



Picus Verlag

Foreign Rights 2024

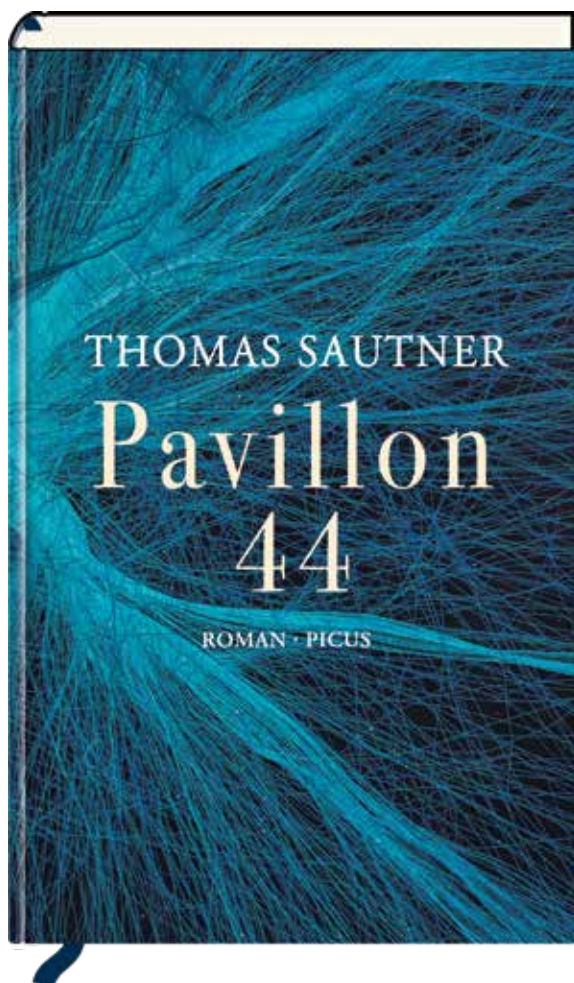
Fiction

Non-fiction

Children's Books



PAVILION 44



Thomas Sautner

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Pavillon 44

fiction

August 2024

- **Austrian Star Author**
- **Psychiatry**

Thomas Sautner, born 1970 in Austria. Picus published several of his novels, most recently »The Invention of the World«(2021) and »Two Old Men« (2023).

Professor Siegfried Lobell is a well-renowned psychiatrist with unconventional but patient-friendly methods, who presides over a special ward – Pavilion 44 – in a mental hospital.

There, he houses his most challenging and peculiar cases: Claudia, Cecilie, Dimsch and Jesus. When Aliza Berg, a writer, contacts Lobell about wanting to write a novel about him, he is hesitant at first but ultimately lets her move into Pavilion 44 undercover for her research. Aliza quickly settles in and gets closer to the staff as well as Lobell himself.

Suddenly, Dimsch and Jesus go missing, which leads some to question Lobell's abilities

What is normal? A witty novel about the fine line between sanity and insanity.

450 pages, hardcover

All rights available

SHELLFISH ON THE GROUND



Selina Holešinsky

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Schaltiere am Waldboden

fiction

September 2024

- Debut Novel
- About the complexity of finding solutions to climate change and environmental issues
- For fans of »Black Mirror«

Selina Holešinsky born in 1991 in Austria, studied medimanagement and journalism and works in advertising. »Shellfish on the Ground« is her debut novel.

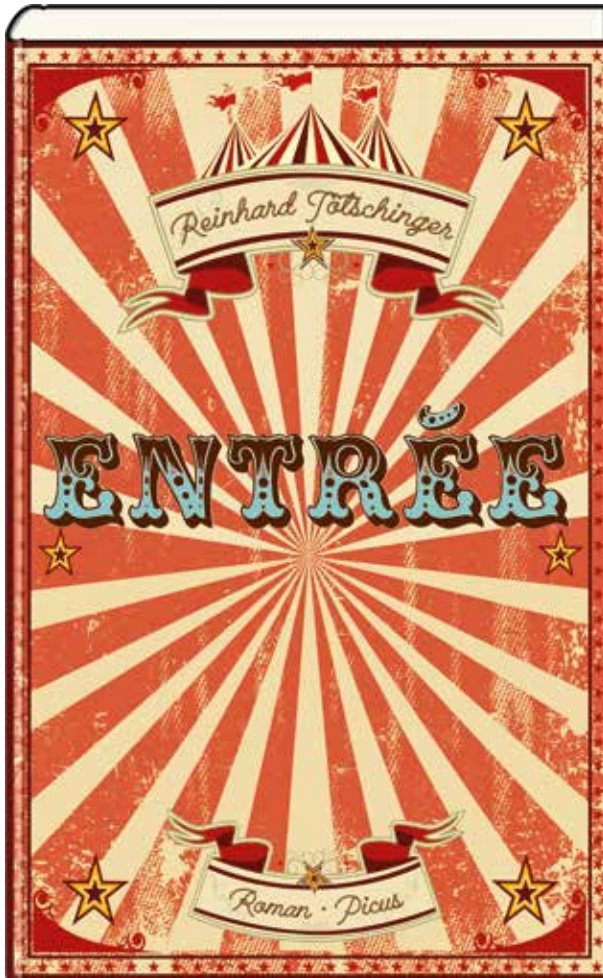
In the not-so-distant future Antonie lives in a car-free, climate-neutral exemplary village. Her father is the town's spokesman and responsible for ensuring the rules are followed. These include no imported food and almost identical self-sewn linen-clothes. The population is split into the natives and the newcomers from the city who long for an idyllic countryside life. Bas, a newcomer, befriends Antonie and as they spend more time together, he opens her eyes to the reality: The concept mainly works for the newcomers who rely on the natives' laurels. The tension rises, conflict becomes increasingly inevitable and above all Antonie's mother suddenly disappears, leaving the young girl to herself.

A beautifully complex debut about how »well meant« can quickly turn into the opposite.

184 pages, hardcover

All rights available

ENTRÉE



Reinhard Tötschinger

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Entrée

fiction

September 2024

- **Circus**
- **Well kept family secret**

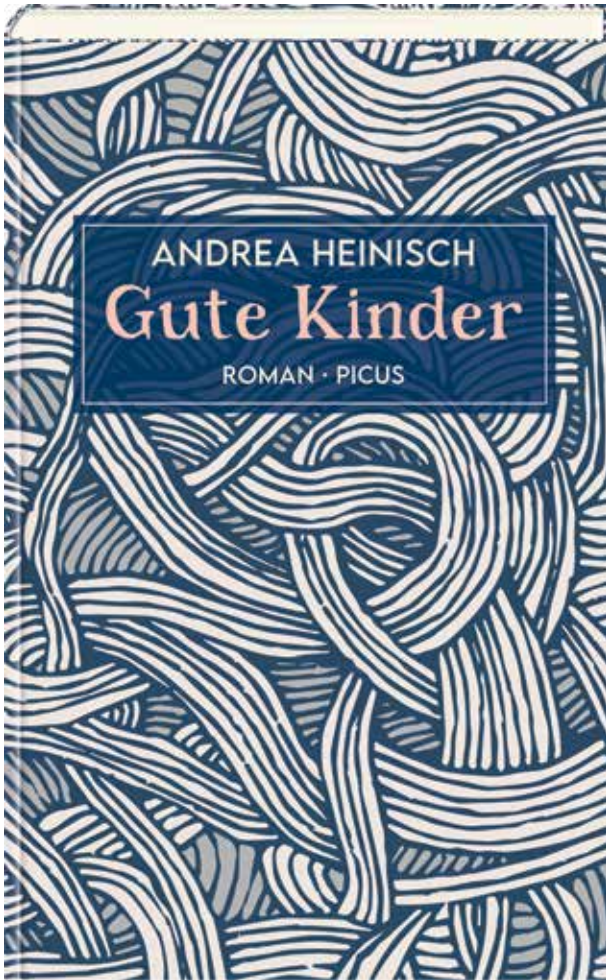
Reinhard Tötschinger, born 1952 in Vienna. He worked as an actor, director, therapist and trained as a clown with Jacques Lecoq in Paris. Picus published his debut novel »Rochade« in 2021.

When Philip, a fifty-something copywriter, receives a letter from Paris his world is turned upside down: His grandfather Louis Picherau recently passed away and left him an inheritance. Having never heard of the man before, Philip is initially hesitant but eventually travels to Paris to find out more. He learns that his grandfather was a famous circus clown and is introduced to the other artists Louis used to work with. Soon, Philip finds himself immersed in their world and trying to help revive the circus. His Paris trip also brings back memories of the time he spent in the city studying philosophy – and of Céline, who he left here over twenty years ago...

240 pages, hardcover

All rights available

GOOD KIDS



Andrea Heinsch

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Gute Kinder

fiction

September 2024

- Dementia told from a patient's POV

- Nurse – patient relationship

Andrea Heinsch, born 1959 in Vienna. Picus published her debut novel »Harriet smiles« in 2023.

When Inge sets her apartment on fire, her daughter is forced to put her in a nursing home. There, her male nurse Manni becomes her closest confidante. He stops by everyday, takes her for walks, simply paying attention to her and her needs. And Inge revels in that attention: She opens up to him about her past, her unhappy marriage, her former job, her boss, whom she had an affair with, and another child that was never born. Over the course of time Inge even develops a little crush on Manni, something she thought she would never experience again...

Andrea Heinsch sensitively captures the emotions of a woman living with dementia.

208 pages, hardcover

All rights available

THE RIGHT PATH



Astrid Sozio
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Der rechte Pfad
fiction
March 2024

- **Christian Fundamentalism**
- **Coming of Age**
- **Queerness among right extremists**

Astrid Sozio, born in 1979. She studied business and creative writing in Germany and England. Her debut novel »Das einzige Paradies« was published in 2016.

Benjamin is involved in an accident and is haunted by guilt afterwards. Attempting to escape the complicated situation, he leaves the city for Welsum, the small village his father lives in and where he spent the summer growing up. Welsum was then and still is dominated by an evangelical majority with strict rules. As a teenager Benjamin was friends with siblings Lea, Hanna and Gideon. He had his first romantic encounters with Gideon but eventually fell in love with Hanna, who then died tragically. His return to this ill-fated place after twenty-five years confronts Benjamin with the unresolved trauma of the past as well as the increasingly more rigid and right extremist practices of the evangelicals.

A powerful novel about Christian fundamentalists, growing up and being queer in a right extremist environment.

450 pages, hardcover

All rights available

SAME PLACE, DIFFERENT PLANET



Dominika Meindl

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Selbe Stadt, anderer Planet

fiction

March 2024

- Criticism of globalization
- Complexity of sibling relationships
- Overtourism
- Chinese Culture in Western countries

Dominika Meindl, born in 1978, is a journalist and presenter. »Same Place, Different Planet« ist her debut novel.

After her father passes away, Johanna, a doctor, moves back to her hometown Hallstatt to take over his practice. She struggles with settling back in but is reunited with her estranged twin sister Doris, who never left and works as a carpenter.

At the same time, Ren, a representative of the Chinese government, is sent to Hallstatt to take a closer look at the place as it is hugely popular amongst Chinese tourists. Eventually, the small and picturesque town is rebuilt in China – much to the horror of Hallstatt's residents. Soon after, Johanna and Doris decide to travel to Guangdong and have a look at the Chinese version of their home...

Twin sisters and twin cities: a witty debut novel about reflections, sisterhood and the burden of overtourism.

208 pages, hardcover

All rights available



The Cinderman of Buchenwald

Buchenwald May 1997: During renovations at the memorial site seven hundred nameless urns are found. Unsure of how to deal with the findings, the ashes are eventually laid to rest in a communal grave.

Based on these true events, Ivan Ivanji, survivor of Buchenwald concentration camp, creates the Cinderman, a mythical figure composed of the souls of the murdered.

He lets them speak and tell their stories, look for similarities and try to find explanations.

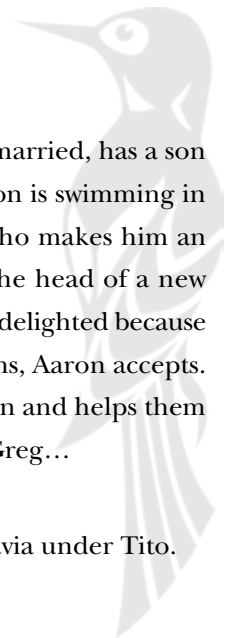
An impactful novel on the Holocaust and the complex process of remembering.

152 pages, hardcover

All rights available



- **New edition**
- **Holocaust**
- **Buchenwald Concentration Camp**



The Old Jew and the Sea

Aaron is a teacher living in Belgrade in the 1980s. He is married, has a son and is very bored with his ordinary life. His biggest passion is swimming in the sea. On holiday he befriends a man named Greg, who makes him an offer he cannot refuse: Aaron is supposed to become the head of a new summer-retreat for scholars. Hesitant at first but generally delighted because it would entail moving to the sea thus enabling daily swims, Aaron accepts. When his son is arrested for drug trafficking, Greg steps in and helps them out which in turn makes Aaron indebted to Greg...

Ivan Ivanji's newest novel on Mafia business in Yugoslavia under Tito.

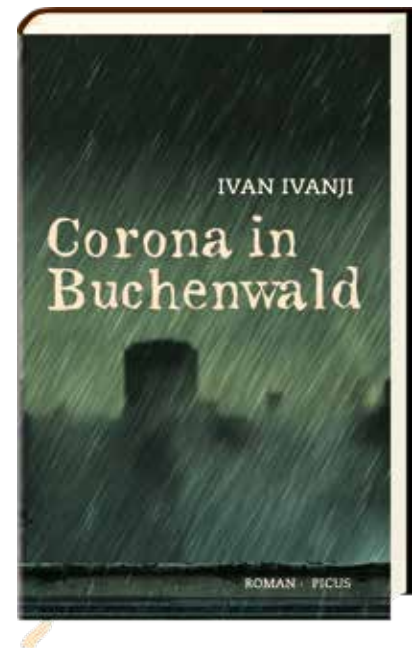
172 pages, hardcover
All rights available

Corona in Buchenwald

In April of 2020, twelve survivors come together in Weimar to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. While the official celebrations are canceled due to the pandemic, they are determined to honour the occasion. However, as one of them tests positive for COVID, the entire group is forced to quarantine. To pass time, they decide to tell each other stories over Zoom like in Boccaccio's Decamerone – night per night, each person shares a special anecdote...

Twelve survivors, twelve stories – Ivan Ivanji's newest novel about tales of prosecution, banishment, death and most importantly: survival.

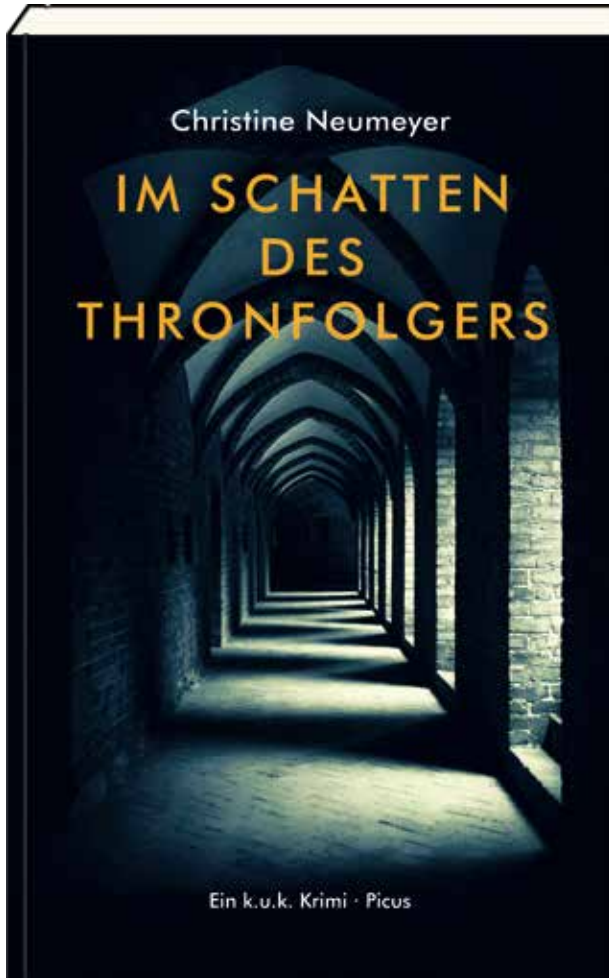
256 pages, hardcover
All rights available



Ivan Ivanji was born in 1929 in the Banat. As a teenager he was held in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. After the war he worked as a journalist, diplomat and translator of Tito. He has written numerous novels in both Serbian and German, Picus published several of them, most recently »The Old Jew and the Sea« (2023). In April 2020 he was appointed an honorary citizen of Weimar.

Ivan Ivanji passed away in May 2024, aged 95, in Weimar.

IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CASTLE



Christine Neumeyer

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Im Schatten des Thronfolgers

crime

March 2024

- **Historical Crime**
- **Monarchy Flair**
- **Dynamic Detective Duo**



»The Emperor's Kiss«
(2023)

Christine Neumeyer, born in 1965 in Vienna. She has been writing historical fiction and crime stories for several years, Picus published most recently »The Emperor's Kiss« (2023)

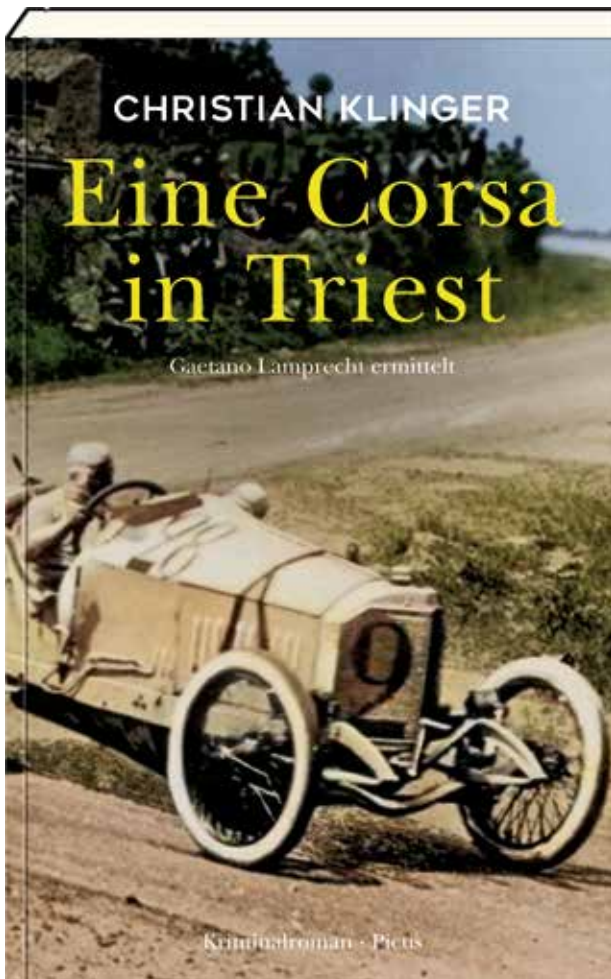
In June 1909 archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, plans to build a crypt on the grounds of his summer residence, Artstetten castle. But the renovations come to a halt when the corpse of an infant is found buried under the castle's church. Detective Pospischil and his assistant Frisch are ordered to investigate and soon find themselves uncovering the intrigues of the aristocracy: As it turns out, Baron von Wald regularly invites newly appointed noblemen to »hunt« young girls in the castle gardens and then blackmails them with distinct photographs. When a girl, who refused to take part in these hunts, is found dead, the case heads into new spheres...

In the seemingly idyllic countryside detective Pospischil and Frisch reunite to solve another murder.

290 pages, hardcover

All rights available

A CORSA IN TRIESTE



Christian Klinger
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Eine Corsa in Triest
crime
August 2024

- Historical crime
- Third part of the trilogy



Christian Klinger, born in 1966 in Vienna. Pictis published his novel »The Lovers from Oberdan Square« and the two preceding crime stories »A Giro in Trieste« and »The Ghosts of Trieste« (2023).

Trieste 1919: The war is over, the emperor is in exile and Trieste is now part of Italy. The city Ispettore Lamprecht returns to after his captivity is nothing like the home he used to know. He manages to get a job in the new Italian police force and is assigned to the case of Walter Kinski, a missing car manufacturer. The investigation draws Gaetano into the circles of the fascists, who are very interested in Kinski's latest project: an electric car. Meanwhile, Lamprecht's family tries to adjust to the new situation, but especially his father is struggling. With the prospect of a little girl joining them, things get more complicated...

A captivating third case for Ispettore Lamprecht in which the city of Trieste plays a key role once again.

320 pages, hardcover
All rights available



»The Lovers from Oberdan Square« (2020)

Rights sold:
Italian

SOMETHING IN THE WATER



Luca Kieser

ORIGINAL TITLE:

**Weil da war etwas im
Wasser**

fiction

August 2023

- Longlisted for the German Book Prize 2023

- Nature writing

- Debut novel

- For readers of Sy Montgomery

Luca Kieser, born in 1992 in Tübingen, Germany. He studied Philosophy, Ethics and Writing and now specializes in nature writing. He received several accolades in Germany and Austria, such as the FM4 Wortlaut.

»Something in the Water« is his debut novel.

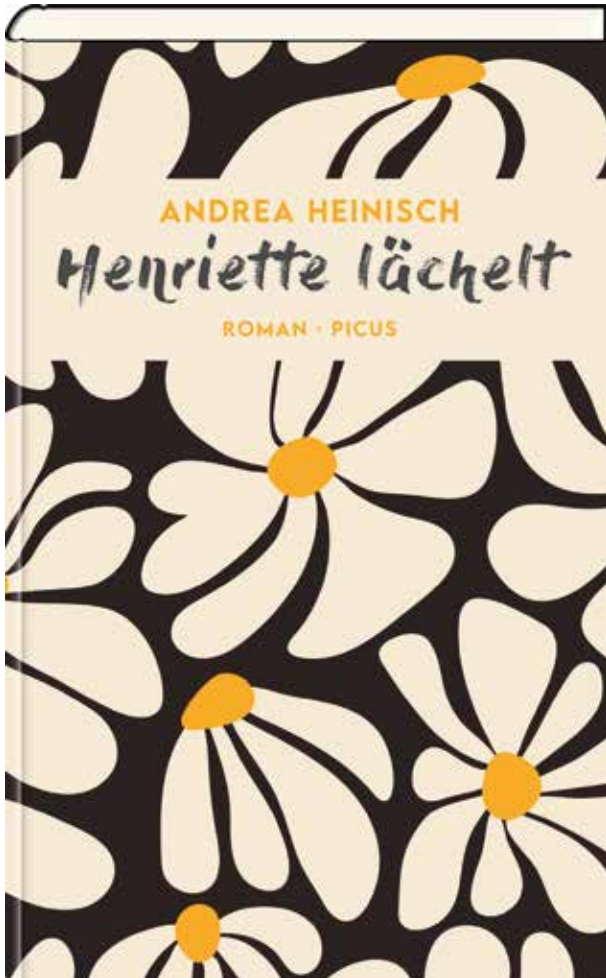
When a giant squid docks onto a deep-sea cable his eight arms begin to talk. They explain what it is like to be a squid, to live in complete darkness and be considered a monster by humans. They tell the story of Sanja and Dagmar who both work aboard a freezer trawler in Antarctica and have to take care of a squid, they map out a family history over centuries, they take us to rural Swabia in the 1960s, to Disneyland and the making of *20 000 Leagues Under The Sea*. They talk about Jules Verne, Peter Benchley, Robert Matthey and their relations to the squid.

Most importantly they show how difficult it is for humans to write about animals, and why we should do it anyways.

320 pages, hardcover

All rights available

HARRIET SMILES



Andrea Heinish
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Henriette lächelt
fiction
September 2023

- Debut novel
- Toxic mother-daughter-relationship
- Obesity

Andrea Heinish born 1959 in Vienna. »Harriet smiles« is her debut novel.

Harriet's weight of 190 kilos (420 lb) dominates her life. Her job as an accountant allows her to work from home so she stays inside all the time, has food and groceries delivered to her. Her mother lives upstairs and is constantly nagging her 50-year old daughter about everything, from the food she eats to the clothes she wears. The only thing Harriet looks forward to are her weekly Zoom-meetings with her coworker Martin , whom she is secretly in love with. When she befriends her young pregnant neighbour Sonja, Harriet starts to open up and suddenly things begin to change...

In short, tense chapters Andrea Heinish chronicles life with obesity, the complexity of mother-daughter-relationships and how we are in charge of how our life turns out.

208 pages, hardcover

All rights available

BEFORE THE ALARM GOES OFF



Cornelia Travnicek, Raffaella Schöbitz

ORIGINAL TITLE:
Kurz bevor der Wecker klingelt
children's book
June 2023

Cornelia Travnicek, born in 1987, is a writer and works as a researcher in a centre for virtual reality. Picus published her children's book »Zwei dabei« (2019) and her novel »Fairy Dust« (2020).

Raffaella Schöbitz, born in 1987, is a freelance illustrator from Vienna. She illustrated »Gute Reise, Eierspeise« (2020, shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards 2021) and »Planetenspatzen« (2022).

What happens at night when we sleep? What are bicycles or trees up to, do they rest as well? What is going on at the playground? As it turns out, there's a lot going on after dark: The cranes are fighting, the ice-cream cones are dancing, the mannequins are messing up the window displays and the traffic signs wreak havoc on the streets, proving that the night is neither scary nor quiet but lively and joyful.

A cheerfully different kind of bedtime story – sweet dreams guaranteed

32 pages, hardcover, four-colour storybook, all rights available



FROG FINDS A CROWN



Friederike Dammermann

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Frosch findet Krone

children's book

January 2024



Friederike Dammermann, born 1972 in Braunschweig, Germany. She attended drama school in New York and then studied to be a teacher and now works as an art and German teacher. Her latest children's book »Nicht ohne meine Ente« was published in 2022.

One day, Frog finds a crown. Delighted, he accepts his new position as king. The other animals in the forest serve him left and right, but also share their sorrows with him. Frog is quickly overwhelmed and when a rumour starts spreading that kissing Frog might turn him into a human prince, everything gets even more complicated. Suddenly Frog can't help but wonder if being king is really worth it?

A touching tale about the importance of friendships

32 pages, hardcover, four-colour storybook, all rights available



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bingler@picus.at

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