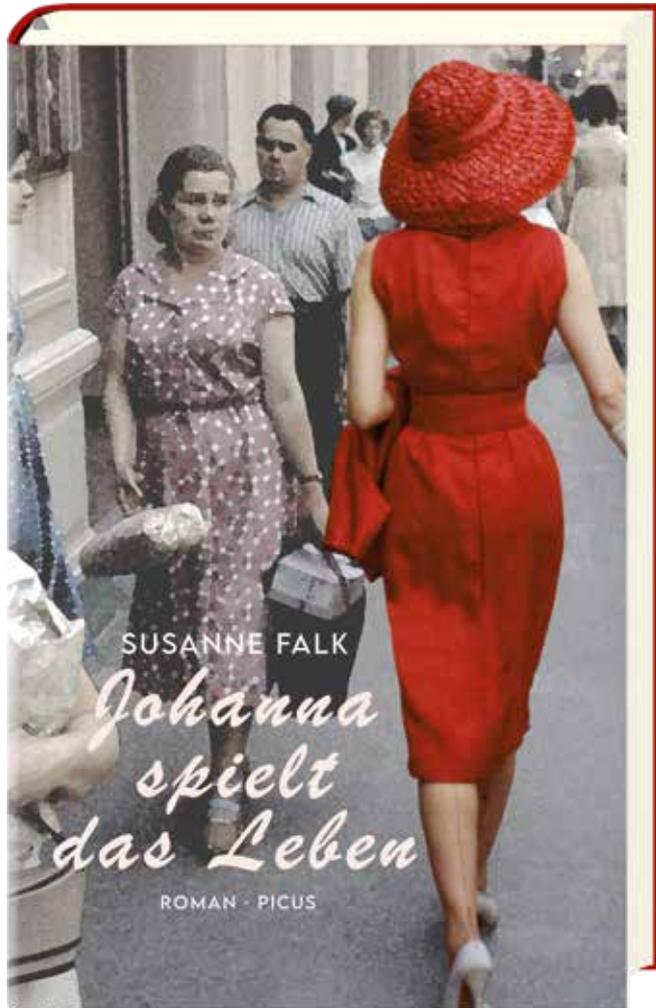
**Susanne Falk**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Johanna spielt das Leben**

fiction

In her new novel Susanne Falk cleverly combines a love story, theatre etiquette and feminism.



**Susanne Falk**, born 1976 in Kappeln an der Schlei, Germany. Picus published her novel »Anatol studiert das Leben« and most recently »Fast ein Märchen« (2019), a collection of christmas stories.

Johanna is nineteen and about to make a name for herself as an actress at Vienna's most prestigious theatre. She falls in love with Georg, a young lawyer, and they soon get married. Everything seems picture perfect until their daughter Lore is born: Suddenly Georg questions Johanna's acting ambitions and wants her to stay at home with their child. But she is determined to fulfill her roles as both, actress and mother, and succeeds in getting a part in a play in the famous Burgtheater, while Lore is being watched by her peculiar aunt Mizzi. However, in a dangerous turn of events, Lore and Mizzi mysteriously disappear...

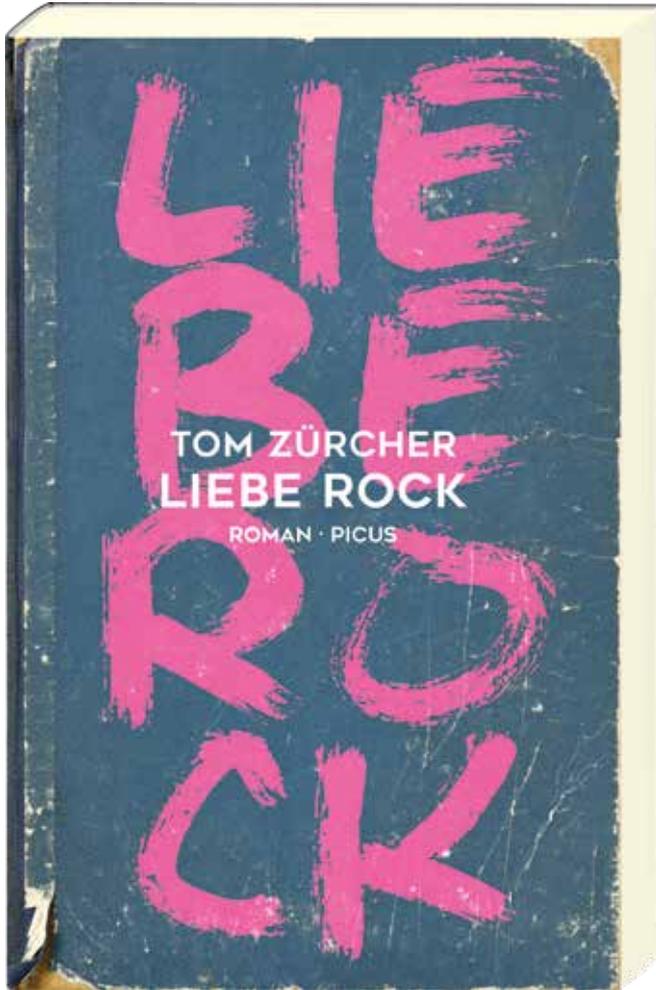
A young woman fights for her career, marriage and motherhood in 1950's Vienna.

**256 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



# DEAR ROCK



**Tom Zürcher**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Liebe Rock**

fiction

A coming of age novel reminiscent of Bukowski and pop literature.



**Tom Zürcher**, born 1966, is a novelist and copywriter living in Zurich. His novel »Mobbing Dick« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2019.

After dropping out of high school, eighteen year old Timm doesn't really have plan. When he meets the waitress Rock, he immediately falls for her and soon moves into her apartment. He tries to impress her by pretending to be a writer without having any particular talent or experience while also being in a constant row with Rock's roommate and boyfriend Marc, whom he tries to sabotage whenever he can.

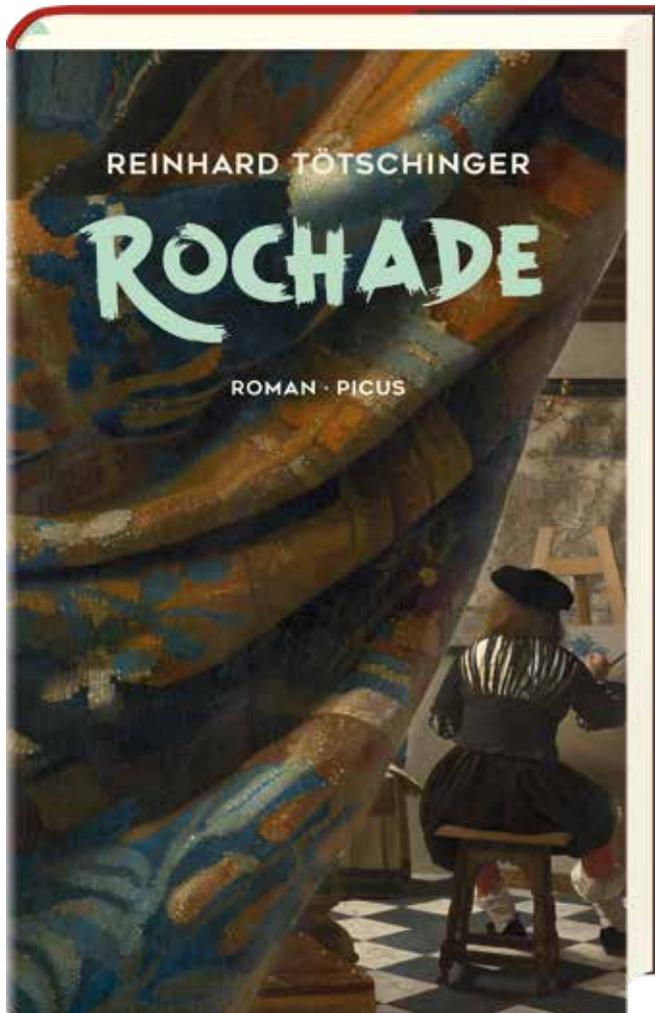
With the help of his father and a rather peculiar publisher, Timm's debut novel is slowly coming together while his private life is falling apart more and more ...

A novel about first love, the difficulties of coming of age and how to write a bestseller.

**296 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**

# THE ART OF DECEPTION



**Reinhard Tötschinger**

**ORIGINAL TITLE:**

**Rochade**

**fiction**

About a masterpiece and a young politician hungry for power.



**Reinhard Tötschinger**, born 1952. Worked as a graphic designer, actor and director. »The Art of Deception« is his debut novel.

After being damaged, Jan Vermeer's masterpiece *The Art of Painting* is transported back to Vienna into the skilled hands of restorer Clemens Hartmann. The subsequent media coverage also alerts Austria's young and ambitious chancellor, who is making headlines with his reactionary politics. He demands the painting be restored within three months so that it can grace the walls of his office. As Clemens is not supporting the chancellor, he tries to prevent this and starts working on a replica.

Real or fake? A cunning tale about the correlation between art and politics.

**288 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



# FANZI

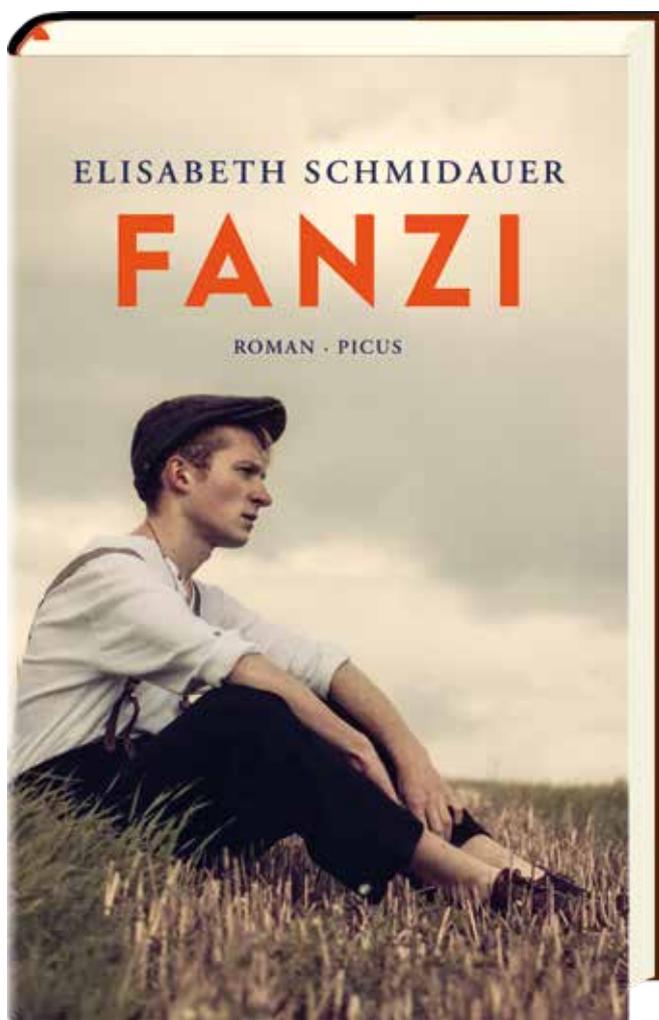
**Elisabeth Schmidauer**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Fanzi**

fiction

About the richness of nature and  
the veil of the past.



**Elisabeth Schmidauer**, born 1961. Picus previously published her novels »Das Grün in Doras Augen«, »Am dunklen Fluss« and most recently »Mord für Anfänger und Fortgeschrittene« (2019).

Siblings Franz and Elfi share a close bond growing up in the countryside during World War II. With his older brothers being drafted and his parents too busy with trying to make ends meet, he is mainly responsible for taking care of his younger sister. They make the best out of their situation, but when Elfi falls ill and ends up mentally disabled afterwards, she is taken away and Franz' whole world is turned upside down.

Decades later, Franz, now widowed, is still unable to come to terms with what has happened. Only when his son and granddaughter start asking questions, he is ready to face the past.

A touching novel about a well-kept family secret and the pain of guilt.

**272 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**

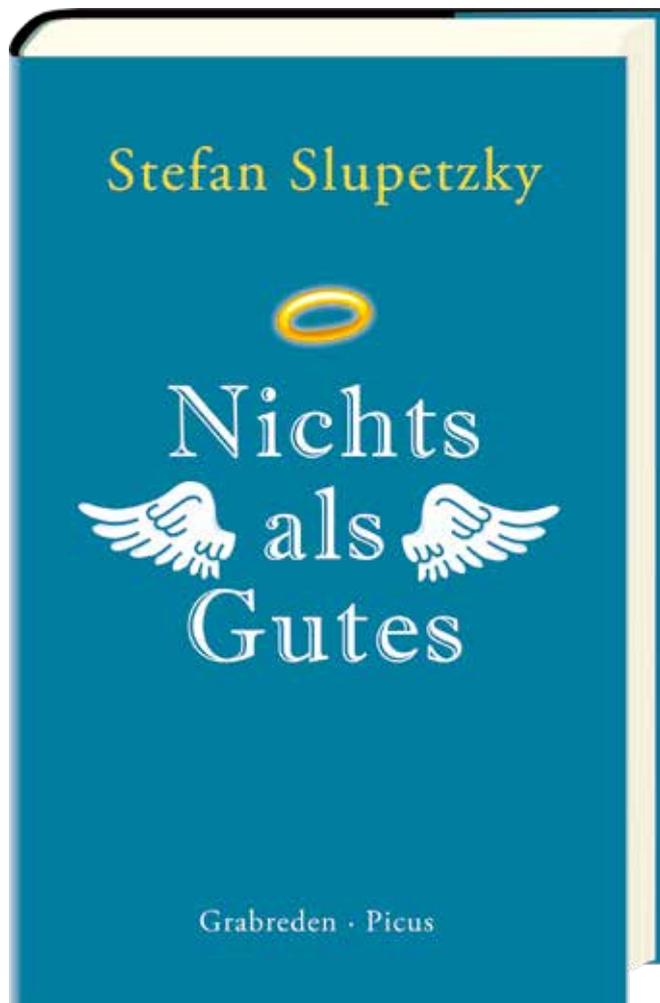
# LAST WORDS

**Stefan Slupetzky**

**ORIGINAL TITLE:**

**Nichts als Gutes**

**fiction**



What the living say about the dead says a lot about both.



**Stefan Slupetzky**, born 1961. Writer, musician and illustrator. Picus previously published »Absurdes Glück«, »Halsknacker« and most recently »Atemlos« (2020).

Eulogies are like a blurb to one's life and reveal just as much about the eulogist as about the deceased. In his collection of made up eulogies Stefan Slupetzky gives glimpses into successful as well as failed existences: An employee who is very diligent but otherwise unremarkable, a comedian who envies his rival, a couple and their fulfilled relationship or a priest who discloses the identity of a murderer.

Stefan Slupetzky's new book on the importance of last words.

**160 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



# LEOPOLD THE LAST

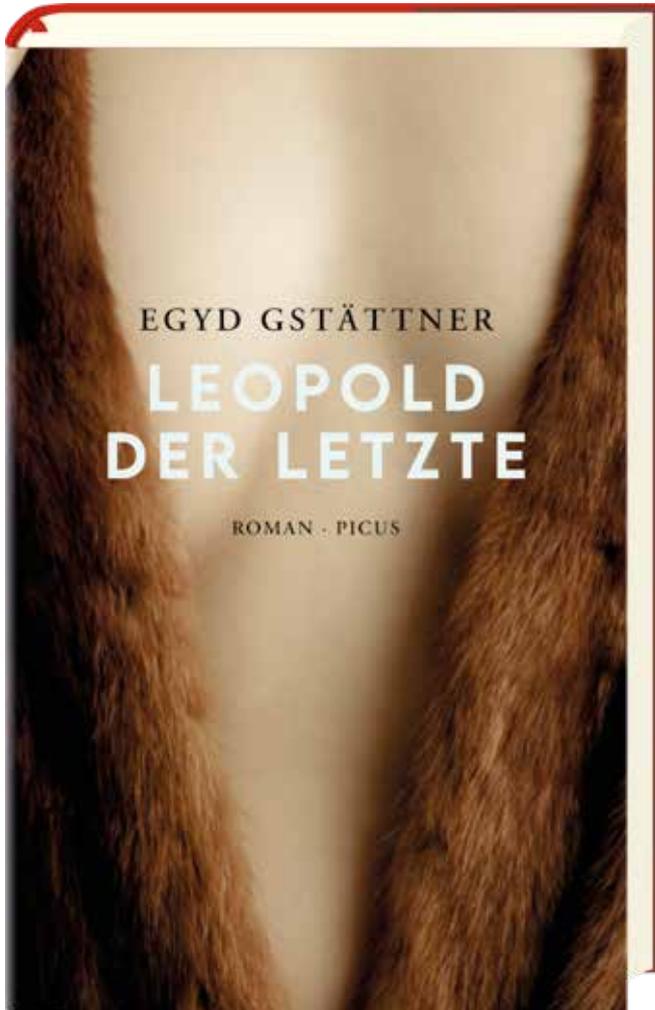
**Egyd Gstättnner**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Leopold der Letzte**

fiction

**Egyd Gstättnner's spot on literary  
portrait of Leopold von Sacher-  
Masoch.**



**Egyd Gstättnner**, born 1962. Picus published many of his novels, including most recently »Klagenfurt. Was der Tourist sehen sollte« (2020).

Leopold von Sacher-Masoch was an Austrian nobleman and author, famous for his novel *Venus in Fur* (made into a movie by Roman Polanski) and even more famous for coining the term masochism. Although he published numerous books throughout his life and was in touch with the most well-renowned writers of his time, he is remembered for his racy love affairs, financial hardships as well as an unhappy marriage and malicious wife, who sabotaged him.

Egyd Gstättnner on the tracks of masochism and its namesake.

**352 pages, hardcover**

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# ALONG THE CATARACT

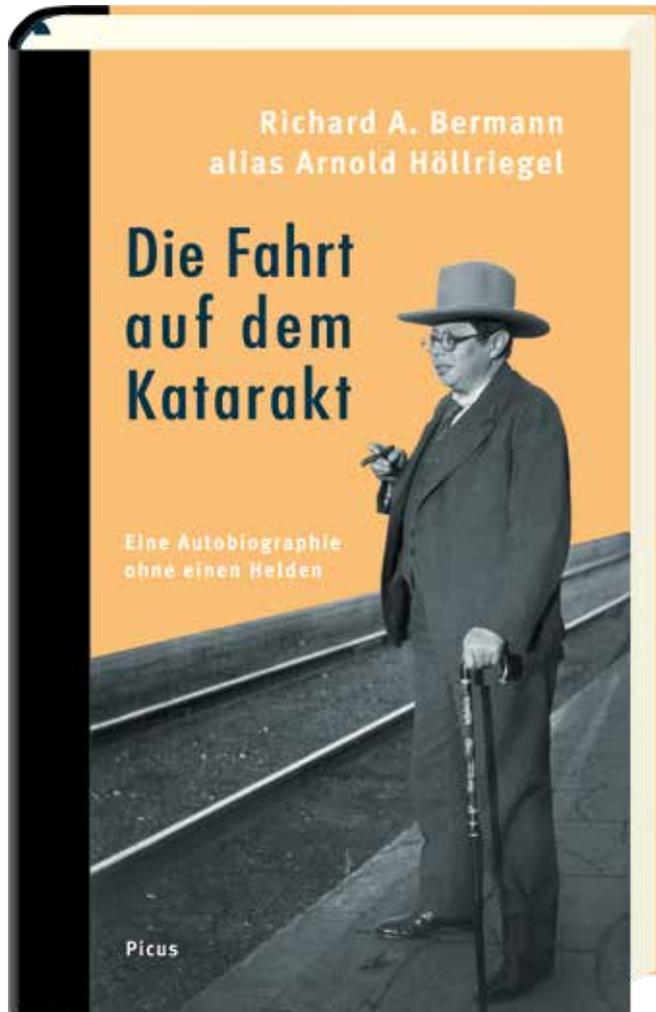
**Richard A. Bermann**

**ORIGINAL TITLE:**

**Die Fahrt auf dem  
Katarakt**

**autobiography**

**An autobiography as well as a part  
of history.**



**Richard A. Bermann**, born 1883 in Vienna, was a journalist and writer in Berlin, Prague and Vienna. He died in 1939 in exile in the USA.

Richard A. Bermann, also known under his alias Arnold Höllriegel, was born in 1883 in Vienna and grew up in Prague. After receiving his doctorate, he briefly tutored the son of an Italian aristocrat before starting to write articles for several newspapers. His autobiography not only details his remarkable life and work as a journalist, but also the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from the end of the Austro-Hungarian empire to the start of World War II.

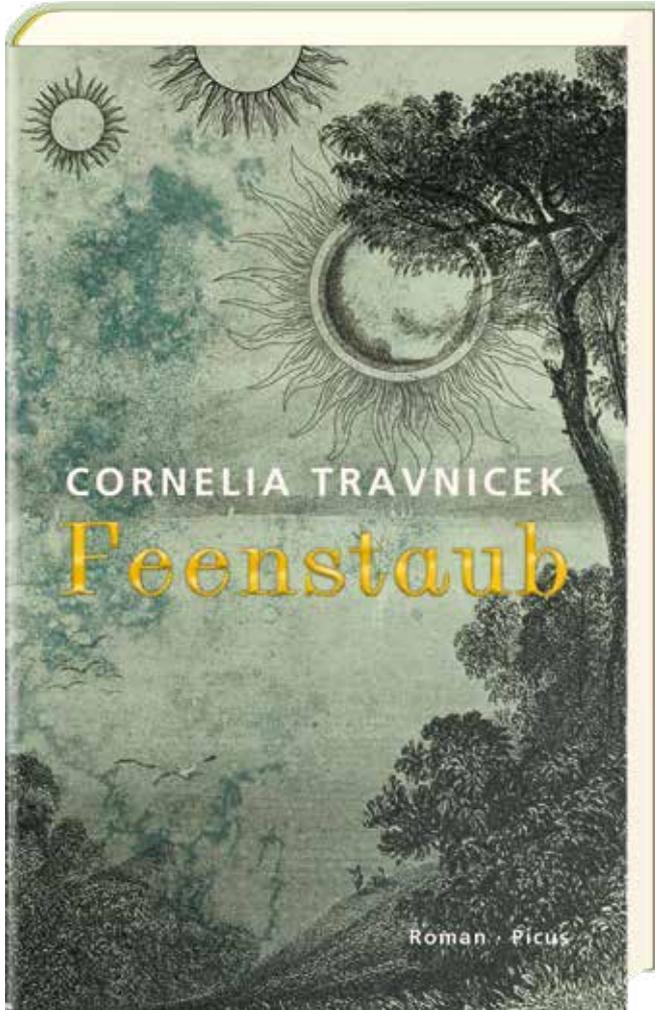
Bermann's memoir is a testament to the world changing events at the beginning of a new century.

**356 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



# FAIRY DUST



**Cornelia Travnicek**

ORIGINAL TITLE:  
**Feenstaub**  
fiction

**Forgotten childhoods and  
brutal exploitation: Three  
pickpockets fight for their future.**



**Cornelia Travnicek**, born 1987. Picus recently published her children's book »Zwei Dabei«, with illustrations by Birgitta Heiskel, in 2019.

Petru, Cheta and Magare lead a different life than most teenagers. They are refugees living somewhere in Europe, trying to make ends meet by stealing. Most of their haul is taken by an exploiter, the rest is sent to help their families in their home country. They regularly consume fairy dust, a drug to take the pressure off. Everything seems to change when Petru meets Marja and her family and even more so, as the boys are introduced to a new member of their gang.

Cornelia Travnicek's impressive interpretation of the »lost boys« from Peter Pan.

**280 pages, hardcover**

**Rights sold: Czech**

# THE LOVERS FROM OBERDAN SQUARE

**Christian Klinger**

**ORIGINAL TITLE:**

**Die Liebenden von der Piazza Oberdan**

**fiction**

**Three generations, two wars,  
one tragic love story.**



**Christian Klinger**, born 1966. Previously published several crime stories and was nominated for many awards.

After scarcely escaping World War I, Vittorio, a young man from Trieste, manages to build a career for himself as a lawyer. During the fascist dictatorship in Italy he offers help to Jews and Slovenes with emigration, causing him trouble with the authorities. His son Pino, who enjoyed a sheltered upbringing, studies architecture which saves him from being drafted in 1940. He is in love with Laura, a young teacher, who he meets almost daily on Oberdan Square in Trieste. When Pino somewhat unintentionally gets caught up with the partisans, the Gestapo is coming after him ...

A family saga from Trieste, set during the turbulent events in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**320 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



# THE EUROPEAN DREAM

**Melita H. Šunjić**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Die von Europa träumen**

non-fiction

The reasons and conditions of migration.



**Melita H. Šunjić**, born 1955 in Rijeka, worked as a spokeswoman for the UNHCR for over 20 years.

In her fourth book on migration, former UNHCR spokeswoman Melita H. Šunjić encourages refugees and immigrants to use their voice: In several case studies she lets them tell their stories and talk about their experience of leaving home, the dangerous journey to Europe and the harrowing reality they are faced with there. Moreover, she explains the general terms regarding migration, elaborates on the role of human trafficking and social media and gives seven suggestions for a more effective migration policy.

While many people only talk about refugees and immigrants, Melita H. Šunjić listens.

**208 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**

# THE NEW NORMAL



**Robert Misik**

**ORIGINAL TITLE:**

**Die neue (Ab)Normalität**

**non-fiction**

**Robert Misik explains how COVID has changed our life as we knew it and offers an outlook on the future.**



**Robert Misik**, born in 1966, is a journalist from Vienna. Picus published among other books, »Was Linke denken«, »Ein seltsamer Held« and most recently »Herrschaft der Niedertracht« (2019).

Since spring 2020, the whole world has changed due the COVID-19-pandemic. Lockdown, social distancing, quarantine, working from home, distance learning and more have become part of our everyday life and restrict it immensely. The pandemic splits our society into those who follow and respect the rules and those who don't, those who are pro-vaccination and those who aren't.

How will this situation play out? Will we continue to live separate from each other or will we emerge from this crisis with a stronger sense of community?

Renowned journalist Robert Misik discusses the impact of the pandemic and how our life could be like afterwards.

**160 pages, hardcover**

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# GRAZ: CITY GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

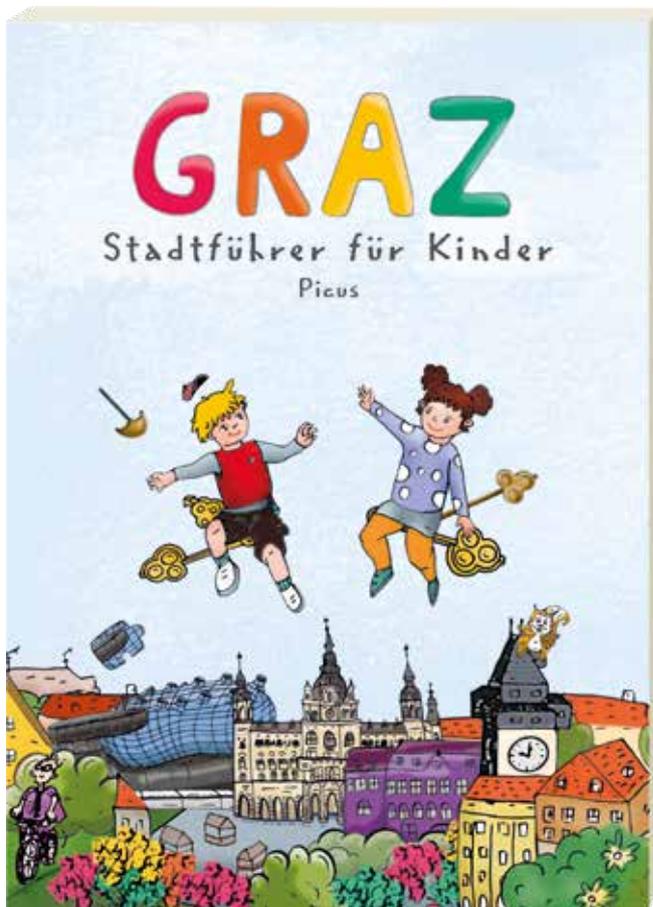
**Claudia Kastner,  
Clara Frühwirth**

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Graz – Stadtführer für Kinder**

children's book

A new destination in our  
popular series: **Graz**



Also available:

»Linz«

»Salzburg«

»Innsbruck«

»Lübeck«

»Berlin«

»Munich«

»Hamburg«

There's a lot to see in Graz! Throughout six walks children can discover the capital of Styria. Multiple games and exercises lead children through the city and let them playfully learn about its origins and special features.

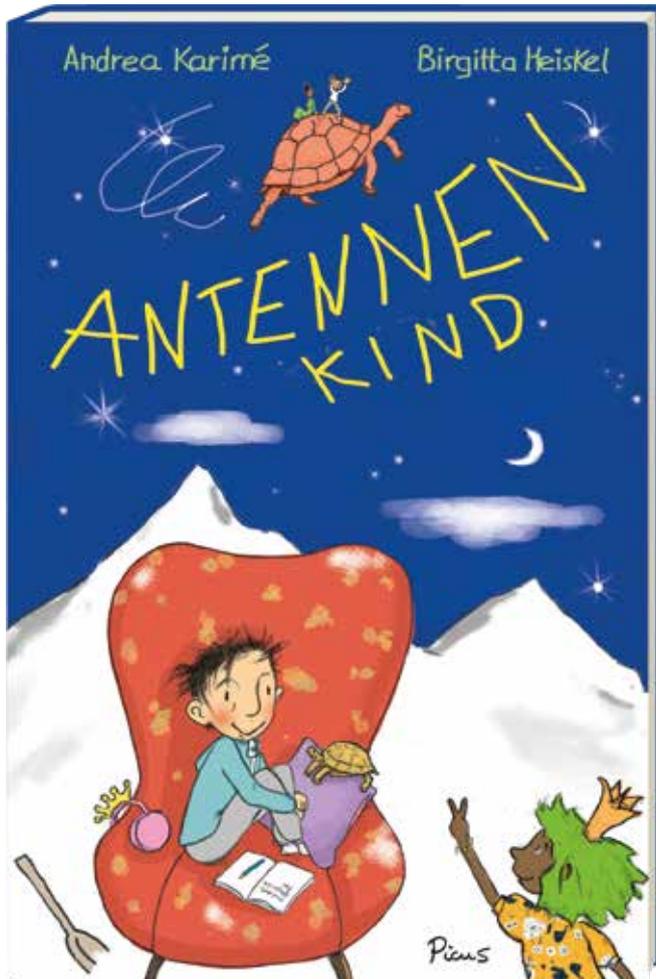
A short chapter on the history of Graz as well as a register of useful names and addresses complete this edition.

Framed by Clara Frühwirths colourful illustrations, this guide is a practical introduction to the city of Graz for children from all over the world.

**64 pages, paperback**

**All rights available**

# A FEELING FOR EVERYTHING



**Andrea Karimé,  
Birgitta Heiskel**

**ORIGINAL TITLE:  
Antennenkind**

**children's book**

**What happens when the world  
gets too loud? Köbi has an idea ...**

**Andrea Karimé**, born in Kassel, lives as a freelance writer in Cologne. Picus published several of her children's books, most recently »Samba, Schwein und das Geheimnis der Mühle« (2018).

**Birgitta Heiskel**, born in Frankfurt, has been living in Vienna as a freelance illustrator for over 30 years.

Köbi hears everything und usually that's just too much. Right now, he is hearing his aunt Ruh talking to his parents in the living room. She will stay with them for a bit, much to Köbi's dismay. So he puts on his earphones and stays in his room. When one day his tortoise Pänzi goes missing, Köbi can't help but wonder: Has Pänzi been kidnapped by aunt Ruh?

An empathetic and imaginative story about a highly sensitive boy and how he perceives the world.

**48 pages, hardcover**

**All rights available**



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