

THE RIGHT PATH



Astrid Sozio
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Der rechte Pfad
fiction
March 2024

- Christian Fundamentalism
- Coming of Age
- Queerness among right extremists

Astrid Sozio, born in 1979. She studied business and creative writing in Germany and England. Her debut novel »Das einzige Paradies« was published in 2016.

Benjamin is involved in an accident and is haunted by guilt afterwards. Attempting to escape the complicated situation, he leaves the city for Welsum, the small village his father lives in and where he spent the summer growing up. Welsum was then and still is dominated by an evangelical majority with strict rules. As a teenager Benjamin was friends with siblings Lea, Hanna and Gideon. He had his first romantic encounters with Gideon but eventually fell in love with Hanna, who then died tragically. His return to this ill-fated place after twenty-five years confronts Benjamin with the unresolved trauma of the past as well as the increasingly more rigid and right extremist practices of the evangelicals.

A powerful novel about Christian fundamentalists, growing up and being queer in a right extremist environment.

450 pages, hardcover
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SAME PLACE, DIFFERENT PLANET



Dominika Meindl
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Selbe Stadt, anderer Planet
fiction
March 2024

- Criticism of globalization
- Complexity of sibling relationships
- Overtourism
- Chinese Culture in Western countries

Dominika Meindl, born in 1978, is a journalist and presenter. »Same Place, Different Planet« ist her debut novel.

After her father passes away, Johanna, a doctor, moves back to her hometown Hallstatt to take over his practice. She struggles with settling back in but is reunited with her estranged twin sister Doris, who never left and works as a carpenter.

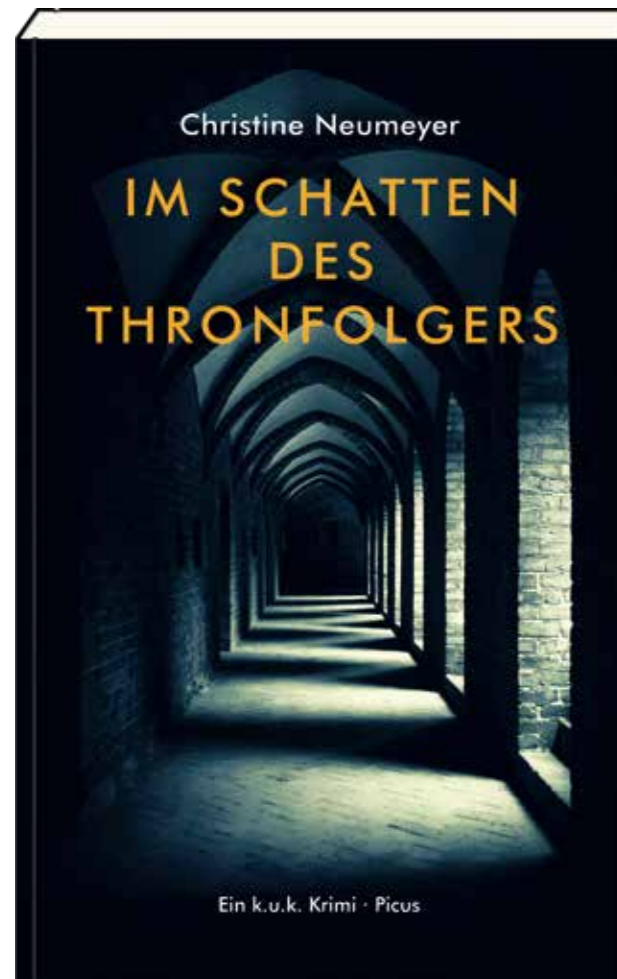
At the same time, Ren, a representative of the Chinese government, is sent to Hallstatt to take a closer look at the place as it is hugely popular amongst Chinese tourists. Eventually, the small and picturesque town is rebuilt in China – much to the horror of Hallstatt's residents. Soon after, Johanna and Doris decide to travel to Guangdong and have a look at the Chinese version of their home...

Twin sisters and twin cities: a witty debut novel about reflections, sisterhood and the burden of overtourism.

208 pages, hardcover
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IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CASTLE



Christine Neumeyer
 ORIGINAL TITLE:
Im Schatten des Thronfolgers
 crime
 March 2024

- Historical Crime
- Monarchy Flair
- Dynamic Detective Duo



»The Emperor's Kiss«
 (2023)

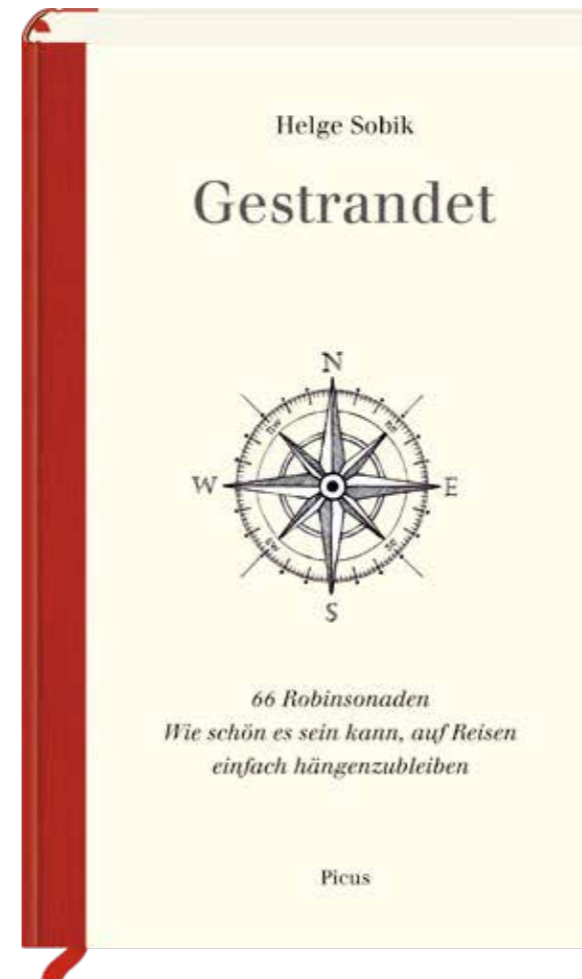
Christine Neumeyer, born in 1965 in Vienna. She has been writing historical fiction and crime stories for several years, Picus published most recently »The Emperor's Kiss« (2023)

In June 1909 archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, plans to build a crypt on the grounds of his summer residence, Artstetten castle. But the renovations come to a halt when the corpse of an infant is found buried under the castle's church. Detective Pospischil and his assistant Frisch are ordered to investigate and soon find themselves uncovering the intrigues of the aristocracy: As it turns out, Baron von Wald regularly invites newly appointed noblemen to »hunt« young girls in the castle gardens and then blackmails them with distinct photographs. When a girl, who refused to take part in these hunts, is found dead, the case heads into new spheres...

In the seemingly idyllic countryside detective Pospischil and Frisch reunite to solve another murder.

290 pages, hardcover
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STRANDED



Helge Sobik
 ORIGINAL TITLE:
Gestrandet
 travel essays
 February 2024

- Collection of Travel Essays
- Destinations all over the World
- One of the Top 10 Travel Writers

Helge Sobik, born in 1967 in Lübeck, Germany, is a travel writer. Picus published his travel reports on the Côte d'Azur, Finland, Canada, Mallorca, the Persian Gulf and Portugal.

In 66 chapters Helge Sobik chronicles how easy it is to get stranded – and how wonderful that can be. You could miss the last ferry to the mainland, fog could be the reason for a cancelled flight or giraffes could block the road. The bus might just not show up, your car might have a flat tire or you might just not want to leave and decide to stay a bit longer. In any case, being stranded gives you the chance to explore the region even further and divulge in the beauty of foreign cultures.

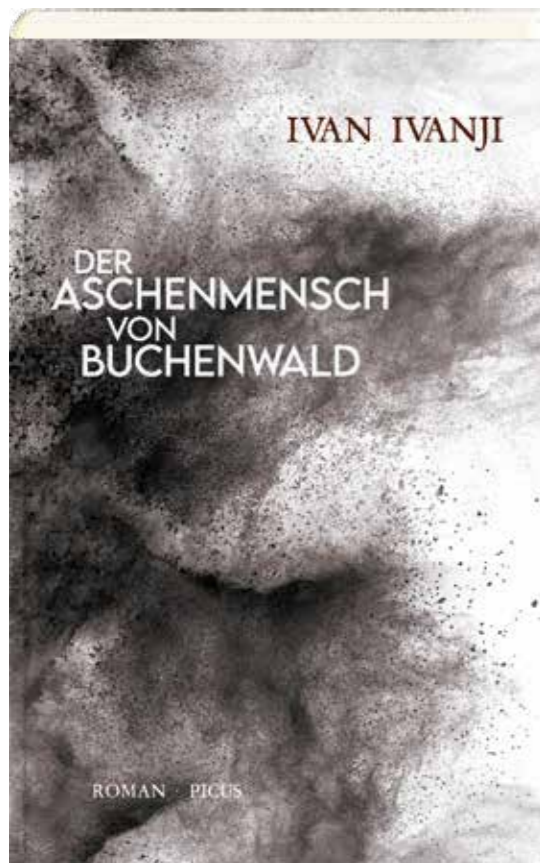
Allow yourself to get stranded – from the Maledives to Yukon and even further.

272 pages, hardcover
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95th
Birthday
Jan. 24th 2024



The Cinderman of Buchenwald

Buchenwald May 1997: During renovations at the memorial site seven hundred nameless urns are found.

Unsure of how to deal with the findings, the ashes are eventually laid to rest in a communal grave.

Based on these true events, Ivan Ivanji, survivor of Buchenwald concentration camp, creates the Cinderman, a mythical figure composed of the souls of the murdered.

He lets them speak and tell their stories, look for similarities and try to find explanations.

An impactful novel on the Holocaust and the complex process of remembering.

152 pages, hardcover
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- New edition
- Holocaust
- Buchenwald Concentration Camp



The Old Jew and the Sea

Aaron is a teacher living in Belgrade in the 1980s. He is married, has a son and is very bored with his ordinary 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 the 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 in turn makes Aaron indebted to Greg...

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

172 pages, hardcover
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Corona in Buchenwald

In April of 2020, twelve survivors come together in Weimar to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. While the official celebrations are canceled 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 over Zoom like in Boccaccio's Decamerone – night per night, each person shares a special anecdote...

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

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Ivan Ivanji was born in 1929 in the Banat. As a teenager he was held in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. After the war he worked as a journalist, diplomat and translator of Tito. He has written numerous novels in both Serbian and German, Picus published several of them, most recently »The Old Jew and the Sea« (2023). In April 2020 he was appointed an honorary citizen of Weimar.



PAST THAT NEVER PASSES



Aleida Assmann
 ORIGINAL TITLE:
Vergangenheit, die nicht vergeht
 non-fiction
 November 2023

- Peace Prize of the German Book Trade 2018
- Cultural Memory

Aleida Assmann, is a German professor for literature and cultural studies. She taught at universities in Heidelberg, Tübingen and Konstanz and was a visiting professor at Princeton and Yale. Along with her husband Jan Assmann she was awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in 2018.

When there is a vast unlikeness in how history is perceived by different groups of people within one country, conflict is inevitable. And while we cannot change the past, we can assess it differently in hindsight. In that Aleida Assmann, renowned cultural scientist, sees a chance to overcome the divide. She argues that equal rights and acceptance cannot be reached while conflicting narratives are dominating.

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SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE



Christian Schüller
 ORIGINAL TITLE:
Die Frau, die gegen den Strom schwamm
 non-fiction
 September 2023

- Memoirs of a Top Journalist
- Reports on People fighting oppressive Regimes

Christian Schüller is a journalist and worked for the ORF from 1977 until 2022. He was a correspondent in the USA, USSR, Chile, Turkey and Iran as well as contributing to numerous documentaries.

In 1968 Natalja Gorbanewskaja is arrested and put on a psychiatric ward after copying and distributing letters by political prisoners. Fourteen-year-old Christian Schüller hears about her on the radio – and decides to become a journalist. He starts working for the ORF, the Austrian broadcasting cooperation, in 1977 and became one of the most renowned correspondents. He worked in countries ruled by oppression, his reports focus on people following their good conscience and challenging the status quo – like Natalja Gorbanewskaja. Almost fifty years after his first introduction to her, Schüller will read about Natalja again when she, aged seventy-seven, protests on the Red Square in Moscow...

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