

An aerial photograph of a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. A small white car is driving on a path that winds through the dunes. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color, and the lighting creates soft shadows that emphasize the curves of the dunes. The overall scene is serene and expansive.

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RIGHTS GUIDE  
ILLUSTRATED BOOKS  
SPRING 2025

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**KNESEBECK**

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ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

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# WOOD ANTS

## SUPERHEROES WITH SIX LEGS

Ingo Arndt, Jürgen Tautz

### A whole year of a wood ant colony

Wood ants are amazing. They are architects, indoor climate engineers, hunters, gardeners, livestock keepers, cleaners and real musclemen who even take on wild boars. Occasionally they even help birds with their plumage care. The tiny insects, which already existed on earth with the dinosaurs, are masters of division of labor and cooperation. Ingo Arndt and Jürgen Tautz have observed wood ants and their remarkable behavior throughout the year, many of which have been captured on camera for the first time. In unique images and descriptive texts, the two show how wood ants organize themselves and the important role they play in the forest ecosystem.

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The multi-award-winning nature photographer Ingo Arndt shows sensational, never-before-seen images of the wood ant and its fascinating behaviors

Informative texts by ant expert Jürgen Tautz convey the latest findings in ant research in an entertaining and accessible way

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### The Photographer

**Ingo Arndt** is one of the world's outstanding nature photographers. His pictures appear in international magazines such as National Geographic, GEO, Stern, or BBC Wildlife. He has received numerous awards, including a World Press Photo Award for his photos of free-living pumas in Patagonia. He has also won several prizes at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award.

### The Author

**Prof. Dr. Jürgen Tautz** is a behavioral scientist, sociobiologist and insect expert. As professor emeritus at the Biocenter of the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, he heads the interdisciplinary environmental research and education projects HOBOS (Honey-Bee Online Studies) and we4bee. He is also an internationally award-winning science communicator and bestselling author of successful popular science books on bees, some of which have been translated into over 20 languages.

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### SPECIFICATIONS

21.5 x 28.5 cm | hardcover | 176 pages | 200 photographs | 8,000 words | Retail price € 40.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-840-0

Publication: March 2025

**WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

# SAUDI ARABIA

## IN A COUNTRY OF CONTRASTS

Lutz Jäkel

### Saudi Arabia up close

Saudi Arabia was virtually sealed off until 2019, when it opened its doors to tourism. Lutz Jäkel has traveled through this contradictory country by car, train and bus. In unique pictures and informative and personal texts, he takes us on an extraordinary journey. We meet the kingdom's first female DJ, listen to the muezzin in Medina and cruise through Khobar with Harley riders. We travel from the capital Riyadh through the desert, along the coast and through spectacular mountain regions. Based on his many encounters, Lutz Jäkel brings us closer to a country caught between tradition and transformation and does not leave out critical issues such as the women's and human rights situation.

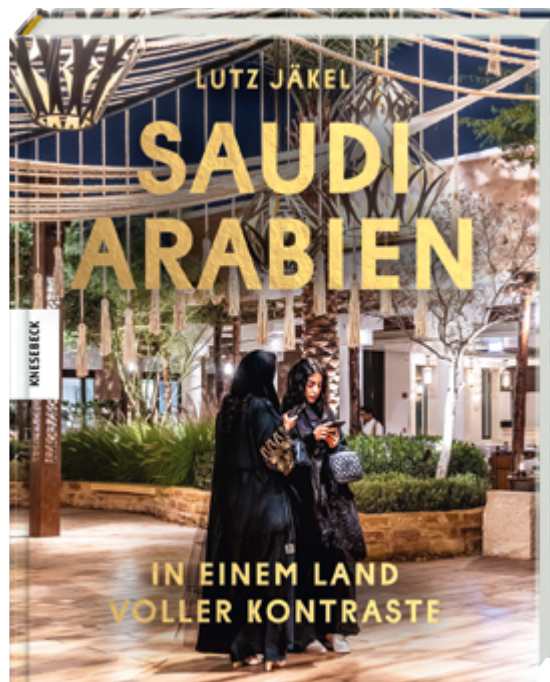
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Insights into a largely unknown, beautiful country that is slowly opening up to tourism

A region between Islamic tradition and dazzling modernity, brilliantly captured by photographer and Islam expert Lutz Jäkel

With many views into the everyday life of the people

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### The Photographer and Author

**Lutz Jäkel** is a photojournalist, author and lecturer. He grew up in Istanbul, studied Islamic Studies in Hamburg and lived for a time in Syria and Yemen. He has been traveling and photographing the world and writing about it for many years. His photos and reports appear in Stern, SPIEGEL and GEO, among others. His work has received numerous awards. Lutz Jäkel lives in Berlin.

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### SPECIFICATIONS

20.5 x 25.5 cm | hardcover | approx. 192 pages | 150 photographs | 33,900 words | Retail price € 35.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-897-4

Publication: April 2025

**WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

# BORIS PISTORIUS - DEPARTURE

IN CONVERSATION WITH HERLINDE  
KOELBL

Herline Koelbl

## Who is Boris Pistorius?

Boris Pistorius has been Germany's most popular politician since the beginning of his term as Defence Minister. With clear words and concrete plans, he is shaping the Bundeswehr into a defence-oriented army and reshaping Germany's image both nationally and internationally. But who is the person behind the minister?

Photographer Herlinde Koelbl shows Pistorius from a new perspective: objective, direct and visionary. In eight interviews between January and December 2024, she talks to him about his roots, his career, his goals and the challenges of his time in office. This book provides fascinating insights into the personality of a politician who is making history.

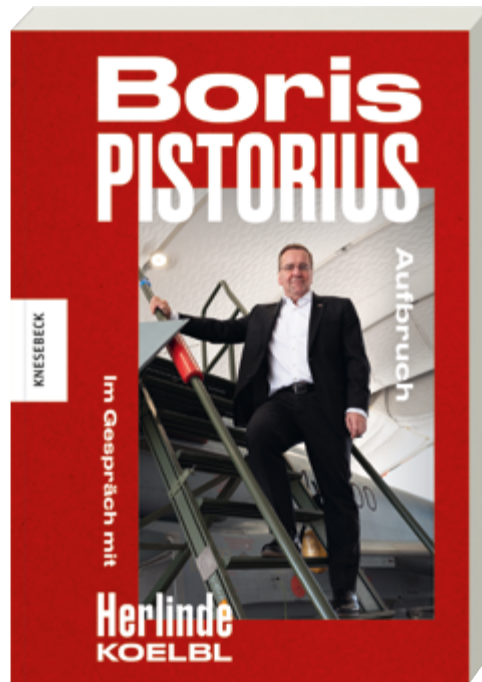
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Herlinde Koelbl (*Fascination of Science*), known for her profound portraits of politicians with her latest coup

First-time insights: Boris Pistorius provides a unique and personal insight into his life, his way of thinking and his political visions

Herlinde Koelbl and her camera show the person behind the political office: approachable, honest, intense

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## The Photographer and Author

**Herlinde Koelbl** is one of the most renowned German photo artists. Her extensive work is characterised above all by long-term photographic projects, often complemented by in-depth conversations. Her photographs have been shown in numerous international exhibitions and are represented in many important collections. She has published over a dozen photo books, including *The German Living Room*, *Strong Women*, *Jewish Portraits*, *Hair and Targets*. She has received numerous awards, including the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2009.

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## SPECIFICATIONS

16.0 x 23.2 cm | softcover with flaps | approx. 152 pages | 53 photographs | 31,900 words | Retail price € 24.00 | ISBN 978-3-98962-013-1

Publication: February 2025

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## LIFESTYLE

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# A WING CHAIR, TWELVE QUESTIONS AND A JOURNEY TO YOURSELF

A STORY ABOUT THE POWER OF CHANGE

Tanja Köhler, Nicole Pfeiffer

## An inner journey towards happiness and change

It all begins with the search for the right place for a wing chair. We enter the world of a woman's thoughts and accompany her on an inner journey. Together with her, we gain insights and are encouraged to reflect on our own life situation. How important are we to ourselves? What do we long for? And what do we do to lead a happy life? This realistic story about the power of change asks us twelve big questions. And it gives us the certainty that we can grow into our answers and that we, just like the woman, will find our own personal place of well-being.

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Narrative life coaching from psychologist and bestselling author Tanja Köhler

A journey to yourself: Create clarity in your own life with twelve questions, let go of the old and initiate change

Inspiring, true-to-life and empowering: an entertaining story that offers guidance on the big questions in life

**SPIEGEL  
Bestseller-  
Autorin**



## The Author

**Tanja Köhler**, born in 1968, lives at the foot of the Swabian Alb. The multi-award-winning psychologist, bestselling author and systemic counsellor has been practising as a coach for over 20 years. She loves good conversation, delicious cappuccino and long walks in nature with her dog.

**Nicole Pfeiffer** is not only a graphic designer but also a book designer and lecturer in illustration. She has worked for various publishers for many years and lives in Hamburg.

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## SPECIFICATIONS

11.0 x 18.0 cm | softcover with flaps | approx 128 pages | colour illustrations throughout | 16,000 words | Retail price € 12.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-922-3

Publication: December 2024

**WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



# BE HAPPY, YOU'LL GET OLDER ANYWAY

WHAT YOU CAN DO FROM TODAY FOR A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE

Diane Hielscher

## The key to a fulfilling life – now and in old age

When it comes to a healthy and happy life, we already know that we should exercise, how important nutrition is and that stress makes us ill. But what about our soul? How can we consciously and purposefully use our thoughts and feelings to age happily? Diane Hielscher reveals how we can question and actively shape our assumptions about ageing. With a holistic approach based on happiness research, psychology and neurology, this book offers concrete strategies to shape aging happily. The best thing about it? We don't have to wait for old age for the positive effects, because they start immediately!

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This book shows how a good and happy life is possible in old age and what you can do to achieve this today

The latest findings from neurology and happiness research, presented in an entertaining and understandable way in a ›guide to happy ageing‹

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## The Author

**Diane Hielscher** is a radio presenter, podcaster and author. She deals with the topics of neurology, psychology and philosophy, and ›living consciously‹ is also one of her professions. She was awarded the German Radio Prize. The jury's statement said: ›She has surprising approaches to complex issues and communicates them in a fresh, pointed and entertaining way.‹

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## SPECIFICATIONS

15.0 x 21.5 cm | softcover with flaps | 200 pages | 43,000 words | Retail price € 20.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-927-8

Publication: March 2025

**WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

# YOUR MENTAL HEALTH GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH – 12 COMPONENTS FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

Dominique de Marné

## A must-read for our fast-paced world

Our teeth? We take care of them, of course! And our mental health? Maintaining it can be just as easy. Dominique de Marné shows us how! With the help of 12 components, she provides relevant information and helpful tips on mental health in an entertaining way. This book is a reference work for dealing with emotions, crisis competence and mindfulness – in bite-sized chunks and with a practical focus. It's not just about ›me-time‹ and ›feel-good strategies‹. We learn how we can prevent mental illness and actively improve our mental health – and have fun at the same time. This book makes everyone healthier and happier.

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A low-threshold, entertainingly written introductory and basic work on mental health – practical and scientifically sound

A daily companion that motivates and helps to overcome mental overload in the long term

Holistic approach with helpful tools and exercises

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## The Author

**Dominique de Marné** shows how much fun mental health can be and why our view of mental health needs to change. After suffering from mental illness herself for 15 years, she is now changing the way the topic is talked about – more openly, earlier, more normally. She is an entrepreneur, author, speaker and one of the leading mental health speakers with experiential expertise in Europe.

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## SPECIFICATIONS

15 x 21.5 cm | softcover with flaps | 240 pages | 55,000 words | Retail price € 25.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-935-3

Publication: January 2025

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# NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

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# WANDERLUST

PUT YOUR FINGER ON THE GLOBE,  
THEN DISCOVER THE WORLD AND  
YOURSELF ALONG WITH IT

Julia Finkernagel

**An enjoyable read, even for those who prefer to spend their vacation on the balcony**

Julia Finkernagel knows how to travel. With her successful TV series and the *Eastwards* books, she motivates her audience to discover the world near and far. From numerous readings, Julia knows the questions about jumping into the unknown, challenges, her encounters and practical travel tips. In her new book *Wanderlust*, she provides answers: personal highlights and downfalls, a short guide to adventures from the Arctic to the desert, plus packing tips to ensure survival. She also offers undogmatic travel coaching on how to deal with fears, cultural codes, travel pitfalls, communication problems and homesickness. A clever book that inspires with amusing stories and encourages travel.

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The ultimate travel book by SPIEGEL bestselling author and popular TV travel presenter Julia Finkernagel

Tried-and-tested travel hacks and interesting facts about different types of travel from desert to ice, from mail ship to Transsib, from spontaneous trips to sabbaticals

Humorous, relaxed, pointed and full of personal travel anecdotes

**SPIEGEL  
Bestseller-  
Autorin**

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## SPECIFICATIONS

13.6 x 21.0 cm | softcover with flaps | 280 pages | 68 photographs | 70,000 words | Retail price € 20.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-926-1

Publication: February 2025

**WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



## The Author

**Julia Finkernagel** was a manager before she set off on a sabbatical and backpacking trip. Due to her witty travel reports, she was hired by MDR in 2008 and got her own travel series *Ostwärts*. The award-winning filmmaker and bestselling author of *Eastwards* and *Eastwards again and again* (both Knesebeck), among others, now also works as a coach.

# GRAPHIC NOVEL



# THOMAS MANN – 1949

## RETURN TO A FOREIGN HOMELAND

Julian Volo, Friedhelm Marx,  
Magdalena Adomeit

### Thomas Mann Year 2025

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929, and in 1933 he was driven into exile as one of the most vocal opponents of National Socialism. Thomas Mann's relationship with Germany remained complicated from then on. He emigrated to the USA in 1938 and only set foot on German soil again in 1949: at the invitation of the Goethe Year in East and West Germany. With his wife Katia, he through Germany, gave speeches in both parts of Germany, and was both acclaimed and criticized. Based on diaries, letters, travelogues and the memories of his Swiss driver, the graphic novel tells the story of this ten-day return, an extremely politically charged chapter in the life of Thomas Mann and his family.

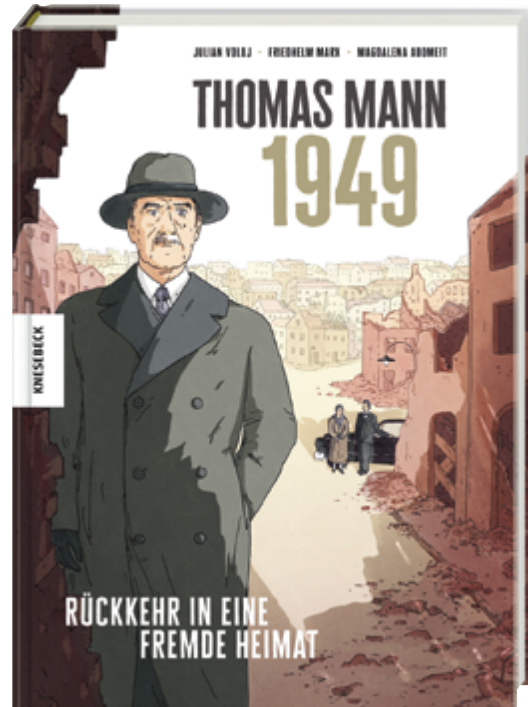
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Thomas Mann's first trip to Germany after emigrating into exile, realized as a multi-faceted graphic novel with deep insights into important phases of his life

On the 150th birthday of Thomas Mann in June 2025

With the participation of one of Germany's leading Thomas Mann experts

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### The Authors

**Julian Voloj** was born in Münster and is the author of numerous internationally successful graphic novels. Most recently, his biography *Bobby Fischer: A chess legend between genius and madness* (2022, illustrated by Wagner Willian) was published by Knesebeck Verlag. He has lived and worked in New York since 2003.

**Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Marx** is a literary scholar and holds the Chair of Modern German Literature at the University of Bamberg. His research focuses on the work of Thomas Mann, modern literature and contemporary German literature. Friedhelm Marx has been Vice President of the German Thomas Mann Society since 2006.

### The Illustrator

**Magdalena Adomeit** is an illustrator and traveler. She studied illustration at the HAW in Hamburg and previously gathered inspiration in the wide world. She captures her discoveries with realistic and imaginative strokes.

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### SPECIFICATIONS

19.0 x 26.0 cm | hardcover | 96 pages | colour illustrated throughout | 4,500 words | Retail price € 24.00 | ISBN 978-3-95728-896-7

Publication: February 2025

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# Recent Sales

## Children's Books

Braun, Dieter: The World of the Oceans (Russia, RareBird)

Häfner, Carla/Scheier, Mieke: At the Vet (Russia, Peshkom)

Hechelmann, Friedrich: Nils Holgersson (Russia, Strekoza)

Klement, Johanna/Teich, Karsten: About Sniffing and Dripping (China, Beijing Yonggu Xingyi Culture Media)

Rohmann, Kathrin/Wellerdiek, Jule: The Sound Merchant Gets Mail (Turkey, Erdem)

## Illustrated Books

Grossarth, Jan: From Wholesome to Deadly (France, Rouergue)

Kuhlendahl, Susanne: Virginia Woolf (China, Beijing Science and Technology)

Martin, Michael: Planet Desert (China, Beijing Dajing Culture Communication)



RECENT SALES

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Email: yan.dong@mediatoon.com

### Comics

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