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CONTENT

MEMOIR

Rüdiger von Fritsch 3
Endgame 1974

Anja Reich 4
Simone

POLITICS

Ali Fathollah-Nejad 5
**Iran – How the West Betrays
its Values and Interests**

Sabine Adler 6
What Will Become of Russia?

Florian Bieber 7
The Balkan Tinderbox

POPULAR SCIENCE

Ruth Grützbauch 8
The Invisible Celestial Year

Christian Jakob 9
End Times

HISTORY

Hanno Hochmuth 10
**Berlin – The Rome
of Modern History**

Peter Wensierski 11
Paradise Station

(POP)CULTURE & SOCIETY

Mara Delius, Marc Reichwein 12
**111 Action Scenes
from World Literature**

Katja Eichinger 13
The Big Blue

Burmeister & Lange 14
Depeche Mode: Live

Arno Lücker 15
250 Composers

PLEASE CONTACT:

Inka Ihmels (she/her)
Foreign Rights Manager
i.ihmels@aufbau-verlage.de

A dramatic piece of modern history – brought to life with authentic and relatable storytelling

Germany, 1974: the country has been divided for almost thirty years and in 1961, with the construction of the Berlin Wall, the "Iron Curtain" between the GDR and West Germany closed for good. Escaping from the GDR is more difficult than ever ... And yet the newspapers are full of reports about those who tried to leave anyway – and ended up failing. The headlines bear witness to the severe sentences imposed on GDR refugees and escape helpers. Exactly 50 years ago, the former ambassador in Warsaw and Moscow, Rüdiger von Fritsch, was an escape agent, too, helping his cousin Thomas and two of his friends to flee the GDR. Together with his brother Burkhard, he had meticulously prepared the journey across the Balkans over many months – and had become a decent passport forger in the process. On July 7, 1974, the World Cup final takes place in Munich, the perfect distraction for the long-planned escape to the West ... But will they succeed?

In his most personal book, the bestselling author tells of a time when nothing indicated a reunification between East and West. Tense German-German relations, an escalating Cyprus crisis and impending war between Türkiye and Greece are the backdrop to this dramatic piece of contemporary German and European history.

Rüdiger von Fritsch, born in 1953, worked on the EU's eastward expansion as a negotiator in Brussels. He was also head of the policy planning staff of the Federal President and Vice President of the Federal Intelligence Service. From 2010 to 2014, he was Germany's ambassador in Warsaw and from 2014 to 2019 ambassador in Moscow. His books *The Russian Way*, *Turning Point* and *A World in Turmoil* were *SPIEGEL* bestsellers.



Rüdiger von Fritsch
Endgame 1974
An Escape in Germany
Memoir. 249 pages
Aufbau. Hardcover
2024, June

English sample translation available

"I have rarely read a book that succeeds as well as this one in embedding an individual case, which is already thrilling enough on its own, in a grand historical panorama." HEINRICH AUGUST WINKLER

"This book reads like a crime novel" GMÜNDER TAGESPOST

"Three high school graduates from the GDR, Thomas von Fritsch, Thomas Röthig and Hans-Bernd Herzog, aged 19 to 21, were thoroughly fed up with socialism. And they wanted to break free from the dictatorship. This was exactly 50 years ago today. The book is closely linked to the 1974 Football World Cup, which makes it highly topical, as the crucial border crossing was planned to take place during the final match. However, things turned out differently. Reading how the escape succeeded despite everything is as exciting as a thriller." DIE TAGESPOST

**"The day before she died, Simone called me.
I remember it very well because I had no time."**

Berlin in the mid-eighties. Two young women growing up in the East of the city. Two friends partying and travelling and falling in love. Then the wall comes down and their lives change at breakneck speed. Simone travels the world; Anja has a baby, gets married, starts to work. They drift apart, but never lose sight of one another – until the day when Simone goes forever, and Anja is left behind.

Who was Simone? How can someone be so in love with life and yet end up being broken by it? In her search for answers, the author travels back in time – to her own past and that of her friend. She talks to family, friends and experts; reads letters, diaries and other documents. The result is a book of personal detective work that is both moving and insightful. A story of an extraordinary friendship between two women in a time of upheaval.

Anja Reich-Osang is a Berlin-born author and journalist who has written for the *Berliner Zeitung* since 1996, working as New York correspondent from 2001 until 2006 and Tel Aviv correspondent from 2018 until 2020. She has been awarded the German Reporter Prize and the Theodor Wolff Prize for her journalism. Her latest book to be published by Aufbau was *Swapping Homelands: A Year Between Berlin and Tel Aviv*, co-authored with Yael Nachshon Levin. She lives in Berlin.



Anja Reich
Simone
 Memoir. 304 pages
 Aufbau. Hardcover
 2023, August
 English sample translation available

"A heartbreaking and deeply personal story." DIE ZEIT

„A portrait of society during and after the years of the German reunification” LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG

“A very personal book with journalistic elements [...] both the time before and after the fall of the Wall [...] come alive once again.” MÄRKISCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

"Simone, a sensitive and skillful mixture of personal memoir and investigation, is a remarkable work by the award-winning journalist, leaving the reader increasingly breathless and indeed aghast." DER TAGESSPIEGEL

A way to ensure security in the Middle East

Iran poses a challenge to world politics. The West has looked the other way for far too long and instead celebrated a nuclear agreement that strengthened the mullahs' regime. Iran's missile program was ignored, as were the disastrous human rights situation and the massive regional political ambitions of the "Axis of Resistance". Even when a revolutionary process began in Iran, nothing changed in the West's strategic short-sightedness.

Ali Fathollah-Nejad, one of Germany's most sought-after Iran experts, shows how Western policy is to blame for Tehran's unchecked quest for hegemony and the escalation in the Middle East. And he outlines the cornerstones of an Iran policy that betrays neither the values of the West nor its interests – and thus not only strengthens the democratic movement, but also makes a lasting contribution to regional security.

Ali Fathollah-Nejad is the Director of the Center for Middle East and Global Order (CMEG), which conducts research on a foreign policy that reconciles values and interests. The German-Iranian political scientist, who earned his doctorate in London, works on the topics of Middle East and Western foreign policy. Fathollah-Nejad is the author of the highly-praised book *Iran in an Emerging New World Order*. He is currently very active on radio and television with his assessments and analyses of Iran, including for *Tagesthemen*, *ZDF heute-journal* and *Deutschlandfunk*. He coined the term "revolutionary process," which has become astonishingly widespread and has since been quoted many times.



Ali Fathollah-Nejad
**Iran – How the West betrays
its Values and Interests**

Non-Fiction. Ca. 256 pages
Aufbau. Quality Paperback
2025, January

“Ali Fathollah-Nejad is broaching the painful subject of Western Iran policy!” NATALIE AMIRI

“One of the few people with a thorough and forward-looking understanding of Iran, which goes beyond the headlines.” FLORENCE GAUB

Russia's wavering power structure

Sabine Adler witnessed Putin's inauguration in 1999 as a correspondent in Moscow – and how the new Kremlin chief waged a cruel war in Chechnya while the West welcomed him as a potential partner. Putin is currently waging war again, he has passed his peak as head of state, and his country is largely isolated. Censorship and repression have been on the rise in Russia for years. Few people know the true state of Russian society and its leadership, because information on the subject is systematically oppressed.

The Deutschlandfunk expert on Eastern Europe has years of insight into Putin's dictatorial state, more than almost anyone else. Is the Kremlin leader's power on the wane? Who are the new political, military, and economic players? What do Russians think of their country? Is there reason for hope, or is the nation drifting into the abyss?

Sabine Adler takes a look at one of the most influential, but also most unscrupulous global players, and assesses current developments in Russia and Eastern Europe as a critical reporter for a large audience.

Sabine Adler is a long-standing expert on Eastern Europe at *Deutschlandfunk*. She reported from Moscow for many years, was head of the capital city studio in Berlin and correspondent in the Warsaw studio with a focus on Poland, Belarus, the Baltic countries, and Ukraine. During the events of the Maidan Uprising, she reported from Kiev. She also reported on the war in Eastern Ukraine and, since February 2022, on the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. She has received numerous awards for her work, including "Political Journalist of the Year." Her book *Ukraine and Us* became a *Spiegel* Bestseller.



Sabine Adler

**What Will Become of Russia?
A Nation Amidst War and Self-Destruction**

Non-Fiction. 336 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2024, February

**Shortlisted for the
German Economics Book Prize**

"Adler's judgment is clever and razor-sharp." SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"One can rely on Sabine Adler's political analyses." ZDF

"Her highly readable work, as thorough as it is depressing, contains many intriguing aspects [...] that tend to be underexposed elsewhere. [...] The book provides a good insight into the country's top leadership, portrays the most important political, military and economic players and sheds light on the depths of Russian society." TAZ

"Hardly anyone explains the events in Russia and Ukraine as precisely and as personally as Sabine Adler." STEPHAN LAMBY, in a laudatory speech for Political Journalist of the Year 2023

Why the Balkans are pivotal for the future of Europe

More than a hundred years ago, the First World War broke out in the Western Balkans, as the Great Powers wanted to establish dominance in the region. Today, China is building roads in the Western Balkans, Russia is inciting nationalists, Turkey and the Gulf States are investing in mosques and hotels. They all see this as a way to exert influence in Europe. Is history repeating itself?

Florian Bieber, one of the top experts on the Balkans, depicts the explosive situation in the region. It is the setting of the new global conflict between the West and autocratic regimes. At the same time, stakeholders in the region are pursuing their own agenda. This book is a wake-up call for Europe to finally take action, because this region could determine Europe's future.

Florian Bieber, born in 1973, is considered one of the top experts on the Balkan countries. He is a professor of history and politics of Southeast Europe at the University of Graz and director of the Centre for Southeast European Studies. He has taught in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Hungary, and he lived for more than five years in Belgrade and Sarajevo. So far, he has written six books in English and German on nationalism, the EU and on political developments in the Balkans. His analyses have appeared in several publications, including *The New York Times*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Der Standard*, *Die Zeit*, *Die Presse* and *Politico*. He regularly appears in national and international media.



Florian Bieber
The Balkan Tinderbox
How Dictatorships Are Exerting
Influence in Europe

Non-Fiction. 248 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Quality Paperback

2023, October

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
 Albania

"Florian Bieber is a true expert on the Balkans, artfully and knowledgeably providing us with insight into Europe's current crises. A very enlightening book!" JAGODA MARINIĆ

"Bieber confidently deconstructs pseudo-historical myths and half-truths." FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

"an equally explosive and relevant book about the current state of the region." SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN

"This book is an absolute must for anyone wanting to learn more about this part of Europe." MANUEL SARRAZIN, Federal Government Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans

**From the dark side of the moon
to stars that have vanished –
what the invisible world can reveal
about the universe**

Moon phases, constellations, or planetary meetings – the celestial year has a lot in store for us. But the most spectacular celestial phenomena are the ones we can't see. Like the approximately 40 billion potentially habitable exoplanets in our Milky Way, or the mysterious dark matter that seems to comprise a majority of our universe. Astronomer Ruth Grützbauch, a member of the Science Busters, has written a completely different guide to the celestial year. Month by month, she allows us to see the cosmos through new eyes, such as those of the James Webb Space Telescope, or those of the few people who have seen the far side of the moon. She takes an x-ray look at the spectrum of invisible light, at images of neutrinos, and at stars that may no longer even exist. Educational, entertaining, and eye-opening.

Ruth Grützbauch is an astronomer and completed her Ph.D. in dwarf galaxies. Since 2017, she has been traveling with her pop-up planetarium to bring people closer to the infinite vastness of space. Since the beginning of 2020, she has been co-hosting the podcast *The Universe* together with Florian Freistetter, one of the most successful German science podcasts. She is a member of the Science Busters. Her book *Through the Galaxy on a Cargo Bike* was published by Aufbau in 2021.

"That a publication on the subject of astronomy can be as captivating as Ruth Grützbauch's is a rarity on the book market." LITERATURE MARKET



Ruth Grützbauch
The Invisible Celestial Year
12 Night Sky Phenomena
that we can't see
Non-Fiction. Ca. 254 pages
Aufbau. Hardcover
2024, September

*The one-of-a-kind guide
to the celestial year,
with plenty of illustrations.*

What do we do when more and more people are gripped by the fear of doom?

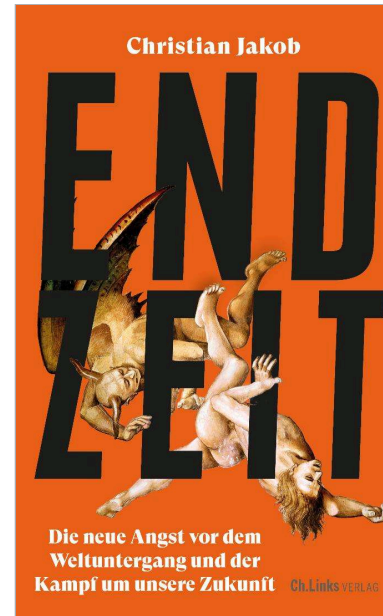
Climate change, pandemics, economic crises and now the threat of nuclear war: the crises are piling up and undermining our faith in our ability to shape the future. More and more people are convinced that the end is drawing near. In a global survey of young people, 56 percent said that humanity is doomed. Why is this fear suddenly so widespread? Why do some people remain capable of action while others feel powerless? And why do so many people underestimate the positive developments that exist despite everything? Politically speaking, this “doomism” is dangerous, and there are good arguments for believing in an open-ended future.

Christian Jakob, born in 1979, studied sociology, economics and philosophy in Bremen and Milan, and global studies in Berlin, Buenos Aires and Delhi. He has been an editor at *die tageszeitung* since 2006, starting out at *taz Nord* in Bremen, and has been working in the reporting and research department since 2014. In 2017, he was awarded the Otto Brenner Prize for critical journalism for his reporting.

"Christian Jakob makes a smart case for acknowledging the progress made in the present era."
TAZ

"Even if Jakob does not have a magic formula for finding a way out of the climate crisis, his book succeeds in maintaining faith in a better future 'without denying the crisis-ridden nature of our times and depriving many people's fears of their justification.'" ANALYSE & KRITIK

"A deconstruction of the currently very trendy fear of the end of the world." SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG



Christian Jakob

End Times

The New Fear of the End of the World and the Battle for Our Future

Non-Fiction. 304 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2023, September

Recommended by New Books in German

English sample translation available

In a global analysis, Jakob dissects the mechanisms of end-time fear and shows ways to be hopeful in the face of accumulating crises.

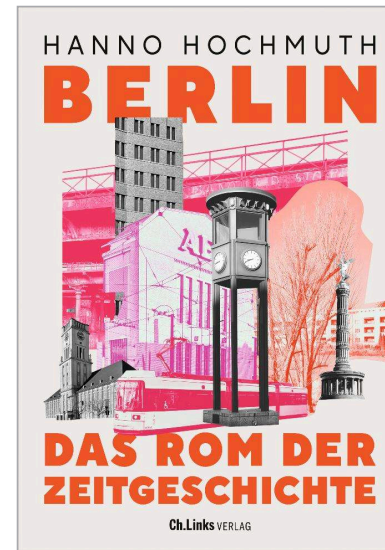
A topographical journey through 20th-century Berlin

The city of Berlin was all too often at the center of events in the 20th century. Berlin was, in turn, a democratic, a fascist, and a socialist capital city. From here, two world wars were carried out into the world, which backfired heavily upon the city. The Cold War came to a head in Berlin before reaching its symbolic end there. The city stood at the center of world history, much like Rome two thousand years ago, hence Berlin being considered the Rome of contemporary history.

Until the coronavirus pandemic, more and more tourists visited the city on the Spree every year. They come not only for Berlin's party scene, but also for its rich cultural and memorial landscape. Berlin's often fractured history in the 20th century has become a unique feature of the location. The Rome of contemporary history is part of the city's branding, but it is more than just a marketing term.

Hanno Hochmuth approaches Berlin's past and present in a topographical and photographic manner. Based on popular perceptions of the city, he visits 51 selected places of remembrance and tells the story of Berlin in the 20th century

Hanno Hochmuth, born in East Berlin in 1977, studied history in Berlin and Minneapolis and completed his doctorate at the Free University of Berlin. He is a historian at the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF) and teaches Public History at the FU Berlin. His publications are on Berlin's contemporary history and public history, including *City History as Contemporary History – Berlin in the 20th Century* (ed. with Paul Nolte, Göttingen 2019), and *Dream and Trauma – The Occupation and Evacuation of Mainzer Straße in East Berlin in 1990* (co-edv., Berlin 2020).



Hanno Hochmuth

Berlin

The Rome of Modern History

Non-Fiction. 304 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2024, March

**With 50 contemporary photos
by the author**

"Two thousand years ago the proudest boast was: 'Civis romanus sum.' Today, in the world of freedom, the proudest boast is: 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'" JOHN F. KENNEDY, June 1963

"The Berlin historian Hanno Hochmuth has written a new must-read book." BERLINER ZEITUNG

"A colorful kaleidoscope of places and eras steeped in history." HORCH UND GUCK

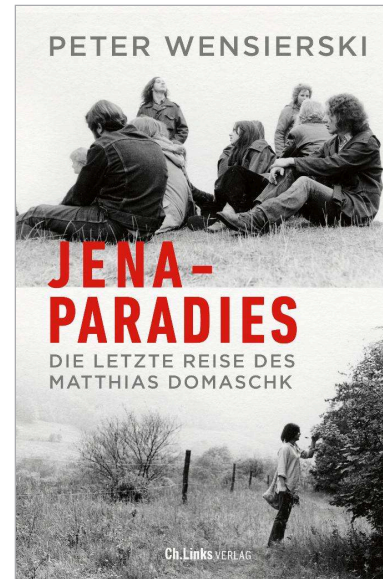
"The book has something new to offer even for the most Berlin-affine and makes you want to plunge into the hustle and bustle of the city. Let's get right into the thick of it!" GEOGRAPHISCHE RUNDSCHAU

A young generation in search of a free and self-determined life

Friday, 10 April 1981: In Jena, East Germany, 23-year-old Matthias Domaschk boards the express train to Berlin. He's on his way to a birthday party. But he never arrives, because the packed train is stopped in Jüterbog and Matthias and three other residents of Jena are arrested. Two days later, he lies dead in the visitors' room of the Stasi detention centre in Gera. What happened back then?

Peter Wensierski captivantly tells the story of a non-conformist young man and his adversaries in a totalitarian state, based on Matthias Domaschk's final days. He sheds light on how the police raid on a shared flat and the protest against Wolf Biermann's expatriation became turning points for the Jena scene. And he paints the picture of an increasingly politicised generation that went against their conformist parents and intolerant citizens, and who communicated politically and culturally across borders as early as the 1970's in search of an upstanding and self-determined life.

Peter Wensierski, born in 1954, is a documentary filmmaker and studied political science, history and journalism at the Freie Universität Berlin. From 1979 he reported as a journalist from the GDR and from 1986 to 1993 he was a television journalist for ARD and worked for various magazines. Wensierski has been awarded the German Film Award, the European Television Award and the German Cross of Merit. He has had several books published, including the bestsellers *The Forbidden Journey* (2014) and *The Incredible Ease of Revolution* (2017). *Berlin – The City of Revolt* (2018) was published by Ch. Links Verlag.



**BEST
SELLER**

Peter Wensierski
Paradise Station
The Last Journey of Matthias Domaschk
 Non-Fiction. 368 pages
 Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover
 2023, March

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
 USA, UK

Recommended by New Books in German
 Full English translation available soon

"Almost all the rebels and resistance fighters in humanity's eternal war of freedom ultimately remain nameless – whether a brave person's name was briefly on everyone's lips or can only be found on a list next to all those who were murdered. Matthias Domaschk is a good name, one which we will at least not forget." WOLF BIERMANN, SEPTEMBER 2022

"The concept of the book is on point. It is a great read. It is breathtaking. [...] Wensierski's book will be the benchmark for any future work on the subject." MDR KULTUR

"Wensierski's descriptions infuse his book with haunting authenticity." DIE WELT

"Meticulously and with great attention to detail, Wensierski depicts the hours of this case's protagonists between April 10 and 12, 1981." EVANGELISCHER PRESSEDIENST

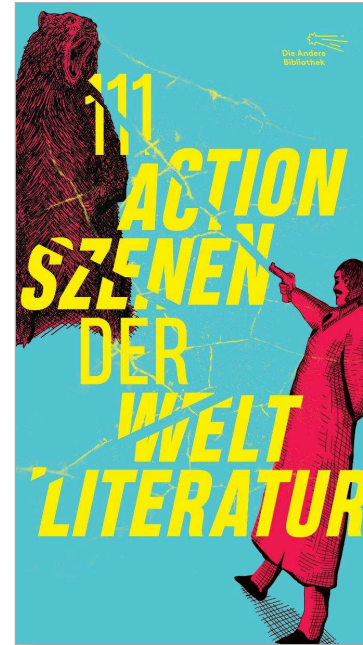
A very different history of literature: Tolstoy, Proust, Shelley and co. in action!

A writer's life is all paper, they say. This book proves the opposite. It features authors of world literature as we have never seen them before: in the middle of the action, in close combat and the thick of the fray, as villains and heroes. We are there when Cervantes fights in the Battle of Lepanto. When Tolstoy is bitten by a bear. When Jules Verne rides a rollercoaster and Antoine Saint-Exupéry survives four crash landings. When the Brontë sisters witness the end of the world. When Marcel Proust fights a duel and the police search for Agatha Christie. When Mary Shelley meets her monster and Emily Dickinson experiences a storm of love. When Bob Dylan breaks his neck at Woodstock and David Foster Wallace goes down at the gym.

Mara Delius is the editor of *Literarische Welt*.

Marc Reichwein is an editor in the culture and arts editorial section of *Welt*. The series *Action Scenes of World Literature*, which they curated and on which this book is based, was first published in *Welt* in 2019 and has been published in *Welt am Sonntag* since fall 2021.

Manja Hellpap created the illustrations.



111 Action Scenes from World Literature

Non-Fiction. 384 pages

Die Andere Bibliothek. Hardcover

2024, September

English sample translation available

*A very different history of literature,
which makes regular literary fiction
look pale and anemic in comparison!*

Dream destination Côte d'Azur – a sunny place for shady people

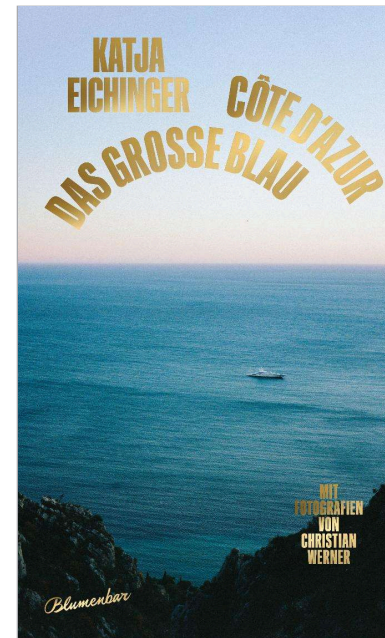
Ultramarine blue sea, white beach promenades, palm trees, mimosas, and one-of-a-kind light: the Côte d'Azur. Nowhere else is the density of stories, and the artists who have immortalized them, greater. Nietzsche was here, as well as Coco Chanel, Marlene Dietrich, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, James Baldwin, and the Rolling Stones. A place where extremes and excess – the yachts and mansions of the super-rich, the glitterati and EasyJet tourists – converge in front of the pristine, enchanting nature. On her walks through Cannes, Nice, Monaco, and Saint-Tropez, Katja Eichinger recounts the history of the French Riviera in personal anecdotes, and reveals its true essence.

The book for anyone who wishes to dream of the sea and be brilliantly entertained at the same time.

Katja Eichinger studied at the British Film Institute and worked as a journalist in London, including for *Vogue*, *Dazed & Confused*, and the *Financial Times*. Following her bestseller *BE*, the biography of Bernd Eichinger, Blumenbar published the essay collections *Fashion and Other Neuroses* (2020), and *Love and Other Neuroses* (2022), which also became bestsellers. In addition to her work as an author, Katja Eichinger also produces music. She lives in Munich and Berlin.

Christian Werner, born in 1977, is a photographer. He works for magazines such as *Zeit Magazin*, *032c*, *SSENSE* and *Numéro*. He has published several books and lives in Berlin.

"Her descriptions and pictures are like a breath of fresh air in a sundrenched terrace. Personal, witty, here with affectionate mockery, there with friendly indulgence." HARPER'S BAZAAR



Katja Eichinger
The Big Blue
Côte d'Azur
 Non-Fiction. 208 pages
 Blumenbar. Hardcover
 2024, April

With exclusive images from the photographer Christian Werner



Katja Eichinger
Fashion and Other Neuroses
 Thriller. 208 pages
 atb. Quality Paperback
 2022, February

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 Spain

**BEST
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Live and in colour: A revolutionary and visually stunning journey through time spanning 40 years

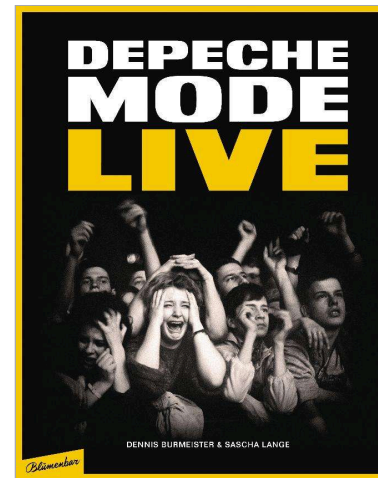
For decades, British band Depeche Mode has been captivating fans all over the world. From the band's first gigs in smoky pubs, playing for around a dozen people, to the sold-out world tour with spectacular shows in front of millions of fans – the band's history and success are rooted in its unparalleled live performances. Following the bestseller *Depeche Mode: Monument*, which is now considered the fan bible, Dennis Burmeister and Sascha Lange present another book with powerful images. They have compiled a wealth of previously unpublished photos, unseen material and exclusive interviews with friends of the band. *Depeche Mode: Live* traces the growth of this band from tour to tour from 1980 to 2023, which, despite all the misfortunes, continues to thrill millions of people at its concerts to this day.

Dennis Burmeister, born in 1975, is a graphic designer, DJ and event organiser and has compiled one of the largest Depeche Mode collections of the last 35 years. With several thousand exhibits, it is enough to fill a museum.

Sascha Lange, born 1971 in Leipzig, is a musician, author and historian with a specialisation in youth cultures in the twentieth century. He is also an academic consultant for museums, media and theatre. Lange and Burmeister's *Depeche Mode: Monument*, the largest showcase of the British band's work to date, was published by Blumenbar.

"Depeche Mode are godlike and Monument is their bible." WELT ONLINE

"There has never been anything like it before and there will almost certainly never be anything like it again." SONIC SEDUCER

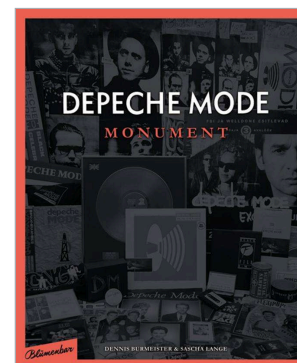


Dennis Burmeister, Sascha Lange
Depeche Mode: Live
 Non-Fiction. 424 pages
 Blumenbar. Hardcover
 2023, October

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, USA

English sample translation available



Dennis Burmeister, Sascha Lange
Depeche Mode: Monument
 Non-Fiction. 424 pages
 Blumenbar. Hardcover
 2013, May

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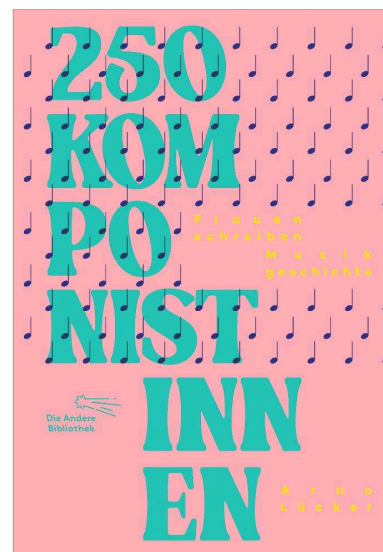
France, USA, Russia, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland

A musical voyage of discovery into the unknown and unheard

The world of classical music is attached to tradition more than any other art form or part of society. Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Verdi and Wagner dominate the stages of concert halls and opera houses. But why, even to this day, do women composers hardly appear on their repertoires? Most people interested in music know of Clara Schumann, Hildegard von Bingen and perhaps Fanny Hensel. But there are so many more! Arno Lücker has set out to bring the classical music business into the present day. For many years, he has been studying the lives and music of women composers. Most of them had to overcome numerous obstacles for their creative development. Compiled in this book are 250 women composers from all over the world and from many different centuries. In glittering short portraits, we are immersed in the lives of these women musicians, with one question always lingering: What does this unfamiliar music sound like? Arno Lücker opens our eyes and ears to the unheard.

Arno Lücker, born 1979 in Braunschweig, studied musicology and philosophy and works as a musicologist, music critic, pianist and composer. He has been editor of Opernwelt magazine since 2021. He also teaches musicology at the Philipps University of Marburg. Since 2019, he has been writing the much-acclaimed series of articles *250 Women Composers* for VAN Magazine, in which he portrays women musicians from all over the world and from all centuries – right up to the present day.

“How fortunate that all these creative women are finally being recognised. Arno Lücker deserves thanks and respect for bringing our attention to such great musicians.” ELKE HEIDENREICH



Arno Lücker
250 Composers
Women Who Wrote Music History
Non-Fiction. 648 pages
Die Andere Bibliothek. Hardcover
2023, November

*An indispensable reference work
for music lovers and concertgoers*

Inka Ihmels (she/her)
Foreign Rights Manager
i.ihmels@aufbau-verlage.de
Tel: +49-30-28 394-123

Aufbau Verlage GmbH & Co. KG
Prinzenstraße 85
10969 Berlin
Germany

www.aufbau-verlage.de

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Andrea Spužević Golemac (she/her)
andrea@cortoliterary.com

Brazil

Luciana Villas-Boas (she/her)
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Marie Lannurien (she/her)
Books and More – #BAM agency
marie@bamlitagency.com

Greece

Evangelia Avloniti (she/her)
Ersilia Literary Agency
eavloniti@ersilialit.com

Hungary

Rita Tillai (she/her)
Balla-Sztojkov Literary Agency
ballalit@ballalit.hu

Italy

Barbara Griffini (she/her)
Berla & Griffini Rights Agency
griffini@bgagency.it

Israel

Geula Geurts (she/her)
The Deborah Harris Agency
geula@thedeborahharrisagency.com

Netherlands

Linda Kohn (she/her)
Internationaal Literatuur Bureau BV
lkohn@planet.nl

Poland

Anna Kolendarska-Fidyk (she/her)
AKF Literary Agency
akf.agency@hot.pl

Romania

Simona Kessler (she/her)
Simona Kessler International
Copyright Agency
simona@kessler-agency.ro

Russia, Ukraine

Maria Schliesser (she/her)
Literaturagentur Maria Schliesser
schliesser.maria@gmail.com

**Spain, Portugal, Latin America
(Except Brazil)**

Amaïur Fernandez (she/her)
International Editors' Co. Agencia Literaria
amaïur.fernandez@internationaleditors.com

Turkey

Amy Spangler (she/her)
AnatoliaLit Agency
amy@anatolialit.com