

A scenic landscape featuring a winding road that curves through a field of tall grasses towards a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue, and the overall scene is bathed in a soft, natural light. The road is the central focus, leading the viewer's eye from the foreground into the distance.

# AUFBAU

FICTION RIGHTS GUIDE

AUTUMN 2024



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## Only Hengameh Yaghoobifarah writes so fluidly, genuinely, and wittily about queer desire and identity

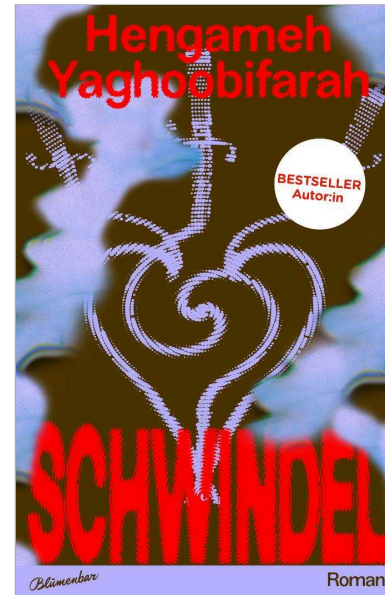
Friday evening, a high-rise building, 15th floor. Ava's date with Robin is going perfectly – until the doorbell rings and Ava's other lovers are at the door. Delia has left their cell phone in Ava's bedroom and wants to pick it up. Silvia, on the other hand, wants to confront Ava, because she's been ghosted for a week – now she finally wants to know what's really going on. The three of them meet for the first time in Ava's hallway. They knew about each other, but Ava only ever revealed the negative qualities of the other lovers to them.

Overwhelmed, Ava flees to the roof of the high-rise, and the others run after her. In their haste, no one brings keys or a cell phone – they wouldn't know who to call anyway, as the neighbors in the apartment complex are practically anonymous. So a date for two turns into a joint mission for four. The goal: to get down. But the way there is paved with conflict and revelations.

**Hengameh Yaghoobifarah** lives and works in Berlin. They have been a member of the editorial team at *Missy Magazine* since 2014. Between 2016 and 2022, their column *Habitus* appeared in *taz*. Together with Fatma Aydemir, Hengameh Yaghoobifarah published the highly-acclaimed essay collection *Your Homeland is Our Nightmare* in 2019. Yaghoobifarah's successful debut novel, *Ministry of Dreams*, was published in 2021.

"Hengameh Yaghoobifarah is a wonder of a writer." DIE ZEIT

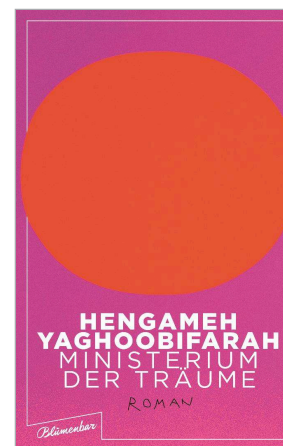
"Nobody writes about queers as excitingly, cleverly and incredibly funny as Hengameh Yaghoobifarah. You literally inhale this novel, learn something like a new language and laugh your head off. Every page is so deliciously full of life." DANIEL SCHREIBER



Hengameh Yaghoobifarah  
**Dizzy**  
Fiction. Ca. 240 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2024, September

**Recommended by New Books in German**

English sample translation available



Hengameh Yaghoobifarah  
**Ministry of Dreams**  
Fiction. 384 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2021, February

English sample translation available

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Czech Republic, Netherlands

## A novel told as swiftly as Tarantino's *Kill Bill*

In Cemile Sahin's new novel *Commando Ajax*, paintings that have been missing since a sensational art heist in Boston in 1990 mysteriously reappear, including precious works by old masters such as Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Degas. By chance, they end up in the hands of Ali Hüseyin Korkmaz, a roofer and gifted amateur painter. Ali Hüseyin fled Dêrsim, Kurdistan, with his siblings after their home went up in flames. Having barely arrived in exile in Rotterdam, nothing is the same for the family after a sniper at the youngest brother's wedding settles an old score and destroys a life. What follows is a chain of events that will land one of the brothers in prison and turn their sister Fatma into a premier cleaning lady. And Ali Hüseyin will prove his talent as a painter for a spectacular painting swap.

In the style of a fast-paced action film with quick cuts, Cemile Sahin brings together the story of a Kurdish family in exile with the jet-set lifestyle of the international art world and tells of betrayal, love, and friendship funnily, wittily, and coolly – as freshly and in tune with the times as only she can.

**Cemile Sahin** is an author and artist and was born in Wiesbaden in 1990. She studied in London and Berlin and is the recipient of the *ars viva* prize for Visual Arts. *Taxi* was her debut novel, *All Dogs Die* her second and *Commando Ajax* her third. Cemile Sahin has been awarded the Alfred Döblin Medal for her writing. She lives in Berlin.

“An artist everyone will soon be talking about.” CAROLIN WÜRFEL



Cemile Sahin  
**Commando Ajax**  
Fiction. Ca. 352 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2024, September



Cemile Sahin  
**All Dogs Die**  
Fiction. 239 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2020, September  
Full English translation available



## About loss and being lost, about the search for one's own sense of order

The boy smiles when he is afraid. He falls in love because he is sad. He is often silent, and then erupts with too much talking. He holds himself tightly together, even as an adolescent and adult.

When his father dies in an accident, the narrator's idyllic Waldorf childhood comes to an abrupt end. Now disorder reigns, also in himself, in his mind and body. He hides his grief and fear, but it will never disappear. His mother retreats, into herself and into the last corners of the increasingly chaotic house. He constantly stays with friends and develops a gifted sense of what he must do in order to be liked. And that's what he wants. He wants to be loved and admired; he wants to be a writer and belong to the high-flying cultural society of Berlin, where he moves after school. But disorder always remains in the background, growing and taking possession of him. Like a hidden current, the feelings of fear lurk within him, paralyzing him more and more until he can hardly move.

With poetic language, Simon Elson tells a true-to-life story in his debut novel of how the early death of his father drives him into a state of emotional disorder and crisis – in which thinking and feeling become indistinguishable, and he is no longer able to recognize what is good for him.

**Simon Elson**, born in 1980 in Hamburg, writes now and again for *Weltkunst* and *Monopol* in Berlin, but mainly books about art and artists. *Story of Disorder* is his first novel.



Simon Elson  
**Story of Disorder**  
Fiction. 189 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2024, February

**Recommended by New Books in German**

English sample translation available

*"With clear and poetic language, Elson creates an intense imagery."* BÜCHER MAGAZIN

*"In Simon Elson's forthrightly told coming-of-age novel, tenderness and kindness triumph in the end."* MONOPOL

*"Simon Elson's novel tackles an interesting and important topic that affects many people. What happens to a person who experiences trauma? What does anxiety do to you and how do you get past it?"* NDR

*"Spanning three decades, from the early 1980s to the early 2020s, his protagonist's extraordinary childhood and his travails in crazy post-unification Berlin constitute a fascinating life story. Elson's knack for punchy one-liners and for marrying the absurd, the hilarious and the deeply tragic in a single anecdote make Story of Disorder an immensely rewarding read."* NEW BOOKS IN GERMAN

## Frieda's case – soon launched as a major motion picture

St. Gallen, 1904: When young Frieda Keller, sentenced to death, writes her petition for clemency, the nightmare of abuse, an act of desperation and a scandalous trial lie behind her. “That’s what men do to women. They impregnate and kill them”, a friend had explained to Frieda years ago. Little did the two know at the time that this would be Frieda’s fate. She becomes pregnant after being raped. Abandoned by her father, she has to leave the village of Bischofszell, loses her employment, and has no choice but to place the baby in a children’s home. When the boy is no longer allowed to stay there and Frieda is unable to care for him, she sees no other way out than to commit a terrible act.

Michèle Minelli’s novel is based on the historical criminal case in which the dressmaker Frieda Keller was caught up in the machinations of a male-dominated justice system that placed all the blame on the woman and left the perpetrator unpunished.

**Michèle Minelli**, born in Zürich in 1968, is a lecturer in creative writing there. She has made documentary films, and published non-fiction books, a travelogue, and a novel before her magnificent family saga *The Restless* was published in 2012. Her novel *The Lost One* (2015) tells the authentic story of Frieda Keller, who was convicted in a sensational judicial scandal in St. Gallen in 1904. The big screen adaptation of the novel will be released in cinemas in 2024.



Michèle Minelli  
**The Lost One  
 Frieda's Case**  
 Fiction. 440 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, August

**World Premiere of the film adaption  
 in 2025**

English sample translation available

“A compact, grippingly narrated novel.” SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN

“An extraordinarily sensitive storyteller.” LESART

“The novel, which is based on and cites numerous original documents, also utilizes the language of the time as authentically as possible.” ST. GALLER TAGEBLATT

“A testament to the historical era and simultaneously an exciting crime report.”  
 FREIBURGER NACHRICHTEN



**The sea is constant.  
The war seems far away.  
The light lies in the shadows.**

Lisbeth and the warrior have known each other since their training in the Armed Forces. They chose the military because they wanted a body that isn't weak — as if the only way to face the world is with a heart clenched in a fist. Many years have passed since they last saw each other, but they are still drawn to one another. They are women who have experienced violence and commit violence against themselves and those close to them. But Lisbeth and the warrior are also ready to fight against it.

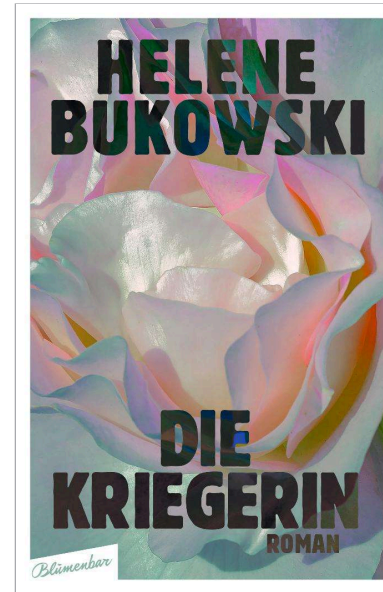
*The Warrior* is a novel about the special friendship between two women whose top priority is to strip themselves of all vulnerability. Helene Bukowski tells of the resulting wounds, the violence, their traces and the trauma – both experienced and inherited.

**Helene Bukowski**, born in Berlin in 1993, once more lives in her city of birth. She studied at the Hildesheim Literature Institute and, in addition to writing, also runs creative writing courses and workshops. Her debut novel *Milk Teeth*, for which she was nominated for various awards, was published in 2019. The novel has been translated into French and English and a film adaptation is in the works.

*"With great narrative elegance and spot-on phrasing, Helene Bukowski depicts a moving story of friendship. The tone is crystal clear and at the same time visually powerful."* NDR KULTUR

*"With sober language and at the same time great tenderness, Helene Bukowski tells of the friendship of two wounded women."* KULTURNEWS

*"The female voice in war has previously been an overlooked topic, but Helene Bukowski elaborates it poignantly in her text."* SR2 KULTURRADIO

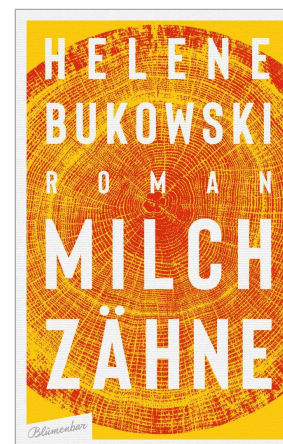


Helene Bukowski  
**The Warrior**  
Fiction. 256 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2022, September

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
UK, France

**Recommended by New Books in German**

English sample translation available



Helene Bukowski  
**Milk Teeth**  
Ca. 256 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2019, March

Full English translation available

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of), UK, Spain, France, USA

## A life-loving photographer and her great love – Gerda Taro and Robert Capa

Paris, 1937. Hundreds of thousands of people follow the coffin of a young woman: Anna Seghers, Egon Erwin Kisch, Pablo Neruda and many others have come to protest against fascism, which cost Gerda Taro her life during the Spanish Civil War.

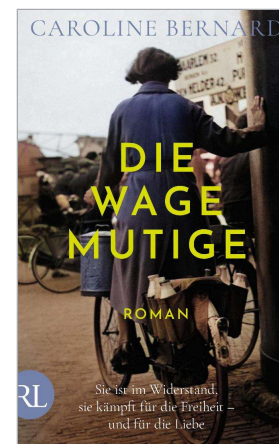
A few years earlier, the charismatic Gerda wishes to become a photographer. She is young, self-confident, full of enthusiasm and has a clear goal in life: she wants to use her images to say something about the world. But it is 1935, and nobody trusts a woman to handle a camera, let alone take photos that shed light on the political situation in Europe. Except for the photographer and Jewish emigrant Robert Capa, who recognizes Gerda's special talent and falls head over heels in love with her. The two become passionate lovers who inspire each other in their work. But when they go to Spain to report on the war against fascism, the moment comes when Gerda decides in favor of a motif and against private happiness.

With empathy and great sensitivity, bestselling author Caroline Bernard tells the story of a great love and a fascinating chapter in photo reportage.

**Caroline Bernard** is the pseudonym of Tania Schlie, a literary scholar who has worked as a freelance author and editor for twenty years. She has previously published eleven novels and about as many non-fiction books on cultural-historical topics. She loves coming up with stories about strong women. Her most successful book *Frida Kahlo and the Colours of Life* topped the bestsellers list for months and was translated into 22 languages.



Caroline Bernard  
**A Woman's Gaze**  
**She Risks Her Life to Change the World**  
Fiction. Ca. 384 pages  
Rütten & Loening. Hardcover  
2024, June



Caroline Bernard  
**Courage Calls**  
**She's Part of the Resistance and She's**  
**Fighting for Freedom – and for Love**  
Fiction. 384 pages  
Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback  
2022, August  
English sample translation available



## A young woman conquers the world of French cuisine

1889: After the death of her father, Marthe grows up with her grandmother on a small farm in the Vosges. Grand-mère teaches her how to bake bread, and her mother, an excellent cook, shows her how to conjure up wonderful dishes from the simplest of ingredients. When her mother gets a job as a chef, she brings Marthe to live with her in Paris. There, Marthe immerses herself in a new world: the metropolis is booming, the Universal Exposition is about to take place, and Gustave Eiffel is constructing a huge tower on the Champs de Mars. Through Florence, the daughter of the family her mother works for, Marthe learns about the life of the Parisian upper class, and gets to know a man who courts her despite all their differences. Vincent and Marthe are worlds apart, and yet he makes her heart race ... Florence also encourages her to pursue her passion, writing, and soon Marthe realizes that she enjoys it just as much as cooking. But will she be able to hold her own in the male-dominated world of French cuisine?

Bestselling author Ulrike Renk narrates the exciting life of Marthe Distel – journalist and founder of the most renowned cooking school Le Cordon Bleu.

**Ulrike Renk**, born in 1967, studied literature and media and lives with her family in Krefeld. She has always been fascinated by family stories, and so she combines reality with fiction in her successful novels. Aufbau Taschenbuch publishes her *Australia Saga*, the *Birds of Passage Saga*, the *Silk Saga*, the great Berlin saga *A Family in Berlin* about the Dehmel family of poets, as well as her numerous historical novels.

*"It is an ode to the taste of freedom and the power of dreams. Every page is a delight that invigorates the senses."* NEUE WELT FÜR DIE FRAU



Ulrike Renk  
**Mademoiselle Marthe and the Kitchen of Freedom**  
 Fiction. 592 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, March



**BEST SELLER**

Ulrike Renk  
**Years of Silk**  
 Fiction. 576 pages  
 2018, December

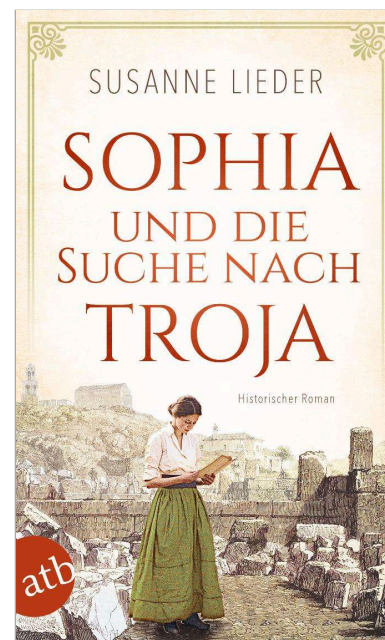
Ulrike Renk  
**Time of Glass**  
 Fiction. 512 pages  
 2019, June

## The story of an incredible adventure and a great love

The end of the 19th century: Ever since he read *The Iliad* as a boy, Heinrich Schliemann has been convinced that it is not just a story. The legendary Troy, which withstood the ten-year Greek siege and finally fell only by trickery, really did exist! Schliemann not only firmly believes in it, he is determined to find the fallen city. To join him in this great adventure he searches for the right woman – whom he finds in Sophia Engastroménos, a Greek woman. Against all odds, a love develops between them. Sophia treasures the fact that Heinrich involves her in everything and that he takes her opinion and advice into careful consideration. She shares his passion for Troy and accompanies him to the excavation sites. Photos depicting Sofia with Priam’s Treasure circulate around the world. Heinrich is celebrated as the discoverer and the success of the excavation, with Sophia’s face at the forefront, becomes a media sensation.

A captivating novel about the wife of the great archaeologist Schliemann and the discovery of the legendary Troy.

**Susanne Lieder** grew up near Bad Oeynhausen and lives with her family south of Bremen. Since 2012 she has been working primarily as a writer, fulfilling her childhood dream. She writes commercial fiction, historical novels and fictionalised biographies.



Susanne Lieder  
**Sophia and the Search for Troy**  
 Fiction. Ca. 352 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2025, January



Susanne Lieder  
**Astrid Lindgren**  
**Her Life is All about Childhood**  
 Fiction. 361 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, October

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Denmark, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Hungary

**BEST  
 SELLER**

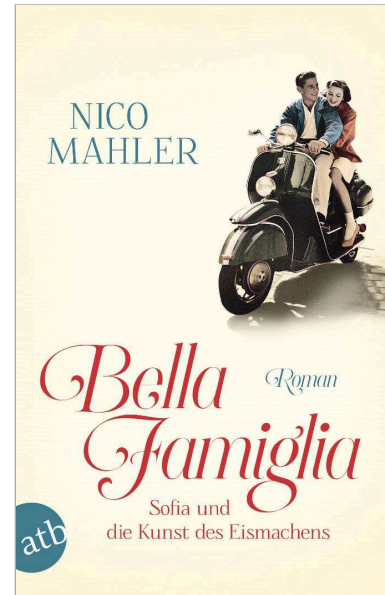


## Gelato D'Amore

Munich in the 1960s: Sofia longs for true love. But she would rather forget the romantic experiences she's had so far. Every Friday in the Bella Italia ice cream parlor, she dreams herself away to the south: Capri, Rimini, Roma. The names alone are promising. But despite being thrifty, Sofia, who works as an educator in a children's home, can't afford such a trip. She is happy just to get a little bit closer to her dream in the ice cream parlor. An ice cream sundae at Bella Italia – a hidden, enchanted world, and a quiet place where a chestnut tree provides shade – is the highlight of her week.

The loner Lorenzo, owner of the parlor, knows that life in Italy can also be rough and full of hardship. For generations, his family has lived in Val di Zoldo, the valley of the ice cream makers. Until one fateful day, after which Lorenzo turned his back on his homeland forever ...

**Nico Mahler**, born in Munich in 1979, studied history and political science and works as a freelance journalist. For years, he spent his summers in Italy. He now satisfies his longing for the south at the traditional ice cream parlor on the first floor of his apartment building. He has always been fascinated by family stories.



Nico Mahler  
**Bella Famiglia**  
**Sofia and the Art of Ice Cream**  
 Fiction. 349 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, July

*A brilliant journey through the history  
of ice cream manufacturing*

## She fights for the lives of vulnerable animals, endangering her own in the process

For 31-year-old Ava, a lifelong dream is coming true: she is to research the endangered mountain gorillas in the Congo. But life in the mountains is hard, and, as a woman, she encounters hostility. Only contact with the apes, who quickly come to trust her, provides her comfort. When poachers become aware of her camp, Ava's life is suddenly in danger. Only with the help of animal photographer Jack does she manage to escape. And the two become closer than they should be, because Jack is married ...

Based on the life of Dian Fossey, the author tells the story of an unconventional woman who flees her conservative life, shaped by the social constraints of the American upper class, and dedicates herself to a mission: to save the endangered mountain gorillas in the Rwandan jungle.

**Claudia Seidel** changed directions after initially training in banking, and studied sociology and comparative literature in Hamburg and Berlin. After many years in management positions in the publishing industry, she is now a freelance author and author coach. For the book *The Animal Researcher* she traveled to Rwanda to experience the settings of the novel first-hand. She lives with her daughter in Hamburg.



Claudia Seidel  
**The Animal Researcher  
Seeking Adventure and Saving  
the Animals of the Wild**

Fiction. 297 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, July

*A sweeping love story,  
set against a fascinating backdrop*

## A courageous and likable heroine – love, power, and intrigue

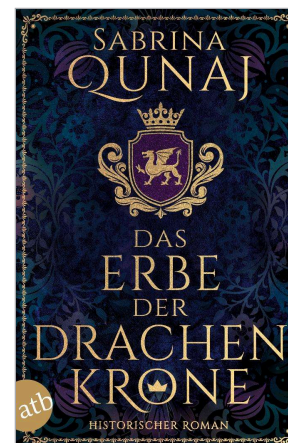
Wales in the 12th and 13th centuries: The princess Gwenllian is used to having to defend her country against invasions. Against the Normans, who are the Welsh's greatest enemy, but also against the English king and his supporters. As the fighting intensifies, she enters into a marriage of convenience with a Welsh warrior in order to strengthen the rebellion and unite Wales. Ednyfed, who bears the severed heads of his enemies on his coat of arms, is not exactly her husband of choice. And Ednyfed himself marries her solely for the sake of her noble bloodline. But their love for their country makes them allies amidst battles and intrigue. In the face of great danger, the two also realize their love for one another. But does it stand a chance as long as there is no peace?

A grand epic set against the breathtaking and picturesque backdrop of Wales.

**Sabrina Qunaj** grew up in a small town in Styria, Austria. After graduating from an academy of economics, she worked as a student coordinator at an international college for tourism before starting a family and making writing her profession. She lives in Styria with her husband and two children.



Sabrina Qunaj  
**The Daughter of the Dragon Crown**  
Historical Fiction. Ca. 608 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, December



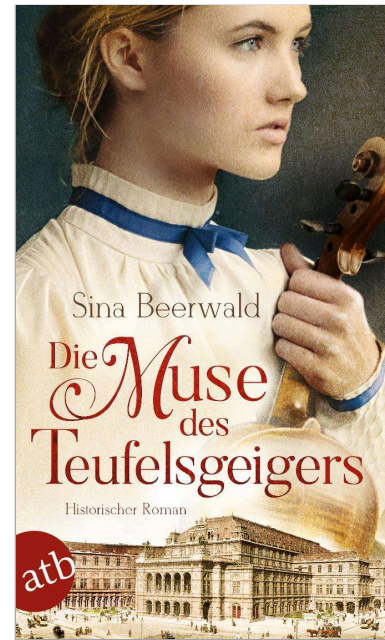
Sabrina Qunaj  
**The Heritage of the Dragon Crown**  
Historical Fiction  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2025, November



## A violin maker, Niccolò Paganini, and a forbidden love

Sophie von Sawicki has mastered the craft of violin making like no other. Since her husband became addicted to alcohol, she has taken on all repair jobs herself – in secret, of course, because running a violin workshop as a woman is not allowed in early 19th century Vienna. She looks after her two children on the side. But then misfortune befalls the family: Paul von Sawicki has amassed huge debts. The only thing that can save them now is a lucrative commission. And suddenly the infamous violin virtuoso Niccolò Paganini appears in front of her workshop. His beloved Guarneri del Gesù needs to be repaired; he urgently needs it for a concert the next day, which has brought the whole city into a frenzy. The Italian is surrounded by rumors that he has made a deal with the devil, so incredible are his playing skills. Sophie, however, recognizes much more in him than a virtuoso – and feels so attracted to the supposed devil's violinist that she cannot resist ...

**Sina Beerwald**, born in Stuttgart in 1977, has made a name for herself with over twenty successful books to date. She has won the NordMordAward and the Samiel Award, and several of her titles have been shortlisted for the LovelyBooks Community Award, the biggest German-language readers' prize. In 2008, she moved to the island of Sylt with two suitcases and lots of ideas stowed in her luggage.



Sina Beerwald  
**The Muse of the Devil's Violinist**  
 Historical Fiction. 446 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, October

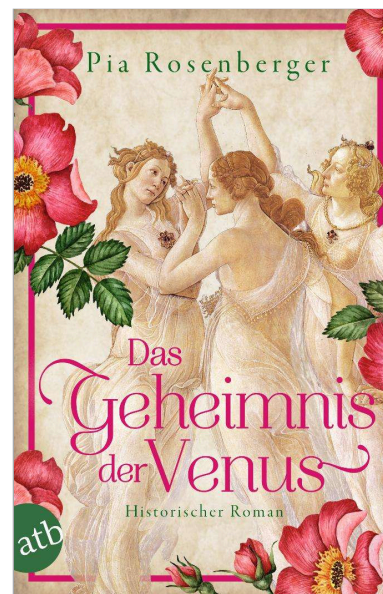
*The captivating story of a young violin maker  
 and her illicit love for the greatest  
 violin virtuoso of his time*

## The fascinating story behind the famous Botticelli painting *Primavera*

Florence, 1482: The young illuminator Mira has been waiting out the days in a convent after a conspiracy against the Medici family. Then Lorenzo de Medici calls her back to Florence to teach the city's four young "princesses" in the palazzo. She also assists the painter Sandro Botticelli with his new painting, *Primavera*: Mira is tasked with drawing sketches of 190 plants and flowers. While working on the painting, she meets the guardsman Riccardo, who makes her heart beat faster against her will – as Mira is meant to marry a cousin of Lorenzo de Medici.

But it is not just love that puzzles Mira: when not only Gianna, the model for "Flora," disappears, but also one of the three Graces is found dead, suddenly all those involved in Botticelli's painting seem to be in danger. However, Mira has no idea that the secret behind this conspiracy leads back to her own unknown origins ...

**Pia Rosenberger** was born near Osnabrück and completed an apprenticeship in hand weaving before going on to study art history, literature and educational science. She has lived with her family in Esslingen for over 20 years and works as an author, journalist, museum educator and city guide. Aufbau Taschenbuch has already published her novels *The Sculptress* (rights sold to Italy and Hungary) and *The Women's Artist* (rights sold to Italy).



Pia Rosenberger  
**The Secret of Venus**  
Historical Fiction. 510 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, July

*A young illuminator amidst  
the breathtaking backdrop  
of Renaissance Florence*

## A woman in a battle between magic and reason

Solveig is a young Viking. Her father, King Harald Fairhair, married her mother in a frenzy of love. After she dies, he believes that his dead wife has put a spell on him and starts to follow Solveig. When she realizes that her father wants to kill her, she dresses in men's clothing and signs up to go on a raid to Ireland with foreign Vikings. The target is Bangor Abbey, but the Norwegians are defeated and Solveig is imprisoned. An Irishman called Dhoire, a druid who deals in mathematics and magic, is held captive with her. Dhoire teaches Solveig his art and predicts the death of a Viking king: Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye. His brother has married her half-sister. On the day the two are to be executed, Solveig manages to escape – and discovers she is pregnant.

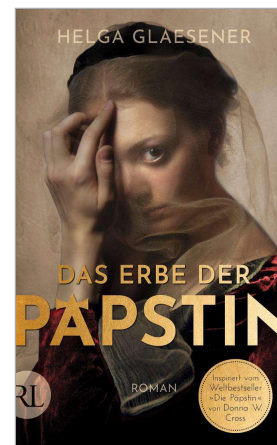
**Helga Glaesener** originally studied mathematics and computer science before deciding to become a freelance author. Her first novel *The Saffron Merchant* was a bestseller. Today she lives in Oldenburg. Her novel *The Legacy of Pope Joan* was published by Aufbau Taschenbuch.

"Thrilling from the first to the very last page" RUHR NACHRICHTEN

"A complex, captivating historical novel based on Donna W. Cross' global bestseller Pope Joan" HÖRZU about *The Legacy of Pope Joan*



Helga Glaesener  
**The Shield-Maiden**  
Fiction. 464 pages  
Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback  
2023, April



Helga Glaesener  
**The Legacy of Pope Joan**  
Fiction. 459 pages  
Rütten & Loening. Hardcover  
2020, September

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
Netherlands, Italy, Portugal



## Head off, heart on: a young computer scientist and the unpredictability of love

Charlie, 29, loves numbers, formulas and codes, and she's pretty tough. As a computer scientist at a university, she also has to be tough to assert herself against the male competition. Then her younger sister announces that she is engaged. And Charlie's world turns upside down: marriage, getting down on one knee, a ring, all the bells and whistles. She wants this too, even though she actually despises these clichés – or does she?

Suddenly she starts questioning everything: her job at the university, where her male colleagues have made her life difficult for years, the overtime which she constantly takes on, and even her long-term boyfriend David – are the two really still living together, or just next to one another? On the search for answers, Charlie works on doing what she as a computer scientist knows best: Collecting data, categorizing, analyzing. But is there an algorithm for love? Then Tobi turns up, who seems to be perfect for her – except for the fact that he is also David's boss. The butterflies in Charlie's stomach do not follow any mathematical rules – and cause her system to crash ...

**Marilena Sommer**, born in 1993, is a cultural scientist and lives in Cologne and sometimes in the U.S. When she's not researching why robots can also be intelligent, she's either at the stadium cheering on the Cologne football club, sorting through her huge bookshelf or fridge magnet collection, or sitting at her desk to write her own books.



Marilena Sommer  
**Love Is a Complicated Phase**

Fiction. 320 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2023, June

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
Spain, Italy

English sample translation available

*Cheeky and feminist, intelligent and funny:  
a rom-com that will have you hooked*

## Chaos, love, and a road trip with alpacas

The chaotic, tattooed Chess has special plans: she wants to open a pet boarding business. The first charges are already waiting for her: two alpacas. But then her brother Peter disappears suddenly. It's completely out of character for him – unlike her, he's the perfect golden boy of the family. Without hesitation, Chess decides to search for him in her old VW van, with her dog Mango and the behaviorally challenged alpaca Ross, who has separation anxiety and likes to let out shrill screeches. As if the car wasn't already full enough, Matthew Brady, Peter's best friend, joins the search party. Of all people, the slick, career-oriented – and way too attractive – lawyer, who wears a suit all day and is an eternal show-off! It doesn't take long until the two butt heads – but sparks begin to fly, too. And suddenly, Chess is no longer sure: does she want to strangle Matt, or does she want to kiss him?

**Melanie Lane** lives and works in the beautiful city of Hamburg. She is enthusiastic, loud, likes to drink vino and detests categorization. As a self-professed feminist, she is committed to issues such as equality and diversity, which can also be found in her books. Her novel *Wild Heart – Where the Ocean Touches the Sky* is already available by More Taschenbuch.



Melanie Lane  
**Running Wild**  
**Love, Chaos and Alpacas**

Fiction. 415 pages  
more. Quality Paperback  
2023, September

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
Czech Republic, Italy

English sample translation available

*Chaotic, charming, and fast-paced –  
a thrilling enemies-to-lovers romance*

## The great love of two legends of music history

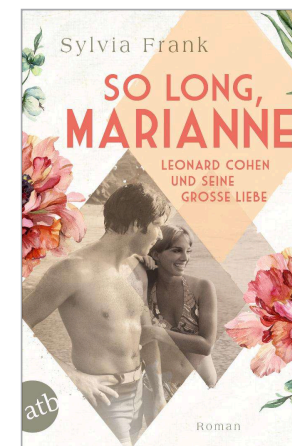
Nashville, 1956: “You and me, we’ll get married one day”, Johnny Cash is certain of this when he meets June Carter. However, it would be a long time before then: Both pursue their careers and observe each other from afar. Eventually they go on tour together and fall madly in love. But both are married and very religious, and social conventions do not permit their love. Country music fans are traditionally considered old-fashioned and conservative. What would they say if they abandoned their families? Moreover, the record companies would act up, fearing a drop in sales. So they both try to be reasonable and resist their love. But they don’t succeed. June processes her feelings with the lyrics of *Ring of Fire*. When Johnny records the song, it becomes a global hit – and Johnny and June no longer fight against their feelings, but for their love.

A captivating novel about love against all odds and a fascinating insight into the music history of the sixties

**Sylvia Frank** is the pseudonym of a German couple, a successful author duo living on the island of Rügen. Sylvia Vandermeer, born in 1968, is a qualified businesswoman. She also studied Biology, Psychology and Fine Art. Today she works as a freelance author and painter. Frank Meierewert, born in 1967, has a PhD in Ethnology, and has worked as a freelance author since 2008.



Sylvia Frank  
**Ring of Fire**  
**June Carter and Johnny Cash**  
 Fiction. 362 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, August



Sylvia Frank  
**Gala & Dalí**  
**The Inseparables**  
 Fiction. 445 pages  
 2022, February

Sylvia Frank  
**So Long, Marianne**  
**Leonard Cohen and the Love of His Life**  
 Fiction. 428 pages  
 2023, April



## A pair of lovers make design history

Michigan, 1940: 28-year-old Ray Kaiser is studying painting at the Cranbrook Academy of Art when she meets design professor Charles Eames. Together they design a new concept for a chair that wins a competition, but the desired mass production does not occur. In order to fulfill their shared dream of a life together dedicated to the love of design, Charles gets a divorce and moves to LA with Ray. There they open a design office, and in their workshop work on a solution to shape different materials in such a way that their ideas can be realized. What followed was an unprecedented success story: their production technology for plywood, aluminum, and fiberglass made design possible at a low price. Eames furniture shaped the look of the mid-century modern style and became a ubiquitous part of the American public. But while Charles is showered with prizes for their furniture, Ray's achievements were barely recognized ...

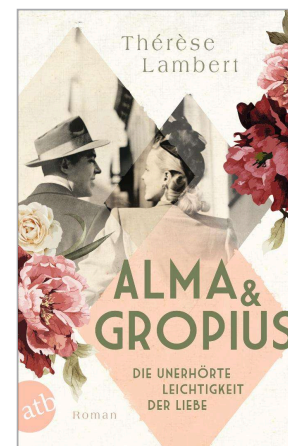
A moving and captivating novel about the inventors of the iconic Eames Chair: Ray and Charles Eames – the most famous designer couple of the 20th century.

**Thérèse Lambert** grew up in Munich and now lives with her family in Berlin. As the sister of four brothers and later a student of forestry, she learned early on how to be a woman among men. This is one of the reasons why she is particularly passionate about strong women such as Lou Andreas-Salomé, Alma Mahler-Werfel and Ray Eames.

*“The details are not the details. They make the design.”* CHARLES EAMES



Thérèse Lambert  
**The Contours of Love**  
 Fiction. 299 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, October



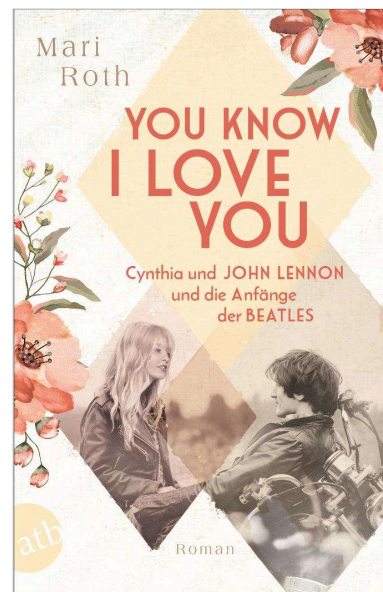
Thérèse Lambert  
**Alma and Gropius – the incredible Lightness of Love**  
 Fiction. 398 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, April

## John and Cynthia: The young love of one of the greatest songwriters of all time

Liverpool, 1957: traumatised by the accidental death of his mother, a young John Lennon rebels against everything – and yet all he wants to do is make music. Then he meets the beautiful but quiet Cynthia, who is immediately captivated by his dark charisma. At her side, John experiences the stability and love he never experienced in his family. Together with Paul McCartney he now writes his first songs, and it is not long before the stage performances of The Silver Beatles become legendary.

Meanwhile, Cynthia’s role as John’s wife is kept secret from the public ... Can she still be herself at John’s side? The novel about John Lennon’s first love and the birth of the Beatles.

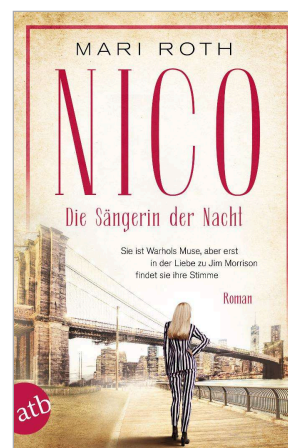
**Mari Roth**, born in 1969, works as a journalist, translator and writer and lives in Berlin. She has been interested in pop music since she was a teenager. One of her first records was the album “Double Fantasy”, which John Lennon recorded with his wife Yoko Ono shortly before his death. But much more than Lennon’s relationship with Yoko Ono, she found The Beatles’ origins particularly fascinating – and the part his almost-forgotten first wife Cynthia played. Roth’s novel *Nico – The Singer of the Night* is available from Aufbau Taschenbuch.



Mari Roth  
**You Know I Love You  
Cynthia and John Lennon  
and the Origins of The Beatles**

Fiction. 351 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2023, September

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Bulgaria



Mari Roth  
**Nico – The Singer of the Night  
She is Warhol’s Muse, but First Finds Her Voice  
when She Falls in Love with Jim Morrison**

Fiction. Ca. 332 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2021, October

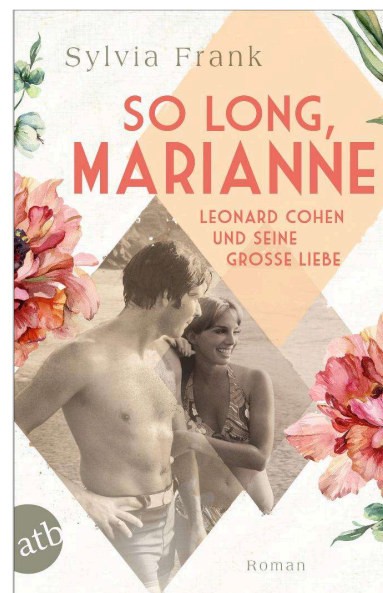
**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Hungary

## Dance me to the end of love – Leonard Cohen and Marianne Ihlen

Hydra, 1960: a young Leonard Cohen has arrived on the Greek island to fulfil a dream: become a famous writer. There he meets Marianne and her husband Axel, and witnesses how violent Axel can be. When the marriage breaks down, Leonard cares for the deeply hurt Marianne, and the two fall in love. When his novel is torn apart by the critics, Leonard falls into a depression. Now it's Marianne's turn to save him: she gives him a guitar, and soon he's celebrating his first hits. But can Marianne cope with life by the side of an international star – and will their relationship survive Leonard's meteoric rise?

The moving story of Leonard Cohen and Marianne Ihlen, without whom songs like *So Long*, *Marianne* and *Bird on the Wire* would never have existed.

**Sylvia Frank** is the pseudonym of a German couple, a successful author duo living on the island of Rügen. Sylvia Vandermeer, born in 1968, is a qualified businesswoman. She also studied Biology, Psychology and Fine Art. Today she works as a freelance author and painter. Frank Meierewert, born in 1967, has a PhD in Ethnology, and has worked as a freelance author since 2008.



Sylvia Frank  
**So Long, Marianne**  
**Leonard Cohen and the Love of His Life**  
 Fiction. 428 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2023, April

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Estonia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary



Sylvia Frank  
**Gala & Dalí**  
**The Inseparables**  
 Fiction. 445 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, February

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Lithuania, Czech Republic, Romania, Estonia, Hungary, Bulgaria

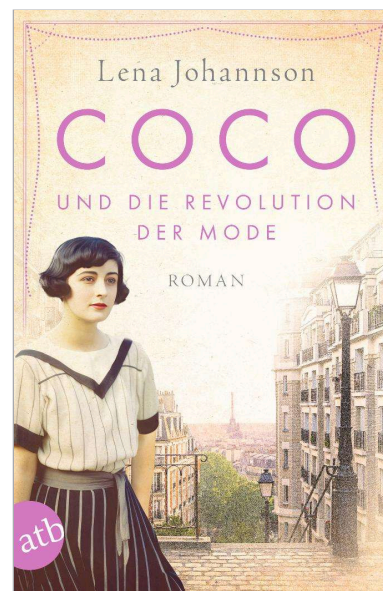


## Coco Chanel – a remarkable woman with an unconditional desire for greatness

Gabrielle dreams of becoming a star. But the reality of her childhood looks very different. When she loses her mother at the age of just 12, she grows up in an orphanage. With the help of her aunt, she discovers her talent for sewing. She soon starts to create elegant pieces from felt caps. But Gabrielle has other ideas: She gives singing a try and becomes “Coco”, yet success does not seem to arrive. Her talent for sewing provides her with a modest income. Then she meets Boy Chapel and with him the love of her life. With his help, she opens up a boutique with her own collections in Paris – and delights fashionistas with her comfortable dresses and elegant designs. Meanwhile, Coco has high hopes for her love for Boy. Is he the man who will not only support her with her dream to revolutionize the fashion world but who will also stand by her as a faithful lover?

Bestselling author Lena Johansson tells the story of how the orphan girl Gabrielle became one of the greatest icons of the 20th century.

**Lena Johansson**, born in 1967 in Reinbek near Hamburg, worked as a bookseller before becoming a travel journalist, combining her two passions for writing and traveling. She lives and works as a freelance author on the Baltic coast.



Lena Johansson  
**Coco and the Revolution of Fashion**  
 Fiction. 383 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, October

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
 Hungary, Estonia

*“Fashion is short lived.  
 Style never is.”  
 Coco Chanel*

## The hidden pages behind the queen of “cozy crime”

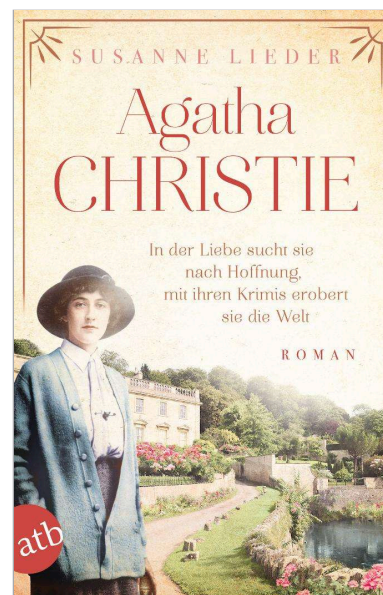
Since her father’s death, 17-year-old Agatha Miller has lived alone with her mother in Torquay, a small harbor town on the south coast of England. The feisty Agatha devours books, and loves the theater, horseback riding, and golf. She writes poetry and is interested in music. Agatha definitely has a mind of her own – rather than entering into a marriage of convenience, she wishes to become a pianist. But her dreams of a career as a musician are dashed, and the love of her life is a long time coming. To escape the daily grind, Agatha begins to write – initially short stories, but later works about a detective called Hercule Poirot. When she meets Archibald Christie, her happiness seems guaranteed. The two quickly get married and travel the world together. Agatha brings her typewriter everywhere she goes – but will her writing finally be recognized?

**Susanne Lieder** grew up near Bad Oeynhausen and lives with her family south of Bremen. Since 2012 she has been working primarily as a writer, fulfilling her childhood dream. She writes commercial fiction, historical novels and fictionalised biographies.

"A must-read!" EKZ BIBLIOTHEKENSERVICE

"An authentic book that pays a much-deserved tribute to the Queen of Crime!" CARPE GUSTA LITERATUR

"A captivating biography that is highly entertaining." STADTRADIO GÖTTINGEN



Susanne Lieder  
**Agatha Christie**  
**She Fights for Her Love and Conquers the World With Her Crime Novels**

Fiction. 383 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, June

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Brazil, Estonia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary



Susanne Lieder  
**Astrid Lindgren**  
**Her Life is All about Childhood**

Fiction. 361 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, October

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Denmark, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Hungary



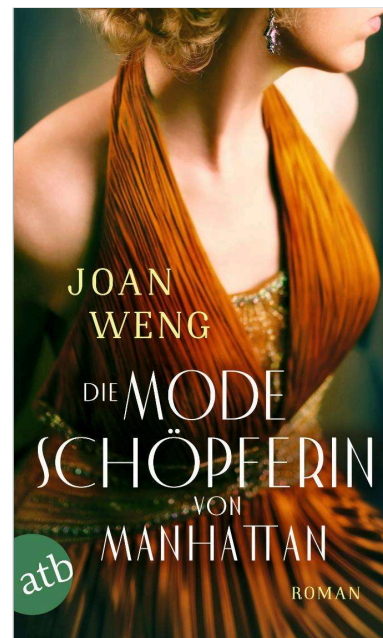
## The haute couture of love

After Valentina fled to New York via Odessa and Paris, she plunged into a turbulent life in New York – the city that never sleeps – in 1926. Her friend and future husband George Schlee introduces her to Greta Garbo and the two women soon recognize a kindred spirit in each other ...

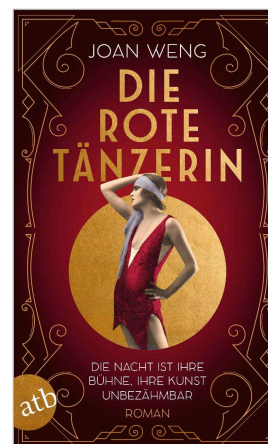
New York, August 1939: Years later, the world is on the brink of collapse, but Manhattan is dancing – in dresses designed by Valentina Schlee, the most exquisite in the world. Only the most powerful, beautiful, and interesting women are allowed to dress in the mysterious fashion designer's creations: Eleanor Roosevelt, Marlene Dietrich, Katharine Hepburn, and above all, the great Greta Garbo. But what do Valentina and Greta have in common and what secret are they both trying to hide?

A multi-faceted novel about a risky love affair in the midst of Hollywood's Golden Age.

**Joan Weng**, born in 1984, studied German and history and wrote her doctorate thesis on the literature of the Weimar Republic. Her novels *The Red Dancer*, *Amalia's Daughters* and *The Café under the Linden Trees* have been published by Aufbau Taschenbuch.



Joan Weng  
**The Fashion Designer from Manhattan**  
 Fiction. 240 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, August



Joan Weng  
**The Red Dancer**  
 Fiction. 253 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, August



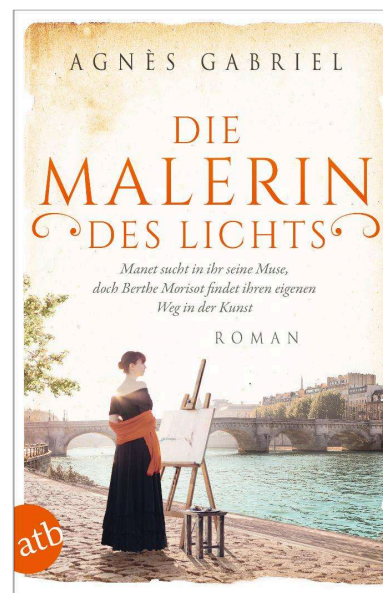
## “Painting is as important to me as breathing.” Berthe Morisot

Paris, 1864: After the young painter Bertha witnessed how her sister had to give up art after marriage, she vows never to marry. She meets the pioneer of modernism Édouard Manet, who finds his muse in the beguilingly pretty woman. He ridicules her artistic ambitions, however – although Berthe’s paintings sometimes fetched higher prices than his. Then she meets his brother Eugène, who falls in love with her and asks for her hand in marriage. But can Berthe accept this love without risking her career as a painter?

Berthe Morisot (1841–1894) was the only woman to co-found the Impressionist painting movement and participated in seven of the eight Impressionist exhibitions with countless works. However, unlike her world-famous colleagues Renoir, Degas, Manet and Monet, who are still regarded today as innovators of painting, she and her art were forgotten after her death. It is only recently that her impressive work has been rediscovered. An exhibition at the Musée d’Orsay in Paris in 2019 demonstrates just how far ahead of many of her fellow painters she was with her bold, abstract brushwork.

A colorful, sumptuous novel about a liberated, thoroughly modern woman who was so much more than Manet’s muse.

**Agnès Gabriel** is the pseudonym of a German author. Trained as an art historian and Romanist, she worked as a scholar for several years before becoming a journalist and starting to write. Through historical novels, which have been translated into numerous languages, she has garnered an international audience: Her novel *Merci, Monsieur Dior* was a great success and has been translated into 11 languages. The author lives in Hamburg.

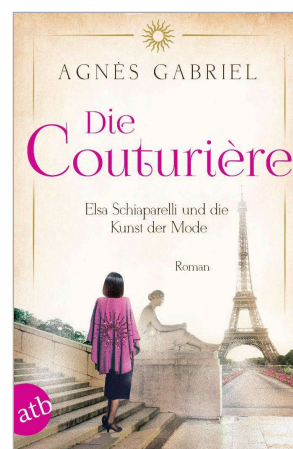


Agnès Gabriel  
**The Painter of Light**  
**Manet Found His Muse in Her, but Berthe Morisot Paves Her Own Way in Art**

370 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, April

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Netherlands

**English sample translation available**



Agnès Gabriel  
**The Couturière**  
**Elsa Schiaparelli and the Art of Fashion**

Fiction. 382 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2023, April

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Poland

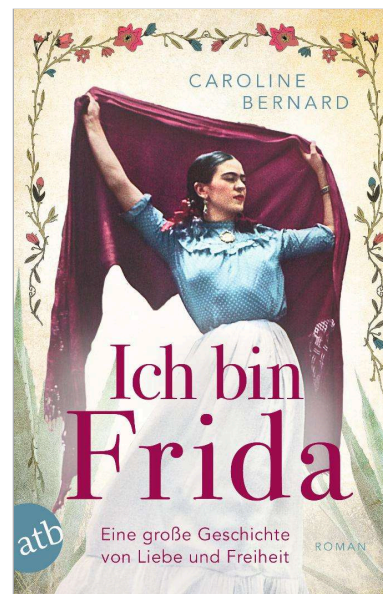
## “I am my own muse!”

Summer of 1938: Frida has reached a turning point in her life. She wants to make a name for herself in the art world – and she has to question her idea of great love. For she is still only seen as the famous Diego Rivera’s wife, not as a painter in her own right. Then she receives an invitation to exhibit her work in New York and Paris. Frida sees a chance for her big breakthrough, but will her paintings be able to meet the expectations of the international art world?

The time has finally come: Frida has her first solo exhibition in New York, and it is a roaring success. She is celebrated in the Manhattan art scene. She then runs into photographer Nickolas Muray again. An *amour fou* develops between them and Frida gets caught up in a whirlwind of emotions. At the same time, her life is revolving more and more around art, which ends up saving her, providing inspiration not only for her life as a woman, but also for love. After leaving the artistic shadow of her husband Diego, who is an incorrigible womanizer, she also wants to follow her feelings when it comes to love. But Nick demands something seemingly impossible from her. Frida has to find out what she really wants – both in art and in love.

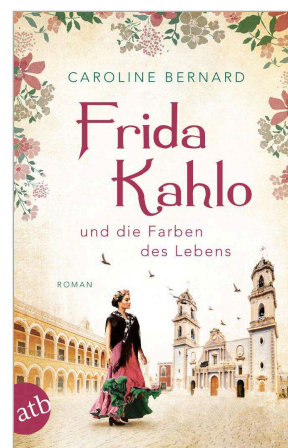
The new novel about Frida Kahlo: With deep knowledge and sensitivity, bestselling author Caroline Bernard shows us a side of this global icon that we have never seen before

**Caroline Bernard** is the pseudonym of Tania Schlie, a literary scholar who has worked as a freelance author and editor for twenty years. She has previously published eleven novels and about as many non-fiction books on cultural-historical topics. She loves coming up with stories about strong women.



Caroline Bernard  
**I am Frida**  
**A Grand Story on Love and Freedom**  
 Fiction. 376 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2023, October

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Denmark, Hungary, Estonia, Slovenia, Serbia,  
 Portugal, Italy  
 English sample translation available



Caroline Bernard  
**Frida Kahlo**  
**and the Colours of Life**  
 Fiction. 400 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2019, September

English sample translation available

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Croatia, Lithuania, Denmark, Slovakia, Portugal, Poland, Turkey,  
 Sweden, Spain, Slovenia, Serbia, Russia, Romania, Netherlands,  
 Latvia, Italy, Hungary, France, Estonia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria,  
 Brazil

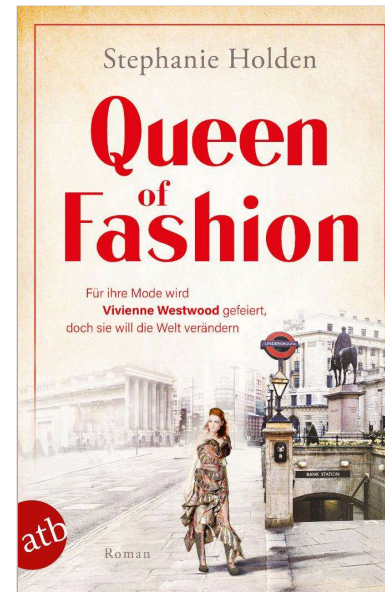


## Designer, Rebel, Icon – Vivienne Westwood

1965: Dreaming of a different life, teacher and mother of two Vivienne Westwood comes to London. The confident young woman soon makes a name for herself as a punk stylist thanks to her sensational and sexy creations. Her fashion revolves around the beauty of provocation and always focuses on women's self-determination. Soon she is not only designing for Hollywood stars like Cameron Diaz – members of the British royal family also start wearing her creations. With her rebellious spirit, however, she not only causes trouble in her industry, but also in love, where she repeatedly fails to live up to traditional gender role expectations. More than any other designer, she is committed to sustainability and environmental protection in her fashion. As a dedicated activist, she manages to combine her creative energy and her urge for freedom.

A novel about a uniquely self-determined woman who knew how to unite her art with the fight for a better world. With Madonna, the Sex Pistols, the British royal family and many more.

**Stephanie Holden**, born in 1973, started taking an interest in punk and new wave from a young age – much to the dismay of her parents. At that time, however, she did not know that this style originated in the creations of one woman: Vivienne Westwood. Later, as a journalist, she researched Westwood and came across an assertive woman who not only made fashion history as one of the most influential fashion designers of her generation alongside the likes of Lagerfeld, Armani and Yves Saint Laurent, but one who also campaigned as an activist for a better, more sustainable world throughout her life. Fascinated by Vivienne Westwood, she decided to write a novel about this unique woman's life.



Stephanie Holden  
**Queen of Fashion**  
**Vivienne Westwood May Be Celebrated for Her Fashion, but She Also Wants to Change the World**

Fiction. 342 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2023, December

English sample translation available

*"An exciting testimony of an interesting and unique woman."* STADTRADIO GÖTTINGEN

*"The novel is definitely worth reading and paints a nuanced picture of an extraordinary, unconventional woman."* MDR THÜRINGEN

*"One feels very close to the designer; a must for all fashion fans and a wonderful and encouraging emancipatory story."* DER EVANGELISCHE BUCHBERATER

*"I'm not terribly interested in beauty. What touches me is someone who understands herself."*  
VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

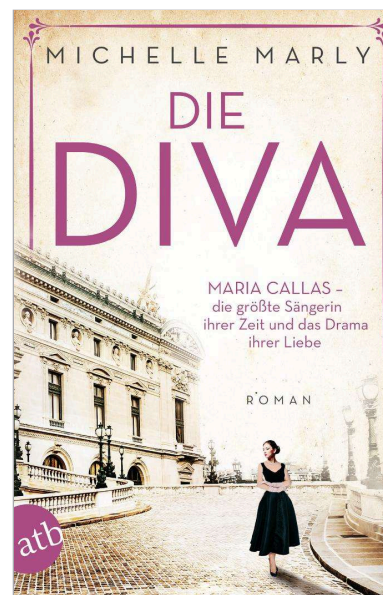


## Callas – la Divina, the divine, the eternal voice of love

The epitome of glamour and charismatic beauty, and an artist who was gifted beyond all measure. At a young age, Maria finds her destiny – singing. With her unique voice, which spans three octaves, and her powerfully expressive performances, she redefines the role of the operatic diva. The world acclaims the passionate, glamorous soprano simply as “Callas”. Yet her voice is unable to withstand the strain of her career for long, and the size of her mythology leaves too little room for the real woman behind it. Then Maria meets Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, the love of her life. He introduces her to the shimmering jet-set lifestyle of the sixties – until he meets another icon, Jackie Kennedy ...

Michelle Marly’s third novel about the glamorous Maria Callas has everything her readers could wish for – a gorgeous and elegant female icon, the jet-set atmosphere of the European swinging sixties, and a tragic love story.

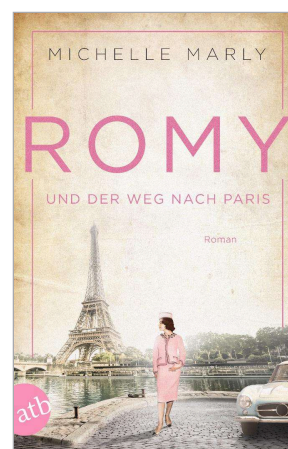
**Michelle Marly** is the pseudonym of a bestselling German author who grew up in the world of cinema and music. For many years she lived in Paris, but today she lives with her husband and dog in Berlin and Munich. Rights to her bestselling novel *Mademoiselle Coco and the Scent of Love* were sold to 22 countries. The novel spent months on the best-seller list, selling more than 320.000 copies.



**BEST SELLER**

Michelle Marly  
**The Diva**  
**Maria Callas –**  
**The Greatest Singer of Her Age**  
 Fiction. 420 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2020, February

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Romania, Slovakia, Lithuania, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of), Portugal, Denmark, Czech Republic, Spain, France, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, Italy, Hungary, Estonia, Bulgaria



**BEST SELLER**

Michelle Marly  
**Romy and the Lights of Paris**  
 Fiction. 415 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2021, March

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Czech Republic, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, France

## A love affair in Skagen

North Jutland, 1884: Ebba leads a quiet, tranquil life, helping her father, the doctor of Skagen. But everything changes when the only survivor of a shipwreck is found washed up on the beach. Arndt is half dead. Only through Ebba's help does he come back to life. When he leaves her hospital room and pays her with a precious golden coin, she realizes that she has fallen in love with him. But who is this Arndt, really? A little later, Ebba hears that a hermit has built himself a hut on the beach, occasionally meeting the painters of the Skagen artists' colony. She visits Arndt in his hut to finally find out his secret – and perhaps even to confess his love.

The grand, colorful novel set against the background of Denmark's famous artists' colony Skagen.

**Wolf Serno** was a successful copywriter and lecturer for many years before he began writing novels. He became an international bestselling author with *The Wandering Surgeon*. He lives with his wife and two dogs in Hamburg and North Jutland. Rütten & Loening has already published his successful family saga *Große Elbstraße 7*.



Wolf Serno  
**Times of Light**  
**The Encounter by the Sea**  
 Fiction. Ca. 400 pages  
 Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback  
 2024, November



Wolf Serno  
**Große Elbstraße 7**  
**The Fate of a Family**  
 Fiction. 475 pages  
 2021, April

Wolf Serno  
**Große Elbstraße 7**  
**Love in Dark Times**  
 Fiction. 552 pages  
 2022, September

## The midwife of a new era

Maria is just finishing her training as a midwife in Munich when she receives a letter from her childhood friend Max asking her to return to her home village to work as a midwife. Maria is torn. After all, as an illegitimate orphan, she was more tolerated than she was welcome there and has some less than fond memories of the idyllic village in Upper Bavaria. At the same time, she sees it as her duty to help the pregnant women there, some of whom are falling fatally ill as a result of the old-fashioned practices of the local midwife, Alma. However, Alma adamantly refuses to give way to the young, modern midwife. And then there is Max. Her best friend from childhood is now a self-confident and attractive young man who is expecting his first child with his wife. Maria knows that it is wrong to be attracted to a married man – and yet her heart starts beating faster every time she sees him. Max seems to feel the same way.

A touching story about tradition, courage, and female solidarity.

**Linda Winterberg** is the pseudonym of Nicole Steyer, a successful author of historical novels. She lives with her husband and their two daughters in the Taunus. Aufbau has already published numerous successful titles of hers, as well as the wonderful *Vineyard Saga*. Now the author is devoting herself to a project close to her heart: telling the story of a midwife from her own homeland.



Linda Winterberg  
**The Mountain Midwife**  
**Women's Hope**  
 Fiction. 410 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, September



Linda Winterberg  
**The Mountain Midwife**  
**Days of Love**  
 Fiction. Ca. 352 pages  
 2025, May

Linda Winterberg  
**The Mountain Midwife**  
**Time of the Children**  
 Fiction  
 2025, November



## The Cartier saga - glamorous and with lots of Parisian flair

After turbulent times, a new era dawned for Parisian jewelers in the Second French Empire under the rule of Napoleon III. Louis-François and Antoinette Cartier ventured to reopen their jewelry store near the prestigious Palais Royal. Due to their excellent quality and in particular to Antoinette's exceptional customer service, their shop soon becomes an exclusive destination, and the business flourishes. Fine ladies purchase jewelry, silver tea services, bronze statuettes, ivory ornaments, pocket watches, and amethyst bracelets. In the evenings, when the store is closed and the children are asleep, Antoinette tirelessly arranges the displays, appraises pieces of jewelry, and increasingly becomes an irreplaceable business partner for her husband. When the jewelry-loving empress herself places an order with the Cartiers, a dream comes true: they become purveyors to the imperial court.

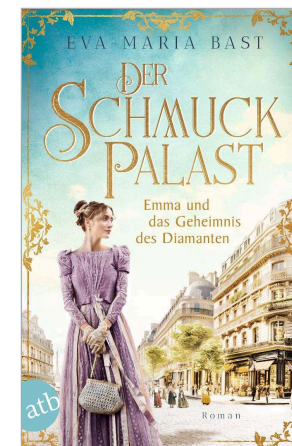
A gripping family story which captures the splendor of an era, inspired by the success story of the Cartier jewelry dynasty.

**Eva-Maria Bast** is a journalist, the CEO of Bast Media GmbH and the author of numerous non-fiction books, crime novels and contemporary titles. She has been awarded various prizes, including the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's German Local Journalism Prize, in the History category. As one half of the authorial duo Charlotte Jacobi, she has written several books including the *SPIEGEL*-bestselling *The Douglas Sisters*. She lives on Lake Constance and in Würzburg.



Eva-Maria Bast  
**The Jewelry Palace**  
**Antoinette and the Glittering of Gems**  
 Fiction. 403 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, December

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Hungary



Eva-Maria Bast  
**The Jewelry Palace**  
**Camille and the Splendor of Gold**  
 Fiction. Ca. 400 pages  
 2025, March

Eva-Maria Bast  
**The Jewelry Palace**  
**Emma and the Secret of the Diamond**  
 Fiction. Ca. 400 pages  
 2025, August

## An invention that revolutionized the everyday lives of women – the washing machine

East Westphalia, 1896: Katharina grows up in modest circumstances on a farm. She is an only child, and must help on her parents' farm even as a young woman. Although the farm runs well, she toils from dawn to dusk and envies her friends of the same age, who live in middle-class circumstances and have the leisure of free time. Katharina bears her fate bravely, but she dreams of a carefree life in the city.

When she falls in love with Carl, a technical enthusiast who is developing a milk centrifuge in his workshop, Katharina is the first to recognize the potential of his invention. But Katharina and Carl have to fight – for their happiness and for the success of their small business.

The start of a thrilling saga about the invention of the washing machine – based on the success story of a German family business.

**Susanne von Berg** is the pseudonym of author Andreas Schmidt, whose numerous published crime novels have attracted a large readership throughout Germany over the years. Andreas Schmidt lives and works as a freelance author and journalist in his home town of Wuppertal. The first volumes of the exciting department store saga *The Department Store – A Time of Yearning* and *The Department Store – A Time of Wishing* are published by Aufbau Taschenbuch.



Susanne von Berg  
**The Time of Women  
 A Great Invention**  
 Fiction. 413 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, May



Susanne von Berg  
**The Time of Women  
 The Future's Promise**  
 Fiction. 367 pages  
 2024, August

Susanne von Berg  
**The Time of Women  
 The Years of Emergence**  
 Fiction. Ca. 302 pages  
 2024, November

## She is in love with a Greek god, but freedom is her purpose

As an Amazon, Otrere learns to fight and ride at an early age. After the death of her father, she becomes ruler of the Scythians who roam the steppes north of the Black Sea. She strives to preserve her people's free way of life – especially against the archaic male world of the Greeks. Otrere's ideals are put to the test when she meets the Greek god Ares. Against her better judgement, she gets involved with him because he promises peaceful coexistence between the two peoples. But then she faces the greatest challenge any woman could ever face ...

The world of the Amazons – told in a fresh, modern and feminist way. The first novel in a series about the most exciting warrior dynasty in Greek mythology.

**Julie Peters**, born in 1979, worked as a bookseller and studied history before dedicating herself to writing full-time. She lives with her family in North Rhine-Westphalia.

### Praise from Readers:

*"The moving story of a strong woman – feminist, emotional, historically highly interesting."*

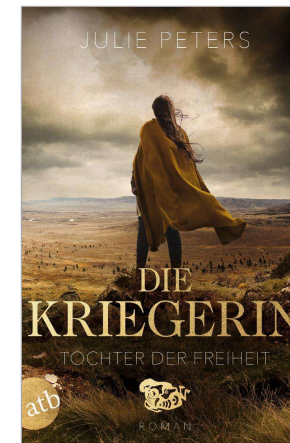
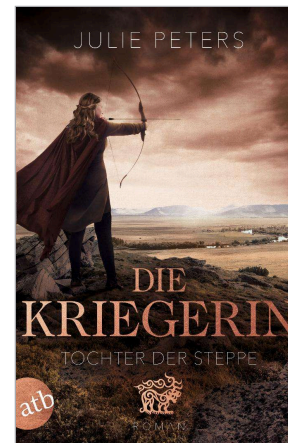
*"I recommend this book not only to all those who are fond of Greek mythology – it has much more to offer than just the story of Otrere."*

*"A MUST for fans of Greek mythology and strong women!"*



Julie Peters  
**The Warriress**  
**Daughter of the Amazons**  
 443 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, January

English sample translation available



Julie Peters  
**The Warrior**  
**Daughter of the Steppe**  
 Fiction. Ca. 415 pages  
 2024, July

Julie Peters  
**The Warrior**  
**Daughter of Freedom**  
 Fiction. Ca. 448 pages  
 2025, January

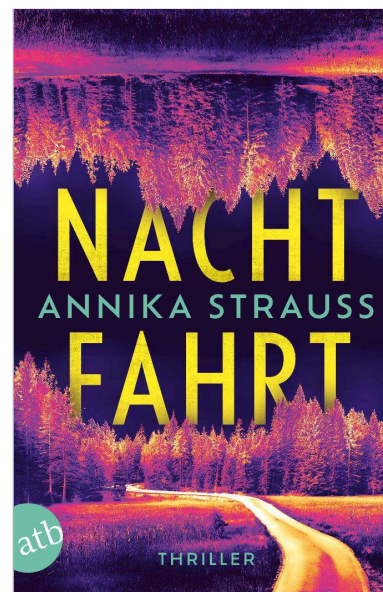


## How can you win a murderous game without knowing the rules?

26-year-old Katharina Holten's father dies suddenly in a tragic accident: a huge shock for Katharina. Not only does she have to return home and take charge of her father's driving school, she is also confronted with the event from years before that completely turned her life upside down. A few years ago, Katharina – traumatized by an incident during a night drive – was forced to give up not only her job as a driving instructor, but also her relationship. Now she returns to the scene of this terrible incident. Her father's driving school needs someone to take over and her niece Ronja, who lived with her grandfather as an orphan, needs someone to look after her. But then Ronja is kidnapped. If Katharina doesn't manage to find out what this has to do with her family's history within 48 hours, the young girl will die. Katharina must do everything in her power to win a game – the rules of which she doesn't know. A breathless race against time begins ...

A gripping psychological thriller about a deadly family secret.

**Annika Strauss**, born in 1984, attended a drama school in Stuttgart and studied rhetoric and German studies. She has acted in more than thirty film productions and has also written her own screenplays. In addition to writing, she works as an editor at SWR. *Night Drive* is her debut.



Annika Strauss  
**Night Drive**  
 Thriller. 387 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, September  
 English sample translation available

*"I couldn't stop reading – fascinating characters, an unusual setting, and some wicked cliffhangers!"* IVAR LEON MENGER

## A gripping psychological thriller about a concealed murder

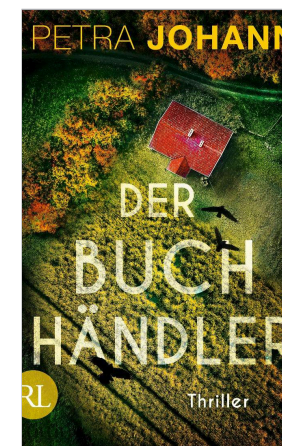
Until half an hour ago, Priska thought her life was perfect. Great job, great husband, great house on Lake Plön, and excitedly anticipating a long weekend with her half-brother Moritz and his new girlfriend Anna. But now Priska is standing on the jetty that belongs to her lakehouse, gazing into the clear water. A man is lying at the body of the lake, he is dead, and it is her fault. The guests are already knocking at the door. But what should she do with the coat the dead man was wearing? She decides to cover everything up – and so the misfortune takes its course ...

A profound, masterfully composed psychological thriller about two women: One wants to keep a secret by any means necessary, the other just wants to get to know her boyfriend's sister – until she begins to suspect that she might be a murderer. A highly suspenseful, psychologically sensitive novel about how a life can be turned upside down in a matter of seconds – with unforeseen consequences. Petra Johann writes poignantly about the dark depths of a family.

**Petra Johann**, born in 1971, grew up in the Ruhr region and now lives in Bavaria. She has a PhD in mathematics and worked in the software industry for several years before finding her true vocation – killing people, even if only on paper.



Petra Johann  
**The Jetty**  
 Thriller. 399 pages  
 Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback  
 2024, September



Petra Johann  
**Sisters**  
 Crime Fiction. 410 pages  
 2023, May

Petra Johann  
**The Bookseller**  
 Thriller. 431 pages  
 2022, March

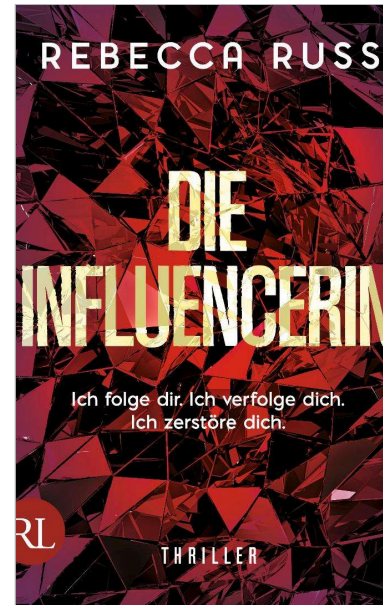
## We see you — we're following you

At the height of her online career, lifestyle and fitness influencer Sarah Rode loses everything she has worked for over the years. The online world blames her for the death of a follower. After a barrage of hate, Sarah deletes all her social media apps and hides away in her house. But the hate soon seeps beyond the boundaries of the online communities to her doorstep. She feels threatened and stalked. Then a new Instagram account appears in Sarah's name. Who is hiding behind the fake account? How is it possible that the owner seems to know her personal secrets? In a breathless frenzy, Sarah comes closer and closer to the truth ...

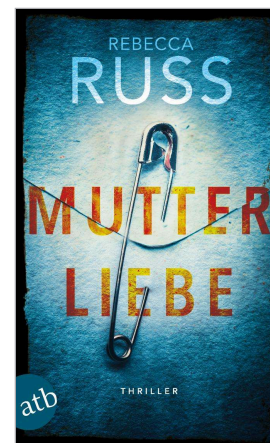
A highly suspenseful thriller about the chasms of the social media world and the dark side of being an influencer.

**Rebecca Russ** was born in Salzburg in 1991, where she still lives today with her husband surrounded by mountains and lakes. In addition to writing books, she is also passionate about designing them and works as a freelance cover designer. She enjoys spending her free time in nature, hiking or sailing. Her books published by Aufbau Taschenbuch so far include *The First Woman* and *Motherly Love*.

"A gripping, very topical thriller" NIEDERBAYERN TV



Rebecca Russ  
**The Influencer**  
Thriller. 288 pages  
Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback  
2024, March



Rebecca Russ  
**Motherly Love**  
Thriller. 287 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2022, August



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