

Rights Guide

Spring 2025



S. FISCHER VERLAGE



CHECK OUT OUR PODCAST TO LISTEN TO EXCLUSIVE ENGLISH AUDIO SAMPLES OF OUR MOST EXCITING TITLES, NARRATED BY OUR ESTEEMED TRANSLATORS.



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FICTION

Elisa Hoven

Dark Moments

- As a criminal law expert, Elisa Hoven grapples daily with law and justice, morality and moralism.
- A fast-paced novel full of unrest that keeps us breathless until the end.
- For readers of Ferdinand von Schirach, Juli Zeh, and Bernhard Schlink.

English sample translation available

Rights sold to: ES (Maeva) | I (Neri Pozza) | N (Bonnier Norsk) | NL (Thomas Rap) | JP (Tokyo Sogensha)



February 2025 · 336 pages



© Peter Rigaud

Elisa Hoven (1982) is a professor of criminal law at the University of Leipzig. Her research focuses on German and international criminal law, economic criminal law, media criminal law, and sexual criminal law. Since 2020, she has also been a judge at the Saxon Constitutional Court. She has worked in Australia, Cambodia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States during her various academic and research endeavors.

What does law have to do with justice?

This absorbing debut novel draws from Elisa Hoven's experience as a professor of criminal law and high-court judge. Nine cases unfold as gripping legal dramas, exploring moral and ethical dilemmas through the lens of law and justice.

"Dark Moments" takes the reader into the world of protagonist and narrator, Eva Herbergen, a seasoned defence lawyer from Berlin, as she unravels the complexities of the human condition in a captivating array of legal quandaries that shape and test her resolve. Each tale is woven with unforeseen twists and revelations.

From rape to fraud, assault to murder, each case challenges conventional notions of right and wrong, blurring the lines and forcing Eva Herbergen to confront her own issues from the past. As she explores the intricate web of moral ambiguity, her resolve is tested, and her boundaries are constantly pushed.

Lena Schätze

The Grime on My Father's Hands

"The force of the text, unfolding gently, hits directly." From the jury's statement on the awarding of the W.-G.-Sebald-Prize

English sample translation available



March 2025 · 192 pages

© Boris Breuer



Lena Schätze, born in 1993 in Lüdenscheid, debuted in 2014 with the novel "Ruhrpottliebe". Over the following years, she worked as a psychiatric nurse in the Ruhr area until she began studying Literary Writing at the German Literature Institute Leipzig in 2020. Today, she takes care of people with addiction issues in Lüdenscheid – and writes. For an excerpt from the novel "The Grime on My Father's Hands," Lena Schätze was awarded the W.G. Sebald Literature Prize in 2024.

On the love for a difficult father and one's way into life

"Moth" is what the father calls the narrator. The father is a worker, gambler, and a drinker. In fact, Moth even has two fathers: one who can run fast, knows all the hiding places when playing, and comes up with an answer to any question. And the other, who is transferred from the factory to the office so he doesn't drunkenly saw off his hand. And about the alcohol, the mother says, it was actually the same with all the men in the family.

Moth herself has long been drinking more than is good for her. Even as a child, she played waitress at the local fair festival and drank the leftovers until she felt warm. Now, as a young woman, she sometimes sleeps in the hallway because she can no longer fit the key into the lock. Her boyfriend supports her, but he usually can't stand properly himself. Only her brother, who has become an educator, checks on her every day. When her father is diagnosed with terminal cancer, Moth looks for a way to say goodbye – to her father and to alcohol.

"The Grime on My Father's Hands" by Lena Schätze is a moving novel about growing up in a family living in so-called modest circumstances, which, when it comes down to it, sticks together. A tough, tender novel about the love for a difficult father and the path to life.

Antje Rávik Strubel

The Influence of the Pheasants

The new novel by the winner of the German Book Prize 2021

A fast-paced, light-footed, magnificently told novel about a woman who loses all certainties

English sample translation available

Rights sold to: (previous works): BL (Latin-American Spanish) (El Cuervo) | ES (De Conatus) | EG (Arabic) (Aser Al-Kotob) | F (Les Escales) | FIN (Minerva Kustannus) | HR (Ljevak) | I (Volland) | ROK (PADO)



March 2025 · 240 pages



© Marcus Höhn

Antje Rávik Strubel is the award-winning author of the novels *Unter Schnee* (2001), *Fremd Gehen. Ein Nachtstück* (2002), *Tupolew 134* (2004) and the episodic novel *In den Wäldern des menschlichen Herzens* (2016). *Kältere Schichten der Luft* (2007) was nominated for the *Leipzig Book Fair Prize*, *Sturz der Tage in die Nacht* (2011) was long-listed for the *German Book Prize*. Strubel was selected as the first Writer in Residence at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. In 2019, she won the *Preis der Literaturhäuser*. Her novel *Blaue Frau* (*Blue Woman*) was awarded the *German Book Prize 2021*. She is also a sought-after translator from the English and the Swedish. Authors she has translated include Joan Didion, Lena Anderson, Lucia Berlin and Virginia Woolf. Antje Rávik Strubel lives in Potsdam. (www.antjestrubel.de)

On the pleasure of power and the power of deception

Hella Karl is the head of the features section of a Berlin newspaper. When Kai Hochwerth, the director of a major cultural institution in Sydney, kills himself, Hella Karl is in a state of turmoil, which she does not even admit to herself. She senses that the public will blame her for the suicide. After all, she has – quite contrary to her professional ethics and nature – set in motion an article and thus a debate about Hochwerth that pointed to his misogyny and ultimately led to his dismissal. But Hella Karl is not unnecessarily loyal, and she always got along quite well with Hochwerth. Like Hochwerth before her, Hella is now an outsider. But Hella Karl won't let herself be bullied; she fights for her reputation. But is she really not to blame for his death?

As entertaining as Doris Knecht, as stylistically sophisticated as Antje Rávik Strubel, as funny as Lucy Fricke. Atmospheric, impartial, contemporary.

Juan S. Guse

A Thousand Times More Money Than You Have Now

Wealth, tears and utopias: four men and their crypto currencies



May 2025 · 240 pages



© Hans-Peter Wiechers

Juan S. Guse, born in 1989, is a sociologist and author. His novels "Lärm und Wälder" (2015) and "Miami Punk" (2019) were published by S. FISCHER. He has received numerous awards for his work, most recently the KELAG Prize at the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize 2022. He teaches at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne.

One studied geography and works for minimum wage as a landscape gardener at a cemetery, yet he owns digital assets worth 20 million euros. Another one still drives his dented Volvo V70 station wagon, even though he sees himself reaching into nine figures soon.

Juan S. Guse spent a year meeting ordinary men who became wealthy through cryptocurrencies. Not developers, hedge fund managers, or crypto influencers, but simply guys who were in the right place at the right time. "A Thousand Times More Money Than You Have Now" tells their stories and explores what this kind of leap in social class has done to them, what drew them to the promises of this technology, why it's always men, how the desire for quick money fits into a society in crisis mode, why some dogs commit suicide, and how the author plans to reclaim the 2000 euros he lost himself in crypto.

Roland Schimmelpfennig

She Waits, but She Doesn't Know for Whom.

'Whether it's for the theatre or in prose, I think my story-telling always tries to reach an elementary, in a sense existential level. Stories and plays are always about change – or the desire for change. Or the impossibility of change.' Roland Schimmelpfennig



March 2025 · 192 pages

Rights sold to: (previous works): Czech Republic, Albatros | The Netherlands, Ambo / Anthos | Italy, Fazi | Poland, Jagiellonski | United Kingdom, Quercus

© Adriana Jacome



Roland Schimmelpfennig, born in 1967, is Germany's most-performed contemporary dramatist. He worked as a journalist in Istanbul, going on to study directing. His first position as a director was at the Munich Kammerspiele. He has been working as a freelance writer since 1996. Schimmelpfennig's plays have been staged in more than 40 countries, to great success. Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag has published ten years of his dramatic work in the volume *Die Frau von früher* and *Trilogie der Tiere*. His first novel *An einem klaren, eiskalten Januarmorgen zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts*, published in 2016, was on the shortlist for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize.

In a series of encounters and relationships full of imagery, Schimmelpfennig explores our longings and darkness, our hustle and bustle, our desire to love and be loved. Based on Arthur Schnitzler's "Reigen" (Round Dance), the novel is always about both: that we come together and then go our separate ways, that we are connected and then lose each other again and again. Sex is part of this very tension. As in Schnitzler's story, there are ten scenes that tell of couples; one of the couple in each case is the link to the next scene, until the cycle closes at the end with the return to the first person. It is also about closure and opening, everyday life and longing, marriage and fleeting encounters. Schimmelpfennig plays with the structure of the round dance, loosening it up – and above all, he transfers it to our present: to the life of the urban middle class, to fluid gender roles, to a world in which everything, including our sexuality, is shaped by new (and old) media and, above all, by violence.

Roland Schimmelpfennig has previously adapted the Reigen material in his highly acclaimed play "Seventeen Sketches from Darkness".

A new novel by Roland Schimmelpfennig, the playwright of the year 2024, who, with his passionate, yearning characters and powerful imagery, follows up on his successful debut "On a Clear, Ice-Cold January Morning at the Beginning of the 21st Century," which was shortlisted for the Leipzig Book Prize.

Marlene Streeruwitz

Resolutions.

"A literary author of distinction! Anyone who does not succumb to her pull is probably lost to literature." Die Welt

Rights sold to: (to previous titles): Japan, Poland, Russia, Korea, Bulgaria, Belarus, Macedonia



May 2025 · 416 pages



© Mafalda Rakos

Marlene Streeruwitz, born in Baden near Vienna, studied Slavic Studies and Art History and begun her career as a director and author of both theatre and radio plays. She has received numerous awards for her novels, most recently the Bremen Literature Prize and the Prize of the Literature Houses. Her novel "Die Schmerzmacherin" was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2011. Her most recent publications are the novel "Flammenwand" (longlisted for the 2019 German Book Prize), the Breitbach Poetics Lecture "Geschlecht. Zahl. Fall." (2021), the novel "Tage im Mai." (2023) and the volumes "Handbuch für die Liebe." and "Handbuch gegen den Krieg." (2024).

Marlene Streeruwitz's new novel: an homage to New York

Nina Wagner, 56, a poet from Vienna, teaches in New York. While walking through her deeply personal New York, her whole life unfolds, and she reflects on her loved ones, her family and society with wisdom, humour and a healthy dose of self-irony. In doing so, she observes her US-American surroundings and finds unexpected insights into the problems she brought with her from Vienna. A violent act on the street turns her from an observer into a participant in this society, before events from Vienna catch up with her again and many mysteries are solved.

Marlene Streeruwitz's magnificent New York novel is a celebration of wandering and observing, a tribute to an intoxicating metropolis.

Paul Maar

Lorna



May 2025 · 112 pages

© Dirk Skiba



Paul Maar is one of the most popular and successful German children's and YA authors. He was born in Schweinfurt in 1937, studied painting and art history, and worked for several years as an art teacher in a secondary school before devoting himself fully to writing and illustrating. S. Fischer has previously published "Wie alles kam. Roman meiner Kindheit". Maar's work has received numerous awards, including the *E.T.A. Hoffmann Prize* and the *Friedrich Rückert Prize*. Several schools have also been named after him.

A late story about a first love that never ends

Even as a child growing up in a high-rise housing project, Lorna, with her red hair and green eyes, was special: she was the best at soccer, always helpful, and took an outsider as a friend. For the rather shy narrator, she becomes his first great love. They move in together, go traveling, and make plans for the future: she wants to study psychology or social pedagogy, and he wants to go to art school. But then Lorna changes: restless, aggressive, unpredictable. At some point, she sets fire to the shared flat, in front of her roommate Katharina's door. Lorna is admitted to a psychiatric ward. In and out, again and again. Then the narrator lets himself be seduced by Katharina. It is the most consequential decision of his life.

Katja Riemann

Fog and Fire



April 2025 · 320 pages

© Sabine Wriedenhofer



Katja Riemann is one of Germany's most famous actresses. Since 2000 she has sponsored children through UNICEF, supported Plan International and Amnesty International among others, and advocated for an open society and human rights, especially those of girls and women. For her commitment she received the Federal Cross of Merit in 2010 and the Bad Iburger Courage Prize in 2016.

Katja Riemann's first novel – about a world in which everything is in danger of disappearing

The musician Johaenne stands on her fifth-floor windowsill, and the cemetery is conveniently next door. The man has disappeared from her life, but the love for him remains. She realizes that she is not suicidal. She tentatively takes her first steps into a new life.

But the world is falling apart: a fog covers half the world, and fires and locust swarms rage. Johaenne flees from Berlin to a house in the countryside, cut off from all information. Her new friends Jamal and Shenmi, the pianist Ayo and a little dog join her. While the fog envelops the house, the four women sort things out for themselves. They set solidarity and love against a world in which everything disappears, and they set their will to assert themselves and be visible against their powerlessness. And Johaenne realizes that she must allow herself to be happy. And to live.

Kathrin Röggla

Say nothing. Hear nothing. See nothing.

“A highly alert observer of our times.” Jury of the Else Lasker-Schüler Prize 2022



March 2025 · 304 pages

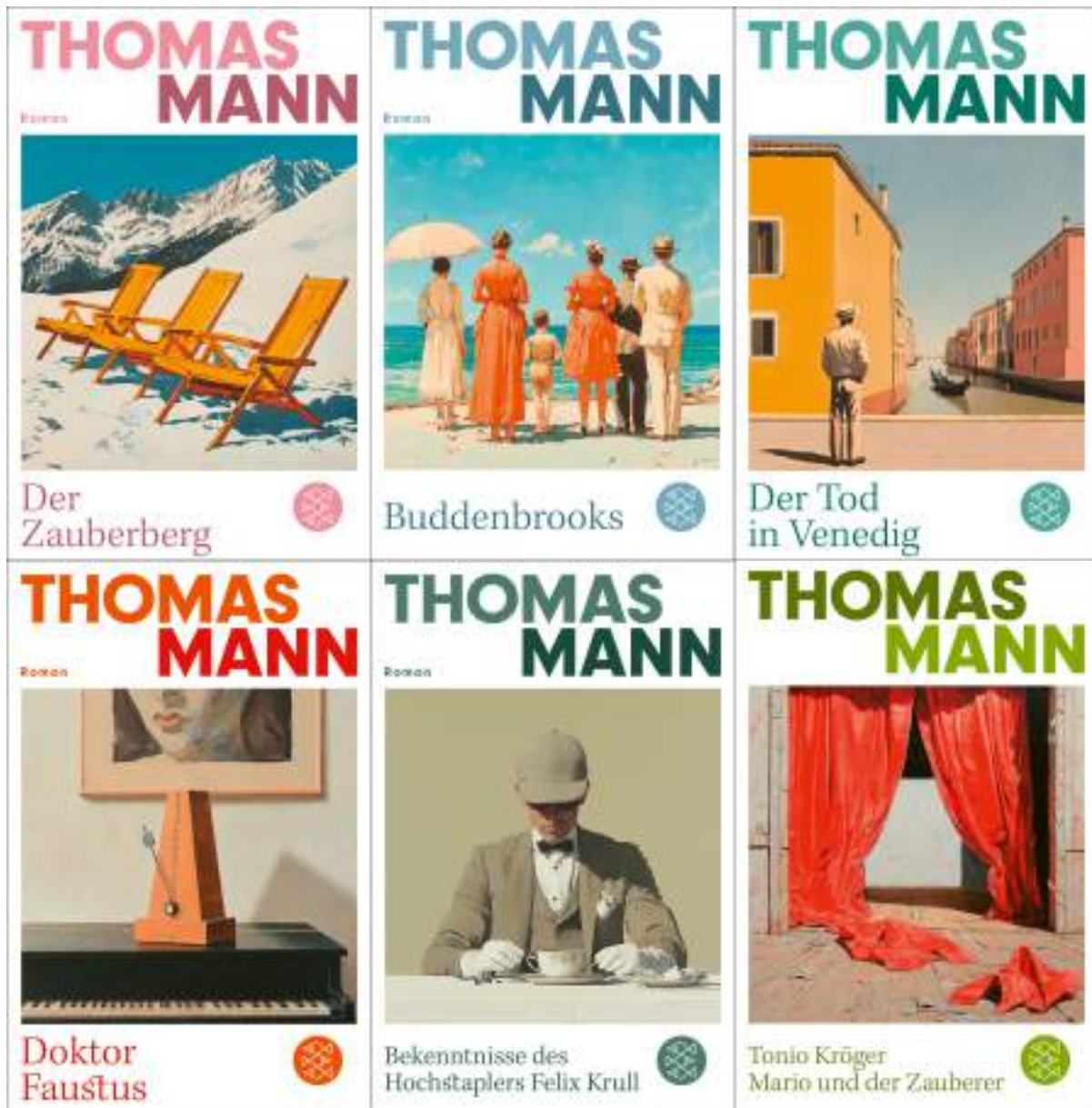


© Jessica Schaefer

Kathrin Röggla, born in Salzburg, works as a prose and theatre author and develops radio plays. She has been awarded numerous literary prizes for her work, including the SWR-Bestenliste Prize (2004), the Arthur Schnitzler Prize (2012) and the Wortmeldungen Literature Prize (2020). Her most recent publications are 'Nachtsendung. Unheimliche Geschichten' (2016) and the novel 'Laufendes Verfahren', for which she received the Heinrich Böll Prize for Literature (2023). Kathrin Röggla has been Professor of Literary Writing at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne since 2020.

Enemies of the constitution are everywhere in the audience at the 'Reichsbürger' trial in Frankfurt, trying individuals who reject the legitimacy of the modern German state, in favour of the German Reich. Anti-Semitic slogans are sprayed on the walls of universities in the middle of Germany. And climate change is discussed with astonishing silence. Everything is hyper-political, including art. But are we even listening anymore? Do we see the big picture? Can we still talk to each other? As always in her books, Kathrin Röggla, a committed contemporary, wanders through our present. She looks, listens, questions words and risks her sentences in order to find new forms of narrative. Because what is also at issue in the so-called polycrisis is the scope of literature.

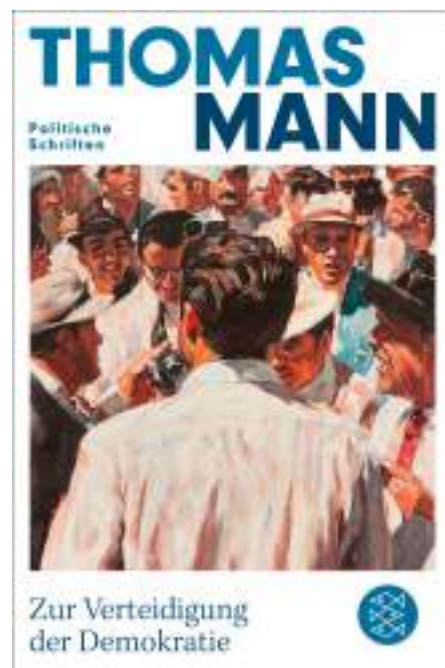
Celebrating Thomas Mann's 150th Anniversary



All of Thomas Mann's relevant speeches and essays on democracy for the first time in one volume: **“In Defense of Democracy”**



Listen to the essay “The Dangers Facing Democracy”, from 1940, on our [Podcast](#).



Thomas Mann

Listen, Germany!

A new edition with a foreword and afterword by Mely Kiyak
"Your obedience is boundless, and let me tell you it becomes more unforgivable every day." Thomas Mann

Rights sold to: FR (Les belles lettres), Spain (Nota al margen), RUS (Limbakh), USA (World English, Boydell Brewer)



January 2025 · 272 pages



Thomas Mann, 1875–1955, is considered one of the most important writers of the 20th century. He received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1929.

Mely Kiyak, a writer whose works include 'Frausein' and 'Herr Kiyak dachte, jetzt fängt der schöne Teil des Lebens an', was one of Germany's most-followed columnists for almost two decades. She ended her last political newspaper commentary with the words "That's all there is to say." The new edition of 'Deutsche Hörer!' is the realisation of a long-held journalistic dream for Kiyak. She has received numerous awards, including the Theodor Wolff Prize and the Kurt Tucholsky Prize. Her curated art salons can currently be seen at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg and the Maxim Gorki Theatre in Berlin.

Thomas Mann's most important political legacy

When the Nazis seized power, Thomas Mann left Germany and never returned. In 1936, while in exile in Switzerland, the German Nobel Prize winner for Literature lost his citizenship. He emigrated to the United States, where he began broadcasting his anti-war speeches in 1940. In 58 desperate, fervent humanistic appeals, he spoke to the conscience of German listeners until November 1945. His radio speeches, transmitted by the BBC to Europe by adventurous routes, are unique documents of an upright German.

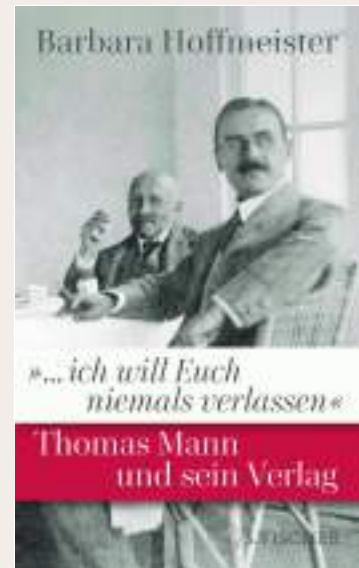
"I can't help it: it does feel good to call Hitler a foolish brute to his face." Thomas Mann

Barbara Hoffmeister

“... I will never leave you”

On the 150th anniversary of Thomas Mann's birthday

“Habit is a rope. We weave a thread every day, and eventually we can no longer break it.” Thomas Mann



April 2025 · 96 pages



Barbara Hoffmeister studied philosophy and German literature and is a freelance editor and writer, living in Hamburg. She edited, for example, *Die Familie Mann. Ein Lesebuch mit Bildern* and *Das Randfigurenkabinett des Doktor Thomas Mann* (with Robert Gernhardt). Her last book was in 2009 the publisher's biography *S. Fischer, der Verleger 1859–1934*

The author and his publisher: a whole life story

Thomas Mann claimed absolute artistic freedom and “adventurous worldliness” throughout his life, but with the same persistence he proved to be a man of continuity. Barbara Hoffmeister tells the brief story of his unique lifelong connection to Samuel Fischer's publishing house. She reports on the interplay between author and publisher, on expanding and unabridged manuscripts, warlike billy-goat songs or the practice of Weimar democracy. She also reads the bare figures, describes fears and challenges, shared successes and divisive tests in a fateful personal intertwining that extends beyond the generations of children and the exile existence of the publishing house and author on different continents.

Hans Wißkirchen

The Time of the Magicians

The great political biography of the brothers Mann and their relationship with democracy

"Democracy -- taken for granted all over the world -- has become a dubious thing (...)." Thomas Mann



April 2025 · 464 pages

© privat



Hans Wißkirchen wrote his PhD on the novels *Der Zauberberg* and *Doktor Faustus* and went on to play a key role in creating a memorial museum and research centre in the Buddenbrook House. He is the president of the German Thomas Mann Society and an honorary professor of modern German literature at the University of Lübeck. He has written and edited numerous books and essays on the Mann family.

Politics and literature: Hans Wißkirchen's great biography of Heinrich and Thomas Mann

“What are these two ignorant magicians talking about?” Golo Mann thought this again and again when he heard Heinrich and Thomas, his uncle and his father, talk about politics. But what about the political judgment of these two great 20th-century authors? How did these two sons of the bourgeoisie from Lübeck become ardent defenders of democracy? Hans Wißkirchen, president of the German Thomas Mann Society, paints a differentiated picture in his biography of the brothers, in which politics and literature cannot be separated and which, thanks to previously unknown letters, sheds new light on the period of their early exile in particular. Because both brothers are given an equal say for the first time, they repeatedly correct each other. Both come from the ideological space of the turn of the century.

For both of them, democracy cannot be taken for granted. Precisely for this reason, they know what is at stake and are very familiar with their opponents. A committed, indispensable book about Heinrich and Thomas Mann and the recurring threat to democracy.

Klaus Willbrand, Daria Razumovych

Simply Literature – An Invitation

- A smart and passionate introduction to literature
- Literary mediation in the tradition of Elke Heidenreich, Volker Weidermann, and Denis Scheck
- Over 150,000 followers on Instagram and TikTok in a very short time



June 2025 · 208 pages

Klaus Willbrand, born in 1941 in Essen, is a trained bookseller and antiquarian. For over twenty years, he has run his carefully sorted second-hand bookstore in Cologne. In March 2024, Klaus Willbrand and his good friend Daria Razumovych started their own channels on Instagram and TikTok – with surprisingly great success.

Daria Razumovych, born in 1991 in Dnipro, is a digital consultant and freelance editor. Klaus Willbrand met her a few years ago by chance at an antique market in Cologne. The idea and initiative for the social media presence of the second-hand bookstore came from her.

The New Guide to Literature

"Which works by Thomas Mann should one have read?" "Which works of classic literature can one safely ignore?" "What do you think of Emily Dickinson?"

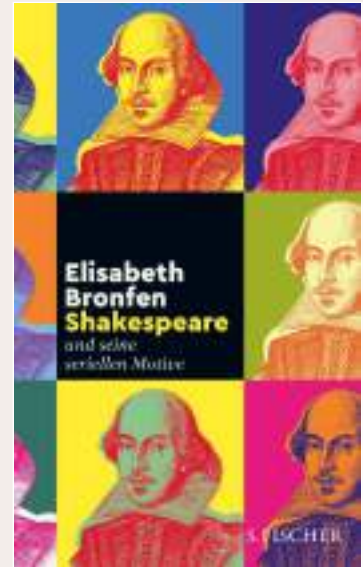
Klaus Willbrand answers these and similar questions on his social media channels. Now, more than 150,000 people watch the 83-year-old antiquarian as he explains great literature from Fyodor Dostoevsky to Franz Kafka to Elfriede Jelinek, with infectious enthusiasm as well as profound knowledge.

In "Simply Literature", Klaus Willbrand shares his own reading biography and gives personal recommendations. An entertaining book that provides access to literature, breaks down inhibitions and removes thresholds – while also catering to the great yearning for orientation and knowledge in the present day.

Elisabeth Bronfen

Shakespeare – and His Serial Motifs

- Shakespeare the classic: newly interpreted for today's readers
- Renowned cultural studies scholar Elisabeth Bronfen presents the sum of her life-long study of Shakespeare.
- Looking at Shakespeare serially means seeing his work in a completely new and surprising way.



February 2025 · 400 pages



© Isolde Ohlbaum

Elisabeth Bronfen is Professor Emerita of English at the University of Zurich and Global Distinguished Professor at New York University. She has held numerous visiting professorships and fellowships in Europe and America and curated exhibitions in Germany and Switzerland, among other places. In 2017 she was awarded the Martin Warnke Medal by the Aby Warburg Foundation and in 2020 an honorary doctorate by the Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. Elisabeth Bronfen's novel "Händler der Geheimnisse" was published in 2023. She lives in Zurich.

A whole new way of reading Shakespeare

The well-known English scholar Elisabeth Bronfen presents the definitive book about Shakespeare. Her entire life-long study of one of the greatest authors in literary history leads to a new image that breaks down his work on the basis of recurring themes: dream worlds, cryptomania, love suspicions, love wars, objects of exchange, war as a continuation of politics, politics as a continuation of war, female rulers, speaking bodies, male and female corpses, and: the last scene.

These elements are sought in all plays and understood as a "series", i.e. as the continuous development of a theme through all works. This allows her to show shifts, different solutions, etc., which Shakespeare repeatedly "works through" in his entire work. What does Shakespeare think about war? What about being a daughter? What about being a mother? What about jealousy? By extracting these motifs and stringing together the various passages in the plays, relating them to each other and discussing them in context, you get a completely different view of Shakespeare.

Elisabeth Bronfen is a star. She repeatedly manages to address literary and cultural topics for a larger audience beyond the confines of academia.

"Whether she is writing about Shakespeare, divas, hysteria, the pandemic, Hollywood or cooking, Elisabeth Bronfen always has a unique perspective on her subject." - Jutta Czeguhn, Süddeutsche Zeitung

COMMERCIAL
FICTION

Rebekka Frank

Streamlines

A grand family novel about life decisions that move three generations of women, and the river that connects them.

“Atmospheric, close to nature and as gripping as a thriller!”
Simone Finkenwirth, stories! bookshop

English sample translation available



March 2025 · 512 pages



© Lexa Rost

To Rebekka Frank, the sea is full of stories. When she's not diving into its depths herself, she writes about them. She studied theatre studies and German literature and lives with her husband and dog in the countryside in northern Hesse. She can be found on Instagram and TikTok under @rebekka.mit.k.

‘And when we wake up, a new life begins.’ This sentence carries Enna and Jale through the day. For seventeen years, the two sisters have been waiting for their mother Alea to be released from prison. But when the long-awaited morning finally dawns, Alea does not show up at the meeting point. And Jale has also disappeared without a trace. Without her sister, Enna finds herself in a state of freefall. The twins were always bound together like the tides, unable to be without each other.

Enna's only point of reference is the Elbe: the expanse of the marshes, the cool water, the cries of oystercatchers in the mudflats. But with each day that passes while Enna searches for her sister and mother, new questions arise: What happened to the two of them? Why did her mother go to prison in the first place? And is their disappearance connected to the boat that sank on the Elbe just hours later?

A tale of secrets with the capacity to either divide or indelibly connect us.

Herbert Beckmann

Endless Sky, Purely Blue

- For readers of Trude Teige and Florian Ilies' "Love in a Time of Hate"
- A fascinating new perspective on the women around the ingenious author Hans Henny Jahnn



May 2025 · 336 pages



© Susanne Mechnich

Herbert Beckmann, born in 1960, is a psychologist and author of novels, radio plays, and non-fiction books. He is a member of the German Writers' Association and the PEN Center Germany. He conducted intensive research on Hans Henny Jahnn's life for his novel. The author lives with his family in Berlin

"Everyone had the right to happiness. Or didn't they?"

1934: The island of Bornholm becomes a place of refuge from the Nazi regime. Hans Henny Jahnn, writer, organ builder and horse breeder, runs the Bondegaard estate with his wife Elli, his sister-in-law Sibyl and their children. In 1935, he also brings Judit, a Hungarian Jewish photographer, there: 'She will stay with us from today. Live with us.'

The three women seek a way to stand their ground, amid jealousy and solidarity, in the face of the peculiar fascination that the uninhibited man at their center commands. However, when war reaches the island, everything is at stake for this community of fate in exile.

Katharina Oswald

The Tailoring Shop on Lilac Lane – Grand Dreams

A riveting family saga set in the 1970s



June 2025 · 320 pages

© Roland Grosch



Andrea Bottlinger and Claudia Hornung write together under the pseudonym Katharina Oswald. Both were born in Baden-Württemberg and love to imagine the lives of women in various decades. They have known each other for a long time, and complement each other perfectly when writing: Andrea pays attention to the structure of the story, while Claudia concentrates on the details and emotions. Together they have created a captivating family saga.

Two Siblings and a Grand Dream of Life

Spring 1977: Susanne and Leonard find themselves in a predicament. Leonard is studying law, and Susanne is expected to take over the family-owned tailoring business. Yet, it's Susanne who secretly assists her brother with his studies, while Leonard harbors a passion for theater and enjoys sewing costumes. However, following predetermined paths was their dying father's last wish. When the tailor shop faces financial troubles, the siblings must stick together. This proves challenging, especially since they are in love with the same man.

Patricia Koelle

Cloud Ships Carry You

- The second volume of the Harbour of Happiness series by Patricia Koelle
- A feel-good setting in Wolgast by the Baltic Sea
- Over 900,000 copies of Patricia Koelle's books sold at Fischer



March 2025 · 416 pages

© Frank Liebke



Patricia Koelle is an author whose books express her everlasting amazement at life, people and our gorgeous planet. In addition to novels and story collections, FISCHER has published the *Ostsee* and *Nordsee* trilogies and the *Inselgarten* series. *Das Licht in den Bäumen* and *Das Glück in den Wäldern* are part of her *Sehnsuchtswald* series.

Island Romance and the Search for a Lost Treasure

Elin is frustrated with life: her career isn't taking off, and on top of that, she's suffering from terrible heartbreak. That's why she escapes to the old Gulfhof, hoping for some rest and recovery, where she encounters the reclusive Tede Tönjes. Tasked by his siblings to find an important ship in a bottle on Usedom, he initially refuses. However, the spirited Elin eventually persuades him to join her in the search. Their shared adventure and burgeoning feelings for each other inspire them until a crucial clue leads them to picturesque Wolgast. There, they must make decisions about their future while following the trails of the past.

Kristina Pfister

After the Summer Rain

"Atmospheric, true to life and extremely moving – the great new novel by Kristina Pfister"



June 2025 · 350 pages



© Nathalie Oswald

Kristina Pfister was born in Bamberg, Germany in 1987 and spent many wonderful holidays as a child on the campsites of Europe. For her, summer is at its best with her feet in the water. That's why she studied at Lake Constance, goes to the seaside every year if possible, and was delighted to be awarded a residency at the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators on the island of Gotland in 2018. When she is not camping all over Europe or writing on Swedish islands, she lives and works in Nuremberg.

As carefree as a summer's day, as serious as life can sometimes be.

In the past, they spent nearly every weekend at the old family holiday home, but now they only gather there for special occasions: Cecilia, Jonas, and Marika Ritter live scattered to the winds, leading their own lives, trying to navigate their personal crises.

When their parents decide to separate, planning to sell the house and threatening their safe haven, they aim to spend a few final weekends together there. Between letting go and holding on, in the attempt to rediscover themselves as a family, the three confront the question of who they are without the holiday home by the old mill.

Jule Riesch

Don't Go Breaking My Heart

- A refreshingly summery love story
- Romantic small town setting



April 2025 · 400 pages



Jule Riesch was born in 1993 in Lübeck and studied German Literature and Sociology at the University of Hamburg. She lives with her family and dog in the north of Germany.

Sowing Words, Reaping Love

Madita Tönninger has fulfilled a long-held dream with her stationery shop in the heart of her hometown, Lübeck. With passion, she sells products inscribed with her own words to her customers. In addition, she takes on commissioned work, crafting personalized poems and stories. When a well-known entrepreneur and former classmate hires her to write the perfect words for his marriage proposal, Madita is shocked. Despite the piles of bills on her table, she agrees to take on the challenge, only to discover that words have the power to bring together even two very different hearts.

Sara West

Blooming Hope

- Strangers to Lovers meets Workplace Romance
- Great drama, deep emotions, and a love for flowers

Rose Garden, Toronto's most enchanting flower shop and a place for romantic encounters – the new new adult series by Sara West



March 2025 · 448 pages



© Paula Tafili

Sara West decided to become a professional bookworm after her studies in German and Comparative Literature. Since then, she has been working as an editor at a major publishing house, where she can immerse herself in wonderful stories and visit special places every day. *Blooming Hope* is her debut as an author.

Because transcending yourself is sometimes like flying

The tragic death of her sister Mia more than a year ago left Thea Hughes without her most trusted person and, above all, lost within herself. On a whim, the shy florist decides to move to Toronto. In the same city where Mia seemingly found her happiness, Thea wants to make a fresh start. On her third day at her dream job in the Rose Garden, a flower shop, Thea meets customer Max. He orders a bouquet with a short, personal message from him each week. With every word, the handsome pilot writes himself further into Thea's heart. Max also feels strongly drawn to her, sensing a connection with Thea – yet neither of them realizes just how intertwined their lives truly are.

'Sara West creates intense feelings with delicate words, in which you quickly lose yourself – and through which you find something that stays with you for a long time. Thea and Max's story thrives on a tangible fragility and it is precisely through this that it unfolds its strength.' SPIEGEL bestseller author Merit Niemeitz

Lena Herzberg

Find Me Under The Moonlight

- She is a globetrotter, he is afraid to take risks – the 2nd part of the *Above Us* series
- A small bookshop, tarot cards and touching messages
- A fake dating romance with big feelings
- Rights to the series sold to: Russia (EKSMO)



January 2025 · 384 pages

© Sarah Kastner



Lena Herzberg tells her stories about love from an idyllic little town near Frankfurt am Main, where she lives with her husband, daughter and dog Ecki. Lena comes from a family in which books and reading have always been very important. Since 2016, she has been whisking her readers away to far-away metropolises or cosy small towns.

Ambrose spent his childhood in astronomy research centres. While his parents worked there, he took refuge in stories. Today, his bookshop is his quiet harbour. When he hires Gemma, things get stormy. Because Gemma not only has a soft spot for tarot cards, but much worse: she folds books into works of art. Gemma overhears his mates talking to him about his lack of a love life and offers to play his fake girlfriend. Then Ambrose finds a note in a book from a stranger whose words touch him. He spontaneously writes back. But he also feels more and more for Gemma...

Marie Kronemann

Love's Never Out of Style

- Love has its own plans, which make for entertaining reading
- Heartwarming and romantic – a love story about second chances with a hint of nostalgia



September 2025 · 400 pages



© Schaper Kommunikation

Marie Kronemann, born in 1997 near Frankfurt am Main, has lived in Berlin for several years. She wrote stories as a child, and writing remains her biggest passion to this day. When not working on her novels, she works as an editor or indulges in new hobbies.

A class reunion, old secrets and romantic heartbeats

At graduation, Mila boasted about her grand plans. Fifteen years later, she returns home—without the shining career she expected. She moves back into her childhood room, complete with a Justin Timberlake poster. And just now, there's a class reunion where she meets her ex-boyfriend Noah. The reunion is chilly, but things get worse. The time capsule with the secret wishes and confessions Mila and her classmates buried is gone. As the first secrets are released, Mila becomes the prime suspect. To prove her innocence and prevent her heartfelt confession from being exposed, she must work with Noah.

Isabell Bennett

Mountain Dreams Series, Volume 2

- Smalltown Romance meets Forced Proximity
- A cozy setting and two adventure-seeking protagonists

Volume 2 of the Mountain Dreams series about three attractive brothers



April 2025 · 336 pages



© Lisa Bossen

Isabell Bennett has put her heart and soul into writing for years and has already published numerous novels. These books have one thing in common: Isabell loves to write about love. She often takes long walks in the countryside with her dog Skadi and has dreamed herself into the Adirondack Mountains - which is how the fictional village of Berryfield came about.

Opposites attract: Climbing instructor meets lady with vertigo

When Nova decides to drop out of college and do Work & Travel in the USA, she's excited for an adventure – but ends up landing in the small town of Berryfield first.

However, she quickly discovers that the town has more to offer than she initially thought, especially thanks to the charming climbing instructor Hudson, who shows her Berryfield's adventurous side. Despite her fear of heights, Nova decides it's time to conquer it, with Hudson more than happy to help. Neither expected their connection to spark as intensely as it does. But Nova's time in the town is limited, and neither she nor Hudson is looking for a serious relationship. Yet, for both, it might be worth risking their hearts...

CRIME

Emily Rudolf

The Dinner – Everyone at the Table is Good Friends. Or Are They?

- A crime dinner escalates: thrilling, intense, and full of twists
- Fascinating psychological suspense made in Germany

English sample translation and complete summary available

Rights sold to: Emily Rudolf's "The Retreat" sold to: Norway (Cappelen Damm) and Croatia (Fraktura)



January 2025 · 464 pages

© Gaby Gerster 2023



Emily Rudolf knows her way around sophisticated psychological suspense set in fascinating locations: Her debut "The Retreat" brought her a direct breakthrough as a thriller author. In her new book, "The Dinner", she explores the abysses lurking behind friendship and how human emotions can escalate to deadly levels. The author, born in 1998, grew up near Leipzig, published her first books alongside her studies and job and then turned her passion into a career. Emily Rudolf currently lives and writes in Nuremberg; in her free time, she likes to play mystery dinners like the protagonists of her current thriller, but with a less murderous outcome.

Old friends. New lies. And a murderous truth.

Jonathan and his fiancée Lotta gather their old friends for a reunion at a hidden restaurant in the countryside. Casting a shadow over the event, an empty seat commemorates Maria, who vanished five years ago. As a tribute to memory, they start a murder-mystery dinner, blurring the line between game and grim reality. Disturbing memories come to the surface and raise questions: Who is lying for their role, who is lying for themselves? As a storm brews outside, the game escalates. Is Maria still alive? Or is there a murderer at the table?

Ulrike Gerold, Wolfram Hänel

Solstice – The Brightest Night. Your Darkest Hour



August 2025 · 400 pages

Ulrike Gerold and Wolfram Hänel, long involved in theatre before turning to writing, have published over 150 novels, stories, and picture books, translated into 30 languages. Their recent thrillers "Rauhnächte" and "Fastenzeit" were published by S. Fischer Verlage. The authors live and work together in Hanover and Berlin and are members of PEN Berlin.

An atmospheric thriller set against the backdrop of the solstice celebration

In a small town in the Alps, the summer solstice is celebrated each year with fire images in the mountains and chains of flames along the ridges. This attracts tourists, former hippies, and esoterics, and even the fact that decades ago a person died in the fire doesn't deter anyone. However, the villagers still wonder if that death was truly an accident. Just before this year's summer solstice, an anonymous warning is received by the police: someone will burn again. On Midsummer's Day, in a race against time, police officer Hannah investigates the threat and uncovers a secluded farm, missing women, and a dark family secret.

Anna Täuber

Odd Birds

- The start of a new cozy crime series
- Four hobby ornithologists investigate

Trend hobby bird watching meets cozy crime: Odd Birds!



March 2025 · 368 pages



The first case for the birdwatchers

Harald, Katja, Thilo, and Sabine share a common passion: bird watching. Every Sunday at the crack of dawn, they meet at the observation tower in Grabenstätt Moss at Chiemsee to look out for a rare specimen. But this Sunday, they are met with a horrific sight: Frank, also an enthusiastic hobby ornithologist, lies dead in the bushes. A tragic accident, says the police. Cold-blooded murder, say the bird watchers. And they start investigating right away. Despite initial turbulence and little investigatory experience, they soon realize they were spot on. Frank had a reputation, and he was anything but a blank slate.

Heaven only knows how Anna Täuber, alias Dorothea Böhme, and Regine Bott decided to give feathered friends a prominent role in their lives. By now, they joyfully gather at the well-equipped feeding stations in Regine's garden and on Dorothea's balcony. Moreover, Dorothea has dedicated her professional life to conservation, and Regine enjoys wandering through the forest with a bird identification app. It made sense to feature a group of hobbyist ornithologists as the main characters of their crime series "Odd Birds". After all, anyone who can watch birds motionlessly also has a clear advantage when tailing criminals. When the authors are not concocting a new adventure for their five "Birders", they regularly appear together at reading events. They live with their families in Stuttgart and Kornwestheim.

Arno Strobel

Killer Hunter 5: The Pattern of Evil

- Max Bischoff, a gifted case analyst and former criminal investigator, is on his fifth case
- Killer Hunter 4: from 0 to 1 on the SPIEGEL bestseller list
- Over 3.1 million books sold by Arno Strobel at FISCHER

"Strobel is a master of suspense" – Konstanze Fühlbeck, WAZ



February 2025 · 368 pages



© Gaby Gerster 2022

Before the official opening of their detective agency, case analyst Max Bischoff and handwriting expert Marvin Wagner receive an unusual assignment: In Düsseldorf, the nine-year-old son of a judge has been kidnapped. And, unexpectedly, a prisoner wants Max and Marvin to investigate the case. Rainer Klinke, who is in pre-trial detention for kidnapping a minor, fears he might share the blame for the current case. The perpetrator holding the boy has let Klinke know that he will show him how it's "properly" done. When the kidnapped boy is found dead and another child disappears, Max and Marvin realize they have very little time to prevent the next murder.

Arno Strobel, born in 1962 in Saarlouis, is one of Germany's most successful thriller writers. All his thrillers have been bestsellers. Before dedicating himself exclusively to writing, he spent many years working for a large German bank in Luxembourg. Strobel loves borderline experiences, and likes to share them with his readers. That is why his thrillers are like exciting journeys of discovery into the dark corners of the human soul, and go beyond even the most primal fears. He derives most of his themes from everyday life, and when he cannot shake off an idea and wants to get to the bottom of it with the help of his network of experts, he knows that the foundation of his next book is being laid. He lives as a freelance writer near Trier.

Arno Strobel, Ingo Bott

Adversaries

- Over 3.2 million copies of books by Arno Strobel and Ingo Bott sold
- A gripping thriller that will captivate not only fans of both authors



October 2024 · 416 pages

Arno Strobel loves to explore human primal fears and enjoys testing limits. All of his thrillers have been bestsellers, staying at the top of the bestseller lists for weeks.

Ingo Bott runs a criminal law firm, solving challenging cases domestically and abroad. To counterbalance the stress, he passionately writes unconventional crime novels during his travels.

The two authors share one thing in common: Their investigators solve cases in Düsseldorf. For Arno Strobel, it's the case analyst Max Bischoff, who delves into criminals' minds as the "Murder Finder", and for Ingo Bott, it's the unconventional criminal defense lawyer Anton Pirlo. After meeting through their publisher, the authors initially struck up a friendship, which then led to the idea of a collaborative project. Fortunately, their cooperation (mostly) went smoothly — unlike between their main characters, who must learn to work together in "Adversaries"...

Two stubborn investigators, two successful authors, a joint thriller!

Karl Müller, a partner in the Düsseldorf powerhouse law firm Müller & Mahler, is found dead just days before he was due to testify about the controversial TaxEx tax-saving models developed by his firm. But not everyone believes it was suicide. Thus, the remaining partners of the firm hire private investigator Max Bischoff to probe into Müller's death. Sophie Mahler, daughter of founding partner Ernst Mahler and herself a rising criminal defense lawyer, is to assist him — much to the dismay of her law firm partner Anton Pirlo, who instantly decides he dislikes Bischoff. However, when Sophie's father himself becomes a suspect and is arrested, Pirlo takes on his defense. Suddenly, Bischoff and Pirlo find themselves on the same side — and together, they devise a daring plan...

"The story is exciting, with surprising twists and references to current events" - *Rheinische Post*, Claudia Hötendorfer

Ingo Bott

Pirlo – Double Play

- The fourth case for the criminal defense lawyers Pirlo and Mahler
- A gripping legal thriller about dependencies, power imbalances, and the business of teenagers in professional football
- As an advisor to football clubs on sports law, Ingo Bott is a true insider



March 2025 · 464 pages

© Nathalie Schramm – Dad & Daughter



From a memorandum from the public prosecutor's office: DR. INGO BOTT is not Dr. Anton Pirlo. But it can be assumed that he knows him well. Both live in Dusseldorf. Both have founded a law firm in their respective living rooms. A lot is known about Ingo Bott. He was first a partner in a commercial law firm. After that, what he first operated out of his living room developed into a renowned law firm with a large team. He is known as a defender of companies and private individuals in many well-known cases.

WirtschaftsWoche lists Ingo Bott as one of the most renowned lawyers in white-collar crime and the unit he founded as a top law firm in the areas of white-collar crime and compliance. Ingo Bott has represented the Council of Europe in criminal law issues and gives lectures in Germany and abroad. He loves language and writes novels.

In court and on the football field, it's all about winning. But at what cost?

Criminal defense attorney Anton Pirlo has barely recovered from his last case when his brother Ahmid surprises him with a new business idea: He wants to transition into being a football agent and has already discovered a 16-year-old top talent at Eintracht Düsseldorf who wishes to be represented by him. However, for a professional appearance, he needs Pirlo by his side. As Pirlo and his partner Sophie Mahler's law firm is facing economic difficulties, they agree to Ahmid's proposal. But when Eintracht Düsseldorf's club manager is found dead shortly after Pirlo's initial visit, Pirlo suddenly finds himself under suspicion of murder. While trying to prove his innocence, Pirlo and Sophie realize that the business of young football talents is not always morally sound.

Eva Ehley

Costly Deception

- Summer, sun, Sylt – and a corpse on the beach
- The twelfth case for detectives Bastian Kreuzer, Silja Blanck, and Sven Winterberg
- Over 200,000 copies of the series sold



March 2025 · 352 pages



© privat

Death in the Waves

When Bastian Kreuzer's ex-wife doesn't respond to his birthday wishes, the detective becomes worried. His concern grows when a disfigured woman's body is washed up on the Brandenburg beach in Westerland. The only clue to the victim's identity is the sinfully expensive, pink bikini she was wearing at her death. Could it possibly be Bastian's ex-wife? Or does the trail lead into Sylt's high society and a consequential affair?

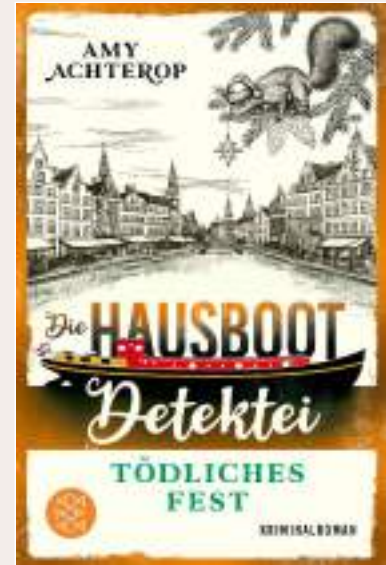
"Once again, genuinely good suspense entertainment - not just for coveted beach chair days on Sylt!" Andreas Thiemann, WAZ, about "Dead Gaze"

Eva Ehley studied literature and mathematics before working as a teacher. But in her books she writes about things that are not taught in school: neurotics who readily turn into murderers, and egoists who develop a helper syndrome in certain situations. Eva Ehley's Sylt crime novels are classic whodunnits/psychothrillers. And they don't only have cult status on the North Sea coast. Her books have received numerous awards, including the Agatha Christie Prize for Crime Fiction. She lives in Berlin with her husband, and has two grown-up sons.

Amy Achterop

The Houseboat Detectives 6: Deadly Celebration

- Charming reading for everyone who looks forward to Christmas in the autumn
- Four loveable private detectives investigate in Amsterdam
- Volume 6 of the successful cozy crime series



September 2025 · 320 pages

© Piteira Photography



Amy Achterop alias Heidi van Elderen owes her first visit to Amsterdam to a forgotten street map and a hopelessly bad sense of direction. That was back in 1999. The author, who was born on the Lower Rhine in 1980, immediately fell in love with the city and has returned regularly ever since, often accompanied by her Dutch husband. Heidi van Elderen has also lived in Portugal and New Zealand, but has meanwhile settled down with her family on a small farm in Sweden.

Four private detectives in the Christmas spirit, Sinterklaas gone astray, and a dead body in a burlap sack

It's November in Amsterdam, the month when Sinterklaas and his assistant, Zwarte Piet, arrive on their steamboat to travel through towns and villages distributing sweets until the grand Sinterklaas festival on December 5th. When Sinterklaas disappears without a trace, the holiday celebration is at risk of being ruined. Has Sinterklaas taken off, overwhelmed by the stress? The houseboat detectives take on the case – but when a dead body is found in Sinterklaas's burlap sack, it's clear: This is about more than just a tired Sinterklaas...

Klaus-Peter Wolf

A Murderous Couple. The Fall

Volume 3 of the bestseller series and a murderous couple on the run

More than 15 million books sold by Klaus-Peter Wolf



May 2025 · 448 pages



© Wolfgang Westling

Klaus-Peter Wolf, born in Gelsenkirchen in 1954, lives as a freelance writer in the East Frisian city of Norden, in the same district as his inspector Ann Kathrin Klaasen. Like her, after many years in the Ruhr area, in the Westerwald and in Cologne, he moved to the coast and became an East Frisian by choice. His books and films have received numerous awards. To date his books have been translated into 26 languages and have sold over 14 million copies. More than 60 of his screenplays have been filmed, including many for Tatort and Polizeiruf 110. The author is a member of the PEN Center Germany.

The novels in his series with Chief Inspector Ann Kathrin Klaasen regularly spend several weeks at number 1 on the Spiegel bestseller list. Several books in the series are currently being filmed for ZDF as major features, and continue to enthrall millions of viewers.

The thrilling finale and the new bestseller by Klaus-Peter Wolf

Once again, Dr. Bernhard Sommerfeldt finds himself where he has been before: on the run! Hunted by the police, the Federal Criminal Police Office, several professional killers, and gangster bosses. After an atmospheric wedding on the beach, Frauke had imagined their honeymoon more with champagne and gourmet dinners in a luxury hotel. But Sommerfeldt was unmasked, and their pursuers are hot on their heels. Both must go into hiding the same night after the failed assassination attempt on Sommerfeldt. Does Dr. Bernhard Sommerfeldt have a plan B?

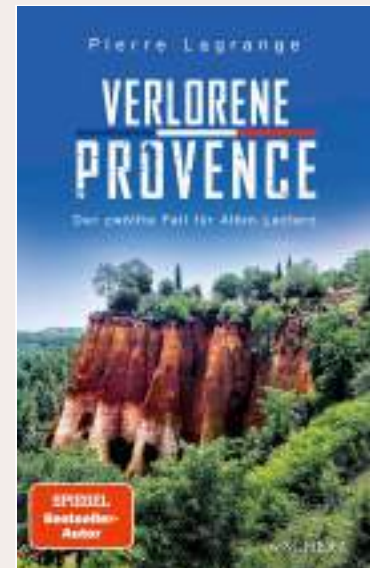
"The Fall" is the exciting finale of the summer series by No. 1 best-selling author Klaus-Peter Wolf.

"The Godfather of East Frisian crime fiction" Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung

Pierre Lagrange

Lost Provence

- The beloved holiday setting of Provence, the glamour of Cannes, and a thrilling case for Albin Leclerc
- Volume 12 of the successful bestseller series
- Over 650,000 copies of Pierre Lagrange's books sold.



April 2025 · 320 pages

© Kerstin Schomburg



Pierre Lagrange is the pseudonym of a well-known German author who has published numerous crime novels and thrillers. In the Avignon area, his mother ran a small hotel on an old estate, renowned for its Provençal cuisine. Against this picturesque backdrop, the author has his lovable Commissaire Albin Leclerc and his pug, Tyson, conduct their investigations.

The Cannes Film Festival - and a Murder on Live Camera

Spring in Southern France: While the glamorous Cannes Film Festival is underway, several international stars also venture into the Provençal countryside to shoot a remake of the French thriller classic "The Murderers". When one of the lead actors is shot dead on camera, the retired Commissaire Albin Leclerc, along with his pug Tyson, sneaks into the investigation. The list of suspects is long, as seemingly everyone has a motive, from the jealous actor to the rival director and the elusive producer. When another murder occurs, it's clear: A killer is on set – and they're not done yet.

SCIENCE FICTION

Brandon Q. Morris

Mars Genesis

- Hard science fiction from Germany – well-researched and thrilling
- Over one million books sold by Brandon Q. Morris



March 2025 · 416 pages

© Birgit-Cathrin Duval



Brandon Q. Morris is a physicist who has concerned himself professionally and in private for quite some time with space-related issues. He would have liked to have become an astronaut, but had to stay on earth for a variety of reasons. It is therefore his ambition to write exciting Sci-Fi stories, which might actually unfold as he tells them.

A new home, a new hope... and a new enemy

2058. An Artificial Intelligence, with the help of robots, has completed the construction of a Mars colony, soon to be inhabited by the first hundred humans. Given that cosmic radiation during the long journey and later on the planet will irreparably damage the genome of the first generation of Mars humans, it was decided to opt for astronauts of advanced age. Thus, one hundred colonists, all between their 50 and 75, embark on a journey of no return to a new home, where every minor misstep could mean death, but where a gravity two-thirds weaker than Earth's promises the elderly a new youth with unexpected capabilities.

However, they are soon required to exhibit wholly unexpected capabilities: The AI on Mars appears to have its own plans, attempting by all means to ensure the enterprise's failure – which could reduce the colonists' precious remaining years to mere days.

Mikkel Robrahn

Eternity Online 2

- The second volume of the enthralling Avataris Saga
- As immersive as a game: Fantasy with a twist
- For fans of Ernest Cline or Richard Schwartz

English sample translation of volume 1 available



March 2025 · 464 pages



© Marc Kirchhamm

Mikkel Robrahn, born 1991, has been working in the gaming industry for many years. Only occupying himself with video games is too boring for him though, so he also writes books and tries to convince his pug Oskar to go for daily walks. The thing with the books works out really well for him, but a pug like his can be really stubborn.

"Let the games begin..."

As Avataris – the vast online world where humans can continue to live after their death – rises from the all-consuming fire, the heroes of the free peoples are seized with a newfound zeal for war. An arena is to be built, where the most skilled fighters will compete against each other. For most hero groups, it's doomsday or victory. So, mostly: doomsday.

Rob and his friends suspect there's more at stake and start to investigate. They are supported by a new group member who, like Rob, seems not to fit into this world. But does their hero group really have what it takes to survive an arena where the best of the best go head-to-head? Together, they plunge into an adventure they may not survive.