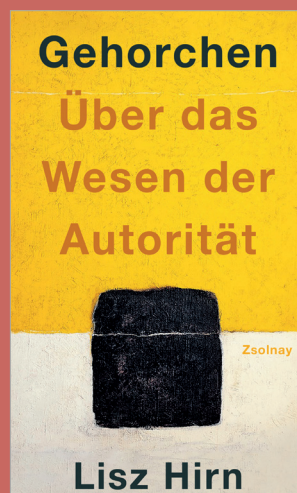
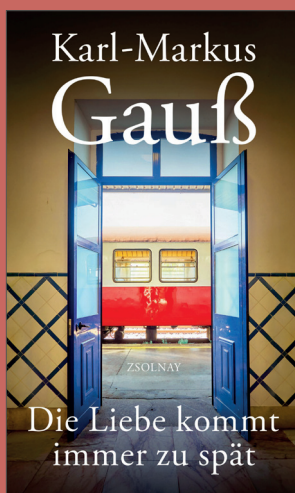
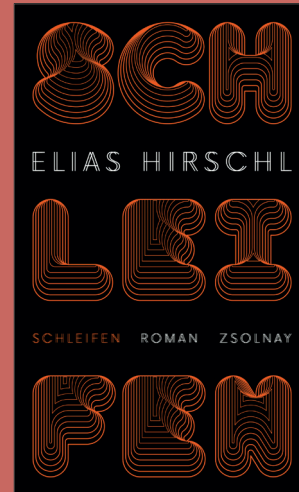
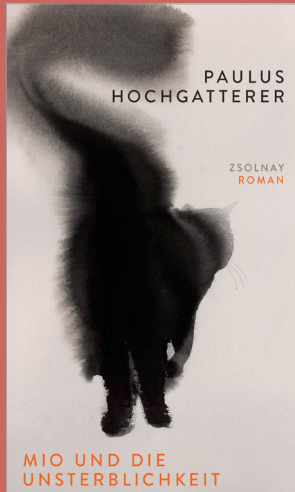


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ZSOLNAY  VERLAG

FICTION



NON-FICTION

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<http://foreignrights.hanser.de>



»He is never brash, superficial or platitudinous, his sentences only hint at things, his language is almost laconic, but always luminous. It is the power of the unsaid that makes his writing stand out.«

Christine Westermann

»A language that lives. Above all when it is dealing with death.« Paul Jandl

Paulus Hochgatterer

was born 1961 in Amstetten / Lower Austria, and lives as a writer and child psychiatrist in Vienna. He has received various prizes and awards, among them the European Union Prize for Literature 2009 and the Austrian Art Prize 2010. His publications include: *Wildwasser* (1997), *Caretta Caretta* (1999), *Eine kurze Geschichte vom Fliegenfischen* (2003), *Die Süße des Lebens* (2006), *Das Matratzenhaus* (2010), *Der Tag, an dem mein Großvater ein Held war* (2017) and *Fliege fort, fliege fort* (2019).

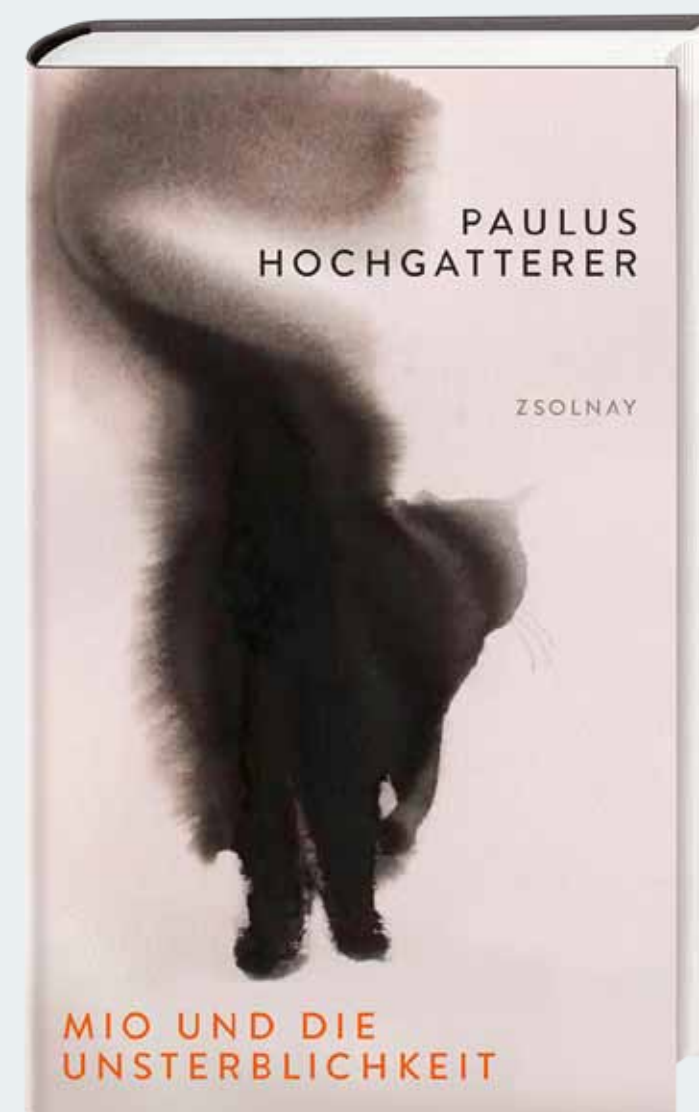
• The voice of sixteen-year-old Ingemar, who is suffering from a serious illness, lends the story a rare clarity and urgency, illuminating what truly matters

• A short novel of remarkable depth, raising fundamental questions about justice, autonomy, the value of human life, and the burden of choice

PAULUS HOCHGATTERER

Ingemar is sixteen and likes to think about things. About words, about justice, about people. About how decisions are made, and about how things got to be the way they are. When one day Mio, a young black cat, is adopted by Ingemar's family, everything suddenly seems to get out of hand. Mio won't eat when she should, she has a dark spot in her eye, she climbs onto the roof and chases after birds. Ingemar's parents are worried, and he himself starts to suspect that there might be something to all this talk about cats having nine lives ...

Paulus Hochgatterer's long-awaited new book explores loss and transience, the passing of loneliness, and how wonderful it can be to have someone immortal at one's side.



Sales

Croatia (Leykam International)

Paulus Hochgatterer
Mio and Immortality

160 pages
August 2026



»A rousing attempt to pay homage to love beyond all the usual models and disappointments.« Maja Haderlap

Tamara Štajner

was born in 1987 in Novo Mesto in Slovenia, and is a viola player and a writer. She writes in Slovenian and German. In 2024, she won the Merano Poetry Prize, and an extract from *Luft nach unten* received the Kelag Prize, which is awarded as part of the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize celebrations. Her debut novel *Raupenfell* was published in 2023. She lives and works in Vienna.

- **Moving and funny, a family story that is marked by the spirit of the women whose stories it tells**
- **A powerful and nuanced novel about daughterhood, motherhood and the ways they shape a woman's life**

TAMARA ŠTAJNER

Selected by
New books
in German

Having been away for many years, Iva returns to the place where she grew up for the funeral of her beloved nanny. She spent considerably more time with Marija than with her own mother during her childhood in her family's hotel on the shores of Lake Ohrid. But when Iva discovers a second name on Marija's tombstone, she uncovers the trail of a family secret ...

Tamara Štajner's protagonist embarks on an intense and moving but also gloriously funny journey into the past – as well as into the future, since Iva is just in the process of trying (using the most complicated methods) to have a child with her boyfriend. *You Win Some, You Lose Some* is a modern family story which is shaped by a varied cast of women.

A compelling novel about being a mother and a daughter.



Sales

All rights available

Tamara Štajner
*You Win Some,
You Lose Some*

336 pages
July 2026

»The most extraordinary novel
of 2026 – Phenomenal new writing
from Austria.« Joachim Scholl, Deutschlandfunk Kultur

»What sets this book so far above the average: its irrepressibly thoughtful wit, ... its precise language; its somnambulist balancing act on the tightrope stretched between genius and madness; its thirst for knowledge, which readily seeks out the margins and knows no bounds when it comes to the absurd; its fireworks of fresh ideas that go beyond the simple. ... Hirschl manages, almost without exception, to guide the reader through such mine-strewn terrain with such wit and originality as only good literature can.«

Ulrich Steinmetzger, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»One stands amazed at Hirschl's ingenuity.

A great, playful, clever game and a joy to read. Hirschl strolls casually into the big linguistic, psychological and aesthetic questions and toys with them in the most delightful way.« Michael Wurmitzer, Standard

»A madcap delight that would have
Ludwig Wittgenstein, Kurt Gödel
and Franz Kafka laughing
up their sleeves!« Jakob Hayner, Welt am Sonntag

»A marvel of confusion, a self-referential play on the endless possibilities offered by language.« Bernd Noack, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Ludicrous and ingenious... Wittgenstein on ecstasy...witty and brilliant... and one of the most exciting texts on the subject of fake news that I have ever read!«

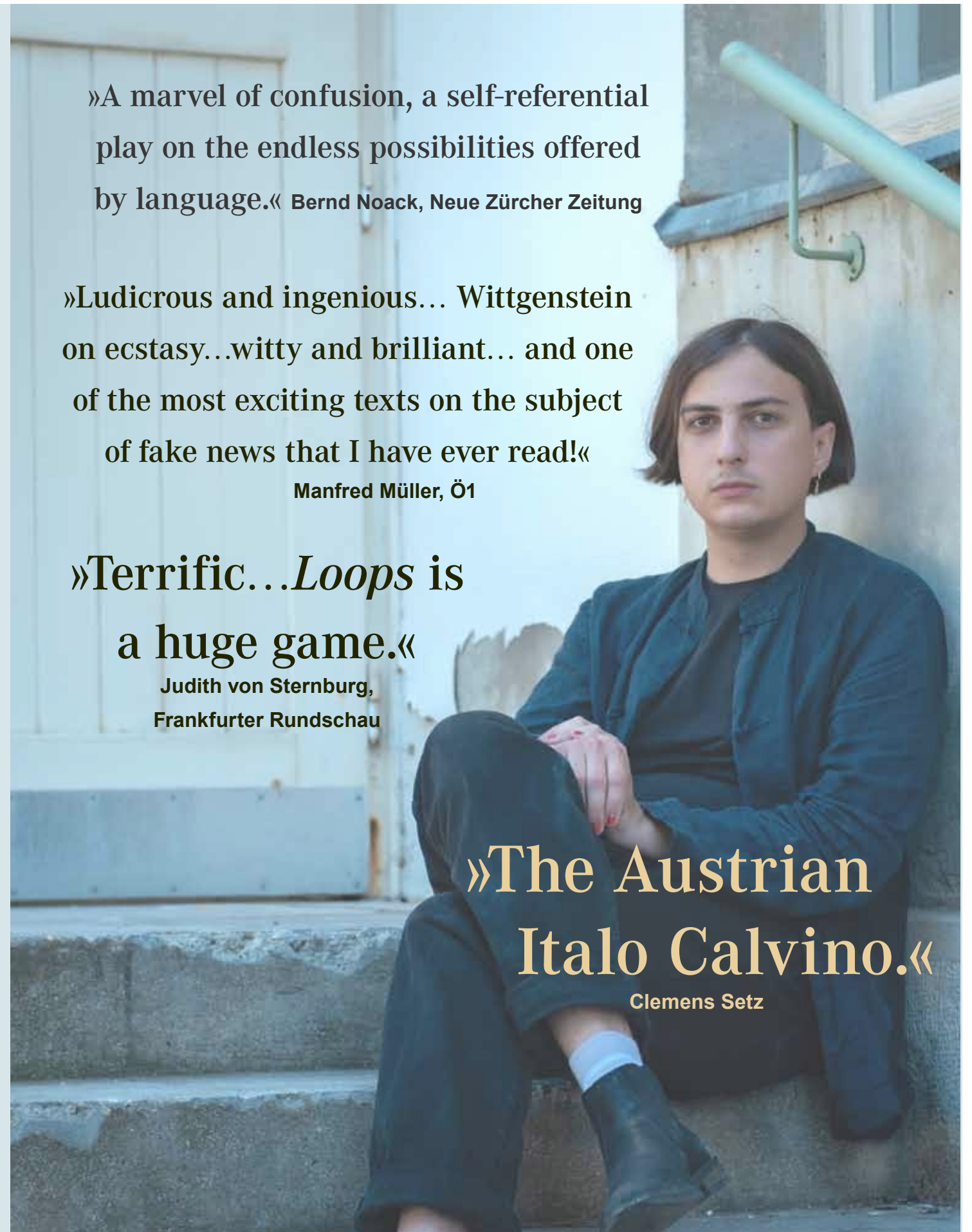
Manfred Müller, Ö1

»Terrific...*Loops* is
a huge game.«

Judith von Sternburg,
Frankfurter Rundschau

»The Austrian
Italo Calvino.«

Clemens Setz





»Novels don't usually contain so much infinity. A major novel of ideas from one of our most enjoyable contemporary authors.«

Clemens J. Setz

Elias Hirschl

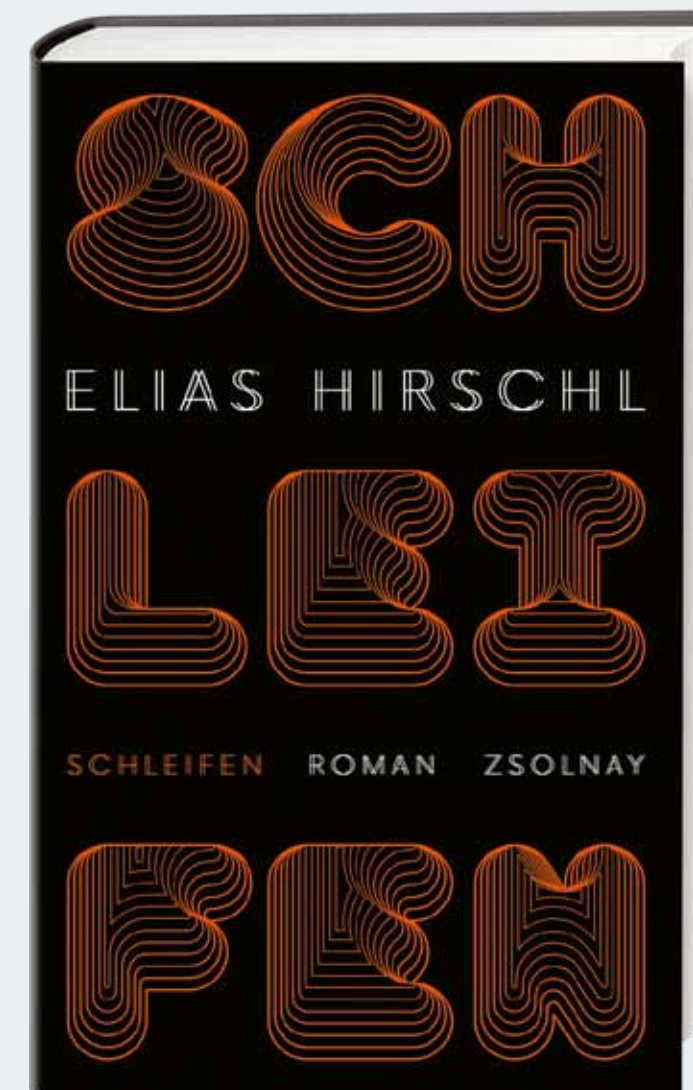
was born in Vienna in 1994. He works as a writer, slam poet and musician. He received the Reinhard Priessnitz Prize in 2020 and most recently the Düsseldorf Prize for Literature 2026. His publications include »*Meine Freunde haben Adolf Hitler getötet*« (), *Hundert schwarze Nähmaschinen* (2017), and most recently published by Zsolnay *Salonfähig* (2021) and *Content* (2024).

- The philologist Franziska Denk and the mathematician Otto Mandl: a fictional couple for the ages
- Searching for the perfect language – a shrewd literary game

ELIAS HIRSCHL

English sample translation available

Franziska Denk grows up in the orbit of the Vienna Circle, and suffers as a child from a peculiar illness: she immediately develops any symptom she hears or reads about. The young Franziska finds a soulmate in Otto Mandl, a brilliant mathematician, and learns to immunise herself against her affliction using words from dead languages. The pair develop an absolute obsession with language, and embark on a search together for the perfect language – a search that takes them to all imaginable limits. *Schleifen* is a great, an astute novel about power and the influence of language on our lives, which is also genuinely fun to read. In Elias Hirschl's writing, the sheerly impossible constantly turns out to be true – and the rest is extremely skilfully imagined.



Sales

All rights available



Elias Hirschl
Loops
416 pages
January 2026



»Birgit Birnbacher has a keen sense for the marginal, for people who have been thrown off course. She tells in an at once restrained and crystal clear, diaphanous and subtle style.«

Christoph Schröder, Süddeutsche Zeitung

»With subtle wit and depth, Birnbacher tells the story of a mother-son relationship in which ADHD becomes not a deficit, but a different way of perceiving things. This powerful, moving novel explores how storytelling can comfort and rescue.«

Elke Schlinsog, DLF Kultur

»The language has a laconicism that hides a blazing fire.«

Peer Teuwsen, NZZ am Sonntag

»The novel develops an incredible pull because Birnbacher is a master of small cliffhangers ... and finds language for speechlessness.«

Bernhard Flieher, Salzburger Nachrichten

»This book examines the most exciting and challenging thing there is – entirely normal life.«

Günter Kaindlstorfer, ORF

»Birgit Birnbacher is a brilliant storyteller and an elegant stylist. Effortlessly she manages to combine plenty of wit with a light-hearted seriousness.«

Rainer Moritz, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»ADHD, as this outstanding novel shows, is more than just a diagnosis. It signifies a different, perhaps even more intense, emotional world, from which people who, for whatever reason, consider themselves normal can learn a great deal. An incredibly moving, sometimes unsettling story that nevertheless finds a vivid and comforting ending.«

Carsten Otte, SWR Kultur

»She writes with precision and without false pathos.«

Wiebke Porombka, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»With unadorned yet highly literary language, Birnbacher consistently gets close to characters who live outside the realm of classic success stories. A touching and witty text and a tender story of self-empowerment.«

Paula Pfoser, Ö1



»When everything stays normal,
he sometimes thinks: this is going
to be a catastrophe.«

Birgit Birnbacher,
born in 1985 and lives as a sociologist and author
in Salzburg. Her debut novel *Wir ohne Wal* was
published in 2016 and was awarded the literature
prize of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation, the Rauriser
Förderungspreis and the Theodor Körner
Förderpreis. In 2019 she was awarded the
Ingeborg Bachmann Prize. Zsolnay published
her novels *Ich an meiner Seite* (2020) which
was longlisted for the German Book Prize
and *Wovon wir leben* (2023).

- A sensitive, literary novel about life
with neurodiversity
- A major new novel by the winner
of the Bachmann Prize

BIRGIT BIRNBACHER

Oz is different and finds school difficult – but
this time, something really bad has happened.
On his way home, he longs for at least a small
catastrophe that might distract his mother
from the teacher's letter he has to give to
her. When Oz gets home, Ann – who has the
same fluttering nerves as her son – is not, as
expected, ready to celebrate his school report:
something really has happened. Grandma
Zilly, who lives in the mountains, has
disappeared ... Birgit Birnbacher's new
novel once more tells, in an »at once
restrained and crystal clear, diaphanous and
subtle« (Süddeutsche Zeitung) style, a story
of people – and of the opportunities opened
up by letting your thoughts grow wild. Might
people who aren't able to conform actually
have something to oppose to our over-
wrought nature and environment?



Sales
Croatia (Leykam International)



Birgit Birnbacher
They Want to Tell Us
224 pages
March 2026



»What is good and beautiful here is neither some street-fighter romanticism, nor a kitschy Robin Hood fantasy.

It is the bright side of a coin that one might call »intensity« or »immediacy«.

A wonderful piece of literature!«

Frankfurter Rundschau

Maja Iskra

was born in 1981 in former Yugoslavia, and studied landscape architecture in Belgrade, Vienna and Valencia, and transmedial art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. She lives and works in Vienna. *Uppercut* is her first novel.

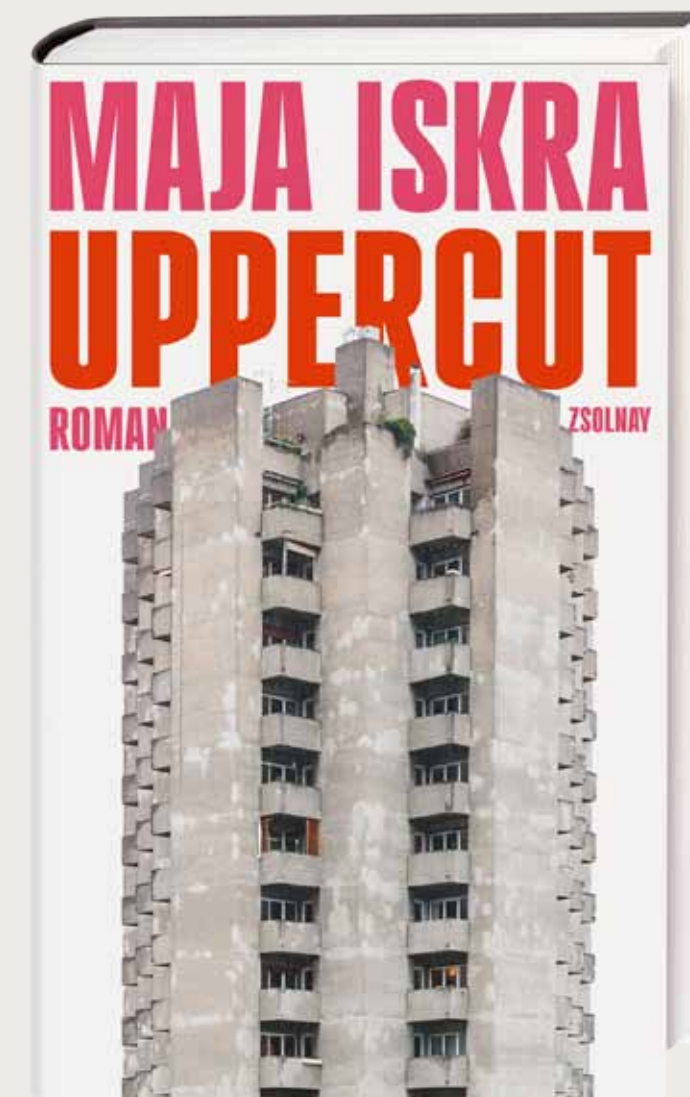
- A childhood caught between violence, friendship, love and solidarity

- A tale of emancipation in 1990s Belgrade

- A powerful and emotional debut

MAJA ISKRA

Punchy, challenging, and hard-hitting. What is true of an uppercut, also applies to Maja Iskra's debut novel of the same name. Its protagonist, a successful young woman who lives and loves in Vienna, remembers her childhood in 1990s Belgrade. The war is almost only perceptible here as background noise, but life at home, out on the street and in school is hard and brutal – even the girls beat each other up. But they also patch things up with each other again, and learn to respect and encourage each other. They don't give up. Moving, and written in an almost telegraphic style and with a barrage of pop-cultural and literary references, *Uppercut* celebrates the victory of a whole generation over adverse conditions.



Sales

(Original Serbian edition: Lom, Belgrade)
France (Plan B)

Maja Iskra

Uppercut

(Original Serbian title: Aperkat)

160 pages
February 2026

»The more danger we were promised in a particular place, the more fondly it welcomed us.«



Lukas Matzinger

was born in 1990 in Upper Styria, and is a reporter for the Vienna-based weekly newspaper Falter. He has received numerous prizes, including the Claus Gatterer Prize and the Pressepreis der Wiener Ärztekammer.

Olivia Wimmer

was born in 1983 in Grieskirchen, and works as a journalist for Ö1 and as a press photographer. Her photographic work includes reportages from Algeria, Turkey and Syria.

- **35,000 km from Vienna to China and back in a 40-year-old VW bus**
- **The authors break away from their own lives and are confronted with the foreign**

LUKAS MATZINGER

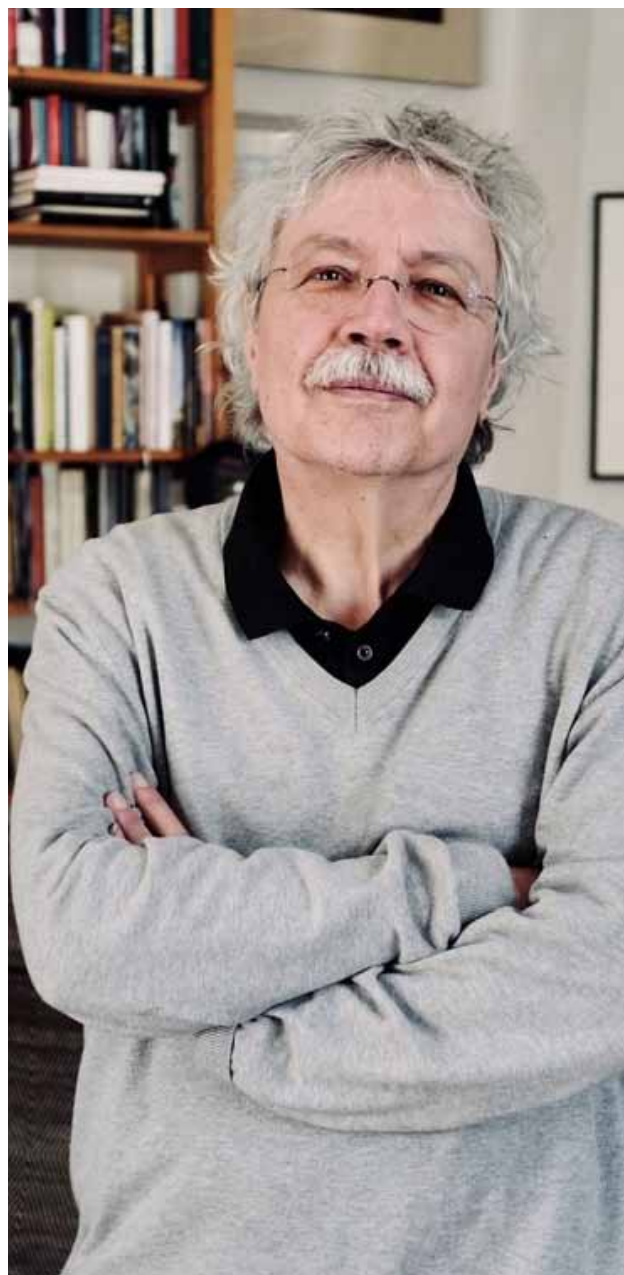
The bloody sports shirts of Kirghiz polo players, bricks from Osama bin Laden's house in Abbottabad, a Bouquet of bacteria from Tajikistan and experiences that brought with them a few days in police custody in Baluchistan: Lukas Matzinger and Olivia Wimmer travelled for a year and 35,000 kilometres in a forty-year-old VW bus, from Vienna to China and back, and always straight through high risk areas. But behind the end of the world, in the most threatening and inhospitable areas, the most wonderful encounters were waiting for them: strangers gave them the best morsels and the widest beds – and showered them with stories. A travel novel in which everything is right, an adventure you can't predict – a great reportage about the big wide world.



Sales

All rights available

Lukas Matzinger
I Don't Sleep Well
Without my Kalashnikov
 A Travel Novel
 304 pages
 With photos by
 Olivia Wimmer
 March 2026



»An absolute delight. This author is one of the most outstanding of our present day.«

Katja Gasser, ORF

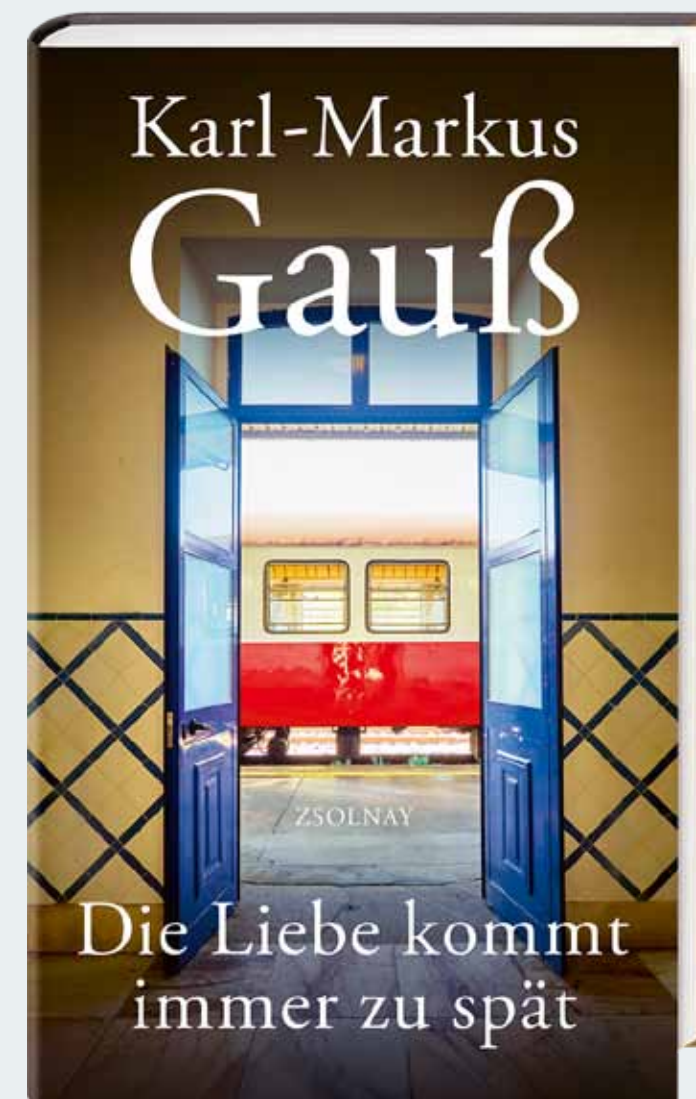
Karl-Markus Gauß

was born in 1954 in Salzburg, where he still lives and works as an Author. His books have been translated into numerous languages and have received many prizes, including the Prix Charles Veillon, the Austrian Art Prize for Literature, the Johann Heinrich Merck Prize, the Jean Améry Prize and the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding. His most recent publications with Zsolnay are *Abenteuerliche Reise durch mein Zimmer* (2019), *Die unaufhörliche Wanderung* (2020), *Die Jahreszeiten der Ewigkeit* (2022) and *Schiff aus Stein* (2024).

- Take a trip with this versatile cartographer of the European margins
- Travel literature like no one else can write it

KARL-MARKUS GAUß

Karl-Markus Gauß, the literary cartographer of the European margins, has set off on his travels again. He searches for the traces of a multicultural world in Bosnia, and finds them in the life of his deceased friend Dževad Karahasan. In Slovenia, he follows the life paths of two brave women: a legendary lawyer who took the liberty to live sometimes as a woman and sometimes as a man, and a growth-restricted writer whose books were read all over the world, but died in absolute destitution in the city which now celebrates her. And in this book's third travel story, you will learn why Bruck an der Mur in Upper Styria and Beloianisz in the Hungarian Puszta are actually located in the Peloponnese, and why Austria also has a Greek history.



Sales

Selected backlist:

A Ship Made of Stone: Croatia (Fraktura), Greece (Vakxikon), Serbia (Akademska)



Karl-Markus Gauß
**Love Always
Comes Too Late**
Three Journeys
144 pages
February 2026

»Lisz Hirn brings philosophy out into public view – unflinchingly, accessibly, and with crystal clarity.«

Barbara Bleisch



Lisz Hirn

was born in 1984, and studied philosophy and singing in Graz, Paris, Vienna and Kathmandu. She works as a journalist and philosopher in youth and adult education, including the Philosophical Practice course at the University of Vienna. Articles in various Austrian media. Her most recent publications are *Wer braucht Superhelden* (2020), *Macht Politik böse?* (2022) and *Der überschätzte Mensch. Anthropologie der Verletzlichkeit* (2023) published by Zsolnay.

- **Authoritarian movements are in the ascendant all over the world**
- **A wholesale rejection of authority is not enough. We must understand who we must obey when**

LISZ HIRN

While some people are celebrating the triumphant comeback of various forms of authoritarianism, others are concerned about the masses' increasing deference to authority. From Sigmund Freud to Erich Fromm, from Hannah Arendt to Slavoj Žižek: philosophy, psychoanalysis and politics have always wondered about the nature of authority and how it is legitimised. But what does the word »authoritarian« actually mean? Can we make a distinction between different forms of authoritarianism? Who do we acknowledge as an authority, and to whom do we willingly subject ourselves? Is there a right to obey or a duty to resist? If it is true that authority is necessary, then rejecting it wholesale is not enough. We must understand who we must obey when.



Sales

All rights available

Lisz Hirn

Obedience

On the Nature of Authority

176 pages

September 2026



»Thanks to Walter Mayr's sensitivity to both his protagonists and subject matter, his stories themselves become genuine events.« **Dirk Kurbjuweit**

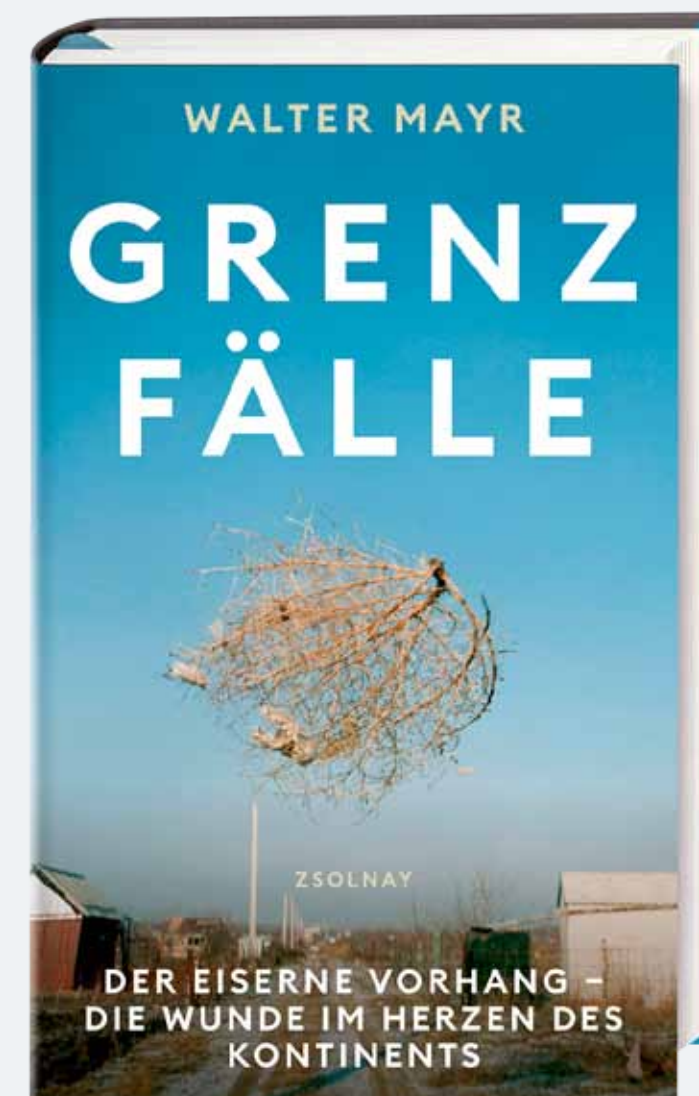
Walter Mayr

was born in Aichach in Bavaria in 1960, and has worked for the Spiegel since 1990. He has reported on the wars that followed the collapse of former Yugoslavia, as well as on hotspots worldwide, and was in charge of the magazine's offices in Vienna, Moscow and Rome. He has received numerous awards, including the Henri-Nannen-Preis and the Deutscher Reporterpreis. He wrote his book *Minenfeld Balkan – Der unruhige Hinterhof Europas* in 2009, together with Olaf Ihlau.

- **Nine attempts to escape along the Iron Curtain, from Norway to Georgia**
- **A journey that reveals the long-term consequences of the fall of the Iron Curtain after 1989**

WALTER MAYR

From the North of Norway through the German-Czech border all the way to the South Caucasus: from 1945, the Iron Curtain divided up the continent of Europe – into a western, democratically-inclined half, and the Soviet-dominated eastern hemisphere. Thousands lost their lives attempting to get over this »heavily-guarded monster« at the heart of the continent. Based on the example of nine countries and of people who met their deaths on this border between two systems, Spiegel reporter Walter Mayr retraces the rifts that run through Europe. These close-ups combine together to form a picture that points like a portent to our present-day crises.



Sales

All rights available

Walter Mayr

Borderline Cases

The Iron Curtain –
The Wound at the
Heart of a Continent

384 pages

August 2026