

RIGHTS GUIDE

SPRING 2025



**KIEPENHEUER
& WITSCH**

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Leif Randt

Allegro Pastell

literary fiction, first published in 2020

- **English** translation to be published by Granta Magazine Editions in June 2025
- **Rights sold to:** Brazil: Bestiário / Bulgaria: Colibri / Croatia: Vuković & Runjić / Denmark: Straarup / Greece: Elkystis / Macedonia: TRI Publishing Centre / Netherlands: Leesmagazijn / Norway: Aschehoug / Russia: Ad Marginem / Serbia: Blum izdavaštvo / Sweden: Forum / UK (World English): Granta



Jean-Luc Bannalec

An Island of Suspects (Bretonische Idylle)

Crime/Mystery, first published in 2021

- **English** translation published by St. Martin's Press in February 2025
- Over 5.5 million copies of the series sold overall
- **Rights sold to:** Czech: Euromedia / France: Presses de la Cité / Slovenia: Učila / Spain: Grijalbo / USA: St. Martin's Press (World English)



Gil Ribeiro

Un Inspector en Fuseta (Lost in Fuseta)

Crime/Mystery, first published in 2017

- **Spanish** translation published by Maeva in July 2024
- Over 1 million copies sold of the series
- **Rights sold to:** Czech: Euromedia / Portugal: Escafandro / Spain: Maeva



Uwe Timm

Tutti i miei fantasmi (All My Ghosts)
 literary fiction, first published in 2023

- **Italian** translation published by Sellerio in January 2025
- *Uwe Timm (...) is known and read widely as an author who, in most of his books, links private and collective memory in a poignant, intelligent, touching way. – SPIEGEL online*



Nele Pollatschek

Kleinig Heden (Minor Problems)
 literary fiction, first published in 2023

- **Dutch** translation published by Atlas Contact in October 2024
- **Rights sold to:** Denmark: Turbine / Italy: Mondadori / Netherlands: Atlas Contact
- *A deeply funny and philosophical book for all those who know a thing or two about procrastination – Literarisches Quartett*



Joachim Meyerhoff

Ak, šī plaisa, sasodītā plaisa (Oh, This Void, This Unspeakable Void)
 literary fiction, first published in 2015

- **Latvian** translation published by Veikals Upe in January 2025
- **Rights sold to:** Latvia: Veikals Upe / Netherlands: Signatuur
- *A great, entertaining and very human book. – Stern*



Helene Hegemann

Striker

- An electrifying novel about our present time with its stark inequalities, conspiracy theories, class struggle, and raw violence
- English sample translation by Katy Derbyshire available
- Recommended for translation by New Books in German



March 2025 · 192 pages



© Joachim Gern

Helene Hegemann, born in 1992, lives in Berlin. In 2010, she made her debut as an author with the novel *Axolotl Roadkill*, which has been translated into 20 languages. The film adaptation, which she directed herself, won the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Cinematography at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. In 2013, she published her second novel *Jage zwei Tiger*, followed by *Bungalow* in 2018, which was nominated for the German Book Prize. In 2022, her short story collection *Schlachtensee* was published. She works as an opera, theater, and film director.

With force and speed, Helene Hegemann writes about the stark opposites of our modern world, best to be observed in a big city like Berlin. Martial arts and homelessness, wealth and repression, madness and sanity, raw violence and the weakness needed to prevent more violence are the currents flowing through this eerie and haunting novel.

N lives on a railroad line that runs between a deprived area and the residential district on the other side of the city. Two worlds. N knows both. And a third in the middle: the martial arts school where she teaches, prepares for upcoming fights, and begins an affair with a politician from the defense committee. Her existence is marked by opposites: rich and poor, powerlessness and muscle building, utmost discipline, and boundless aggression against herself.

One morning, N discovers mysterious signs on the firewall across from her apartment. They aren't letters, hieroglyphics, or pictures, but she immediately senses that they mean something. They haunt her.

Then, suddenly, there are suitcases and bags outside her door. They belong to a homeless young woman who is sleeping in the stairwell and claims to be connected to Striker, the legendary graffiti artist and probable originator of the signs. Who is she? What does she want from N? And why does N have the sickening feeling that she is facing herself every time she runs into the young woman?

Sophie Hunger

Waltz for Nobody

- A multi-layered and poetic novel about friendship and the elemental nature of music
- English sample translation by Jamie Searle available soon
- Recommended for translation by New Books in German



March 2025 · 192 pages



© Marikell Lahana

Sophie Hunger is a Swiss musician. She made her debut in 2008 with the album *Monday's Ghost* (Universal Jazz France) and was the first Swiss artist to play at the Glastonbury Festival in 2010. In Germany, she received the LEA (Live Entertainment Award) for Best Live Tour in 2015 and the Pop Culture Award in 2019. In France, she received the Prix Lumière in 2017 for her music for the Oscar-nominated film *Ma Vie de Courgette*.

This is a story about growing up with the magic and power of music – and a friendship whose intimacy becomes destructive. Sophie Hunger gifts us a tragicomic and sophisticated novel that is as profound as it is poetic, exploring what we must lose in order to become someone.

A girl and her best friend, Nobody. As children of military attachés, they are constantly on the move, always changing locations. Carried by the rhythm of music, they experience the magic and turmoil of childhood and adolescence. Their happiest moments are spent losing themselves in their record collection, re-mapping the world according to band names on an atlas, shouting out decibel levels during piano lessons, or discovering phrases in songs that have always been concealed inside them. They hide in music, and music hides them – but they always have each other.

Then, cracks begin to appear in their friendship. While Nobody becomes obsessed with the folklore of the narrator's ancestors, the Walser people, and Sophie begins writing her first songs, a catastrophe brews.

Florentine Anders

The Avenue

- The fascinating story of East Germany's star architect Henselmann and his family, told by his granddaughter
- English sample translation by Alex Roesch available



February 2025 · 352 pages



© Patricia Haas

Florentine Anders, born in Berlin in 1968, is the granddaughter of Hermann Henselmann. She worked as a freelance journalist in France and Germany, contributing to various newspapers. Today she is an editor at Studio ZX, a company of the *ZEIT* publishing group. She has been a board member of the Hermann Henselmann Foundation since 2022.

The dramatic story of a family balancing idealism and conformity

Hermann Henselmann was a charismatic idealist, steeped in the ideas of the Bauhaus and the avant-garde, who rose to become the chief architect of East Berlin after the war. The Berlin TV Tower, Stalinallee, and the City-Hochhaus skyscraper in Leipzig are all inextricably linked with his name. The price, of course, was that he had to constantly maneuver – and sometimes even grovel – to preserve at least the foundations of his modernist vision from the boorish demands of the Socialist political leadership.

Always by his side was his wife Isi, a highly gifted woman in her own right, who also wanted to work as an architect but instead had to raise a family of eight children. She constantly swept up the pieces left by her husband, even as she increasingly emancipated herself. This is also the story of their daughter, Isa, the author's mother, who escaped her choleric father's suffocating manipulation to forge her own thorny path in a completely different field. Intertwined with the Henselmann family story is the story of Robert Havemann, a dissident, whose wife Karin was Isi's sister and who in contrast to Henselmann refused to let the party leadership tell him what to do.

“Florentine Anders tells the turbulent story of the extended Henselmann family. Incredibly fascinating, it offers surprising insights into Germany's eventful recent history, from the Weimar Republic to the present day.” - Volker Kutscher (author of the book series *Babylon Berlin* is based on)

Katharina Hagen

River Lines

- An empathic novel about the bonds between generations and about learning to let go and continuing to breathe
- English sample translation by Jamie Bulloch available
- *The Taste of Apple Seeds* sold over 1 million copies and was translated into 26 languages



March 2025 · 400 pages

© Heike Steinweg



Katharina Hagen, is a writer and lives with her family in Hamburg. Her first novel *The Taste of Apple Seeds* was published in 2008 and became a huge best-seller. It has been translated into 26 languages and made into a movie. She also wrote *On Sleeping and Disappearing* and *The Sound of Light*.

***River Lines* tells the story of three people, three fates – and twelve early-summer days on the Elbe that change everything.**

Margrit, 102 years old and living in a retirement home in Hamburg by the river Elbe, struggles to hold on to her memories. She looks back on her childhood with her single mother, who was in a secret relationship with the exceptional gardener Else Hoffa, her training as a vocal and breathwork coach, her marriage and affairs. In the knowledge that her remaining time is very short, she has a relaxed and cheerful view of life and deals pragmatically with the demands of old age.

Her granddaughter Luzie is 18 and has dropped out of school after a sexual assault. She moves into a hut on the Elbe and prepares to become a tattoo artist by tattooing Margrit's life story onto her skin, thereby connecting generations and finding solace in the process.

Arthur, a young man who invents languages for computer games and helps out as a driver in a retirement home, mourns the loss of his twin brother, who went missing after a dive together.

Through Margrit, Luzie's and Arthur's paths cross at the retirement home and gradually a quiet friendship develops between them. They learn to trust each other and to deal with their traumas. And maybe friendship can become something more?

Christoph Kramer

Life Began in Summer

- The touching coming-of-age novel by soccer World Cup champion Christoph Kramer
- English sample translation by Will Burn available



March 2025 · 256 pages



© Markus Tedeskinio

Christoph Kramer, born in 1991, is a soccer player, TV pundit, podcaster – and author. He was a member of the German national team from 2014 to 2016. In 2014, he became a World Cup champion. He is also a TV expert for international matches and major tournaments.

The hottest summer on record, first love, a night that changes everything. Christoph Kramer's debut catapults us back to that time in life when everything seemed possible, when the greatest happiness and the deepest despair lay just a heartbeat apart.

It's the summer of 2006, one heat record follows another, and the World Cup is changing the country – and 15-year-old Chris's whole life is changing, too. He spends his evenings with his friends on the roof of the old barn and sleeps away the hot days at the outdoor pool. He dreams of becoming a professional soccer player, but more than anything, he wants to finally be cool.

Chris is a teenager like any other, searching for himself. Then the unbelievable happens: Debbie, the most beautiful girl in school, shows an interest in him, of all people. And so begins an emotional roller-coaster ride. Chris goes all in, even as he never forgets what really matters: friendship and the certainty of having really lived.

A wonderfully melancholy homage to the magic of beginnings, to the enchantment of first love, and, last but not least, to friendship – the story of an unforgettable summer. Full of heart, and told with extraordinary sensitivity to the little things that mean everything in life.

Susann Pásztor

Onwards from Here

- An uplifting exploration of the themes of grief and death that shows us the beauty of life
- English sample translation by Rachel Farmer available soon



February 2025 · 256 pages

© Heike Blenk



Susann Pásztor, born in Soltau in 1957, works as a freelance writer and translator in Berlin. Her debut novel *Ein fabelhafter Lügner* (*A Fabulous Liar*) was published in 2010 and has been translated into several languages. She completed training as a companion to the dying and has been carrying out this activity as a volunteer for several years.

After 30 years of marriage, Marlene suddenly finds herself a widow. Lonely and without prospects, she sits in her big empty house and rejects all offers of support, ignoring her friend's calls and planning her suicide instead. Until one day an unexpected visitor turns up on her doorstep – and he's not the only one who really messes up her plans. With subtle humor and touching depth, Susann Pásztor tells a wonderful story about a woman who has to reinvent herself and her life.

After Rolf dies, Marlene drags herself through the days as a surviving spouse with the help of tranquilizers. She sees her own imminent demise as the only way out. It's only when her former pupil, the plumber Jack, shows up and unceremoniously moves in with her that her life begins to change. Jack turns out to be not only a fantastic cook but also an empathetic and attentive roommate. But even he can't quite understand why Marlene isn't grieving so much as she is angry at her dead husband. As a tender love affair develops between Jack and Marlene's general practitioner, Ida, a letter from Rolf turns up at Marlene's friend Wally's home in Vienna, which may hold the answer to all the unanswered questions. Together with Jack and Ida, Marlene embarks on a journey that doesn't turn out as expected at all.

Alina Bronsky

Easy As Pi

- It's never too late for a fresh start – the tragicomic story of a dazzling heroine and an unlikely friendship
- SPIEGEL bestseller, over 100,000 copies sold
- English sample translation by Tim Mohr available
- Voted Favourite Book of Independent Booksellers 2024

Rights sold to: English World Rights: Europa Editions / Italy: Keller



August 2024 · 272 pages



© Christine Fenzl

Alina Bronsky is a bestselling writer whose books have sold half a million copies and were **translated into 20 languages**. She is praised for her irreverent tone and distinctive style and was longlisted for the German Book Prize with *Baba Dunja's Last Love*. Her debut *Broken Glass Park* was made into a feature film. She lives in Berlin.

When two worlds collide - a warm-hearted and highly entertaining novel about two people who couldn't be more different if they tried

They meet for the first time in a university lecture: Oscar is 16, highly gifted, comes from a wealthy background and has difficulties with social interactions. Moni Kosinsky has three grandchildren, several part-time jobs, loves bright lipstick and flashy clothes and is determined to fulfill her dream of studying math. At first, Oscar mistakes Moni for the cleaning lady but soon he realizes that Moni's intellect and perseverance are greater than the gaps in her knowledge. Oscar, on the other hand, struggles with everyday life and finds a supporter in the warm-hearted Moni who ends up turning his life around.

The two outsiders soon form a friendship that no one would have thought possible. Because mathematics doesn't care about one's background, age or appearance.

»Human tragedies packed into good entertaining literature, in simple language with a special allure: that's the Bronsky beat.« - SWR 1

Georgi Demidow, Thomas Martin (Hg.), Irina Rastorgueva (Hg.)

Two Prosecutors

- The rediscovery of a great forgotten author continues – here, with the brilliant counterpart to *Fone Kwas*
- A feature film by Ukrainian director Sergei Loznitsain is in the works
- Translation rights with KiWi except for French and Russian



March 2025 · 240 pages

Georgy Demidov (1908-1987), was a Soviet physicist who grew up in what is now Ukraine and worked in Kharkov, was arrested there in 1938 and interrogated for six months at NKVD headquarters. He survived fourteen years of Gulag on the Kolyma River. After his release, he began to write about his experiences. In 1980, the KGB confiscated all his manuscripts and destroyed his typewriters (without which he could not write, as his fingers had been frozen in the Gulag). Demidov died believing that his entire life's work had been destroyed. Only after the end of the Soviet Union were his works returned to his daughter and published for the first time in Russia. ***Fone Kwas* has been translated into Italian and Dutch.**

Georgy Demidov is unmatched in his ability to write about the powerlessness of the individual in the face of an arbitrary state machine – with brilliantly sharp observations, deep humanity, and unforgettable characters. A terrifyingly topical novel.

1937: The young prosecutor Kornev receives an anonymous letter, written in blood on a piece of cardboard: a prisoner pleading for his case to be investigated. Baffled, the prosecutor decides to visit the prison unannounced. After considerable resistance, he gains access to the prisoner. During their conversation, he realizes that the NKVD is an organization that destroys not only enemies of the state but also its friends – including even the most ardent supporters of the Soviet idea.

He learns that Kornev's letter was one of hundreds – letters from prisoners to their families and to the public prosecutor's office that never made it out of the prison but instead went straight into the furnace. Shaken, Kornev is convinced that the NKVD's activities constitute a conspiracy against Soviet power. Impulsively, he decides to travel to Moscow to visit the Chief Prosecutor General of the USSR – thereby setting in motion a powerful mechanism.

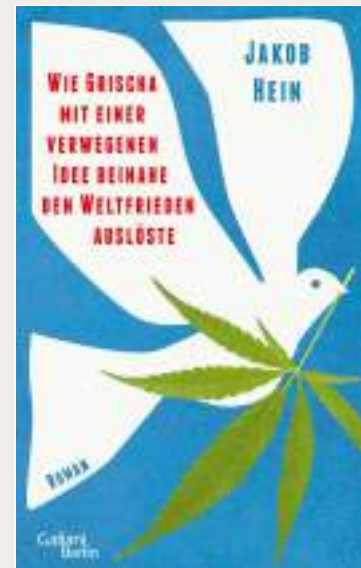
Further Titles



Jakob Hein

How Grischa's Audacious Idea Almost Led to World Peace

- An absurdly funny literary reinterpretation of a historical event that remains a mystery to this day



February 2025 · 256 pages



© Urban Zintel

Jakob Hein, born in 1971, works as a psychiatrist and has published numerous books. His book *Hypochondriacs Live Longer* (2020) stayed on the *SPIEGEL* bestseller list for several weeks. His latest novel *The Hypnotist* was published in 2022.

A bit of weed, a brilliant coup and the miracle of Bavaria – Jakob Hein's absurdly funny novel about one of Germany's greatest secrets: how did the East Germans once persuade Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauß to save their bankrupt country with a billion-dollar loan? A gloriously wacky story with one of literature's most laid-back heroes.

East Berlin in the early 80s: His boss never would have imagined that Grischa – the shy assistant at the Planning Commission – would be prone to subversion, let alone devise an (admittedly rather ingenious) plan to provide the ailing GDR with a surprisingly good new source of foreign currency. Maybe it was Grischa's rather idiosyncratic taste in movies – somewhere between American drug mafia thrillers and socialist heroic epics – that sparked the idea?

In any case, Grischa's boss is dumbfounded, as are several elderly ministers from the Central Committee. But soon, it's the police chief of West Berlin who's the most astonished of all when chaos erupts at the Invalidenstrasse border crossing – on the wrong side! As if by magic, hundreds of young people suddenly want to cross to the East. When the government in Bonn catches wind of the situation, things really heat up.

Jasna Fritzi Bauer, Katharina Zorn

Else

- Else, the secret cab driver, wins your heart from the very start
- An exceptional story of emancipation, spanning from the turbulent 1960s to the present



May 2025 · 272 pages

Jasna Fritzi Bauer, born in 1989, and **Katharina Zorn**, born in 1992, are artists, writers, and filmmakers. Since 2019, they have been working together as the artist duo ZORN x Jasna Fritzi Bauer in the areas of poetry, performance, and film, with a focus on socio-critical topics. In 2024, they made their first short film together in Mallorca, directed by ZORN and starring Jasna Fritzi Bauer, which will make the festival rounds in 2025. They live and work in Mallorca and Berlin.

At first glance, Else's 1960s family life seems typical. But she's the first woman in Hessen to get a taxi driver's license – and that's not her only secret. In their brilliant debut novel Jasna Fritzi Bauer and Katharina Zorn tell the story of a quiet emancipation and an escape from a socially prescribed role.

Else lives in Frankfurt with her husband, Willy, and their two daughters. To all appearances she is the perfect wife and mother. While Willy is often away on business trips or at the local tennis club, Else embarks on her own adventure: after spotting an ad in the newspaper, she decides to become a taxi driver. In secret. Meeting all kinds of people on her nightly drives, she begins to change.

One day, she discovers that Willy is cheating on her. And he's not the only one – her friend Marta's husband is also having affairs. The two women find ways to cope with the betrayal – in an era when men call the shots. But it's only decades later, when Willy seems to have discovered her past as a cabbie, that Else finally breaks free. Emptying her bank account, she travels to France with her granddaughter, Emma. During the trip, Else finally feels seen – by Emma and by the rest of the world.

Carla Kaspari

The Ending Is Comforting

- A soft science fiction epic about the exploitation of emotions and creative work in the year 2130



April 2025 · 272 pages

© Frederike Wetzels



Carla Kaspari, born in 1991, studied literature and musicology in Bonn and Paris. She works as a freelance writer. Her texts appear in various publications and formats.

***The Ending Is Comforting* is a novel about friendship, creativity, and the value of (false) hope.**

It's the summer of 2130, somewhere in northern Italy. Esther, a painter, and Thea, an engineer, are living two of the best lives that are still possible in this era. "Spes I" is a special place for special people; only the operating organization knows that the *villages* are based on a questionable concept.

Calm and quietly content, the inhabitants of Spes I pursue their passions, meet other residents on balmy evenings, and enjoy light drinks. The atmosphere in the village is maintained by a dome and a ventilation system on the one hand, and by coaching and mindfulness on the other. Esther is happy to live and work here, isolated from the horrors of the outside world. Her paintings, always featuring two suns, are among the most coveted works of art of her time.

But when the creative couple Cleo and Thomas arrive from Berlin, incidents begin to occur and the atmosphere changes. Soon, Esther finds herself waking up in the back seat of a car, far from the confines of the village. She is in the outside world, on a mission with an uncertain outcome.

Feridun Zaimoglu

Son Without A Father

- An unforgettable road-trip requiem: the new novel by the great storyteller Feridun Zaimoglu



February 2025 · 288 pages



Feridun Zaimoglu, born in the Anatolian city of Bolu in 1964, has been living in Germany since he was six months old. He writes for *Die Welt*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Die Zeit*, and *FAZ*. He has received numerous literary prizes. After *Leyla* and *Die Geschichte der Frau*, his most recent novel was *Bewältigung*. His books have been **translated into 14 languages**.

***Son Without A Father* is a stirring and haunting story about a grieving son, a family that sticks together, deceptive memories, and a journey to a foreign country – to his mother and his dead father.**

It's early morning when his mother calls to tell him that his father has died. The narrator doesn't know what to do. He's alone in his grief. Who can help him, who can comfort him? He realizes that he must go to Turkey at once. He needs to see his mother, to support her – and to stand at his father's grave to say goodbye.

The narrator, a writer, is afraid of flying. So he asks two friends to take him in their camper van. Together, they plan their journey: via Linz, Szeged, and Edirne to Edremit and back. Over five thousand kilometers. It's the beginning of an adventure-filled, feverish road trip across Europe, marked by shimmering memories of his father and his many lives: as a husband, a laborer, a storyteller, and a septuagenarian whose dyed sideburns could stir up chaos across an entire holiday resort.

In his new novel, Feridun Zaimoglu explores how we remember those who are closest to us yet sometimes seem strangely alien to us, those who love and shape us, whom we care for and, despite everything, must eventually let go of.

Hilmar Klute

In My Dreams, I Always Run Away

- A journey into the world of literature and into the self



March 2025 · 304 pages



© Jan Konitzki

Hilmar Klute, born in 1967, writes essays and literary criticism for the arts and culture section of *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

The story of a man who has let himself drift in order to find what is essential.

Early summer, late 1980s. Volker Winterberg has ended his dream of bohemian life in Berlin and left his community service behind. Now back home in the Ruhr region, he sits in university seminars, attends writing courses, and helps out at the theater. Yet his hunger for the essence of life and art remains unsatisfied. Every evening, he goes to the theatre, befriends the actors, and, above all, idolizes the legendary Traugott Buhre. But instead of making progress, the past catches up with him: his brief affair from Berlin announces she's coming to visit, much to Volker's embarrassment. Guided by the motto, "You just had to be born in the right part of the world to lead a good life in the wrong part," he decides to break free.

Accompanied by his friend Leo, he embarks on a journey across both external and internal continents. With no fixed plan, they head south, eventually ending up in the unknown expanse of Hungary, still officially socialist. After an adventurous, visa-less border crossing, they step into a completely new world.

Frank Schätzing

Heroes

Rights sold to Italy, Turkey · over 100,000 copies sold ·
SPIEGEL Bestseller · English sample translation available

In his epochal novel set in the 13th century, Frank Schätzing paints a picture of a society in turmoil. Against the backdrop of huge upheavals, in which the Renaissance and modern times already loom on the horizon, in the eternal tension between power and morality, Schätzing sends his hero Jacop on a hellish ride through history.

"A decidedly modern novel. Schätzing wouldn't be Schätzing if he didn't manage to combine popular knowledge of the Middle Ages with today's pop culture." - **FAZ**



October 2024 · 1.040 pages

Joachim Meyerhoff

You Can Also Fall Upwards

350,000 copies sold · #1 SPIEGEL Bestseller

In his mid-fifties, the narrator moves in with his eighty-something, very self-sufficient, mother in the countryside to write a novel about theater entitled "Shame and Stage." The weeks that follow are incomparable and eventful ones, during which, with his mother's help, he finds his way out of a deep existential crisis.

"When Meyerhoff writes, you get the feeling that you are witnessing a person's life. Loving and suffering, falling down and getting up." - Christine Westermann, **stern**



November 2024 · 368 pages

Tom Hillenbrand

Thanatopia

- If artificial intelligence makes it possible for human beings to live forever, will they even want to?
- A new novel from the Hologrammatica universe
- English synopsis and sample translation by Laura Caton available soon



March 2025 · 384 pages

Tom Hillenbrand is the author of numerous nonfiction books and novels, including the culinary thrillers featuring Luxembourg chef Xavier Kieffer as an investigator. 1.2 million copies of his books have been sold, they have won multiple awards, appear regularly on the *SPIEGEL* bestseller list and were translated into numerous languages.

Vienna, 2095: A corpse in the Danube isn't unusual for Inspector Landauer. But this time there are two. And what's worse, the two dead women look exactly alike – down to the last detail. Why are there two of the same dead woman?

As Landauer investigates, he uncovers a bizarre high-tech death cult: people who murder clones of themselves, again and again. Are these so-called Deathers simply insane? Or is there a method to their madness? The more time passes, the more evidence emerges that the deceased were on the trail of a great secret.

Tom Hillenbrand's fascinating novel takes us from Vienna to London, Greece, and around the world. Everywhere, people are confronted with the most existential of all questions: that of death and the after-life. Bold and entertaining, "Thanatopia" is a philosophical, clever, and incredibly suspenseful thriller about what constitutes our lives.

"Stanislaw Lem on speed" - Süddeutsche Zeitung about Qube

Further Titles



Jean-Luc Bannalec

Breton Temptations (The Fourteenth Case for Inspector Dupin)

- Over 5.5 million copies of the bestselling series sold
- Complete English translations of the first ten titles available
- Series translated into 17 languages



June 2025 · 352 pages

Jean-Luc Bannalec is the pen name of Jörg Bong. His crime series featuring Inspector Dupin has been adapted for television and translated into numerous languages. In 2016, the author received the title “Mécène de Bretagne” from the region of Brittany. Since 2018, he has been an honorary member of the Académie littéraire de Bretagne. He recently received the HomBuch book fair award for Franco-German relations. His books have been **translated into 17 languages**.

Mysterious murders and famous Breton chocolatiers

Never before has Inspector Dupin been so happy to have a new case as he is on this glorious early summer's day. He is already standing with one leg on the – ominously swaying – boat in the harbour basin of Concarneau, about to overcome his thalassophobia under the guidance of a coach, when he receives a call: a woman has drowned. Not in the sea, but in a vat of chocolate.

What seems curious turns out to be the cold-blooded murder of the owner of a long-established chocolate confectionery in the Ville Close. Who was after the visionary entrepreneur, who was always on the lookout for new, refined creations? And are more people in danger?

To get to the bottom of the dark secrets of the chocolate world, Inspector Dupin and his irreplaceable colleague Nolwenn embark on a fast-paced road trip across Brittany to the Basque Country.

Further Titles

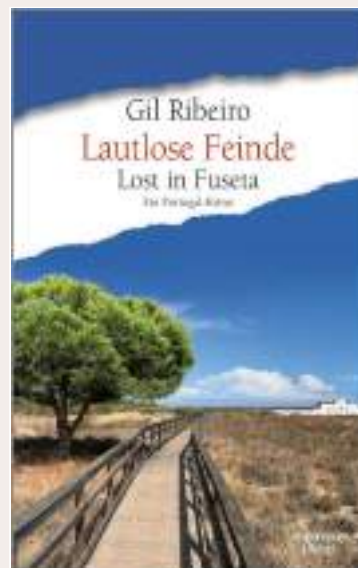


Gil Ribeiro

Silent Enemies (The Seventh Case for Leander Lost)

- Leander Lost throws a wrench into the works of a Russian secret service operation in the Algarve
- More than 1 million copies sold of the series

Rights sold to: (previous titles in the series) Czech: Euromedia / Portugal: Escafandro / Spain: Maeva



April 2025 · 352 pages

Gil Ribeiro (aka Holger Karsten Schmidt), born in 1965, ended up on the Algarve completely by chance during an Interrail journey across Europe in 1988 and immediately fell in love with the warmth and hospitality of the Portuguese. Ever since, he has found himself drawn back time and again to the small city of Fusetá on the eastern Algarve, which is where he got the idea for *Lost in Fusetá*. Rights to the series have been sold to Czechia, Portugal and Spain.

The day before Leander Lost and Soraia's wedding, retired journalist André Bento is killed while trying to prevent the kidnapping of his granddaughter. The child is freed, but the kidnappers get away. Slowly but surely, Lost uncovers a Russian spy network right in the middle of Portugal – with fatal consequences.

In a touching ceremony, Leander and Soraia finally say “I do.” Shortly afterwards, the newlyweds leave for their honeymoon. At the same time, Colonel Victor Fyodorov of the Russian foreign intelligence service arrives in Portugal on a high-risk mission. His daughter will only be released from a Siberian prison if the mission succeeds. Meanwhile, Michael Learner, a high-ranking US military officer, also arrives in Faro – with a suitcase he can't let out of his sight.

Back from their honeymoon, Lost works feverishly to uncover the motives for Bento's murder. The team soon uncovers a Russian spy network that has been “asleep” until now. It turns out that a “sandman” is gradually deactivating the network. When the investigation leads to Victor Fyodorov, the sandman attempts to assassinate Lost, but hits Soraia instead. The doctors don't think she has a chance...

Further Titles



Lenz Koppelstätter

What Lurks on the Shore. The Second Case for Gianna Pitti

- Journalist Gianna Pitti's second case could rewrite World history



May 2025 · 288 pages

Lenz Koppelstätter was born in South Tyrol in 1982 and grew up there. He worked as a media developer and as a reporter for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* and *Salon*. All eight volumes of his crime series featuring Commissario Grauner have enjoyed enormous popular and critical success, his second series featuring journalist Gianna Pitti is set in the Lake Garda region.

An unidentified female corpse, an attempted kidnapping, and secret writings by Winston Churchill that could change world history: Gianna and her family become entangled in yet another explosive investigation.

Young journalist Gianna Pitti is sent to meet an informant at the request of her father. At first, there doesn't seem to be anyone there, but then Gianna spots something in the water: a woman's body! A car drives off – could the driver be the murderer? Near the body, Gianna finds an empty CD-case labeled "Churchill's secret." Together with her father, her uncle and editor-in-chief Elvira Sondrini, Gianna sets out to uncover the mystery behind the dead woman and the empty CD case.

In the library of the family villa, they discover notes from Gianna's great-grandfather, who spent a few days with the former British Prime Minister at the Baia delle Sirene. Meanwhile, shots are fired in Malcesine: an attempted kidnapping of a British historian researching Winston Churchill. Is this incident connected to the murder on the shore? As the Pittis slowly try to unravel this web of crime and political and historical intrigue, will what they discover end up rewriting history?

Further Titles



Andreas Storm

The Victoria Conspiracy (The Third Lomborg Thriller)

- A painting with a bloody past becomes a German-British political issue
- Based on historical facts, a gripping case around a spectacular and highly political case of art forgery



May 2025 · 368 pages

Andreas Storm, born in 1964, has been managing director and partner in a communications agency for many years. *The Victoria Conspiracy* is the third part of his crime series featuring the art expert and investigator Lennard Lomborg.

The deadly connection between the Duke of Windsor and Adolf Hitler, three murders in the shadow of a historic state visit, and a mysterious blackmail plot. Art expert Lennard Lomborg is under immense pressure in this new case, as he investigates not only on behalf of the Crown but also for his own sake...

September 2016. Lennard Lomborg receives a desperate call from London. Sir Douglas McEwan, the head of the Royal Collection Trust, is frantic. An anonymous blackmailer claims that the Queen's favorite painting is a forgery and that he holds the original in his possession. He also threatens to expose an explosive conspiracy concerning the painting – one that would rock political London and the royal court. McEwan urges Lomborg to handle the matter with the utmost discretion – especially since Alexandra Cullen, the art expert who was supposed to examine the painting, has vanished without a trace.

With the help of his daughter Julie, Lomborg gradually uncovers the painting's bloody secret, delving deep into the shadowy world of German-British secret diplomacy. Meanwhile, detective Sina Röhm is closing in on a foundation rumored to be funding a new right-wing political party. In the process, she stumbles on a name that gives Lomborg pause and soon sparks outrageous suspicions in him...

Further Titles



Andrey Gurkov

For Russia, Europe Is the Enemy. Why My Homeland Has Broken with the West

- Instead of focusing on Putin, Gurkov expertly and convincingly explains how Russian society has changed and what the consequences of those changes are.
- A passionate plea for Europe – a Europe to which Russia no longer belongs and no longer wants to belong.



April 2025 · 288 pages



© Maya Clausen

Andrey Gurkov, born in Moscow in 1959, grew up in East Berlin and later in Bonn, where his father worked as a correspondent for a Soviet daily newspaper. He studied journalism in Moscow and Leipzig. In 1987, he joined *Moskovskiy Novosti*, a newspaper that was at the forefront of embracing the principles of glasnost, and became editor-in-chief of its German edition, *Moskau News*, which was published from 1988 to 1993. Since 1993, he has worked in the Russian editorial department at *Deutsche Welle*. As a Russia expert, he is a frequent guest on various German TV and radio stations.

How have Vladimir Putin's imperial ambitions and aggressive fantasies been able to secure majority support within Russian society? Why are Russians – including those abroad – so pro-war, and why does the officially propagated hatred of Ukrainians, Americans, and Europeans fall on such fertile ground?

In this book, Andrey Gurkov, a Moscow-born Russian journalist now living in Germany, explores the historical, cultural, political, and mass-psychological factors behind this phenomenon. He also warns urgently against the illusory expectation that the former relations between Europe and Russia could ever be restored after the Ukraine war. Russian society no longer sees itself as part of the European community of values – Europe has become the enemy.

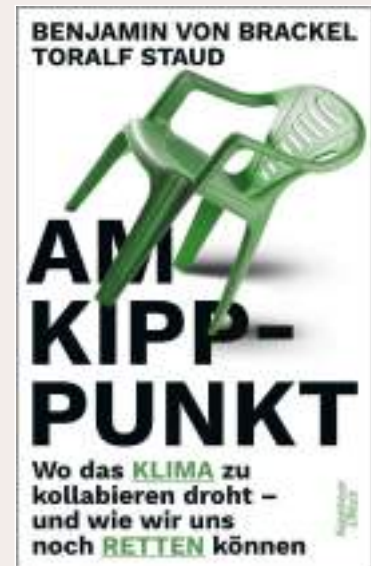
Andrey Gurkov's view of his homeland is both analytical and unsparring.

“Europeans must not repeat the mistake of carelessly overlooking and underestimating the latent aggressive vision of Greater Russia that Putinism has unleashed and fueled.” - Andrey Gurkov

Toralf Staud, Benjamin von Brackel

At the Tipping Point. Where the Climate Is at Risk of Collapsing – and How We Can Still Save Ourselves

- What you really need to know about climate tipping points: accessible, informative, and hopeful
- Includes positive tipping points!



June 2025 · 256 pages

Toralf Staud was political editor of *DIE ZEIT* from 1998 to 2005. Since then, he has been a freelance author, writing primarily about the extreme right and climate change. Since 2011, he has been helping develop the non-profit science online portal *klimafakten.de*. His most recent book, *Germany 2050* (co-authored with Nick Reimer), was on the *SPIEGEL* bestseller list for months and **rights sold to China**.

Benjamin von Brackel is a freelance author and science journalist, who has been writing about climate change for over a decade, mainly for *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He co-founded the online magazine *klimareporter.de*.

Floods, heatwaves, droughts, forest fires – the effects of increasingly extreme weather are also becoming more pronounced. But this is just the beginning: The 1.5-degree limit has already become untenable, and global warming continues, putting us at risk of crossing several so-called tipping points in the climate system in the near future.

Benjamin von Brackel and Toralf Staud detail decades of research into tipping points, their possible dramatic consequences, and the ongoing debates among experts.

The authors take us on a journey around the world to the Earth's key tipping points, from the frozen landscapes of the poles to the gulf stream and the Amazon rainforest. They explain how our Earth – and climate science – works, and, by the end of the book, it becomes clear which tipping points truly warrant concern and which may be less critical.

Last but not least, the book highlights positive tipping points in technology and society that could drive exponential growth in climate protection and help us avoid plunging into a chaotic climate future.

Further Titles



Friederike Oertel

Vacation from the Patriarchy. How I Set Out to Understand What It Means to Be a Woman

- A captivating travelogue from one of the last matriarchies in the world
- Award-winning journalist Friederike Oertel explores myths and utopias surrounding women-led communities



May 2025 · 336 pages

© Fiona Körner



Friederike Oertel, born in 1991, is a journalist who lives in Berlin. She studied literature, art history, and Spanish. After several stays in Latin America, she now works as an editor for *DIE ZEIT*. She has received several awards for her writing.

Tired and fed up with daily life in the patriarchy, Friederike Oertel embarks on a journey to Mexico – to one of the last matriarchies in the world. She hopes to gain some distance, learn from the local women, and return home with fresh perspectives. But even in a matriarchy, being a woman proves to be more complicated than she expected.

Many things are different in Juchitán: women are the heads of their families, property is passed down from mothers to daughters, and *muxes* – individuals of a third gender – are socially accepted. This “city of women” is generally considered a matriarchy and, as such, a living alternative to patriarchy.

With language that brings the shimmering colors of the place to life, and with an empathetic view of an urban society that functions according to its own rules, the author explores her own womanhood, investigates self-doubt and contradictions, questions gender-role expectations, and allows emotions to wash over and rinse through her. The centuries-old concept of matriarchy is both myth and reality, one that turns Friederike Oertel’s life upside down and helps her to reexamine what it truly means to be a woman in a patriarchal society.

Lutz Hachmeister

Hitler's Interviews. The Dictator and the Journalists

- How can and how should the media deal with dictators and egomaniacs?
- Includes previously undisclosed archive material, illuminating Hitler's understanding of propaganda and journalism
- English sample translation by Sharon Howe available
- Recommended for translation by New Books in German

Rights sold to: France: Grasset / Hungary: Figura / Slovakia: Ikar / Spain: Libros de KO / Sweden: Daidalos



November 2024 · 384 pages

© Jim Rakete



Lutz Hachmeister (1959-2024) was media editor of the *Tagesspiegel* and director of the Grimme Institute as well as president of the International Film Festival Cologne and director of the Institute for Media and Communication Policy. He is the author of numerous films and books.

How do you interview a dictator? Lutz Hachmeister's first overall account of Hitler's encounters with journalists is an informative foil for dealing with the populists, autocrats and dictators of the present day.

Adolf Hitler gave an astonishing number of interviews in the course of his political career, several dozen, from the early 1920s to the 1940s. Anglo-American journalists in particular found the Austrian-born "Bavarian Mussolini" a fascinating interviewee. One may recognise in this a pattern that is common in dealing with radical figures in the media to this day - as for many journalists, these interviews promise career advancement, book deals, or prizes.

In his book, Lutz Hachmeister describes for the first time the overall history of Hitler's encounters with journalists, evaluates significant interviews with regard to their journalistic propagandistic strategy and also analyses the rivalries of Hitler's "media advisors". He considers these interviews in the historical context and in relation to Hitler's media strategy, and examines the complicity between propaganda strategists and reporters. The book is based on original sources and archive material, and provides a new and modern view on what was planned from the outset as a "propaganda dictatorship" - and its changing perceptions abroad.

Based on this, Hachmeister also draws a line to our present day: What dynamics are still apparent today between the media on the one hand and dictators or autocrats on the other?

Thomas Hüetlin

“You Only Live Your Life Once”. Marlene Dietrich And Erich Maria Remarque – the Story of a Boundless Passion

- The story of a passionate love affair in turbulent times
- Cultural history in the tradition of Volker Weidemann, Florian Illies, and Uwe Wittstock
- English sample translation by Jamie Searle available

Rights sold to: France: Editions Stock



September 2024 · 352 pages



© Joachim Gern

Thomas Hüetlin, born in 1961, was an editor at *SPIEGEL* for many years and a correspondent in New York and London. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize, Henry Nannen award, and German reporter award.

September 1937. The Venice Film Festival has just ended and Germany's two world stars meet for the first time: Hollywood diva Marlene Dietrich and writer Erich Maria Remarque, known around the world for his anti-war novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. And so begins one of the wildest love affairs of the 20th century.

Their *amour fou* lasts only a few years and pushes both to their emotional brink almost daily. A love story brimming with pleasures and ecstasies, disappointments and new beginnings, against the backdrop of the looming human catastrophe of World War II. Like tens of thousands of others, Dietrich and Remarque are both on the run from the Nazi system of terror in their home country, and both are going through painful creative and professional crises. They commute between Paris, Cap d'Antibes, Ancona, St. Moritz, New York and Beverly Hills – driven by fears about the future and self-doubt, but also constantly in search of fame and recognition for their work.

Based on diaries, correspondence, and the memories of many of their companions and contemporaries, Thomas Hüetlin recounts, in the style of a riveting reportage, the once-in-a-century love story between two luminaries of German culture in the face of impending horror.

Robert Habeck

Uphill From Here

- A compass for our troubled times



January 2025 · 144 pages

Robert Habeck was born in 1969. Since 2018, he has been the federal chairman of the party Alliance 90/The Greens. Since December 2021 he is Germany's vice-chancellor and minister for economy and climate.

Finding courage again

These are very challenging times, demanding a great deal of many people. The news is often bad, and the outlook is no better. But do we have to remain worried and gloomy? What gives us reason to be hopeful and confident? And why don't we talk about prospects?

Robert Habeck wants to provide orientation with his writing. He analyses how economic prosperity is the prerequisite for freedom, how we can renew the social market economy and how we can strengthen the foundations of society, what has made the country strong and what we need again to overcome discouragement, to reconcile society and to look ahead again. We can go up the creek – this book shows the way.

Further Titles



Kerstin Holzer

Thomas Mann Goes on Vacation. A Summer at the Lake

- “A masterful psychological profile that uncovers the thoughtful, surprisingly human artist in Thomas Mann, full of ambivalences. Reading this tour de force about inner transformation, I was amazed and genuinely moved.” – Frido Mann



April 2025 · 208 pages

© Markus Tedeskin



Kerstin Holzer was born in 1967. She has worked as a journalist for *Focus*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Madame*, and other outlets. She is the author of the SPIEGEL-bestseller *Elisabeth Mann Borgese – ein Lebensportrait* and most recently published *Monascella – Monika Mann und ihr Leben auf Capri*.

A summer resort in Bavaria, 1918: Thomas Mann's family has rented a house on Lake Tegernsee and is looking forward to a few carefree months. But the world is changing dramatically, and soon the writer himself will also be a different person.

The children swim and fish; the father rows, goes for walks, and scales a mountain for the first time; the mother takes care of the new baby; and Bashan, the dog, dozes in the shade while Thomas Mann is busy making him the hero of his story *A Man and His Dog*.

A rural idyll, but the writer is plagued by worries. Germany's defeat in World War I is imminent, revolution is in the air, and Thomas Mann is on the wrong side of history with his anti-democratic manifesto *Observations of an Unpolitical Man*. He and his brother Heinrich have had a falling out over this, he can't find the energy to work on his next great work, *The Magic Mountain*, and then, on top of everything else, one of his teeth falls out.

With warmth and humor, Kerstin Holzer tells the story of a very special summer in the life of the Nobel Prize-winning writer, about his fears and longings. A lighthearted story about the courage to change and the power of love.

Norbert Kron

Sometimes It's Even Funny. My Mother, her Long Life and I

- Growing old is not for the faint of heart
- A topic that speaks to us all, tackling a difficult subject with lightness



March 2025 · 352 pages



© N. Kron / G. Lehmannhaus

Norbert Kron, born in 1965, is a journalist, filmmaker, and author. He studied in Munich and does cultural reporting. He has also published numerous books. He is the founder of the YouTube channel “Norbert Kron ARTstories,” where he conducts background discussions with writers, philosophers, actors, and other artists, including Jodie Foster, Wolfram Eilenberger, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Ingo Schulze, and Willem Dafoe.

From saccharine flattery and emotional blackmail to the dark threat of hell, there’s hardly a tactic the narrator and his aging mother don’t employ before finally achieving what’s good for them...

“Have you heard the joke about the mother who gives her son two ties for his birthday? No? Well, a mother gives her son two ties for his birthday, even though he’s specifically told her not to give him this sort of present. But when, for her sake, he wears one of the ties at the next dinner, she looks at him, hurt, and says: ‘What about the other one? I guess you don’t like it!’”

The reader senses that this mother-son relationship has never been easy. And, as the mother ages, it only becomes more difficult when they have to deal with the big decisions regarding her autonomy: give up her driver's licence, sign a power of attorney or consider applying for home nursing care.

Yet what begins as a wrestling match also yields existential insights – about love, death, and family secrets: how the complexities of German history shaped the displaced mother, and how lifelong struggles can ultimately lead to reconciliation and happiness.

Silke Maier-Witt

"I Thought I'd Be Dead by Then". My Time as An RAF Terrorist and My Life Afterwards

- Unsparing, honest, and remorseful – former leftwing terrorist Silke Maier-Witt recounts the story of her life
- An rare and self-critical firsthand look inside the Red Army Faction



February 2025 · 384 pages



© Kastriot Pasholl

Silke Maier-Witt was born in 1950. In 1977, she joined the RAF and went underground. In 1979, she broke away from the terrorist group and went into hiding in East Germany. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, she was arrested and deported to West Germany, where she was sentenced to ten years in prison. After her early release in 1995, she completed her studies in psychology and trained as a peace specialist. Today, Silke Maier-Witt lives mostly in North Macedonia.

André Groenewoud, born in 1972, worked as chief reporter and author for *Bunte*, wrote for *stern* magazine and served as a correspondent for the Zeitenspiegel Reportage agency in New York.

The Red Army Faction (RAF) is a German trauma. Many of the crimes committed by the RAF from the 1970s to the 1990s remain unsolved to this day, and myths continue to surround the members who terrorized West Germany. In this book, Silke Maier-Witt offers unique insights into the group's inner workings.

On 7 April 1977 – the day West Germany's Attorney General, Siegfried Buback, was murdered – Silke Maier-Witt joined the RAF and went into hiding. From then on, she became one of the most wanted terrorists in West Germany. During the “German Autumn,” she was part of the RAF's inner circle, which kidnapped and killed Hans Martin Schleyer in Cologne. After an RAF bank robbery in which a bystander was shot dead, she became critical of the group and left it. With the help of the Ministry for State Security, she went into hiding in East Germany and began a new, bourgeois life – which ended abruptly when she was arrested after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In her book, Silke Maier-Witt looks back on her life – from her childhood in Hamburg to her time in the RAF, her new identity in East Germany, her imprisonment, and her reinvention as a trained peace worker. Above all, she explores how, as a young woman, she came to join the Red Army Faction and why she accepted killing as a means to achieve the group's goals.

Joschka Fischer

The Wars of the Present and the Dawn of a New World Order

- A new world is emerging, with new centers of power and hierarchies – and we are witnessing its birth pangs, whether or not we want to
- A warning and wake-up call from the former German Foreign Minister



March 2025 · 224 pages

Joschka Fischer was born in Gerabronn in 1948. He was a member of the Bundestag from 1994 to 2006 and German Foreign Minister from 1998 to 2005. In 2006/07, he was a visiting professor at Princeton University, USA.

When, on the orders of Vladimir Putin, Russian troops invaded Ukraine, it wasn't just Europe that was changed, but the entire world order: war had returned to Europe – a war over borders, power, and authority.

In the Middle East, Hamas' attack on Israel has shown how explosive protracted, sometimes age-old, territorial conflicts – such as the one over Palestine – can be and what global impact they have.

Add to this Beijing's threats against Taiwan, and it's easy to see how unstable and volatile the global situation has become. Meanwhile, the Global South is increasingly demanding its right to have a voice and to participate. New alliances are emerging outside and beyond the West, which sees itself as increasingly isolated and is losing importance on the global political stage while grappling with powerful nationalist and anti-democratic movements within Europe and the United States. What will ultimately become of Europe if the US turns its back on its transatlantic commitments after the recent presidential election?

Former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer outlines the key features of this emerging new order and highlights the threats and challenges it poses to both German and European politics.

Further Titles



Torsten Körner

“We Were Heroines”. How Women Conquered Football

- On the beginnings of women's football



May 2025 · 304 pages



© Mia Horlemann

Torsten Körner is a writer, documentary filmmaker, journalist, and television critic. He is the author of highly acclaimed *SPIEGEL*-bestseller biographies about Heinz Rühmann, Franz Beckenbauer, and Götz George and was on the jury of the Grimme Award and German Television Award for several years.

Torsten Körner takes us on a journey back to the early years of West Germany, recounting the fascinating – and at times almost unbelievable – story of the beginnings of women’s football.

King football rules the world, and the king has always been a man. In few other sports did men defend their territory as relentlessly as they did in football. Until 1970, women’s football was officially banned in West Germany. But refusing to be deterred, brave female pioneers played anyway. Defying narrow-minded authorities, they conquered football pitches, even when they were chased away and assaulted with stones and insults. This book tells the life stories of these pioneers, whose greatest happiness came from football, often at the cost of family or personal fulfillment. Passionately dedicated, the first female football players fought against authoritarian officials, sexist prejudices, and outdated gender roles.

The book is full of gripping stories that go far beyond football, revealing how unfree our society was not so long ago.

Vincent Moissonnier, Bert Gamerschlag

A Table by the Window. Tales from a Special Restaurant

- True stories from a special restaurant
- A glimpse behind the scenes of fine dining



March 2025 · 336 pages

Vincent Moissonnier ran the two-star restaurant Le Moissonnier in Cologne for almost 40 years. Together with his wife Liliane, he established it as an institution in Germany's fine-dining scene.

Bert Gamerschlag is a journalist. Following eight years at *SPIEGEL*, from 2001, he spent 20 years at *Stern*, where he covered all things food and drink. In this book, the journalist gives voice to the restaurateur's story.

For nearly 40 years, people have been standing patiently on a nondescript street in Cologne, waiting to be let into a magical place. Le Moissonnier is, in many ways, an unusual Michelin-starred restaurant and the setting for countless incredible stories.

The story begins in the early 1980s, when Vincent and Liliane, both from France and new to the restaurant trade, cross paths in Berlin. In short order, their love story unfolds, leading, after a few more years of apprenticeship and a move to Cologne, to the opening of their own bistro.

Like a modern fairy tale, this book tells the story of a modest idea, the challenges of starting a business in a foreign country, the hardships of the climb, and the magic of success. We read about both notable and everyday guests, the most adventurous aspects of working in fine dining, and the fundamentals of haute cuisine. This book doesn't stop at the swinging door to the restaurant's inner sanctum; with astonishing frankness, it delves beyond, into the refined and deeply sensual work of a Michelin-starred kitchen.

A book that makes pleasure and taste tangible, brings the most remarkable figures to life, and lets a truly special place shine.

Karl-Wilhelm Weeber

When Rome Wasn't Ancient Yet. A Journey Back to the Roman Era

- An informed and entertaining look at everyday life in Ancient Rome



April 2025 · 432 pages



© Privat

Karl-Wilhelm Weeber, an honorary professor of ancient history, has been researching everyday life and social history in Rome for decades and has published numerous books on the subject, including *Spectaculum. Die Erfindung der Show im antiken Rom* (2019) and *Couchsurfing im Alten Rom: Zu Besuch bei Wagenlenkern, Philosophen, Tänzerinnen u.v.a.* (2022). *Als Rom noch nicht Antike war* is his magnum opus.

Rush hour on the main streets, homeless people under bridges, magnificent weekend homes, high immigration, and unisex toilets. Modern-day New York? Berlin? No – Rome in the Imperial Age! This journey back in time is a must for any history buff eager to discover what real life was like in Ancient Rome.

What was happening in the streets while famous gladiators were bashing each other's skulls in the arena and generals were expanding the Roman Empire? What was life like in the cosmopolitan capital, famed for its thriving economy, yet plagued with smog and traffic jams? In a class society marked by extreme luxury and vast poverty?

Karl-Wilhelm Weeber guides us through imperial Rome with wit and flair. He reveals how much live nightingales cost and the likelihood of reaching the age of 10. We learn that xenophobia was the exception in the city of immigration, but that discrimination against people with disabilities was widespread. The overexploitation of nature was already being practiced and criticized, and – despite being a functioning constitutional state with a flourishing economy – life was hardly a walk in the park for most people in Ancient Rome.

Hubert Winkels

Hands Raised to the Sky.

About chance, beauty and the village priest of Gohr



April 2025 · 1.024 pages



© Joachim Gern

Hubert Winkels, born in Gohr, has worked as a journalist, author, TV host and editor. Since 1975, he has been a literary critic, contributing mainly to *Die Zeit* and later to *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He was a juror for the Klagenfurt Ingeborg Bachmann Prize for ten years, for five of which he was jury chair. He co-founded the Wilhelm Raabe Prize and chaired its jury from 2001 to 2022.

In this book about his life, literary critic and author Hubert Winkels embarks on numerous journeys, weaving them together into a dazzling whole.

These excursions begin in his childhood in a Catholic village on the Lower Rhine and extend through his family's fascinating history and his intellectual awakening, ignited by the postmodern, wildly liberal thinking of the 1970s. They lead him into the worlds of literature and cinema, music and drugs – and the religious experiences intrinsic to them – as well as the realm of enlightening criticism.

These journeys of discovery take him in all directions: to Moscow and Jerusalem, Tokyo and Paris, Brazil and China, Missouri and Upper Lusatia, to the artists' island of Hombroich, to the "Field of Black-birds" in Serbia, to Stonehenge and Delphi.

Along the way, he explores the myths of antiquity, the history of culture and art, the world's museums, the secrets of world religions, relics, icons, churches, and cemeteries – while also diving into the ecstasies of pop culture, the underground, carnival, football, and fashion.

Ultimately, the journey is about the deep connection between all experiences, transcendence, and the mystery of transformation – the living spirit in worldly things, waiting to be touched by us, both symbolically and physically.

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