

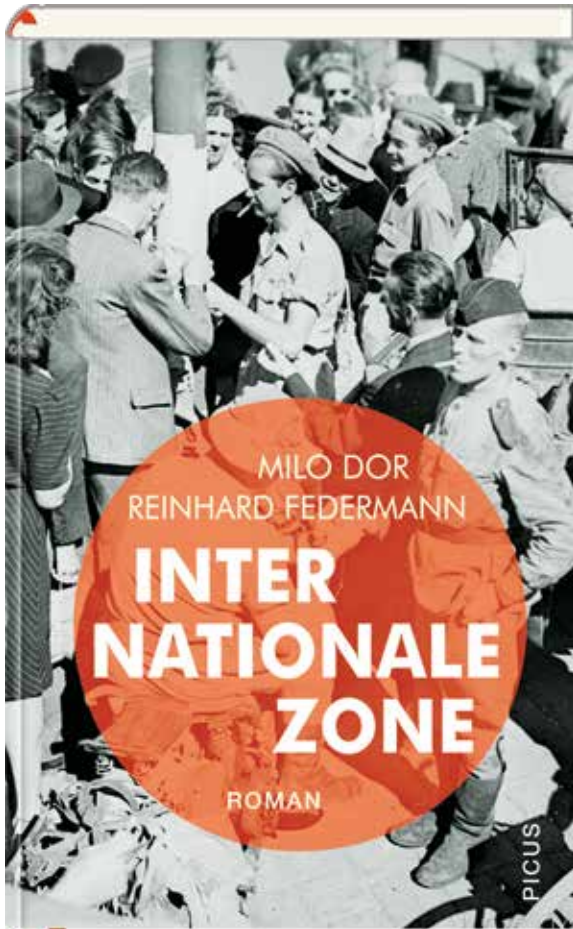


Picus Verlag

Foreign Rights 2025



INTERNATIONAL ZONE



Milo Dor, Reinhard Federmann

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Internationale Zone

crime

February 2025

- **New edition**
- **For fans of »The Third Man«, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler**
- **Post-war Vienna**

Milo Dor, born 1923 in Budapest. He grew up in Serbia, imprisonment and forced labour as a partisan during the war. From 1948 on he lived in Vienna as a writer until he died in 2005.

Reinhard Federmann, born 1923 in Vienna, died in 1976. He was a writer and journalist. Picus published his novels »Barrikaden«, »Das Himmelreich der Lügner«, »Chronik einer Nacht« and a collection of short stories »Die Stimme«.

Dor and Federmann wrote multiple novels together in the 1950s.

Vienna in the early 1950s: During the allied occupation of Austria, Vienna was divided into British, French, Soviet and American sectors with the first district being declared an international zone where the forces changed monthly.

Tension is high, no one can truly be trusted. The instability of the time allows lowlifes like Georgi Maniu and Boris Kosthoff to rise up and profit from the situation. They engage in dubious practices and start to cooperate with the Russians: While the Soviets supply them with cigarettes to sell, Maniu and Kosthoff should deliver so-called enemies of the USSR, who live in the other sectors.

They get caught up in smuggling, espionage and kidnapping and when one manoeuvre goes wrong, the tables start to turn...

256 pages, hardcover

All rights available

SWIMMING IN THE FISHING BOWL



Eva Lugbauer

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Schwimmen im Glas

fiction

February 2025

- **Feminism**
- **How gender stereotypes manifest themselves through seemingly minor acts**
- **Questioning the status quo**

Eva Lugbauer, born in 1985, studied German and lives in Vienna as a writer. Her debut novel was published in 2018, a poetry collection in 2023.

Ten-year-old Lore grows up in a conservative family on the countryside. Her father is the mayor, her mother works as a secretary, she has two older brothers and is closest to her grandparents. Every once in a while her aunt Ursula visits: Ursula is an artist, lives in the city and is expecting a baby – without being in a relationship. Lore is fascinated by Ursula and goes to see her in town more often, where she discovers a whole new world. The years go by and a now adult Lore has her feet firmly on the ground when she is suddenly forced to confront her now estranged family. Told alternately from the perspective of young and adult Lore, Eva Lugbauer shows how patriarchal structures are established.

248 pages, hardcover

All rights available

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS



David Krems

ORIGINAL TITLE:
Haus Waldesruh
fiction
March 2025

- **Fast paced chamber piece**
- **Friendship, trust, guilt, abuse**
- **For fans of »I Know What You Did Last Summer«**

David Krems, born in 1977 in Vienna. He is a media-historian and teaches at the University of Vienna. His first novel was published in 2018 and nominated for two prestigious awards in Austria. His second novel »Fast ein Wunder« came out in 2019.

Fifteen years after finishing high school four estranged friends spend the weekend together in a remote house on the countryside. Looming over them is the painful memory of what happened after graduation: Max, the fifth member of the group, committed suicide. His best friend Marco, who organized this trip, always considered their sadistic teacher to be responsible for Max's death. Soon it becomes clear that Marco invited his friends with a specific revenge-plan in mind. But when a surprise visitor interrupts, things go awry.

224 pages, hardcover

All rights available

STEP BY STEP



Felix Kucher
ORIGINAL TITLE:
Von Stufe zu Stufe
fiction
March 2025

- **Louise Kolm: one of the first female directors**
- **Beginning of feature films in Austria**

Felix Kucher, born in 1965 in Klagenfurt, studied philology, theology and philosophy. He is a writer and lives in Vienna and Klagenfurt. Picus published his novels »Malcontenta«, »Kamnik«, »Sie haben mich nicht gekriegt« and »Vegetarianer« (2022).

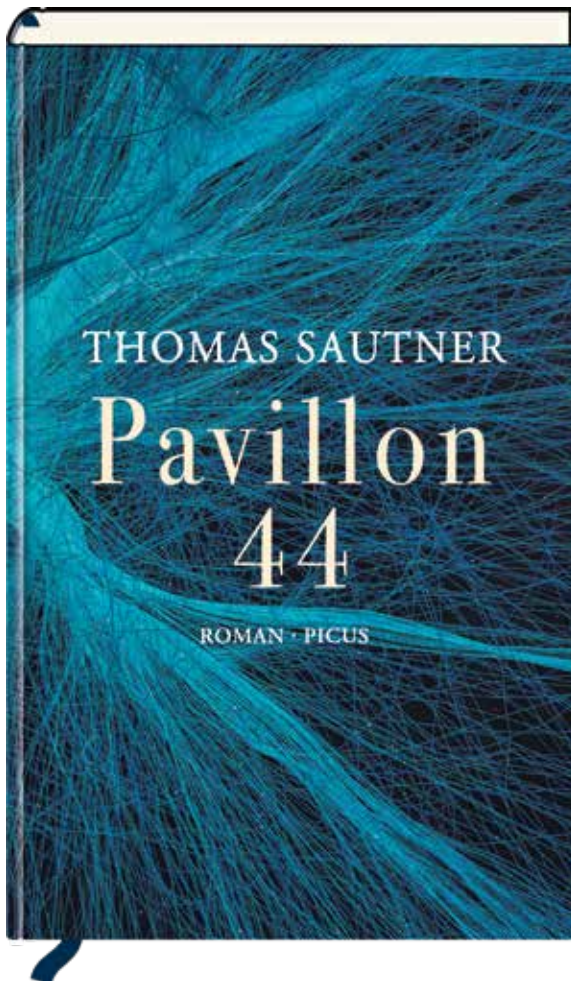
In the early 20th century Louise Kolm and her husband Anton run a photo studio in Vienna. However, with moving pictures becoming more popular, a new medium is emerging. Displeased with the lack of quality in Austrian films, Louise is determined to make the first proper film. But her husband and assistant are hesitant to put the effort and money into this new venture...

Over a hundred years later Marc is about to lose his job at the Austrian film archive. When he spots seemingly lost old film reels on a random photo, he senses a sensation that would secure him an academic career. But in order to get his hands on the reels, he has to travel to Ukraine, where the photo was taken...

256 pages, hardcover

All rights available

PAVILION 44



Thomas Sautner

ORIGINAL TITLE:

Pavillon 44

fiction

August 2024

- Austrian Star Author
- Psychiatry
- What defines sanity and insanity?

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 author Aliza Berg contacts Lobell about wanting to write a novel about him, he is hesitant at first but ultimately agrees and 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. Things take a turn when Dimsch and Jesus go missing and Lobell's abilities and authority are questioned.

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 mediamanagement and journalism and works in advertising. »Shellfish on the Ground« is her debut novel.

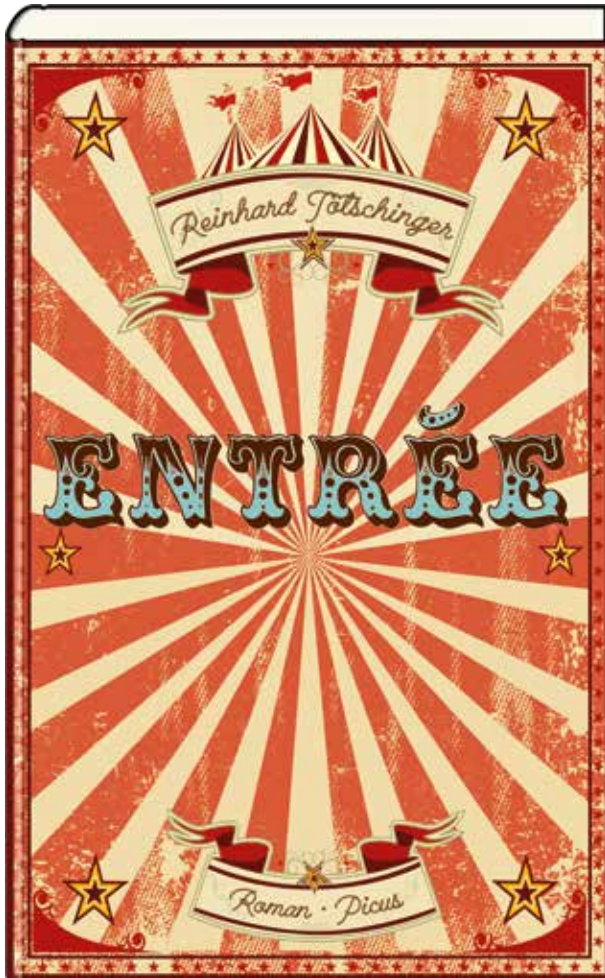
In the not-so-distant future, Antonie lives in a car-free, climate-neutral exemplary village. Her father is the town's spokesman and responsible for ensuring the rules are followed. The population is split into the natives and the newcomers from the city who long for an idyllic countryside life. Bas, 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. 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
- WW2 prison camp

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.

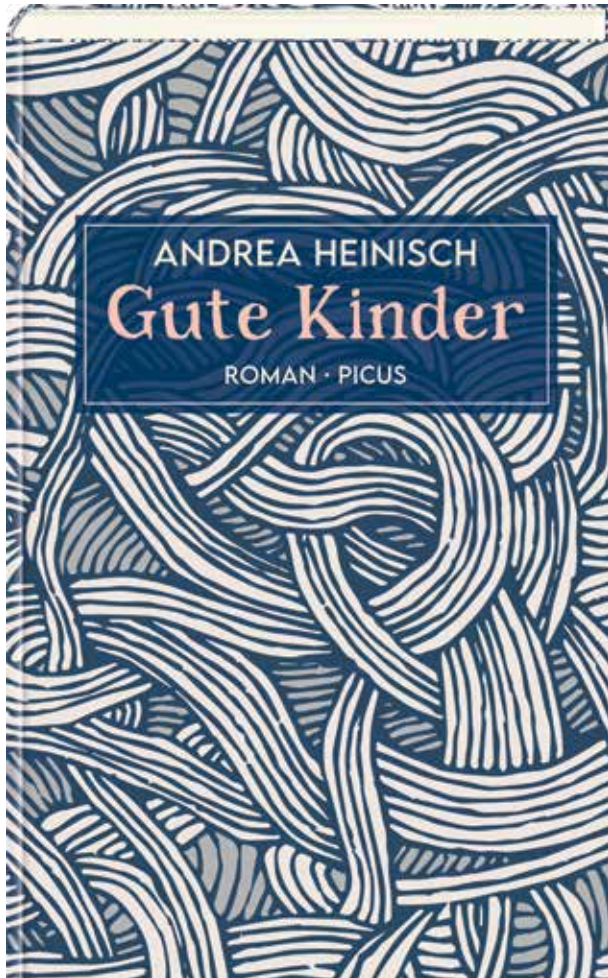
When Philip, a fifty-something copywriter, receives a letter from Paris his world is turned upside down: His grandfather Louis Picherau recently passed away and left him an inheritance. Having never heard of him before, Philip is initially doubtful but eventually travels to Paris to find out more. He 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 as a student – 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
- impact of nurses
- Unreliable narrator

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 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 travels 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.

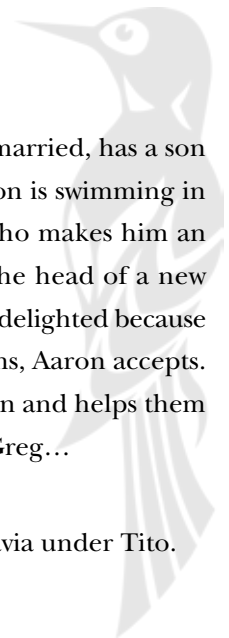
He lets them speak and tell their stories, look for similarities and try to find explanations.

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.

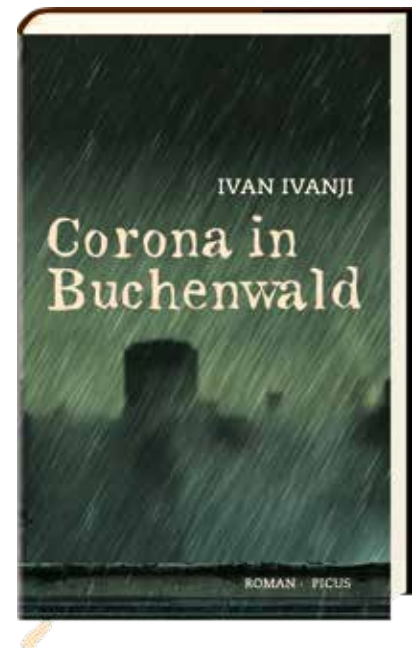
172 pages, hardcover
All rights available

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.

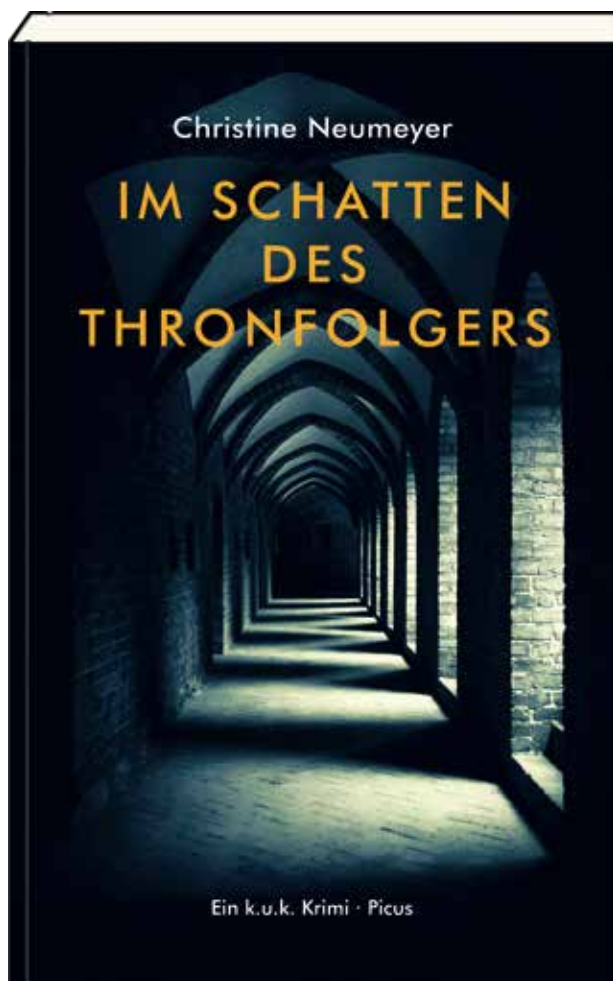
256 pages, hardcover
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Ivan Ivanji was born in 1929 in the Banat. As a teenager he was held in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. After the war he worked as a journalist, diplomat and translator of Tito. He has written numerous novels in both Serbian and German, 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)

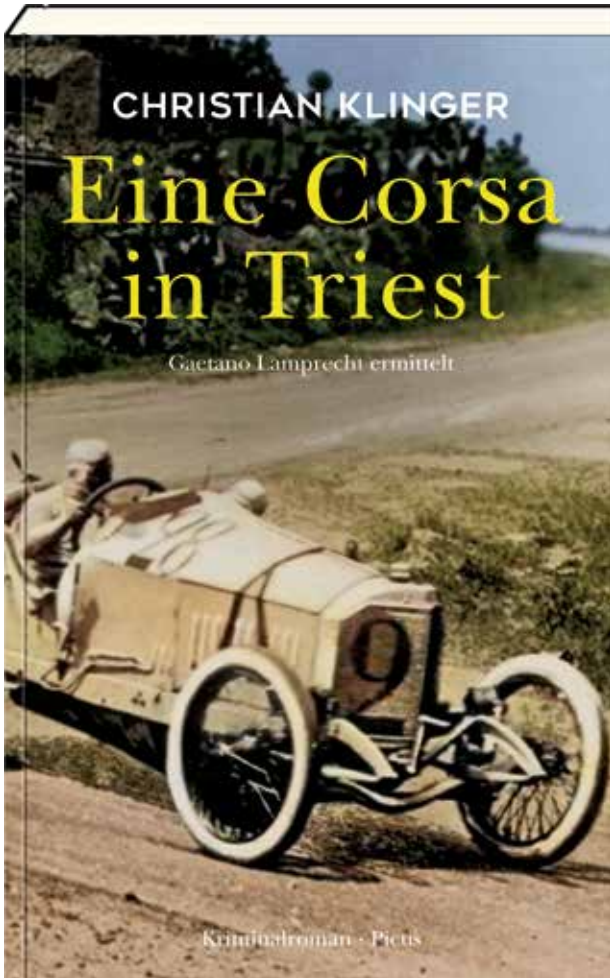
In June 1909 archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, plans to build a crypt on the grounds of his summer residence, Artstetten castle. But the renovations come to a halt when the corpse of an infant is found buried under the castle's church. Detective Pospischil and his assistant 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
- Final part of the trilogy



Christian Klinger, born in 1966 in Vienna. Picus 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.

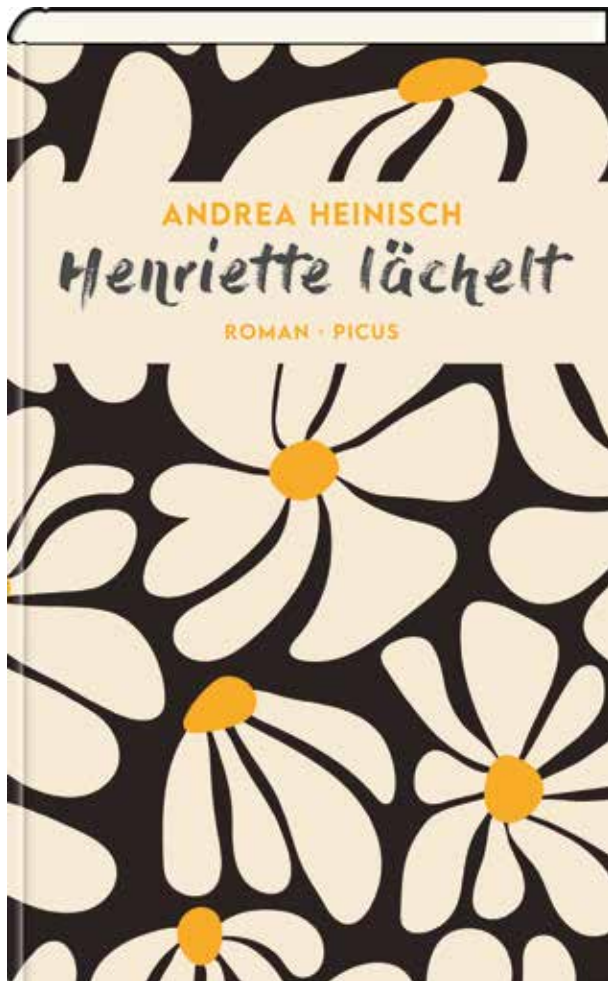
When a giant squid docks onto a deep-sea cable his eight arms begin to talk. They explain what it is like to be a squid, to live in complete darkness and be considered a monster by humans. They tell the story of Sanja and Dagmar who both work aboard a freezer trawler in Antarctica and have to take care 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 the eight arms 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

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