

HAYMON

Foreign Rights Guide

Spring 2025

HAYMON
verlag



Doris Brehm
A woman between yesterday and tomorrow
Novel

Haymon Publishing House
ISBN 978-3-7099-8253-2
03.04.2025
Approx. 300 pages, hardcover

About the book

Vienna, 1942: In the middle of the fourth year of the war, Gerda Manner faces the greatest challenge of her life. Theo, her husband, whom she has long since fallen out of love with, gradually succumbs to Nazi ideology – wanting to fight for the “final victory” – while their daughter Luzie reads banned books, listens to “enemy” music and makes no secret of her rejection of Hitler. When Theo goes off to war, it is up to Gerda to make decisions: for her family, the bookshop and the antiquarian bookshop, both of which Theo leaves in Gerda's care, and for herself. At a time when any mistake could be their last, Gerda and Luzie risk everything. They hide so-called “undersea messengers”: their neighbor Peter, whose deportation is imminent, and the Jewess Mira Goldberg, who has gone into hiding. But that's just the beginning ...

In every respect, Gerda senses that the front lines of the war have long since arrived in Vienna. That this is the place where she has to fight.

Doris Brehm's novel is the first in a new series published by Haymon, edited by Bettina Balàka and dedicated to forgotten German-language authors – with a literary classification by the editor and a contribution to the historical-biographical debate by historian Katharina Prager.

About the author

Doris Brehm (1908-1991): Writer, librarian and resistance fighter. During the Second World War, Brehm worked in the communist resistance as a “submarine officer”, whose task it was to organize secret shelters for Jewish people and deserters. In April 1945, she became a member of the Communist Party, worked in the editorial offices of the three new democratic parties and began her work as an editor, translator and author. The novel “A woman between yesterday and tomorrow” was published in 1955 and is influenced by Brehm's real experiences.

<http://biografia.sabiado.at/brehm-doris/>

About the series**Haymon Her Story - Rediscovered literature by women**

Even though the gender ratio in publishing programs has changed today, there are now more female authors, literature by women, especially before the 1980s, is still strongly underrepresented. But: women have always written, women have always been authors, but they were hindered in their work, were too often only allowed to write in the background, for their writer husbands, and were often not promoted. If there were publications, they were soon forgotten, actively suppressed. Haymon Her Story - Rediscovered Literature by Women, the new series from Haymon Verlag, edited by the author Bettina Balàka, is dedicated to German-language novels that were thought to have been forgotten.

For Haymon, this series means we can make the history of female writing a little more accessible, and we can recognize how, in which ways and about what women have written.



Michèle Yves Pauty
Family body
Novel

Haymon Publishing House
ISBN 978-3-7099-8246-4
March 2025
Approx. 200 pages, hardcover

About the book

The warm evening light fills the room, she plays with the plastic horses in the hallway. Her mother is lying in the TV chair, not moving, her feet up, not answering. So she goes to the house phone, remembers the number and dials it using the rotary dial. Watch as the elevator doors close with the paramedics and the mother on the cot. – It will be just one of many memories.

She grows up in Tyrol in the 1980s, between snow-covered mountain peaks and the mud-green river that meanders through the city, grows up in the Olympic Village, social housing. Grows up as a healthy body among sick bodies. Grandmother, mother, sisters – illness affects them all. Kidneys, thyroid, allergies, exhaustion, every birth a sacrifice, hysterectomy almost a tradition. The doctors don't react, they play it down. To protect herself, she alienates herself more and more. And then begins to put everything together, weaving together a family body.

Michèle Yves Pauty tells the story of several women's lives, tells of the connections between gender, origin, class, education and health; a great, sad and beautiful novel.

About the author



Michèle Yves Pauty (*1982) studied photography and German philology in Vienna and literary writing in Hildesheim and Leipzig. Pauty has published in various magazines and anthologies and was awarded the Hilde-Zach literary scholarship in 2021. Her debut "Familienkörper" will be published by Haymon Verlag in February 2025. Pauty lives in Vienna and Leipzig and is part of the artist collective sy:rup.

Photo: © Michaela Putz



Beatrice Frasl
De-romanticize yourselves!
A wake-up call

Haymon Publishing House
ISBN 978-3-7099-8251-8
April 2025
Approx. 150 pages, gatefold brochure

About the book

Love - it has been passionately sung about in songs for centuries, praised in literature and glorified in films, even in its most toxic forms. Despite its volatility and usually relatively short duration, we have made romantic love a central model of social organization. Romantic love is what is constantly hammered into our brains from an early age as an indispensable component of happiness and fulfillment.

Yet its reality is anything but romantic - especially for women: Heteroromantic relationships provide the framework for women to take on two thirds of the unpaid work, earn less and slip into dependencies. Unmarried women without children, on the other hand, are the happiest and healthiest population group. They have a higher life expectancy than married women, while married men live longer than unmarried men. Romantic relationships with men harm women: health-wise, emotionally and economically.

In this great, angry essay, Beatrice Frasl addresses these injustices and pleads for a rethink. Because romantic love is a patriarchal indoctrination campaign. It's a good thing we don't need it.

About the author

Photo: © Michael Würmer



Beatrice Frasl is a cultural scientist/gender researcher, podcaster, columnist and always: feminist. In her work, she has been dealing with the gaps in the healthcare system, mental illness and feminism for years. In her podcast "Große Töchter" (Great Daughters), she deals with gender-specific, socio-political issues. As @fraufrasl, she raises awareness about mental health and feminism on social media. Her goal? Better access to therapy for everyone and: to end patriarchy. Her debut "Patriarchale Belastungsstörung" (Patriarchal Stress Disorder) was published by Haymon in 2022 and was very well received. "Entromantisiert euch!" is the author's second book.



Lisa-Viktoria Niederberger
Darkness
A plea

Haymon Publishing House
ISBN 978-3-7099-8245-7
March 2025
Approx. 150 pages, hardcover

About the book

We associate darkness with danger, fear and loneliness. The image of a woman rushing home with pepper spray in her hand. The monsters under the bed that appear as soon as the light goes out. The death we are afraid of. At the same time, we are attracted to the dark and the night, they fascinate us and have always been part of (pop) culture and art. The interplay of shadow and light has always been a part of it. Darkness means horror and beauty. But little by little, we have pushed darkness out of our lives, out of our cities. Light pollution, environmental destruction, the skyglow that robs us of sleep: too much artificial light has a catastrophic effect on entire ecosystems, animals and people.

In her powerful collection of essays, Lisa-Viktoria Niederberger asks herself: What can a life look like in which we allow darkness more space again? She deals with darkness and power, with the sky and the stars as a cultural asset, with nature conservation, occupational health and safety, feminist and political issues.

“Darkness” is a literary search for ambivalences and continuities around the dark. A plea for a return to dark nights.

About the author

Photo: © Zoe Goldstein



Lisa-Viktoria Niederberger was born in 1988 and works as an author in Linz. She studied art history, German and cultural studies in Salzburg and Linz and writes prose, essays and texts for children. Her artistic work focuses on topics such as climate protection, feminist issues and social justice. Her short prose collection *Misteln* was published by edition mosaik in 2018. Since then, she has published texts in literary magazines and anthologies, cultural journalistic contributions, as well as lead writing workshops. In spring 2024, *Helle Sterne, dunkle Nacht*, a children's non-fiction book about light pollution, will be published by Achse Verlag.



Stefanie Jaksch
About the bright side
Radical confidence in challenging times

Haymon Publishing House
ISBN 978-3-7099-8237-2
27.08.2024
216 pages, hardcover

About the book

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Essays that break through the twilight of our time

Crises, wars, climate change – they have the world firmly in their grip and we are reminded of this day after day. While scrolling through social media, in the evening news, in the podcast that actually promised us distraction. Dystopias wherever you look. But that can't be everything. Where has the light gone in the world?

With fascinating clarity and provocative depth, Stefanie Jaksch dives deeper into the topic of light and talks about the discovery of fire, the myth of the “bright mind”, the potential of darkness, bedazzling politicians and other dark sides of light. In conversation with pastors, psychologists and authors, Jaksch explores the questions: Where and how does light prevail today? How do we manage to maintain confidence in times of unrest? And when does our hope for a happy ending deceive us? What Jaksch finds: optimistic approaches to major challenges, people who, like herself, cannot let the dark win and: Hope.

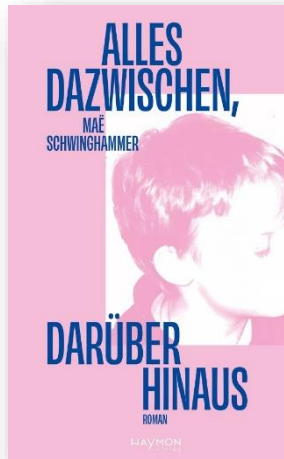
A book that awakens the resistance within us.

About the author

Photo: © Haymon Verlag / Fotowerk Aichner



Stefanie Jaksch, born in Erlangen, Franconia, has lived and read in Vienna since 2011, where she most recently worked as publishing director for Kremayr & Scheriau. The essay series she devised “übermorgen” was awarded the Bruno Kreisky Prize for the Political Book, among others. After her studies and forays into public relations, she worked as a dramaturge, bookseller and publishing director. Today Jaksch, who describes herself as a “literary worker”, works as a freelance presenter, curator, editor and author. In 2024, she founded “In Worten - Das Büro für Literatur- und Kulturarbeit”.



Maë Schwinghammer
Everything in between, beyond
Novel

Haymon Verlag
ISBN 978-3-7099-8238-9
August 20, 2024

About the book, by NBG, <https://www.new-books-in-german.com/recommendations/everything-in-between-beyond/>

Everything in between, beyond by Maë Schwinghammer is an innovative and engaging literary autobiography, exploring themes of gender, neurodivergence, family and class. Eschewing a continuous narrative, the short, episodic chapters, in first-person and present tense, are interspersed with diary entries, shopping lists and song lyrics.

Synopsis

The book opens with a short reflection on the narrator's difficulty with language. In the pages that follow, the young narrator starts at kindergarten, where neither the teachers nor the other children understood what they were saying. They attend speech therapy sessions accompanied by their mother, the one person who almost always understands. On a visit to family in Serbia, Schwinghammer is proud: they can say a few words in Serbian, and for the first time people are impressed with their use of language.

A few years after the birth of their sister, their parents separate. Adolescence sees Schwinghammer start grammar school, where their working-class background sets them apart and they are bullied. After they change schools, their mother's depression deepens: one day she doesn't come home for hours, and she subsequently begins therapy and starts taking anti-depressants.

With university comes Schwinghammer's gym lad phase: a regime of training, protein – and internalised homophobia. Throughout their time studying journalism at university, Schwinghammer writes countless job applications for their dad, now unemployed following various health issues. After their girlfriend breaks up with them, they meet Jona, who introduces them to a new group of friends.

This marks a new phase in Schwinghammer's life as they begin to explore their gender and sexuality: they make out with a man for the first time, and try on a bra. They come across the word 'non-binary' and repeat it 'like a newly learnt magic spell.' Schwinghammer finds themselves on a journey of self-discovery and healing. They realise they are non-binary and

begin to take hormones. They are diagnosed with autism. They open up to their parents about their experience of bullying at school.

At the end, Schwinghammer returns to the theme of language. The final page lists all the names they've been called in their life. The list and the novel end with the name they have chosen for themselves: Maë.

Schwinghammer manages to reflect on intersecting forms of oppression, while building an easy rapport with the reader through a conversational tone and flashes of ironic humour.

This is an evocative and essential memoir, which will appeal to fans of Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts*.

About the author



Maë Schwinghammer was born in 1993 and grew up in the Simmering district of Vienna, going on to study German Language. They also write poetry, plays and essays. They made their poetry debut in 2022 with 'covid's metamorphosen', which deals with social and personal transformation in a global pandemic. 'Everything in between, beyond' is Maë's first novel.

Find out more: <https://www.instagram.com/maeschwinghammer/>



Martin Peichl
It is only us
Novel

Haymon Verlag
ISBN 978-3-7099-8235-8
September 10, 2024

About the book (from NBG, <https://www.new-books-in-german.com/recommendations/it-is-only-us/>)

A literary novel with elements of the surreal, *It is only us* by prize-winning Austrian author Martin Peichl is a reflection on grief and trauma through the eyes of a narrator whose grip on reality loosens as he gradually becomes a survivalist.

Synopsis

A former IT teacher, the unnamed protagonist now works on computer game glitches; it is gradually revealed that he hasn't taught since one of his favourite students, Paul, threw himself out of a window during a lesson. Unable to come to terms with his grief, the narrator has become obsessed with loss, noting down things that have disappeared – or are about to – on index cards. He claims to be writing a book but is too preoccupied with the ways in which the world might end.

Reality becomes ever less tangible, as the narrator meanders between the virtual world he is working on and the real world, where there are power cuts, sirens and thunderous rain showers. He is in non-committal relationships with various women and starts an affair with Paul's mother. His other social exchanges consist of visits to his own mother, who is developing dementia, and beers in the pub with his friend Julian. He logs into a live sex show regularly, obsessing about the women on screen and their private lives.

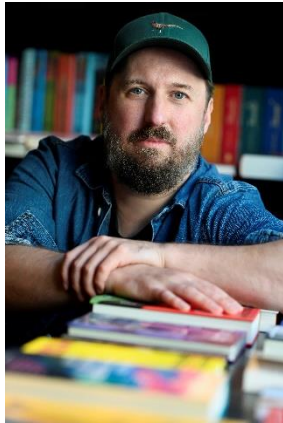
He begins a relationship with Masha, whom he meets on a bird watching trip. Masha takes him back to her flat and shows him her bunker, where she is preparing for the end of the world.

Things begin to unravel. He finds Masha on the sex channel, watching her pack a bag with everything you would need to survive the apocalypse. One day his mother won't answer her calls, and he and Masha drive out to find her asleep amongst photographs of people she can't remember. Another night he and Julian are at the pub when torrential rain floods the city.

His interactions with the other women in his life become increasingly transactional, and his search for connection ultimately fails. His mother slowly declines, and Paul's mother eventually ends their affair. The world is ending, he thinks, and if it isn't, maybe it should be.

The novel concludes with Masha and the narrator locking themselves in the bunker with enough provisions to survive the end, which, the last line tells us, may or may not be real. This is a gripping and original novel, with moments of comedy despite the dark subject matter. Exploring the timely theme of climate grief, *It is only us* is reminiscent of Jenny Offill's *Weather* and A.L. Kennedy's *Everything You Need*: a protagonist we shouldn't like takes us on a bleak journey we can't help but want to go on.

About the author



Martin Peichl was born in 1983 and lives and works in Vienna. He has published widely and been awarded numerous prizes. He works as a literary agent, including for the libraries of the City of Vienna. He has curated the Literaturmeile Zieglergasse festival since 2023. His new novel, *'It is only Us'* (Haymon, September 2024) transports us to a world where everything has seemingly fallen apart but where everything is interconnected.

Previous works: *Wie man Dinge repariert*, Edition Atelier (2019), *In einer komplizierten Beziehung mit Österreich*, Kremayr & Scheriau (2020), *Gespenster zählen*, Kremayr & Scheriau (2021).

Find out more: <https://www.martin-peichl.at>