



Foreign Rights Fall Highlights 2026





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A deadly accident and a blazing series of murders. The new bestseller by Nele Neuhaus.



© Jana Edisonga

Nele Neuhaus is Germany's #1 crime queen. Her series featuring the police investigators Oliver von Bodenstein and Pia Kirchhoff has sold millions of copies in Germany alone.

- **No. 1 bestseller about greed, revenge, and loyalty beyond death. Brilliantly crafted, gripping, and with a sharp eye for human nature.**
- **Nele Neuhaus' books have sold more than 12 million copies and have been translated into more than 30 languages**

All Shall Be Ashes

A woman dies in her burning villa. A property developer hangs upside down in the shell of a Frankfurt high-rise, his foot caught in a rope, suffocated in agony. What initially appears to be accidents turns out to be a brutal and incendiary series of murders. The investigation leads Oliver von Bodenstein and Pia Sander into the circle of tech billionaire Patrick Brinkhoff, the developer of a groundbreaking AI chatbot who died in a fatal accident. While Pia and Bodenstein are still trying to untangle the dense web of loyalties within Brinkhoff's software company and family, they stumble upon further murders, all connected to Brinkhoff. Pia and Bodenstein are in a race against time to stop a killer who is utterly without mercy and always one step ahead.

Rights sold to:

Estonian, Estonia (Tänapäev) | Polish, Poland (Media Rodzina) | Korean, Korea (Thenan Publishing Co.) | Latvian, Latvia (Zvaigzne ABC Publishers)



A sweeping train odyssey across Cold War divides. Passengers' lives caught between the duty to the state and the promise of freedom.



© Silvia Medina

Annette Hess initially studied painting and interior design, later scenic writing. She worked as a freelance journalist, assistant director and screenwriter. Since 1998 she writes exclusively for TV and Film. She has received numerous important awards like Grimme Prize and the German Television Prize. Her first novel *DEUTSCHES HAUS* was an international bestseller.

Mitropa

In the summer of 1978, the E780 "Meridian" departs Berlin-Ost for the Adriatic coast, stopping in Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, and Belgrade. On board, 28-year-old chef Marion Bunte—brilliant, magnetic, and secretly an informant for the Stasi—has been tasked with turning the GDR's dining car into a showpiece fit for Western guidebooks. What begins as a prestige assignment becomes an unexpected reckoning as the journey's confined intimacy and border pressures strip her defenses.

Marion, once a youth detention inmate who discovered salvation in cooking, now roves the republic as Mitropa's head chef. In the restaurant's heat and scarcity, she conjures pleasure from nothing, inventing dishes, improvising flavors, dazzling guests—and slowly, against her will, falling for Hans Süsskind, the taciturn, principled sleeping car attendant planning to use this trip to flee the GDR with his son. As the train inches south, incidents large and small—police checks, a missing chef, a stray dachshund, a rockfall—turn the Mitropa brigade into a temporary family.

Told across the rails and in a second timeline of Marion's childhood, *Mitropa* explores how inherited trauma and authoritarian pressure shape desire, truth, and courage. Under the bright window of a train moving through contested geographies, strangers become confidants, lies loosen, and the possibility of new beginnings flickers.

Rights sold to:

French, France (Actes Sud) | Spanish, Spain (Planeta) | English, USA (Harper Via)



Love wins: Emilia and Matthew find each other through grief and sorrow.



The Light

At 31, Emilia has lost everything: her husband Robert, their child, and the future they had mapped out together. A successful journalist and children's book author, she was, by any measure, building a life she had chosen. Now she can barely get through the night. When she can no longer stand the silence of their Berlin apartment, she flees to a remote coastal village in Scotland — with no plan, no expectations, and little will to stay alive.

Emilia moves into a cottage by the sea, taken in by the village's quiet hospitality. Her neighbors, Anne and John, greet her with warmth and quickly make her one of the family. John, a former pastor, accompanies her on long walks along the shore and encourages her to lean into her pain rather than keep running from it. In his words and his wisdom, she finally finds a chance to heal.

During the family evenings at the cottage, she meets their son, Matthew, who is raising his young son, Merlin, alone. Lena's intention to stay invisible is met by Merlin's disarming directness—the frankness of a child who has also known loss. He refuses to let her disappear. Slowly, and reluctantly, she finds herself drawn into their lives: helping to look after Merlin, spending long evenings by the fire, listening to Matthew play the piano. Little by little, she learns the rhythms of a place where grief is neither hidden nor hurried toward a cure.

But letting people in means risking everything she has built around herself to survive. And as Lena and Matthew grow closer, she must face the question she has been running from: whether it is possible to love again without betraying the dead—and whether she even deserves to try.

Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Scottish landscape *The Light* is a deeply moving debut about grief, guilt, and the terrifying possibility of a second life. For readers of Jojo Moyes, Nicolas Sparks but also Maggie O'Farrell.



Sara Maria Behbehani is a journalist and lives near Munich. Her non-fiction book *Black-and-White Thinking: What It Means to Talk Honestly About Racism* was published in 2021. *The Light* is her fiction debut.

© Niklas Keller

Sara Maria Behbehani | The Light

Ullstein | Commercial Fiction | Hardcover | 125 x 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20501-9 | Price D: 24,00 € | 364 Pages |

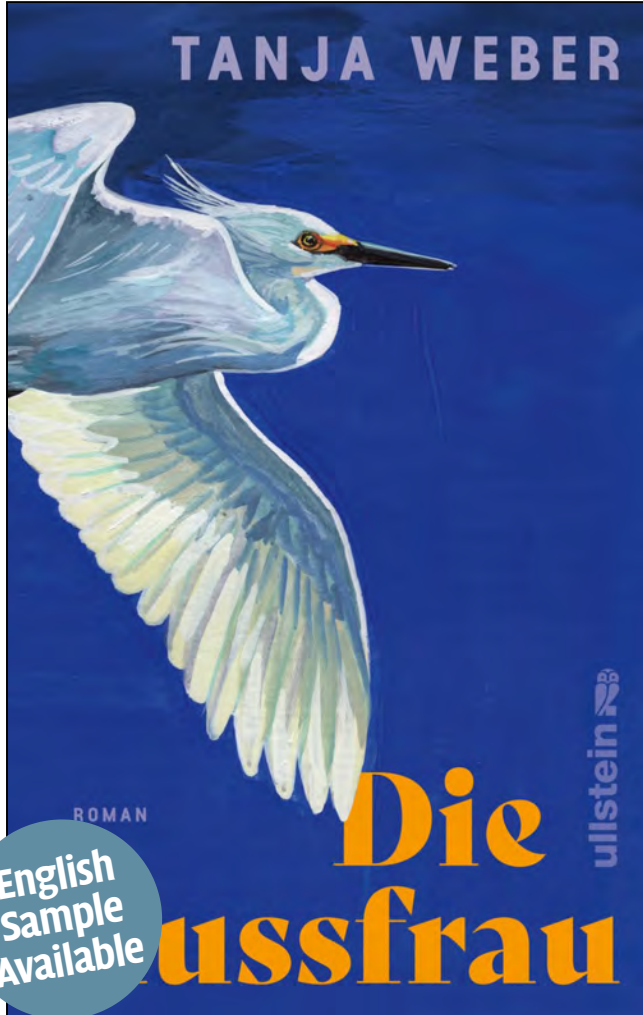
Published: 28.01.2027

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

As from 01.09.2026



A woman, a river, an era of change: Female independence and love in all its currents



The River Woman

The river shows no mercy. That is exactly why Lis loves it. When her husband drowns in a shipping accident, she makes a decision that everyone considers impossible in the late 1950s: she becomes the captain. In a male-dominated world she pushes her cargo barge against resistance and prejudice until she finally finds on the water the freedom that has always been denied to her on land.

When she hires Vassili from Greece as a deckhand, the two outsiders slowly build a tender, all-changing love under the hostile gaze of villages along the banks. As power plants, dams and floods reshape the river and its wildlife, Lis witnesses a country in upheaval from the wheelhouse and hides a dark secret that binds her to the water more tightly than any rope.

Blending a powerful story of female emancipation, a vivid portrait of a changing era and atmospheric nature writing in the original, deeply convincing perspective of inland shipping, this novel is perfect for readers of Dörte Hansen or Katharina Hagen.



© Paula Winkler

Tanja Weber's first job was in theatre. In her second career, she worked as a scriptwriter for television, including for many award-winning TV shows. Her first crime novel written under a pseudonym was nominated for the prestigious Glauser Prize. She writes novels in various genres under three other pen names.

Tanja Weber | The River Woman

Ullstein | Upmarket Fiction, Fiction, Historical Fiction | Hardcover | 135 × 215 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20488-3 | Price D: 23,00 € | 304 Pages | Published: 27.08.2026

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

Available as e-book



A woman. A whole life. And the slow, stubborn work of becoming herself.



Winter Perennial

Dorothee grows up on a farm in rural Switzerland, in a household where books are forbidden and silence is the expected response to most things. Her father sets the rules; the land sets the rhythm. Dorothee watches, listens, and waits.

Decades later, she is sitting in an airport with her husband Erich, waiting for a flight to Thailand. It is the kind of pause that makes thinking unavoidable. In the noise and anonymity of the departure hall, Dorothee begins to take stock – of her girlhood on the farm, her marriage, her long and unresolved relationship with Rolf Furler, the choices she made and the ones that were made for her. What she finds is not a tidy reckoning but something harder and more honest: a life in which she has spent a great deal of time accommodating other people's expectations, and not nearly enough living on her own terms.

Salm moves fluently between past and present, between the wide open Swiss countryside and the fluorescent stillness of the departure lounge. The writing is sharp and controlled – no sentiment, but plenty of feeling. Dorothee is not an easy character. She is difficult, uncompromising, and entirely compelling.

Winterhart is literary fiction with backbone. For readers of Jenny Erpenbeck and Tove Ditlevsen.



© David Scholl

Rebekka Salm studied Islamic Studies and History in Basel and Bern. She lives with her family in Olten in the Swiss Plateau and writes novels, short stories and plays. Her literary work has received several awards, including the 2023 Literature Promotion Awards from the cantons of Basel-Landschaft and Solothurn. Her previously published novels are *Die Dinge beim Namen* (2022) and *Wie der Hase läuft* (2024).

Rebekka Salm | Winter Perennial

Ullstein | Fiction, Literary Fiction | Hardcover | 125 x 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20419-7 | Price D: 25,00 € | 272 Pages | Published: 31.12.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



A novel about what we hold on to and what holds us together. And about making peace with our own mess.



© Iga Drobisz

Ilona Hartmann lives in Berlin and writes as a freelance author about pop and the everyday for magazines, newspapers, and more than 100,000 followers on X/Twitter and Instagram. She also hosts her own radio show and co-hosted a ZEIT lifestyle podcast for two years until 2023. Her debut novel and bestseller *Land in Sicht* was published in 2020 and received great praise and press and was followed by her second novel *Klarkommen*.

Junk

After a routine check-up, the narrator leaves the doctor with a vague diagnosis, a week of waiting for final results, and a mind that refuses to be calm. Instead of fleeing to the beach or into daily routines, she descends into the storage unit where her life has congealed into boxes, unused household equipment, an XXL teddy hauled back from a family vacation in Japan, 20-year-old toothbrushes, and the dense dust of postponed decisions.

Armed with a headlamp and granola bars, she begins to sort: what can be sold, what is trash, what still hurts to touch. Each object opens a trapdoor – to secret junk-food pilgrimages with her radically minimalist sister, to serial family weddings, to the quiet terror that someone else might one day have to clear all this away. Her week underground becomes a kind of urban hikikomori in the vein of Sayaka Murata and Banana Yoshimoto and echoing Marlen Haushofer's isolated heroine behind *The Wall*, a voluntary withdrawal from the world in order to face the things that have been propping it up. Between guilt about consumption, ecological panic and the wild tenderness of memory, she takes inventory of her vain attempts to create a sense of security with a surplus of stuff.

By the end of the seven days, the cellar is hardly any emptier, but in her head the piles have shifted. Flanked by her sister, her mother and a new acquaintance: a pragmatic secondhand dealer, she locks the basement behind her and heads towards the dreaded appointment. Darkly comic, *Junk* exposes the absurdity that hums beneath normality.



Old but not lonely, frail but full of spirit: Alexandra Stahl captures heroes who lived quiet lives yet are the stuff of legend.



© Cat Pfeifer

Alexandra Stahl is a freelance writer and journalist. She read American Studies, English Literature, and History. She completed a traineeship at the German Press Agency (dpa) and worked as an editor and reporter before dedicating herself entirely to literary writing. Her work has been supported and recognized on numerous occasions; most recently, she was nominated for the Bavarian Book Prize. She lives near Würzburg.

All Dressed Up With Nowhere to Go

Everything in this book is true. Alexandra Stahl's novel opens with a declaration that doubles as a dare. What follows is a portrait of two grandparents who fight like Laurel and Hardy yet are connected by the kind of love that lasts a lifetime, of a village, where everything came in pairs: two bakeries, two churches, two cemeteries. The book itself has a second heartbeat, two. After the grandfather's death, the narrator leads a biography workshop at a Berlin care home. The residents' stories, their phrases, their magnificent idiosyncrasies weave in and out of Stahl's own family memoir until the two worlds become inseparable.

By placing her grandparents' lives in dialogue with those of the workshop participants, Stahl builds something larger than a personal memoir: a collective portrait of a generation, and a searching meditation on ageing, on what we carry and what we leave behind. Her prose moves between tenderness and comedy with ease.

Readers who love the intimate, digressive essay-fiction of Sigrid Nunez, the dry familial comedy of David Sedaris, the emotional precision of Deborah Levy, or the autofictional tenderness of Annie Ernaux will find themselves immediately at home. Like the best of these writers, Stahl understands that the smallest, most local details are where the largest questions about love, loss, and the passage of time quietly reside.

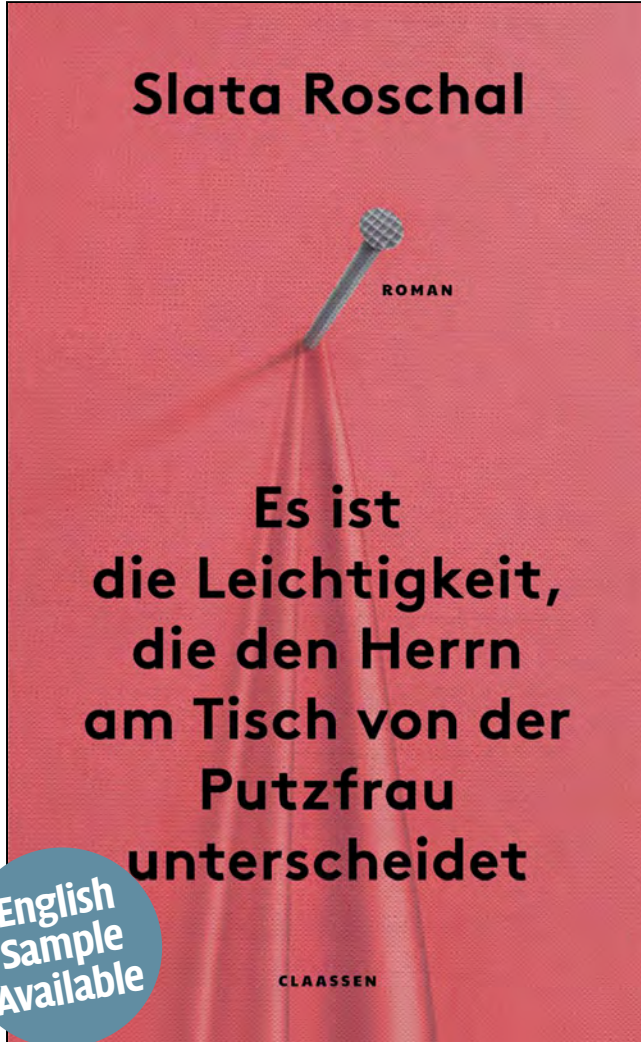
All Dressed Up With Nowhere to Go is a book about the things we don't think about until they happen. And then can't stop thinking about.

"Alexandra Stahl is something like the German answer to Sally Rooney, only she is far more cutting, with a keen sense for the neuroses of the present and a great deal of dark humor." - Felix Palent

"Her eye is drawn to absurd details, her tone transforms everything into consoling, very funny sentences. Alexandra Stahl knows, of course, that it is never too early to start taking an interest in old people." - Katja Oskamp



A sharp, darkly funny novel about who serves, who is served – and who gets to tell the story.



© Dirk Skiba

Slata Roschal was born in St Petersburg. She holds a PhD in Slavic studies from the LMU Munich. She has received numerous scholarships and prizes for her literary work. With *153 Formen des Nichtseins*, her debut novel, she was nominated for the German Book Prize in 2022 and awarded the Bavarian Arts Promotion Prize.

It Is the Ease That Separates the Gentleman at the Table from the Cleaning Lady

Lea has learned how to move quietly through life. A young mother with a constant sense of being one bill, one delayed train, one wrong sentence away from slipping, she is startled when she gets arrives for a job interview at an exclusive conference hotel: clean sheets, mountain air, and a glimpse into a world that seems to float above necessity.

But Lea cannot unsee what makes this floating possible: the staff who glide through corridors with trays, the women who scrub bathrooms before sunrise, the invisible hands folding fresh towels into perfect squares. She meets Erwin Groß, a successful literary agent with a talent for sounding both cynical and charming, and watches authors and audiences rehearse their roles in the hotel's bar, library, and panel rooms.

Then the weekend's highlight collapses: the star writer scheduled for the evening reading doesn't appear. Instead, news spreads that he is dead. A police presence enters the lobby, whispers travel faster than facts, and those who are usually invisible become interesting only if they might have seen something.

Told in crisp, darkly funny scenes, *It Is the Ease That Separates the Gentleman at the Table from the Cleaning Lady* is both a murder-tinged chamber piece and a social x-ray of the cultural industry's quiet hierarchies—and of who gets to tell stories, and who is forced to clean them up afterward.

"A wild, genre-bending story that oscillates between crime fiction and satire of the literary world" –

Deutschlandfunk Büchermarkt

"Roschal has a great deal to say – about work, social inequality, the literary world and power structures" –

Berliner Zeitung

"One of the most contentious voices in the literary world" – Süddeutsche Zeitung

Slata Roschal | It Is the Ease That Separates the Gentleman at the Table from the Cleaning Lady

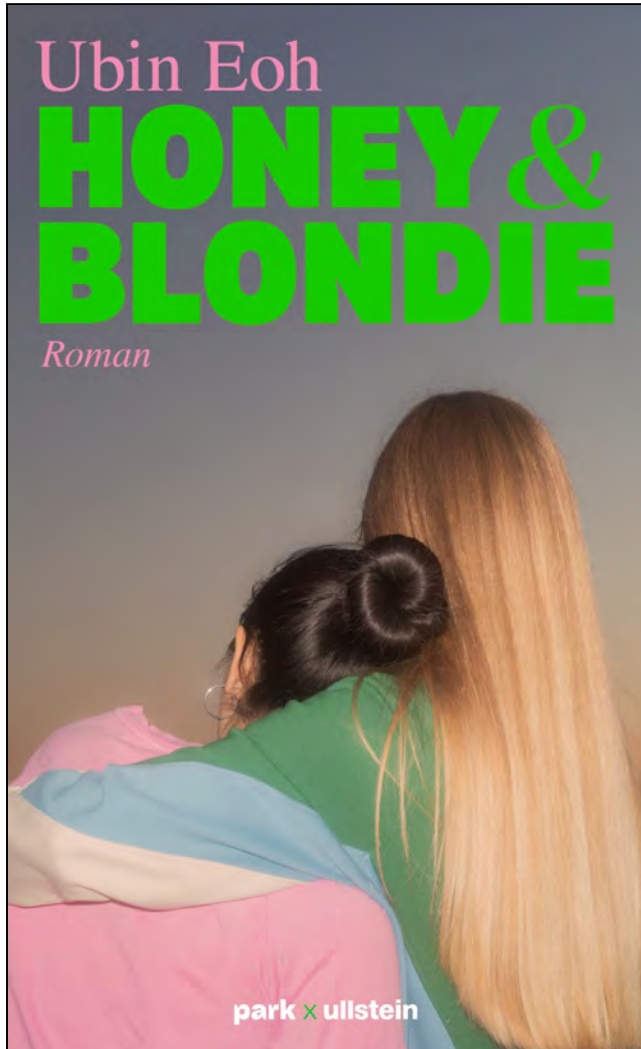
Claassen | Literary Fiction, Fiction | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-546-10075-5 | Price D: 22,00 € | 160 Pages | Published: 30.07.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



Magical Realism meets Radical Empathy: A novel about a friendship that transcends all boundaries.



© Neven Allgeier

Ubin Eoh works as a writer, journalist, and podcaster. Among others, she co-hosts the ZEIT-podcast *Und was machst du am Wochenende?* and, since the birth of her first child, writes the column *Hi, Baby* for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Ubin Eoh lives in Frankfurt. *Honey and Blondie* is her debut novel.

Honey and Blondie

Honey (Hyunjeong) and Blondie (Bianca) grow up in Berlin Kreuzberg in the 1990s and 2000s. Since kindergarten they share a secret power: in moments of extreme emotions, their hearts race in sync – BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM – and they switch bodies.

What starts as a magical escape route from racism, poverty, and domestic violence becomes the most radical form of empathy: they repeatedly step into each other's lives, taking the blows the other cannot bear. In classrooms, at home, in love, in work. Their bond shapes every choice they make and every version of themselves they might become.

Years later, Honey is heavily pregnant when Blondie is diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. When only one last, high-risk surgery remains, Honey considers one final swap – to let Blondie feel the wild, unstoppable force of new life in her belly and to shoulder her friend's pain herself.

Imagine the radical female friendship of *My Brilliant Friend* meets the absurd, comedic energy of classic body-swap stories like *Freaky Friday* told with the tenderness and bite of contemporary feminist fiction.

“The future belongs to Ubin Eoh. She enchants everything she touches: in conversation, on the page – and now in her literary debut.” - Alfons Kaiser, FAZ

“A story about the unshakeable power of female friendship – raw, magical, unlike anything else.” -

Jasna Fritzi Bauer

Ubin Eoh | **Honey and Blondie**

park x ullstein | Literary Fiction, Fiction | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-98816-071-3 | Price D: 23,00 € | 320 Pages | Published: 30.07.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



Small-town-romance perfect for readers who rewatch *When Harry Met Sally* and binge *Gilmore Girls* when the leaves start to turn.



Kiss Me in Orange

Emma and Niclas were inseparable—best friends, partners-in-crime in Berlin's show business, and almost something more. Then came that kiss, the one Emma had secretly dreamed of for years. Instead of a declaration, it ended with Niclas pulling away and vanishing from her life.

Three months later, Emma has fled to Goldried, her picturesque hometown on the Moselle. Between pumpkin decorations, lantern-lit streets and her sister's café Butternut Bean, she is determined to swear off both romance and Niclas. Goldried in October, however, is a dangerous place for a self-declared autumn Grinch: the whole town is in full cosy-romance mode.

When Niclas suddenly appears on Emma's doorstep—determined to win back her trust and maybe her heart—Goldried quietly takes sides. From harvest festivals to pumpkin rallies and late-night bonfires, the town keeps pushing them together.

#small-town-romance, #friends-to-lovers, #second-chance
– tropes that fit together as perfectly as pumpkin, cinnamon, and ginger.



Alix Bente was born in Berlin and lives happily in Rhineland with her family. She thinks that a day without romance is a day wasted. That is why she is passionate about imagining stories of love and its mysterious ways.

© Katharina Rosenthal-Esch

Alix Bente | Kiss Me in Orange

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Romantic Comedy, Fiction | Paperback | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-07469-6 | Price D: 15,00 € | 352 Pages | Published: 27.08.2026

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

Available as e-book



An inspirational story about new beginnings after divorce, midlife, and motherhood



© Christiane Wolter

Christiane Wolter is a psychologist who has devoted more than three decades to personal development and self-discovery. Over the years, her toolkit of methods for guiding people towards their inner centre has continued to grow. It includes, among other approaches, inner child work, person-centred counselling, NLP, and a certificate in the “Science of Happiness” from UC Berkeley.

Twelve Magical Nights

It's been just six months since Anne's husband walked out and he already plans to bring his new girlfriend to the family Christmas. Unable to face the charade, Anne escapes to a secluded cabin in the Black Forest to spend the twelve *Rauhnächte* – the mystical nights between Christmas and Epiphany – on her own. What begins as a desperate flight from her ex-husband's new life slowly turns into a quiet, deeply personal rite of passage.

Between incense rituals, handwritten wishes and honest nightly reflections, she begins to see how completely she has disappeared into motherhood and keeping peace. Long walks through the winter woods, an encounter with a majestic stag and the disarming warmth of Jonas, the man who looks after the cabin, slowly loosen the stories she has told herself for years. As the twelfth night approaches and the snow falls thicker outside, Anne has to decide what she is truly ready to let go of – and what she dares to wish for when the door back to her old life, and to Jonas, finally opens.

Christiane Wolter | Twelve Magical Nights

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Inspirational, Fiction, Commercial Fiction | Taschenbuch | 120 × 185 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-07457-3 | Price D: 13,00 € | 240 Pages | Published: 29.10.2026

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

Available as e-book



The blameless murderer, the guilty victim? In this thriller, nothing can be taken at face value.



★★★★★ Reader Reviews

The Lie on Her Face

On a freezing night in Hamburg, a young man dies close to the harbor promenade. CCTV and witnesses agree: he attacked first, she struck back. A clear case of self-defense. Except the woman who killed him refuses to give her name, her story, even a single word.

Behavioral psychologist Marlene Nielsen, a leading expert on micro expressions, is called in by her ex-partner, Detective Deniz Kurt. One flicker of emotion is all she needs and what she sees on the stranger's face is a carefully controlled lie. When the nameless woman walks free for lack of evidence and disappears into the city, Marlene's professional certainty and private demons collide.

Against all warnings, she begins an investigation on her own and uncovers a meticulously planned killing that reaches back to an old "self-defense" case at a Danish fairground, a ruined family, and a system that chose the wrong victim. For readers of Freida McFadden and fans of *Lie to Me*, this is a smart psychological thriller about how bodies betray us when words fail.



© Jana Lämmerer

Anne Keßel is the author of numerous screenplays, audio dramas, novels, and plays. She has been nominated for the German Television Award, the Grimme Award, and the German Podcast Award, among others. *The Lie on Her Face* is her first thriller.

Anne Keßel | The Lie on Her Face

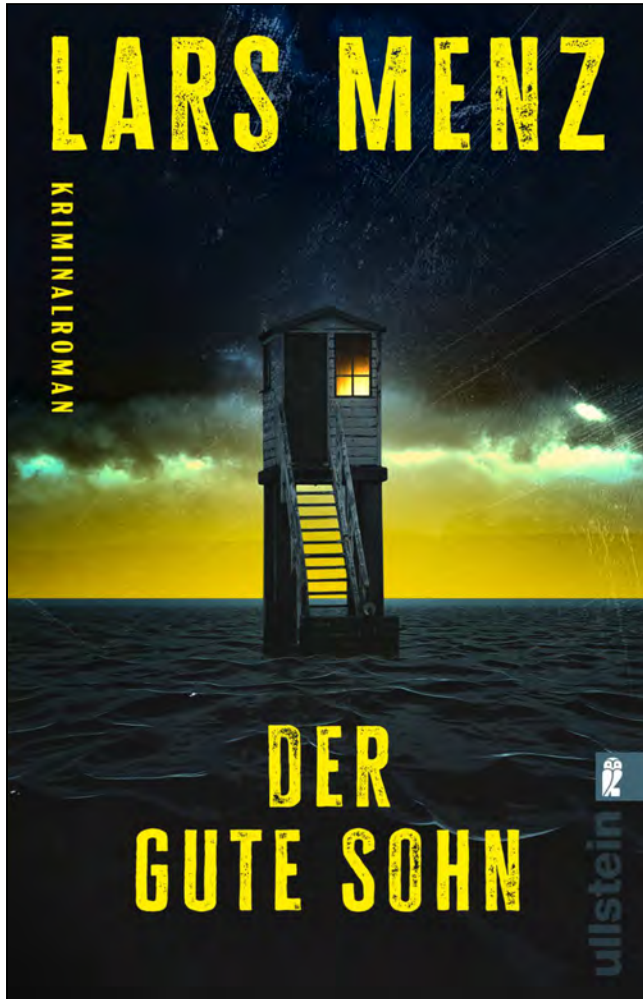
Ullstein Taschenbuch | Thriller, Fiction | Paperback | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-07407-8 | Price D: 17,00 € | 400 Pages | Published: 27.08.2026

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

Available as e-book



The island takes. The island falls silent. The island kills.



© Andrea Seifert

Lars Menz studied geography, urban planning, and political science before pursuing a career in journalism. His literary work includes a novel and several short stories, earning him awards from institutions such as the Literaturhaus Zurich. *The Ramp* marks his debut as a thriller author.

The Good Son

At a seemingly ordinary breakfast table, a mother smooths her son's hair, a father tops up the cocoa. Then, the boy's ankle monitor sends a jolt of electricity through his body. He swallows the pain and sits back down, calm, controlled: the perfectly obedient child. A good son.

Meanwhile, Berlin police officer Liv Beck steps off the ferry onto a remote North Sea island. Officially she is here to recover from her last operation that ended deadly, shattered her career, and her sense of self. But the wind and waves bring her no peace. On the beach she meets a man who is certain his missing boy did not drown, no matter what everyone else claims.

As Liv begins to ask questions, she feels the community closing ranks. Stories don't match, records vanish, eyes follow her in the fog. The more she digs into the boy's disappearance and into her own buried guilt the more she becomes a target herself.



22 Love Letters to the Wildest and Safest Space of the Night.

Friederike
Schilbach (Hg.)

Die Damentoilette

22 Liebeserklärungen



English
Sample
Available

park x ullstein

The Ladies' Room

22 authors write about a place where a stranger becomes your accomplice, where you borrow lipstick, talk about heartbreak, laugh, drink, console each other, and make it through the night together. A place where life happens, rich in extraordinary stories: the ladies' room. In fiction and essay alike, they explore the full range of what this space holds from the private, biographical imprint it leaves on women's bodies and lives to its temporarily contested role in debates of non-binary identity, from moments of fleeting solidarity to the cultural history of the ladies' room in film and literature. A volume carried by the spirit of outstanding voices, celebrating sisterhood. Wide awake and radically present.

With contributions by Gabriele von Arnim, Claire Beermann, Rita Bullwinkel, Katja Eichinger, Ubin Eoh, Xiaochun Fan, Sonja Finck, Nora Gantenbrink, Ilona Hartmann, Lin Hierse, Annabelle Hirsch, Mareile Höppner, Heidi Julavits, Enuma Okoro, Elina Penner, Caroline Rosales, Jovana Reisinger, Leanne Shapton, Nicole Seifert, Marlene Sørensen, Dana Vowinckel, and Kim Addonizio.

"The ladies' room: our safe space — no better place for breakdowns, solidarity, and moments of joy. Finally, someone is looking to where we always stood together." - Maria Piwowarski

"Ladies' room chatter forever." - Sophie Passmann

| The Ladies' Room

park x ullstein | Hardcover | 115 × 187 mm | ISBN 978-3-98816-086-7 | Price D: 20,00 € | 208 Pages | Published: 25.06.2026

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



A rediscovery of a forgotten 20th century masterpiece.



© Deutsches Exilarchiv

Iwan Heilbut was born in Hamburg in 1898. His first two novels, *Triumph der Frau* (Horenverlag, 1928) and *Frühling in Berlin* (Ullstein, 1932), brought him literary acclaim. After the Nazi rise to power, Heilbut was briefly imprisoned before fleeing to Paris finally reaching the safety in the United States. His exile novel *Birds of Passage* (*Zugvögel*/*Die Überlebenden*) was published in a heavily abridged English translation in 1943. Heilbut returned to Germany in 1950. He continued to revise the novel until his death in 1972 but it was never published in German.

Birds of Passage

Paris, Quartier Latin, 1939: The looming threat of war is beginning to shape daily life, even within the apartment building where Edvard and Rahel, refugees from Nazi Germany, have found a sense of community among French and foreign residents. Rahel is expecting a child, most loved and happily awaited by his parents. After being denounced by a neighbor, the couple move to a hotel inhabited solely by immigrants, where their son is born.

With the start of the French campaign, Edvard must report for internment and is separated from his family. In a camp dubbed "La macabre", the prisoners are held under inhumane conditions.

Eventually Edvard is able to flee the camp and orchestrates his family's escape first to Marseille, then via Spain to Lisbon, and after a long wait for American visas, they finally board a ship to New York, where Edvard is reunited with several former fellow inmates, each facing an uncertain future.

Birds of Passage is a densely woven and deeply moving novel of exile, distinguished by its authenticity and psychological nuance that stands out above all for its literary quality.

"Beautifully written and intensely felt" - The New York Times, 1943

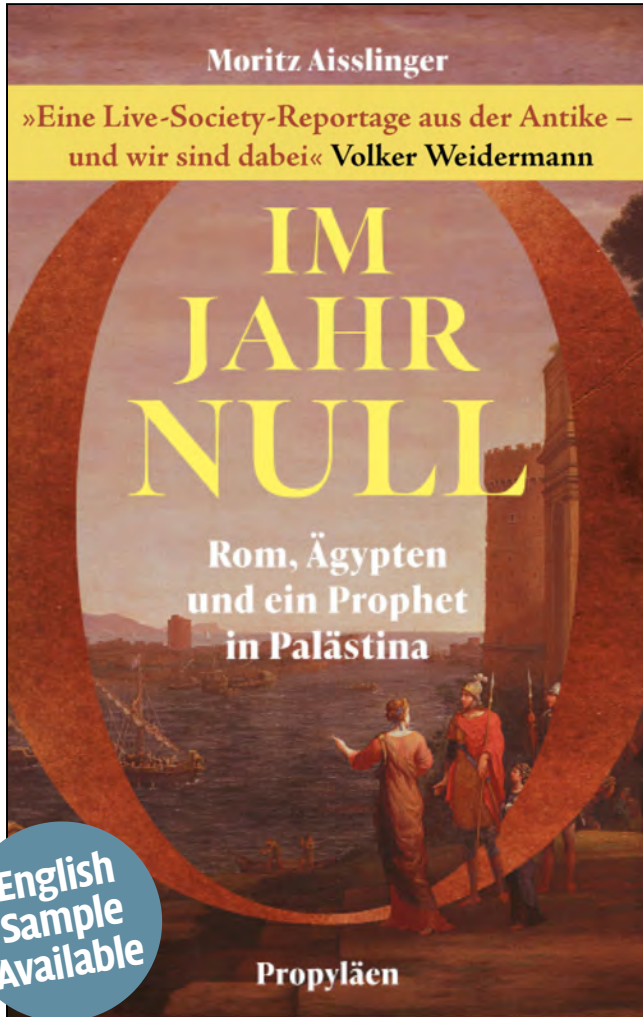
"The question is less why this novel is being published now than why such an impressive literary voice was forgotten for so long." - NDR, 2026

Rights sold to:

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A kaleidoscopic journey through the pivotal era that shaped the world: from Rome to Egypt, China to Jerusalem.



© Livia Valensise

Moritz Aisslinger studied literature and European history in Mainz and Leipzig. He has been working for the weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT since 2016 and has been an chief editor there since 2019. He has received numerous awards for his writing, including the Theodor Wolff Prize for best reporting.

In the Beginning of Time

There is hardly another era in which the world was so fundamentally shaken in such a short time as in the years around the turn of the millennium. In this sweeping historical panorama, Moritz Aisslinger brings to life the people whose actions and ideas changed the fate of millions and still resonate today. The suicide of Cleopatra marks the end of Egypt's last great dynasty, while Augustus rises as Rome's first emperor and transforms the Mediterranean into a unified realm of trade, culture, and power. Amidst this upheaval, we meet figures like the rebellious Julia, the visionary poets Virgil, Horace, and Ovid, and the slave girl Musa, who ascends to power in Parthia. Across continents, new religions spread, walls rise in China, and the one-eyed queen Amanirenas defends Nubia. In Jerusalem, a young preacher is baptized in the Jordan, setting out to proclaim a revolutionary new vision of humanity. But as the world teeters on the edge of transformation, whose story will shape the future—and what new order will emerge from the chaos?

"From Rome to Jerusalem, from Africa to China, Aisslinger lets his gaze wander and tells stories. Of rulers, upheavals and wars. Of intrigues, journeys to unknown lands and natural disasters. Of new ideas that conquer the world. Of people who lose everything, and others who find a new life." – NZZ

"A live society-page report from antiquity - and we are right in the middle of it." - Volker Weidermann

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Between fairytale magic and groundbreaking linguistic scholarship: The untold story behind the most famous names in storytelling



© Stefan Gelberg

Tilman Spreckelsen studied German literature and history, completing his doctorate in 1998. He has been an editor at the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)* since 2001, contributing to the science, culture, and literature sections, with a particular fondness for writing about fairytales. In 2012, he was awarded the Volkacher Taler by the German Academy for Children's and Youth Literature. His novel *Das Nordseegrab* earned him the Theodor Storm Prize and in 2016, he became the first recipient of the Grimm Guest Lectureship, awarded by Goethe University Frankfurt and the city of Hanau. In 2018, he received the Georgian Saba Literary Prize for his literary reviews.

Nordseegrab earned him the Theodor Storm Prize and in 2016, he became the first recipient of the Grimm Guest Lectureship, awarded by Goethe University Frankfurt and the city of Hanau. In 2018, he received the Georgian Saba Literary Prize for his literary reviews.

Like a Fairytale: The Lives of the Brothers Grimm

Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty – fairytales we all grew up with. Romantic, archaic, cruel, and comforting - these beloved stories have roots that stretch back centuries, famously preserved by the Brothers Grimm in their *Grimm's Fairytales* of 1812. But what do we really know about Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm themselves?

Beyond folklore, the brothers made groundbreaking contributions to philology, linguistics, and literary studies. Their lives unfolded against a backdrop of turbulent times: the French Revolution, Napoleon's wars, the Restoration, and the Revolution of 1848. As technical innovations swept across Europe, the nobility lost influence and new entrepreneurs rose to political power.

Jacob and Wilhelm became stars of the academia and shared their curiosity about the world with the most important writers, politicians and academics of their time, including Goethe, Heine, Arnim, Brentano, Humboldt and Savigny. They laid the foundations for German linguistics and literary studies: more than almost any of their contemporaries, they explored the roots of German culture, whilst also broadening their horizons to include their European neighbours. And whilst they were tracking down ancient poems in libraries, the Grimms were simultaneously fighting for the freedom of the German people and for their own: in 1848, Jacob was elected to the parliament at Frankfurt's Paulskirche.

In *Like a Fairytale*, literary critic and Grimm specialist Tilman Spreckelsen tells the story of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm against the backdrop of their often-turbulent era. Vividly portraying their intellectual, cultural, and political significance, as well as their illustrious circle of family, friends, and contemporaries, this comprehensive biography is an ideal next read for fans of Andrea Wulf.

Tilman Spreckelsen | Like a Fairytale: The Lives of the Brothers Grimm

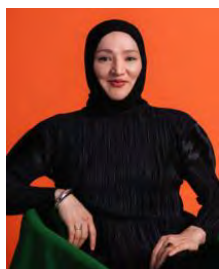
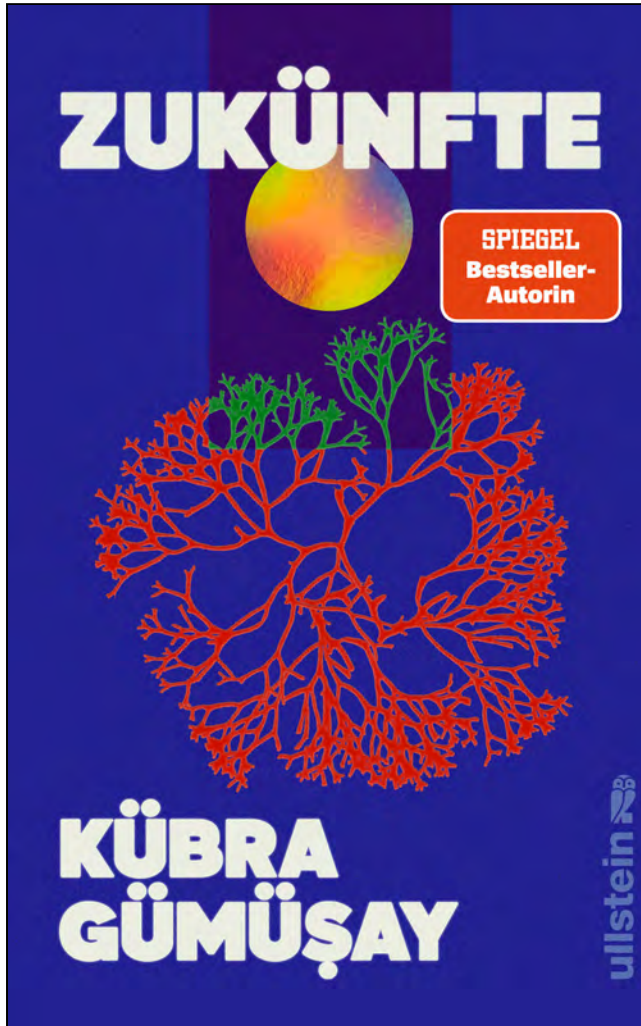
Propyläen Verlag | History, Biography | Hardcover | 135 x 215 mm | ISBN 978-3-549-11011-9 | Price D: 29,00 € | 464 Pages | Published: 15.10.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



What if the Best Was Yet to Come? Kübra Gümüşay on Imagination as the Most Radical Form of Realism



© Swetlana Holz

Kübra Gümüşay is a political scientist by training, feminist, activist, journalist, author of the bestseller *Sprache und Sein* (*Speaking and Being*), and founder of numerous award-winning organizations and initiatives. The research for her new book took her across four continents and to research fellowships in Istanbul, Hamburg, and Cambridge.

- Author of the SPIEGEL bestseller *Speaking and Being* with over 200,000 copies sold and translations into five languages

Futures

If you listen to the dominant narratives on the political stage, peace, justice and nonviolence are dismissed as naïve, while extraction, war and social erosion are sold as realism. In *Futures*, acclaimed thinker and activist Kübra Gümüşay asks how we can reclaim imagination as a political force.

Starting from journeys to Istanbul, Cairo, Saudi Arabia, West Africa and Uzbekistan, she contrasts “real dystopias” with fragile “real utopias” already being practiced in communes, climate camps and community projects. On site, she explores how we can move beyond simply criticizing the status quo, how we can shape the future in a moment that is presented as having no alternatives, and how we can revive the power of ideals while at the same time remaining rooted in life itself. Kübra Gümüşay introduces us to people who dare to dream in very concrete ways: in genuine cooperation, in fairer forms of economic activity and of living together.

Futures is a powerful appeal for a new politics. Because not whatever will be will be, but what we dare to imagine will turn into our reality.

Kübra Gümüşay | *Futures*

Ullstein | Current Affairs, Non-Fiction, Politics, Philosophy | Hardcover | 125 x 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20180-6 | Price D: 23,00 € | 304 Pages | Published: 31.12.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



A comprehensive theory of art by the international star of contemporary thought



The Radical Freedom of Art

What are artists allowed to do? This question must be distinguished from the question of what art is – and what it is allowed to do. Art is, in its very nature, free and autonomous. It unfolds from within rather than through external coercion. At the same time, the history of art is full of attempts to appropriate it politically, including by artists who invoke artistic freedom while also seeking political impact.

At a moment when free thought which manifests itself in the diversity of the arts is under pressure worldwide, we need to reconsider both the nature of art and its relationship to non-aesthetic norms. In this book, Markus Gabriel develops an accessible theory of the arts that takes their radical autonomy seriously without denying the moral responsibility of artists. The result is a philosophically grounded and highly topical contribution to contemporary debates on freedom, responsibility, and the role of art in democratic societies.

"Markus Gabriel demonstrates with verve how one can tackle central philosophical questions without compromise, beyond the confines of academic constraints." - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on Why The World Does Not Exist



© Lehmbrock Museum

Markus Gabriel is the Chair for Epistemology, Modern and Contemporary Philosophy and Director of the International Centre for Philosophy at the University of Bonn. He is director of the interdisciplinary Center for Science and Thought and a regular visiting professor at the Sorbonne (Paris 1) and the New School for Social Research in New York City. His works of popular philosophy are international bestsellers and have been translated into 16 languages.

Markus Gabriel | The Radical Freedom of Art

Ullstein | Philosophy, Non-Fiction | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20262-9 | Price D: 25,00 € | 320 Pages | Published: 29.10.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

How culture wars over food hide the real battle for power on our plates



© Sabrina Weniger

Dr. Chris Methmann is a leading expert on food policy and heads the consumer advocacy organization foodwatch. As a sought-after media commentator, he reaches hundreds of thousands via the foodwatch newsletter and a social media audience in the millions.

• No. 1 Bestseller!

Bad Food

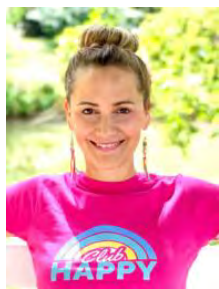
Food has become one of Europe's loudest culture wars and that noise hides who really controls our plates. In *Bad Food*, food policy expert Dr. Chris Methmann, head of consumer watchdog foodwatch, traces how right-wing agitators, populist politicians and social-media outrage machines turn Veggie Days, insects in pasta or canteen menus into symbols of "nanny-state" overreach. While the public argues about tofu and grill sausage, global food corporations quietly tighten their grip: they engineer ultra-processed recipes, target children with advertising, design supermarkets and lobby away effective regulation.

After Chris van Tulleken's *Ultraprocessed People* has put industrial food and health firmly on the international book market's agenda, *Bad Food* expands the political and democratic dimension of the debate. Drawing on scandals from BSE and chlorinated chicken to Nestlé's PR coups, Methmann shows how disinformation and manufactured anger keep unhealthy, climate-damaging products profitable and why today's debate leaves parents and consumers with all the guilt but little real choice. In the final part, he sketches surprising coalitions and practical tools for citizens, NGOs and policymakers to push back against Bad Food and reclaim genuine freedom at the table. The question is whether we will use them in time or let the industry finish rewriting what "choice" means.

"Despite its title, Bad Food puts you in a good mood, especially since Methmann has retained a scientist's nuanced perspective." – Die Welt



When every twinge feels life-threatening: How to trust your body again



© Daniel Hillesheim

Christina Hillesheim holds a degree in sociology, is a successful online entrepreneur, and a bestselling author. Her journey through burnout led her to pen her first Spiegel bestseller. Today, in her forties, Christina lives a life free from fear and dedicates her time to guiding others towards a self-determined, joyful, and liberated existence.

- English Instagram Channel: [Me and My Anxiety](#)

Only Half as Deadly!

“At the slightest sign of pain, I ask myself: Is this something serious?” Health anxiety is the silent epidemic of our hyperconnected age. In *Only Half as Deadly!*, bestselling author and sociologist Christina Hillesheim, together with psychologist Dr. Jessica Klebe, turns her own story of years spent scanning her body, googling symptoms and fearing diagnoses into an empathetic, highly practical guide.

Blending autobiographical episodes with clear psychological insight, she shows how hypochondria develops, why “Dr. Google” is the most dangerous doctor, and how social media algorithms keep our fears on permanent high alert. For the tens to hundreds of millions people living with health anxiety worldwide, Hillesheim offers reframing tools, nervous-system calming exercises and expert strategies that help readers stop catastrophizing and slowly rebuild trust in their bodies. Backed by her large international social media followership and a previous top 5 SPIEGEL bestseller on anxiety, she speaks as someone who has been there—until one day a new, unexplained symptom appears and she has to find out whether her own method will hold when fear knocks again.

Christina Hillesheim | *Only Half as Deadly!*

Ullstein Allegria | Self-Improvement, Popular Psychology, Non-Fiction | Paperback | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-7934-0100-1 | Price D: 17,00 € | 288 Pages | Published: 29.10.2026

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

Available as e-book



The Interactive Family Guide to Everyday Well-Being by international bestselling author and health expert



Strong From the Start

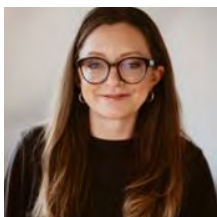
Strong From the Start is an interactive activity book that invites children ages 3 to 8 and their caregivers to make everyday family life more mindful, playful, and healthy. It offers playful prompts for conscious eating, joyful movement, and small moments of rest and recovery brought to life by charming illustrated characters such as Captain Carbo and Power Proteina.

Instead of strict do's and don'ts, the book works like a tandem: children become curious explorers in the kitchen, on the living-room floor, and on the way to bed, while adults receive clear, science-based impulses from leading prevention expert Prof. Dr. Ingo Froböse and communications strategist Martina Schößler. Together, they discover how small choices in meals, movement, and recovery can build long-term resilience and a joyful sense of "I can do this" in even the youngest family members – and how a family's everyday routines quietly start to change.



© Hans Scherhauser

Prof. Dr. Ingo Froböse is professor emeritus for prevention and rehabilitation at the German Sport University in Cologne. He is an expert advisor for the German government on prevention issues and works as a scientific advisor on preventive health care for health insurance companies. He regularly writes books on the topics of health, sport, and nutrition, many of which have become bestsellers.



© Sebastian Bahr

Martina Schößler studied Applied Media Management and Health Management and has since worked as a communications strategist specialising in health and prevention. For more than ten years, she has also supported Prof. Dr. Ingo Froböse in translating scientific findings into practical advice for everyday life. As a mother, she combines her expertise with a sensitive understanding of the realities faced by modern families in *Strong From the Start*.

Ingo Froböse, Martina Schößler | Strong From the Start

Ullstein Allegria | Health and Body, Non-Fiction, Parenting | Hardcover | 165 x 210 mm | ISBN 978-3-7934-0104-9 |

Price D: 22,00 € | 224 Pages | Published: 01.10.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



A woman walks into a urologist's office – and finally gets the answers.



Just Asking For A Friend

Urology is not just for men. In this bold, accessible guide, Berlin-based urologist and social media educator Dr. Maria Sprinz gives women – and everyone who has been left out of the conversation – the knowledge they were denied: how pelvic floor, bladder and kidneys work together, and what happens when they do not. With stories from her clinic and her viral TikTok and Instagram channel, she breaks the silence around incontinence, recurrent infections, pain, pregnancy and birth injuries, as well as peri- and postmenopause.

Sprinz exposes how medicine systematically overlooks female bodies: 85% of birthing women suffer injuries, over 40% experience incontinence during pregnancy – yet hardly anyone is warned. Instead of shame and euphemisms, she offers clear language, practical everyday training and concrete treatment options. Feminist, evidence-based and unexpectedly funny, this book turns taboo zones into places of knowledge and agency – and leaves one pressing question behind: once you know what your bladder is trying to tell you, what will you finally dare to ask.



© Jana Edisonga

Dr. Maria Sprinz works as an urologist in Berlin. At the beginning of her specialist training, she launched the urological information channel @answeringforafriend. Her posts on urinary incontinence, penis myths, preventive care and toilet hygiene reach hundreds of thousands of people. Both in her practice and online, she is committed to better, fairer, and more inclusive medical care.



Why even “good guys” are part of the problem – and how they can finally become allies

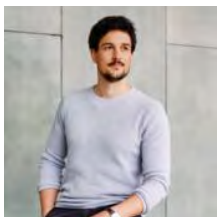


“Yes, All Men!” – What Women Already Know and Men Don’t Want to Admit

Anyone who talks to men about sexism will sooner or later hear: “But not all men!” In “Yes, All Men”, Vincent-Immanuel Herr and Martin Speer put that claim to the test. Drawing on surveys and in-depth conversations with hundreds of women, they reveal a spectrum of everyday sexism: from “harmless” jokes and interruptions to subtle belittling and silent complicity.

Instead of focusing on openly violent behavior, Herr & Speer map a behavioral matrix that shows where ordinary men, including those who mean well, locate themselves between harm and genuine allyship. They invite readers to examine their own habits, listen to women’s frustration, fear and disappointment, and understand sexism as a structural pattern rather than a series of isolated incidents.

As HeForShe ambassadors for UN Women Germany and authors of the Spiegel bestseller *When the Last Woman Leaves the Room*, Herr & Speer combine activism and practical guidance into an honest, hopeful roadmap to a more respectful, fairer and more relaxed way of living together.



© Sapna Richter



© Sapna Richter

Vincent-Immanuel Herr and **Martin Speer** studied in both the United States and Germany. Together, they form the consulting duo “Herr & Speer,” known for their bestselling books, articles, keynote speeches, and workshops focused on social justice and gender equality.

As HeForShe ambassadors for UN Women Germany, they were appointed to the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) in 2022. Their internationally recognized work has earned them numerous honors, including the Jean Monnet Prize for European Integration, the Innovation in Politics Award, the Bayreuth Role Model Prize, and the Blue Bear Award from the City of Berlin.

Vincent-Immanuel Herr, Martin Speer | “Yes, All Men!” – What Women Already Know and Men Don’t Want to Admit
Ullstein | Feminism, Society, Non-Fiction | Paperback | 115 × 190 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20472-2 | Price D: 20,00 € | 220 Pages |
Published: 29.10.2026

Available as e-book

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr.126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



How to stay in control when negotiations turn into power plays



© Schranner AG

Matthias Schranner is one of the leading experts in negotiation. He began his career in the police force, where he negotiated with hostage-takers. Today, he advises the United Nations, global corporations, employers' associations, political parties, and business and government leaders in more than 40 countries on difficult negotiations. He is the bestselling author of many books including *Negotiations on the Edge* that was translated into several languages.

• No. 6 Bestseller!

The End of Win-Win

Win-win is no longer the norm. In today's high-stakes negotiations, counterparts arrive with shifting demands, explicit threats, and a single focus on their own advantage. Purchasing departments dictate prices, suppliers weaponize delivery stops, unions paralyze entire transport systems – shared values and long-term relationships suddenly count for little.

Drawing on his experience as a former police negotiator with hostage-takers and as advisor to the UN, global corporations, and political parties, Matthias Schranner maps this new reality of hardball, interest-driven bargaining. He shows how professionals can remain calm and effective when talks escalate, how to respond to pressure without inflaming the situation, and how to reopen space for agreement when every option seems blocked. Instead of hoping for a friendly compromise, readers learn to navigate calculated aggression with clear strategies and a cool head. The real question is: when the next uncompromising counterpart sits down across from you, will you still be playing for win-win – or already negotiating for real?

“Matthias Schranner is Europe's best-known negotiation expert.” - Die Zeit

“Many people don't understand Donald Trump's behaviour. Matthias Schranner does.” - Die Welt

“Matthias Schranner is one of the best negotiators worldwide” - Forbes



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Eastern European and Asian Rights Agency

Tatjana Zoldnere

19/21-3 Gertrüdes St.

1011 Riga

Latvia

phone: +371 67 50 64 95

fax: +371 67 50 64 94

zoldnere@earagency.com

**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria,
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China/Taiwan

ANA International

China: Jackie Huang

Room 1705, Culture Square

No.59 Jia Zhongguancun Street

Haidian District 100872 Beijing

China

phone: +86 10 82 50 41 06

fax: +86 10 82 50 42 00

jhuang@nurnberg.com.cn

Taiwan: Whitney Hsu

8F, No. 129, Section 2

Zhongshan N. Rd.

10448 Taipei

Taiwan

phone: +88 62 25 62 90 08

fax: +88 62 25 62 77 12

whsu@nurnberg.com.tw

France

Books and More # BAM

Sophie Langlais

12 rue Juliette Dodu

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France

sophie@bamlitagency.com

Greece

Iris Literary Agency

Catherine Fragou

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Greece

phone: +30 21 02 43 24 73

irislitgr@gmail.com

Israel

The Deborah Harris Agency

Geula Geurts

P.O. Box 8528

9108401 Jerusalem

Israel

phone: +972 25 63 32 37

fax: +972 25 61 87 11

geula@thedeborahharrisagency.com

Italy

Berla & Griffini

Barbara Griffini

Via Gian Giacomo Mora 7

20123 Milano

Italy

phone: +39 02 80 50 41 79

fax: +39 02 89 01 06 46

griffini@bgagency.it

Japan

Meike Marx Literary Agent

Meike Marx

2-6-5 Ootocho Fukagawa

Hokkaido 074-1273

Japan

phone: +81 16 42 51 466

fax: +81 16 42 63 833

meike.marx@gol.com

The English Agency

Shreya De Sousa

Sakuragi Bldg. 4F

6-7-3 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku

Tokyo 107-0062

Japan

phone: +81 3 34 06 53 85

fax: +81 3 34 06 53 87

shreya@ej.co.jp

Korea

Book Cosmos

Richard Hong

3F. Youngjun B/D (annex)

Worldcup buk-ro 22

Mapo-gu, Seoul 03992

South Korea

phone: +82 23 14 32 834

fax: +82 23 14 32 833

r-hong@bcagency.kr

MOMO Agency

Geenie Han

309-51 Seongsanro

Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 03706

South Korea

phone: +82 23 37 86 06

fax: +82 23 37 87 02

geeniehan@mmagency.co.kr

Poland

Graal Agency

Tomasz Berezinski

Pruszkowska 29/252

02-119 Warsaw

Poland

phone: +48 22 89 52 000

fax: +48 22 89 52 670

tomasz.berezinski@graal.com.pl

Romania

Simona Kessler International

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Simona Kessler

Str. Banul Antonache 37

001663 Bukuresti 1

Romania

phone: +40 21 31 64 806

fax: +40 21 31 64 794

simona@kessler-agency.ro

Russia

Literaturagentur

Maria Schliesser

Beuckestr. 11

14163 Berlin

Germany

phone: +49 174 274 0381

schliesser.maria@gmail.com

Spain, Portugal, Latin America

A.C.E.R. Agencia Literaria

Sophie Bustos

Calle Amor de Dios, 1

28014 Madrid

Spain

phone: +34 91 55 02 551

fax: +34 91 36 92 052

sbustos@acerliteraria.com

The Netherlands

Marianne Schönbach Literary Agency

Marianne Schönbach

Korte Leidsedwardsstraat 12, k-401

1017 RC Amsterdam

Netherlands

phone: +31 20 62 00 020

m.schonbach@schonbach.nl

Turkey

AnatoliaLit Agency

Amy Spangler

Caferaga Mah. Gunesli Bahce Sok. No:48

OR.Ko. Apt. B Blok D:4

34710 Kadikoy Istanbul

Turkey

phone: +90 216 700 1088

amy@anatolialit.com