



Picus Verlag

Foreign Rights 2023

**Fiction
Non-fiction**



TWO OLD MEN

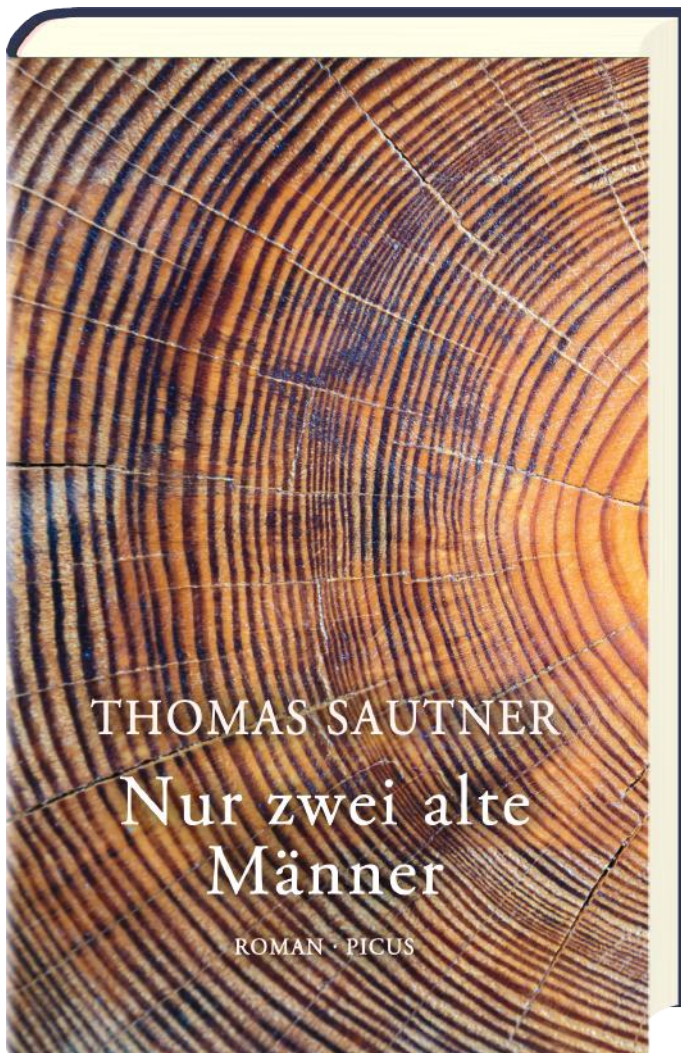
Thomas Sautner

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Nur zwei alte Männer

fiction

February 2023



Thomas Sautner, born 1970. Picus published several of his novels, most recently »Inventing the World« (2021).

On her mother's deathbed, Julia learns that her biological father is Joseph Wasserstein, a formerly famous photographer. Under the pretext of planning a book about him Julia contacts Joseph and visits often. They are always joined by Joseph's neighbour Hakim, who is in many ways the complete opposite of Wasserstein but also his only friend and confidante. The three of them spend a lot of time together and form a close bond. When a sudden extraterrestrial occurrence shakes up the world, Julia, Joseph and Hakim begin to understand that there is more to life than meets the eye...

Thomas Sautner's new novel on aging, friendship and the meaning of life.

176 pages, hardcover

All rights available

THE OCEAN FROM DOWN BELOW



Anna Silber

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Das Meer von unten

fiction

March 2023



Anna Silber, born 1995, grew up in Austria and Germany. Picus published her debut novel »Chopinof-Blues« (2022).

Connie is in her early twenties and works in the kitchen of a small pub. Despite having graduated she doesn't have any aspirations to attend university and make more out of her life, which none of her coworkers understand. When a new family moves into the apartment next to hers, she often finds their young child sitting alone in the hallway. Connie begins to spend time with the child, giving them food or even taking them to work with her – until the parents suddenly disappear.

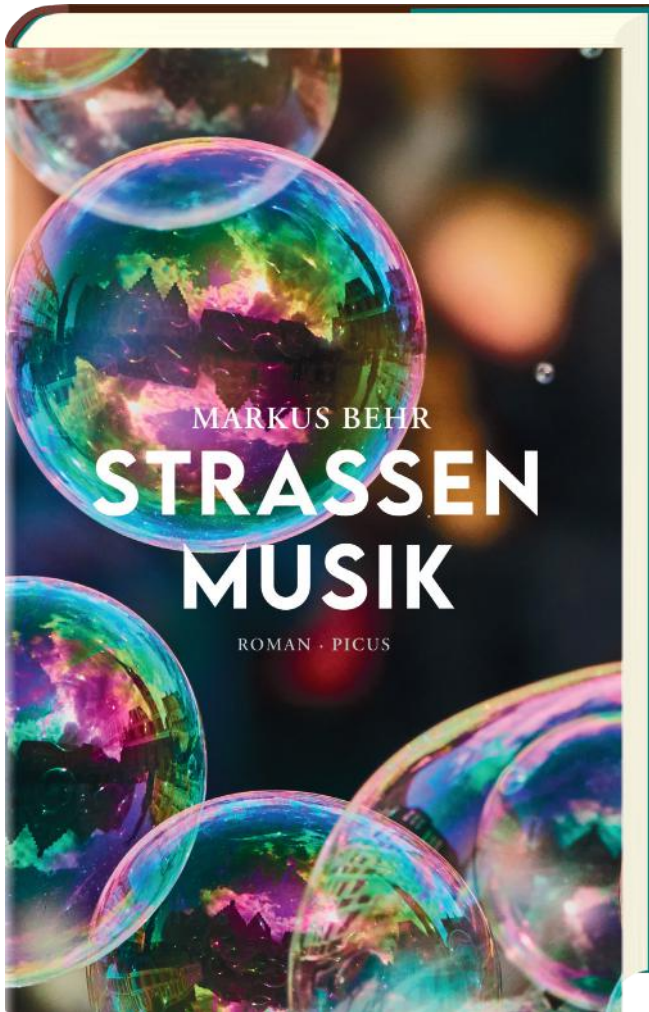
Can Connie really take care of someone else, when she doesn't even have her own life together?

226 pages, hardcover

All rights available



BUSKING



Markus Behr
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Straßenmusik
fiction
March 2023



Markus Behr was born in Hannover. His debut novel »Vaterschaftstest« was published in 2019.

Jonas and his band are about to have their big break, but then his bandmates kick him out.

So, Jonas jumps on a train and goes to Amsterdam. There he stumbles across a lost guitar and plays it on the street until he is found by Chiara, the owner of said guitar. A tumultuous friendship begins: Despite their very different personalities, Jonas and Chiara share a great passion for music. When a randomly filmed clip of them busking in Amsterdam goes viral, opportunities start to open up...

Chiara and Jonas are at a crossroad in their lives and only by working together can find their way

216 pages, hardcover

All rights available

THE EMPEROR'S KISS

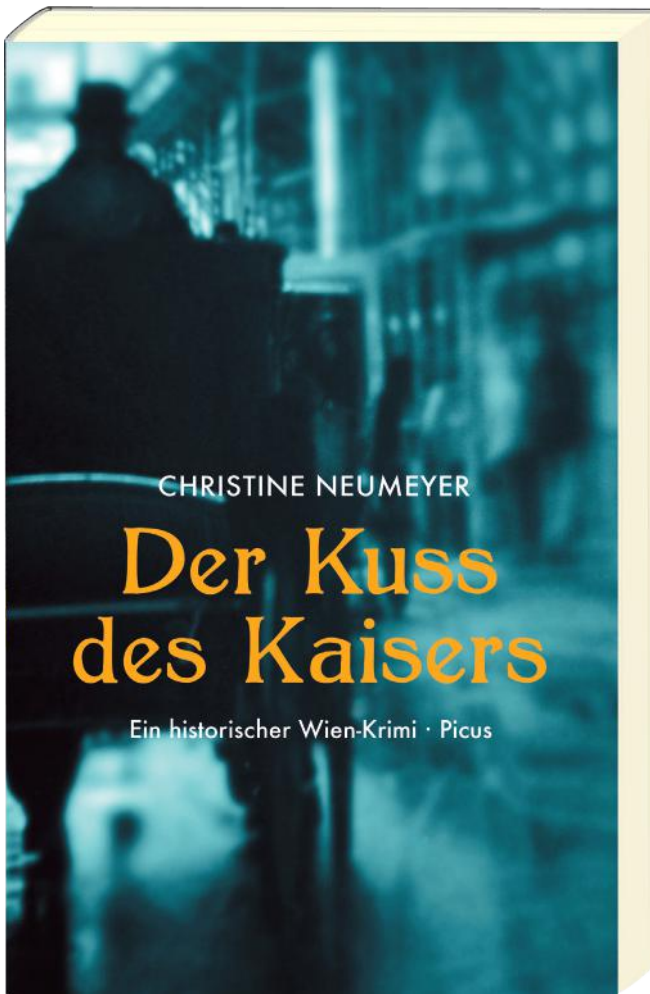
Christine Neumeyer

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Der Kuss des Kaisers

crime

February 2023



Christine Neumeyer, born 1965 in Vienna. She has written several novels, her most recent one »Schatten im Silsersee« was published in 2022.

Vienna, 1908: The Belvedere Gallery is preparing the presentation of Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* when a dismembered body is discovered in the park around the gallery. Detective Pospischil and his assistant Frisch are faced with difficult investigations. Not only is the corpse's head missing, but the Belvedere is also home to the heir to the throne, who is not pleased about the police rummaging through the castle. When the main suspects turn out to be employees of the Belvedere, things get even more complicated.

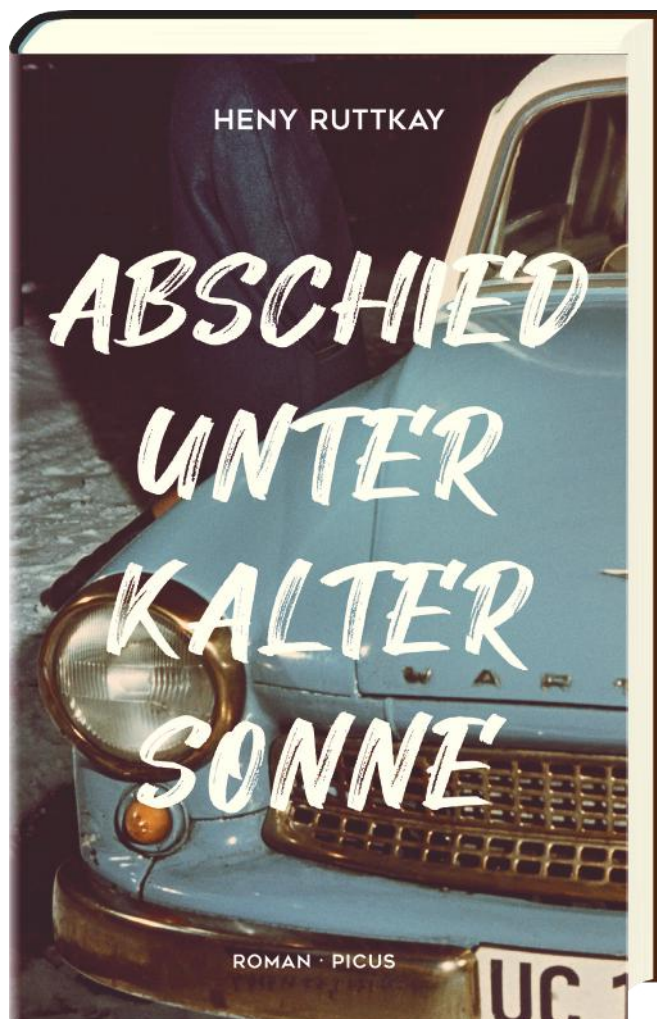
Between a headless body and the arrogant royal court, a committed detective tries to solve an atrocious murder.

272 pages, hardcover

All rights available



A COLD GOODBYE



Henry Ruttkay

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Abschied unter kalter
Sonne**

fiction

March 2023



Henry Ruttkay, born 1961 in Bratislava, moved to Germany at the age of eleven. Her last novel »Somerset Maughams Traum« was published in 2017.

Gabriel and his wife Angelika have successful careers, three lovely children and a tight knit friendship group. But the harsh reality of life in 1970s Czechoslovakia forces them to make a difficult decision. Under the pretext of a holiday the family of five want to leave Bratislava and settle in West Germany. The days before their departure are extremely stressful: Gabriel is approached by a West German agent and his sister Klara starts planning her own escape...

Who can be trusted? A gripping story about life behind the iron curtain

192 pages, hardcover

All rights available

FEBRUARY 12TH

Reinhard Federmann

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Das Himmelreich der
Lügner**

fiction

January 2023



Reinhard Federmann born 1923 in Vienna, died there in 1976. He was a writer and journalist, Picus published several of his novels.

February 12th 2023 would have been his 100th birthday.

After the short civil war on February 12th 1934 that sets colossal changes in motion, Bruno Schindler and his friends flee Austria. Schindler goes to the USSR and returns to Vienna after the war where he hopes to reunite with his old friends – to no avail. They all went into different directions and his hometown feels more alienated than ever.

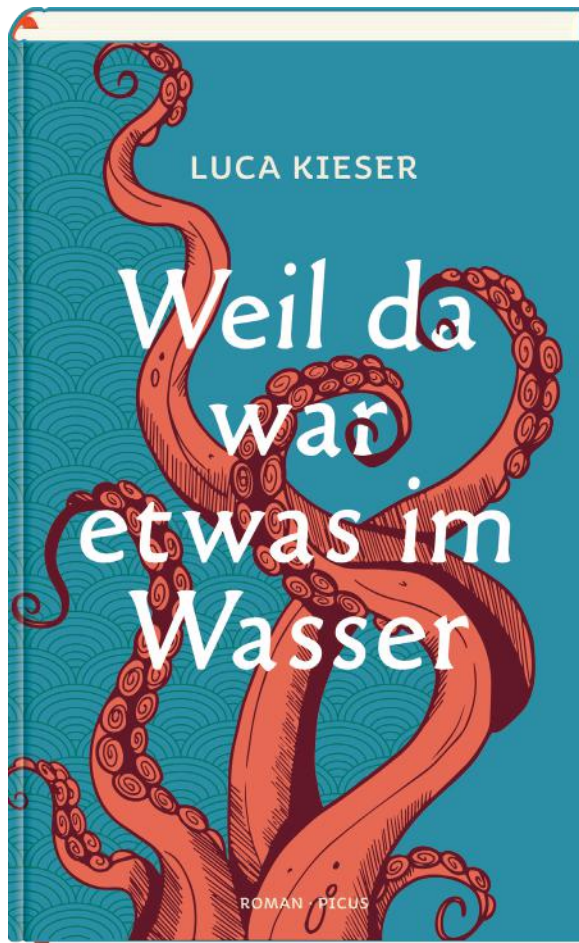
In this monumental novel Reinhard Federmann details the darkest parts of Austrian history: from the elimination of the parliament in 1933, the takeover by the Nazis until the Hungarian protest of 1956.

544 pages, hardcover

All rights available



SOMETHING IN THE WATER



Luca Kieser

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Weil da war etwas im
Wasser**

fiction

August 2023



Luca Kieser, born in 1992 in Tübingen, Germany. He studied Philosophy, Ethics and Writing and now specializes in nature writing. He received several accolades, »Something in the Water« is his debut novel.

When a giant squid docks onto a deep-sea cable his eight arms begin to talk. They explain what it is like to live in complete darkness and be considered a monster by humans. They tell the story of Sanja and Dagmar who both work aboard a freezer trawler in Antarctica and have to take care of a squid, they map out a family history over centuries, they take us to rural Swabia, Disneyland and New Jersey, they talk about Jules Verne, Peter Benchley and Robert Matthey.

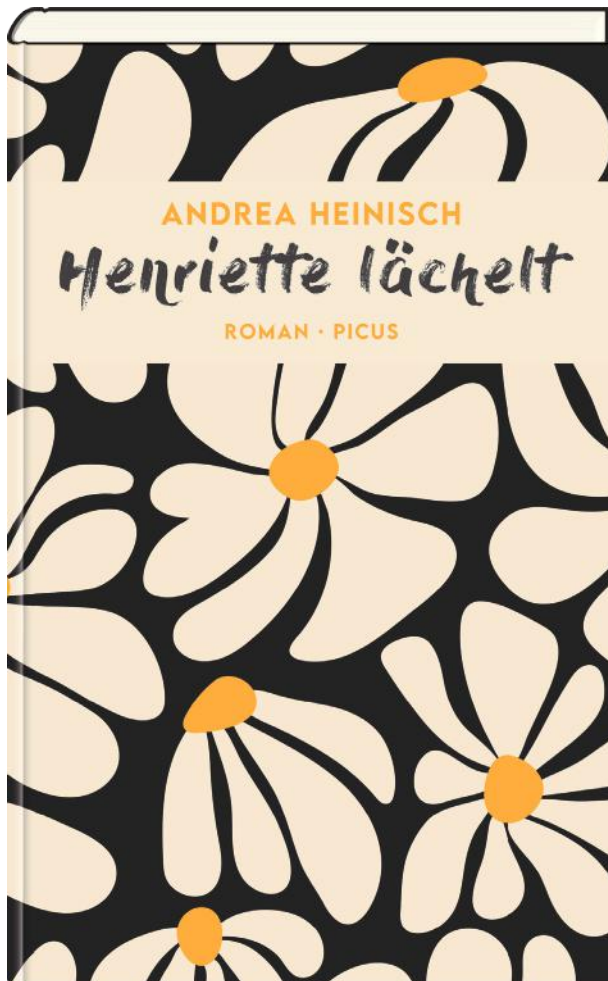
Most importantly they show how difficult it is for humans to write about animals, and why we should do it anyways.

320 pages, hardcover

All rights available

longlisted for the German Book Prize 2023

HARRIET SMILES



Andrea Heinish

ORIGINAL TITLE:
Henriette lächelt

fiction

August 2022



Andrea Heinish born 1959 in Vienna. »Harriet smiles« is her debut novel.

Harriet's weight of 190 kilos dominates her life. She stays at home all the time, has food and groceries delivered to her apartment while life happens outside her window. Her mother is the other commanding force. She comments on everything her 50-year-old daughter does, eats or wears. The only positive aspect are Harriet's weekly Zoom-meetings with her coworker Martin, whom she is secretly in love with. When Harriet befriends her young pregnant neighbour Sonja, she starts opening up and things begin to change...

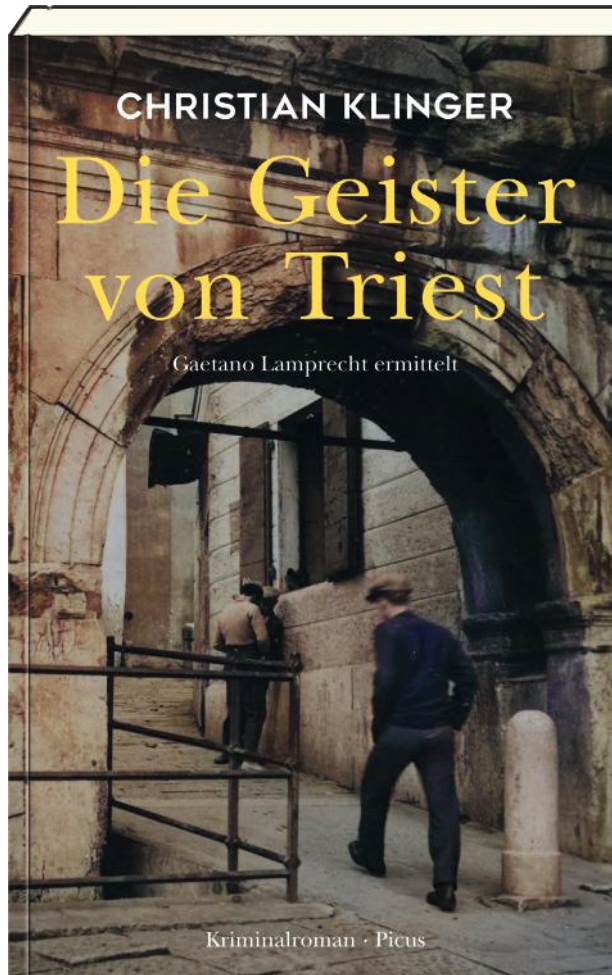
A touching and powerful debut novel about a toxic mother-daughter relationship and the emancipation of a grown up woman.

208 pages, hardcover

All rights available



THE GHOSTS OF TRIESTE



Christian Klinger

ORIGINAL TITLE:
Die Geister von Triest
historical crime
August 2022



Christian Klinger, born in 1963 in Vienna. Picus published his novel »Lovers from Oberdan Square« and most recently »A Giro in Trieste« (2022).

Trieste in the fall of 1914: World War I has started and a peculiar old lady – commonly known as »the witch« – is found brutally murdered. Gaetano Lamprecht begins his investigations which take him into the depths of the mystic history of the city and the dubious practices of art trade. He has to deal with shady criminals and generational curses, while also navigating his private struggles. Between Pirona's widow Alessia, his new secretary Clara and his former flame Viola, Gaetano is facing emotional turmoil and above all he is soon to be drafted...

Gaetano Lamprecht's second case: a murder investigation confronts him with mysterious phenomena.

320 pages, hardcover

All rights available

THE OLD JEW AND THE SEA



Ivan Ivanji

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Der alte Jude und das Meer

fiction

September 2022



Ivan Ivanji, born 1929 in the Banat, worked as a journalist, diplomat and translator of Tito. Picus published several of his novels, most recently »Corona in Buchenwald« (2021).

Aaron is a teacher living in Belgrade in the 1980s. He is married, has a son and is generally bored with his life. His biggest passion is swimming in the sea. On holiday he befriends a man named Greg, who makes him an offer he cannot refuse: Aaron is supposed to become head of a new summer-retreat for scholars. Hesitant at first but generally delighted because it would entail moving to the sea thus enabling daily swims, Aaron accepts.

When his son is arrested for drug trafficking, Greg steps in and helps them out which then makes Aaron indebted to Greg...

Ivan Ivanji's newest novel on Mafia business in Yugolsavia under Tito.

172 pages, hardcover

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