

Non-Fiction Spring 2025



NON-FICTION

Spring 2025

Foreign Rights Guide

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OLIVER HILMES

An Ending and a Beginning

HOW THE SUMMER OF 1945 CHANGED THE WORLD

Date of publication: March 12, 2025

Rights sold to: The Netherlands (Spectrum), USA/English (Other Press)

With 26 b/w photos

English sample translation available

A portrait of summer 1945 – as you've never seen it before: while an old world collapses, a new age dawns

That summer, everything changes: in the four months from May to September 1945, the old world order collapses and a new one emerges. The criminal Third Reich is at an end, and a time of freedom, as well as new conflicts, has begun. What was this summer like, for the victors as well as the conquered, for victims and perpetrators, for celebrities and ordinary people?

While at the Potsdam Conference the 'big three' determine the course of history, Berlin housewife Else Tietze fears for her son's life, US soldier Klaus Mann (the eldest son of the famous writer Thomas Mann) hunts down Nazi criminals, Billy Wilder is in Berlin planning a comedy about life among the ruins, cafés and restaurants are opening their doors, and German children beg Red Army soldier Vasily Petrovich for bread. With this kaleidoscope of stories and scenes that takes us from Berlin to Tokyo, from Munich to Paris and from Bayreuth to Moscow, Hilmes captures the unique atmosphere of this time of extremes: the joy and hope of the liberated, the fears of the conquered, the misery and grief, and the new freedoms that emerged.



Non-Fiction, History

Publishing House: Siedler

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5
cmIllustrations: 26 b/w
illustrationsOriginal title: Ein Ende und ein
Anfang

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AUTHOR

Oliver Hilmes



© Maximilian Lautenschläger

Oliver Hilmes, born in 1971, has a PhD in modern history and is curator at the Berlin Philharmonic foundation. He is the author of bestselling books about contradictory and fascinating women ("Witwe im Wahn", about Alma Mahler, 2004; and "Herrin des Hügels", about Cosima Wagner, 2007), as well as "Liszt: Musician, Celebrity, Superstar" (2011), "Ludwig II" (2013) and "Berlin 1936" (2016), the last of which was translated into many languages and became a highly acclaimed bestseller. His most recent books are "Das Verschwinden des Dr. Mühe. Eine Kriminalgeschichte aus dem Berlin der 30er Jahre" ('The disappearance of Dr Mühe: crime in 1930s Berlin', 2019) and "Schattenzeit. Deutschland 1943: Alltag und Abgründe" ('Days of darkness: Germany, 1943 – life on the edge of the abyss', 2023).

DARCY LEE

The Heart of Auschwitz

A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND SURVIVAL

Date of publication: April 16, 2025

Rights sold to: Italy (Giunti), Russia (Eksmo), Spain (PRH/Plaza)

With 55 b/w images

English sample translation available

The story of a love that must not die

As a young girl, Darcy Lee stumbles across a mysterious chest while playing hide-and-seek with her mother. When she opens it, her heart starts pounding: inside are photos, letters, and a heart made from the sole of a shoe. Together, they tell the life story of her Holocaust survivor grandparents, Genie and Feliks. In "The Heart of Auschwitz", Darcy Lee now recounts their tale: how her grandmother Genie, deeply in love with her fiancé Feliks, is terrified when she and Feliks are forced to leave Kraków on different trains, bound for an uncertain future; the horrors she witnesses in Auschwitz; and how, even in this dark place, she unexpectedly found friendship. Feliks, meanwhile, is sent to Dachau, and not a single day goes by that he doesn't miss his beloved Genie. As a symbol of his unbroken love, he fashions a heart for her from the sole of his shoe, and risks everything to make sure it finds its way to her.

80 years after the end of the war, antisemitism, racism and populism are growing at an alarming rate – Genie and Feliks's moving story serves as an urgent reminder: Never again.

- For readers of "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" and "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas"




Non-Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs, Non-Fiction, History

Publishing House: Goldmann
 Format: Paperback
 Pages & Size: 320 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Illustrations: 3 b/w illustrations
 Original title: Das Herz von Auschwitz

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AUTHOR

Darcy Lee



© Captured Gravity Photography, LLC

Darcy Lee is originally from Georgia, USA. She is passionate about advancing women's and children's rights and has worked with displaced persons in various countries. As a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, she wants to pass on their story and help those whose lives have been uprooted in a similar way. Outside of writing, Darcy enjoys hiking, watching movies, and eating as much chocolate as she can find.

TRANSLATOR

Elsbeth Ranke

SUSANNE BEYER

Cornflower Blue

IN PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH: MY GRANDFATHER'S MYSTERIOUS DEATH IN 1945 – AND WHAT THE NAZIS HAD TO DO WITH IT

Date of publication: May 01, 2025

Uncovering dark family secrets

More or less every German family has its secrets about the war. What did your parents or grandparents do during the Nazi era? Did they do things that they would rather forget? What is the truth behind the tales handed down from generation to generation?

Susanne Beyer's grandfather was a chemist. He had done a PhD on synthesizing the colour cornflower blue, and worked on secret research projects for the Nazi regime. A few days before the end of the war, he was shot dead. In "Cornflower Blue", his granddaughter goes in search of the truth about his death, digging in archives and speaking to historians, psychologists and the few eyewitnesses who are still alive – and even visits a shaman. Gradually, she discovers exactly how the past has shaped her life.

An affecting book about the search for truth, and the lingering effects of old family secrets – and an inspiration to all who would like to know more about their forebears.



Non-Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs, Non-Fiction, History

Publishing House: DVA
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 240 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Original title: Kornblumenblau

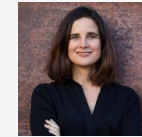
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AUTHOR

Susanne Beyer



© Christina Körte

Susanne Beyer, born in 1969, has been working for the cultural affairs desk of the Spiegel since 1996, first as an editor and then as the deputy head. For four years, she was deputy editor-in-chief of the news magazine. She has written and co-written many books, most recently "Mich hat Auschwitz nie verlassen: Überlebende des Konzentrationslagers berichten" ('Auschwitz never left me: eye-witness accounts', co-authored with Martin Doerry, 2015) and "Die Glücklichen: Warum Frauen die Mitte des Lebens so großartig finden" ('The happy ones: why women are enjoying middle age', 2021).

STEPHAN LEBERT, LOUIS LEWITAN



**Non-Fiction, History,
Non-Fiction, Social & Cultural
Studies**

Publishing House: Heyne
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 384 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Original title: Der blinde Fleck

The Blind Spot

THE GENERATIONAL TRAUMA OF WAR – AND WHY FAMILIES ARE FINALLY
BEGINNING TO TALK

Date of publication: April 16, 2025

A blind spot in many families: the continuing impact of the Holocaust and the Second World War

It is 80 years since the Holocaust and the end of the Second World War, and only few eye witnesses are still alive. Yet the effects of the past persist: shaped by a dark age that was over before they were even born, generations are suffering from a trauma whose cause they don't fully understand: loved ones who show little emotion, feelings of guilt, fear, loneliness, a sense of rootlessness. Many families suffer from a leaden silence – suppressed memories, well-kept secrets, lies that won't go away. It is an oppressive legacy, whose poison circulates to this day.

But now the armour of silence is starting to show cracks. Since ever fewer of them need to fear confrontation with parents or grandparents, they are beginning to investigate their family histories, hoping to discover how they have influenced their own lives. With "The Blind Spot", trauma and stress expert Lewitan and award-winning journalist Lebert have created a unique book on the both difficult and freeing experience of finally facing up to the burden that is your family history. Based on deeply moving conversations with those affected, it is a highly topical contribution to memorial literature.

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AUTHOR

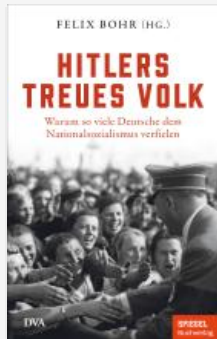
Stephan Lebert

Stephan Lebert, born in Munich in 1961, is an award-winning journalist. Following spells at the Süddeutsche Zeitung, Spiegel and Tagesspiegel, he is now special projects editor at Die Zeit. He most recently won the 2022 Theodor Wolff Prize, and is the author of "Denn du trägst meinen Namen" ('Because you have my name', 2000), about the descendants of leading Nazis.

AUTHOR

Louis Lewitan

Louis Lewitan, born in Lyon in 1955, is a psychologist and a renowned stress and trauma expert with international expertise, thanks to a period spent in New York as researcher and executive director at the International Study of Organized Persecution of Children. Elie Wiesel was the group's honorary president, and its focus was on the delayed effects of the Shoah on child survivors. Lewitan is the author of several books and was interviewed by Zeit magazine for its 'How I was saved' series.



Non-Fiction, History

Publishing House: DVA
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 256 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Illustrations: 18 b/w illustrations
 Original title: Hitlers treues Volk

FELIX BOHR (EDITOR)

Hitler's Loyal People

WHY THE NAZIS HAD SO MANY SUPPORTERS

Date of publication: March 19, 2025

With 18 b/w images

Between euphoria and the final solution: how millions of Germans became the Nazis' accomplices

Why did so many Germans support the Nazi government? Why did they feel such loyalty to Adolf Hitler, who never sought to hide his hatred of the Jews and his plans for war? "Hitler's Loyal People" examines why millions of Germans became the Nazis' loyal servants, following their 'leader' all the way to his downfall. It sheds light on the countless fellow travellers who bolstered the Nazis with their faith in the regime's superiority, their actions and their desire for victory, and who enabled the atrocities in the first place. Here, Spiegel journalists and historians examine how people from all walks of life became the accomplices of a government that pursued policies of total control and aggressive antisemitism – and show how the Nazis ensnared the population by focusing on positive emotions and their hopes for a better future, by using action against unemployment and affordable holidays as bait.

- For readers of Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, "Hitler's Willing Executioners", Richard J. Evans, "Hitler's People", and Ian Kershaw, "Hitler, the Germans, and the Final Solution"

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EDITOR

Felix Bohr



© Marcus Wiechmann

Felix Bohr, born in 1982, studied history and Catholic theology in Berlin and Rome, and has a PhD from Göttingen University. In 2018, he became editor at Spiegel's Germany/Panorama division as well as a political correspondent. In 2021, he became editor at the Spiegel's history division.



Non-Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs, Non-Fiction, History, Non-Fiction, Social & Cultural Studies

Publishing House: Kösel
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 256 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Original title: Schattenschicksale

MONIKA DITTOMBÉE

Shadow Lives

THE STORY OF THE 'FORBIDDEN' CHILDREN BORN DURING AND AFTER THE WAR

Date of publication: May 01, 2025

Secrets and lies: the forgotten children and their search for identity


'Child of a whore', 'Russian pig', 'bastard': these are just some of the words spat at the unwanted children born during the war and occupation – children who were the result of encounters between German women and forced labourers or allied soldiers. Contact between these groups was officially forbidden, but it happened anyway; and whether it was desperation, love or rape, the children born to these women were often hidden, beaten and harassed.

What does being stigmatised do to the mind of a child, and to the adult it grows up to be? Decades later, many of them are still searching for something to fill the gap in their lives. Sometimes, sheer coincidence turns their lives upside down: a dog-eared photograph, perhaps, or an overheard conversation, or a rediscovered birth certificate.

"Shadow Lives" tells the story of these children, and asks how we can overcome generational trauma. It sheds light on the fact that many Germans are still trying to suppress what happened, and relates these very personal stories to bigger questions about identity, shame and resilience – and suggests a path towards healing and reconciliation.

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AUTHOR

Monika Dittombée



© Andreas Große

Monika Dittombée, born in 1976, was an editor at various magazines before becoming a freelance journalist. She now writes for Brigitte, Spiegel, Barbara, P.M. History, among many others.



Non-Fiction, History

Publishing House: Penguin
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 256 | 11,8x18,7 cm
Illustrations: 17 b/w illustrations
Original title: Die letzten Tage von Pompeji

EVA-MARIA SCHNURR (EDITOR)

The Last Days of Pompeii

LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE VOLCANO

Date of publication: February 12, 2025


With 19 b/w images

The secrets of the lost city – what we know about ancient Pompeii

For the inhabitants of Pompeii, Vesuvius's eruption in the autumn of 79 BCE was a catastrophe. For researchers, it was a blessing: as if in an ashen time capsule, the lava preserved this splendid city at the very moment of its demise. In recent years, archaeologists and historians have discovered a wealth of new information, which allows us to reconstruct even better what life was like in the region 2,000 years ago. In "The Last Days of Pompeii", Spiegel journalists and scientists reveal the latest findings about life in antiquity. They explain what Pompeii's erotic images tell us about sexual mores, how deadly gladiator fights really were, and the drugs people used back then. They also describe the difficult housing situation and the condition of slaves, and explore the city's variegated religious culture and its exciting and unpredictable medical provision – thereby creating a vivid portrait of a Roman city and its people.

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EDITOR

Eva-Maria Schnurr



© David Maupilé / DER SPIEGEL

Eva-Maria Schnurr, born in 1974, has a PhD in history. She was a freelance contributor to Die Zeit and the Stern, among others, before becoming an editor at the Spiegel in 2013. In 2019, she was appointed head of the Spiegel's history section.



Non-Fiction, Popular Science

Publishing House: Goldmann
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 400 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Illustrations: 15 b/w illustrations
Original title: Der Anfang aller Köstlichkeit

MARKUS BENNEMANN

The Birth of Delicious

HOW NATURE COOKED UP OUR FAVOURITE DISHES, DRINKS AND POISONS

Date of publication: March 26, 2025

With 15 b/w images

English sample translation available soon


An eye-opening and entertaining voyage to the origins of our food and drink

It is only right that we should ask where our food comes from, and whether it's been produced according to ethical practices: are these potatoes organic? Was the smallholder paid a fair price for that cup of coffee? Then, too, we are curious about the historical origins of what we eat and drink: when did we start to grow coffee? Who cultivated the first apple tree? What did Neanderthals eat, and how did they acquire their food? Yet our fascination also reaches beyond modern farming methods and their history, to the natural science itself: did apples exist before they were cultivated, and if so, who ate them? Why do trees bear fruit? What makes flowers supply bees with the nectar they need to produce honey? How did nature come to 'invent' alcohol, tobacco and other, harder drugs? "The Birth of Delicious" reveals the natural history of our favourite dishes, drinks and poisons, which can often be traced back a long, long time before we humans ever made use of them. A multifaceted and highly entertaining trip back in time, to where it all began.

 GOLDMANN

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AUTHOR

Markus Bennemann



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Markus Bennemann couldn't decide whether to major in literature or biology. In the end, he chose literature, and now writes books about... well, biology. His most recent book is the bestselling "Böse Bäume" ('Bad trees').



Non-Fiction, Nature & Climate Change

Publishing House: C. Bertelsmann
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 224 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Original title: Das stille Sterben der Natur

MATTHIAS GLAUBRECHT

Nature's Quiet Death

HOW TO PRESERVE THE DIVERSITY OF SPECIES – AND SAVE OURSELVES

Date of publication: April 16, 2025

Ignorance is deadly: we're facing a global mass extinction event, but political and social changes have proved ineffective – what we must do to save our natural habitat

Despite all those tear-jerking nature documentaries and well-intentioned campaigns, more and more animals, plants and other organisms are disappearing from our planet. Glaubrecht is an internationally renowned evolutionary biologist, and has been teaching us about the importance of biodiversity and the catastrophic consequences of mass extinctions for many years. In "Nature's Quiet Death", he explains why we are failing to understand, and take seriously enough, an issue that affects us all: we are too focused on climate change, he says, and while conservation efforts are failing, misguided scientific policies are preventing useful research. Glaubrecht argues that we must act now, even if it goes against our traditional interests – and shows the measures we must urgently take to preserve Earth's biodiversity.

- For readers of Sunil Amrith, "The Burning Earth", Elizabeth Kolbert, "The Sixth Extinction", David Wallace-Wells, "The Uninhabitable Earth", Edward O. Wilson, "Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life"

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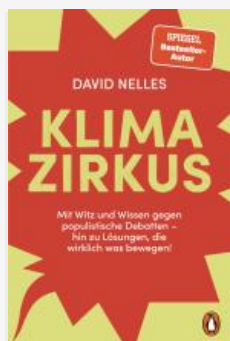
AUTHOR

Matthias Glaubrecht



© UHH/Sebastian Engels Fotografie

Evolutionary biologist and biosystems expert Matthias Glaubrecht, born in 1962, is professor of biodiversity at the University of Hamburg, and scientific project lead for Hamburg's new natural history museum, the Evolutioneum, at the Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change. He was previously founding director of the Natural History Centre at the University of Hamburg, and research department head at the Natural History Museum in Berlin. He is a regular contributor to print media including Die Zeit, Die Welt and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, has worked on TV productions and has published several books, including "Das Ende der Evolution. Der Mensch und die Vernichtung der Arten" ('The end of evolution: man and the extinction of species', 2019). In 1996, he was awarded the Werner and Inge Grüter Prize for Science Communication. In 2023 he won the prestigious Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific writing.



**Non-Fiction, Current Affairs,
Non-Fiction, Nature &
Climate Change**

Publishing House: Penguin
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 256 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Illustrations: 100 color
illustrations
Original title: Klimazirkus

DAVID NELLES

The Climate Circus

FIGHTING POPULIST ARGUMENTS WITH WIT AND WISDOM – AND
SOLUTIONS THAT ACTUALLY WORK

Date of publication: May 28, 2025

4c illustrations throughout, including 100 infographics, plus useful quizzes and concrete solutions


"Why should I stop eating burgers?" – How populism slows down efforts to counteract climate change, and how to effect real change

Eco-anarchists, selfish SUV drivers, tree-hugging snowflakes, compulsory veggie days, net zero... hardly any other topic these days is as contentious as climate change, and what to do about it. Again and again, we get ourselves entangled in populist pseudo-debates instead of finding workable solutions. No wonder that many people switch off whenever the subject comes up.

Bestselling author David Nelles thinks it's high time we started a new kind of discussion about climate change and its consequences. In his entertaining new book "The Climate Circus", he uses the sort of statements made by politicians, journalists and various people on social media as a starting point to debunk the disinformation, incitement, binary thinking and misguided arguments we encounter daily. Armed with eye-opening graphics and a wealth of facts, he confronts us with our misconceptions, demonstrates how best to argue the case, and explains how we might go about making real progress.

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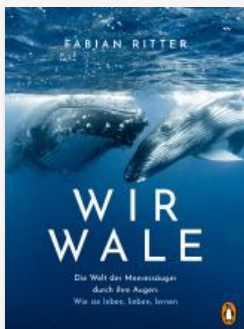
AUTHOR

David Nelles



© Klimafabrik GmbH

As so many other business studies students, David Nelles was annoyed by all those over-emotional debates around climate change. He and fellow student Christian Serrer looked around in vain for a book that could provide them with a science-based yet accessible short introduction to the subject, with lots of useful graphics – so they decided to write it themselves with the help of more than 100 experts on the subject. The result was "Kleine Gase – Große Wirkung: Der Klimawandel" ('Climate change: little gases – big consequences'), which was an instant hit and became the country's bestselling book about climate change. Since then, Nelles has given and led more than 200 talks and workshops for businesses and communities. He is also founder of Klimafabrik, a 'climate factory' that helps organisations and their staff become more green.



Non-Fiction, Nature & Climate Change

Publishing House: Penguin
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 350 | 15,5x21,0 cm
Original title: Wir Wale

FABIAN RITTER

We, the Whales

THE WORLD OF WHALES, SEEN THROUGH THEIR EYES: HOW THEY LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN

Date of publication: May 14, 2025

With numerous photos

English sample translation available soon


The oceans as seen from a unique new perspective

Despite spending their whole lives in the sea, whales and dolphins are mammals – and as such are much closer to humans than most of us realise. In "We, the Whales", cetacean expert and marine conservation consultant Fabian Ritter gives us a whole new perspective on these fascinating sea mammals. Never before have we got so close to them: we learn how whales and dolphins perceive their environment, the importance of light and sound waves, how they communicate, play, have sex, and show joy and sadness. We also find out about their brains, and how they share knowledge, develop culture and respond to humans. A deep dive into a world of riches – which is, thanks to us, an endangered world.

Includes the life story of a bowhead whale that was born in 1799 and is still alive today: how it grew up, how it lives, and what has changed in its and our world in the course of those 200 years.

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AUTHOR

Fabian Ritter



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Fabian Ritter, born in 1967, studied biology in Bremen and afterwards turned his love of whales and dolphins into a profession. In 1998 he co-founded the NGO MEER, which he still heads up as chair and scientific lead. He is a member of the scientific committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and ten years ago became marine conservation consultant at Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), the world's leading organisation for the protection of whales and dolphins. He champions marine conservation via his roles of campaign manager and advisor to political and other committees, and runs public educational programmes. He is also a sought-after speaker and runs workshops and seminars.



**Non-Fiction, Current Affairs,
Non-Fiction, Economy,
Non-Fiction, Nature &
Climate Change, Non-Fiction,
Politics**

Publishing House: Penguin
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 240 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Illustrations: 10 b/w
illustrations
Original title: Der Ausverkauf:
Wasser, Boden, Rohstoffe

UWE RITZER

Everything Must Go: Water, Soil, Raw Materials

THE RESOURCE PROFITEERS – AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM

Date of publication: May 01, 2025

With 10 b/w images

Our environment is being sold off – and the people who are profiting from our water, soil and raw materials are ruining our future

Conflicts over clean water and fertile land are hotting up all over the world, as is the debate about the use and wastage of raw materials and consumer goods. While we are still busy conducting heated pseudo-discussions about energy-efficiency policies and the rights and wrongs of climate protesters, nature is already being sold off. The natural resources that belong to us all have long been turned into profits – and those in charge often just look on helplessly or become complicit. Meanwhile, society is suffering. If you think that we can still save the environment by banning ordinary citizens from doing this or that, you are deliberately turning a blind eye to those who are sacrificing it to their own interests.

In "Everything Must Go", economics journalist Uwe Ritzer – whose book "Zwischen Dürre und Flut" ('Between desert and flood') and investigative reports have opened our eyes to how easily we could lose access to water – shows not only that the world around us is being sold off, but also who is responsible.

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AUTHOR

Uwe Ritzer



© Fotostudio Rainer Lentz

Uwe Ritzer, born in 1965, is economics correspondent at the Süddeutsche Zeitung. He is a well-known investigative reporter, in particular thanks to his articles on corruption in the energy industry and his exposé on the ADAC data-rigging scandal. He has won numerous awards, including the Wächter Prize, Henri Nannen Prize and Helmut Schmidt Journalism Award. He is also the co-author of "Lobbykratie" ('Lobbycracy', with Markus Balser) and "Die Spiele des Jahrhunderts" ('The games of the century', with Roman Deininger). His most recent title at Penguin is "Zwischen Dürre und Flut" ('Between desert and flood'), which was shortlisted for the 2023 Economics Book Prize and the Knowledge Book of the Year prize.

CAROLIN STÜDEMANN, RÜDIGER BRAUN

The Future of Water

WHAT IT DOES, WHERE WE NEED IT, AND WHO OWNS IT

Date of publication: March 12, 2025

2c throughout, with 14 b/w illustrations

An eye-opening book about humanity's most important source of life

Eight billion people share the world's freshwater resources. Whether in agriculture, in industry, or at home, everyone needs water. But this brings with it serious problems: pollution, waste and profiteering have thrown us into a water crisis, to which there are many different aspects – as there are to the worldwide efforts to increase accessibility. Carolin Stüdemann knows this better than most: she is the managing director of Viva con Agua, an NGO whose mission is to provide global access to clean water. "The Future of Water" is her account of how this fascinating, powerful resource is under threat – a highly topical, eye-opening, meticulously researched and thought-provoking book featuring numerous scientists and celebrity activists. It is also a love letter to an endangered element, and its central message is this: the world may have a water problem, but problems are there to be solved.

- Viva con Agua is an NGO with a global reach which fights for the human right of access to clean water. Its campaigns have been backed by international celebrities including Billie Eilish, Ed Sheeran and Sting



**Non-Fiction, Economy,
Non-Fiction, Nature &
Climate Change, Non-Fiction,
Politics**

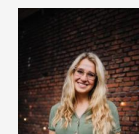
Publishing House: Ludwig
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 304 | 13,5x20,6
cm
Illustrations: 14 b/w
illustrations
Original title: Die Zukunft
unseres Wassers

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AUTHOR

Carolin Stüdemann



© Paul Küster

Carolin Stüdemann, born in 1990, has a degree in social and organisational pedagogy, specialising in organisation development and management, and has been Viva con Agua's managing director since 2018.

AUTHOR

Rüdiger Braun

© Nicole Keller (www.nicolekeller.de)

Rüdiger Braun, born in 1960, is a freelance science journalist working among others for Stern and Geo. He has a degree in biology and philosophy, was editor at the weekly "Die Woche", and developed "Max Planck Research" magazine, of which he has also been editor-in-chief.



Non-Fiction, Nature & Climate Change

Publishing House: Ludwig
 Format: Hardcover
 With illustrations from:
 Mascha Greune
 Pages & Size: 352 | 12,5x20,0
 cm
 Illustrations: 15 b/w
 illustrations
 Original title: Sonderedition:
 Buchenleben

PETER WOHLLEBEN

Beech Life

A TREE TELLS ITS REMARKABLE STORY

Date of publication: December 29, 2024

Rights sold to: Canada/World English (Greystone), China (Guomai Culture & Media), Denmark (Brilleuglen), Italy (Garzanti), Korea (Eco-Livres), The Netherlands (Bruna), Spain (Obelisco), Taiwan (Eagle)

Re-release of the Spiegel bestseller in an exquisite special edition

15 b/w images, with illustrations throughout


The life story of a beech tree: from tiny seed to giant of the forest

It is over 200 years old and is now nearing the end of its life: an old beech tree at whose feet its seedlings are growing up, cared for and protected. But everything will change when the beech dies. How can it prepare the little trees for a future in which they are left to their own devices and in which only those who understand the laws of nature will survive? So it begins to tell the story of its captivating life full of joie de vivre and curiosity, danger and loss ...

In this unique novel – the first of its kind – Peter Wohlleben tells the exciting and touching story of a beech tree that will change our view of nature forever.

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AUTHOR

Peter Wohlleben



© Tobias Wohlleben

Peter Wohlleben, born in 1964, studied forestry and spent over twenty years as a civil servant in the forestry commission. Today, he works at the woodland academy he founded in the Eifel mountains, and campaigns worldwide for the return of the rainforests. He regularly appears on TV, gives lectures and seminars, and has written books on woodland and nature protection that have sold more than 2.5 million copies in Germany alone. He won the 2019 Bavarian Nature Conservation Medal for his unconventional approach to science communication. His books have been translated into more than 45 languages and are bestsellers all over the world.

ILLUSTRATOR

Mascha Greune

Mascha Greune has a degree in design and is a freelance graphic designer and illustrator.



Non-Fiction, Psychology

Publishing House: Goldmann
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Original title: Plötzlich hochbegabt

ANNA CAMPAGNA (EDITOR), ULRICH PIEPER (EDITOR), STEFAN GIESBERG (EDITOR)

Suddenly, I'm Highly Gifted

A COLLABORATION WITH MENSA GERMANY


Date of publication: April 02, 2025

The stories of highly intelligent individuals who only discovered their special gifts later in life

Thanks in the main to clichés propagated by the media, we have all sorts of preconceptions about the highly gifted. We think they have superhuman superbrains and all sorts of amazing talents, and travel in the fast lane in both their professional and their private lives. Either that, or they're weird and permanently misunderstood hermits. "Suddenly, I'm Highly Gifted" brings together the stories of people who discovered their gifts only as adults – a discovery that explained a lot about their lives up to that point, but not the way you might think: some are high achievers, always active, always driven – but others barely manage to get anything done. Some are dominant characters, others deeply insecure; some use their skills to help society, others enjoy being on their own; some are high-flying artists, others are more down to earth. What they all share, though, is the experience that having a special gift not only shapes how you think, but shapes your whole personality. And while books usually convey the views of psychologists, teachers and parents, the protagonists in "Suddenly, I'm Highly Gifted" create a more diverse picture. Here, they describe the moment their lives changed and what happened after – and hope to inspire more of us to consider taking Mensa's IQ test. Because you don't have to be a genius to be highly gifted.

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EDITOR

Anna Campagna



© Thorsten Keller

Anna Campagna, born in 1979, teaches at a secondary school near Stuttgart. She has been aware of her giftedness since 2022 and would like to see more emphasis placed on the subject in teacher training.

EDITOR

Ulrich Pieper



© privat

Ulrich Pieper, born in 1963, is a graduate engineer and has worked in project management at a European industrial company for over 30 years. He has a pronounced passion for complex tasks. In 2018, he was 'suddenly highly gifted' following rehab and subsequent testing. Ulrich is privately involved in projects that will benefit future generations in particular. In April 2024, he was elected to the board of Mensa in Deutschland e.V.

EDITOR

Stefan Giesberg



© privat

Stefan Giesberg, born in 1974, pursues a wide variety of projects to satisfy his scanner personality. Since 2022, he has know that he is highly gifted.



**Non-Fiction, Economy,
Non-Fiction, Psychology,
Non-Fiction, Social & Cultural
Studies**

Publishing House: DVA
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 256 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Original title: Empathische
Führung

LUNIA HARA

Empathic Leadership

HOW WE CAN REVOLUTIONISE THE WORKPLACE WITH EMPATHY, CREATE HAPPINESS AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

Date of publication: May 01, 2025

Empathic leadership results in 50% greater efficiency than other leadership styles – a life hack in times of staff shortage and ‘quiet quitting’

Society and the workplace are changing rapidly. From the climate crisis to Covid, WFH and AI, from companies that demand more from their staff to staff who want to work less – fear and stress are taking their toll on our work. Now more than ever, empathy is proving a real superpower when it comes to leading, motivating and encouraging your staff, and enabling them to contribute their best to the common cause. Hara has many years' experience leading diverse teams, and in "Empathic Leadership" she provides practical tips for how leaders can foreground staff, empower them to recognise their talents and goals, and help them release their full potential. In the global, networked world, we need new solutions to reach our goals, so make your staff more successful and satisfied, and give everyday work more meaning: empathic leadership – a life hack in times of staff shortages and quiet quitting.

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AUTHOR

Lunia Hara



© J.C. Blaum

Lunia Hara is an expert in empathic management and a leader in the field of modern management, diversity and culture change. She calls for leaders to reflect on their experiences, values and attitudes in order to achieve more openness and empathy – which in turn means success in all aspects of their organisation. As the director of project management at Diconium (part of VW), she herself leads a diverse team, and advises management teams and executives on empathic leadership. She regularly contributes columns to Spiegel and shares her practical advice and experiences at various events and in panel discussions. She is a Top Voice on LinkedIn, winner of the 2022 Edition F Award for More Courage, and Beyond Gender Agenda's 2023 Woman of the Year.



**Non-Fiction, Psychology,
Non-Fiction, Science &
Medicine**

Publishing House: Goldmann
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Illustrations: 10 b/w
illustrations
Original title: Wahnsinnig
intelligent

ANDRÉ FRANK ZIMPEL

Mad Genius

THE HIDDEN POTENTIAL OF NEURODIVERGENCE – BY A LEADING EXPERT
ON NEURODIVERGENCE AND AI

Date of publication: April 23, 2025

With 10 b/w images

English sample translation available soon

Neurodivergence and AI: a perfect symbiosis?


What can people with an atypical ability to focus offer society? Albert Einstein, Virginia Woolf and Greta Thunberg, three people who have significantly shaped our world, are distinguished by an extraordinary capacity for concentration, falling somewhere within the neurodivergence spectrum. And while most people feel stressed out by climate change, pandemics and war in Ukraine, and do their best to distract themselves from them, people with ADHD find that such stress factors can actually increase their capacity for attentiveness: the more hyperactive their environment, the better they can focus.

Experienced neuropsychologist Zimpel has found that many a supposed behavioural or learning 'difficulty' can actually be an advantage. So while AI tools such as ChatGPT make many internet users wonder whether, for example, they are talking to a human or an algorithm, neurodivergent people are much better able to understand what is really going on in our ever more opaque world.

Some of the world's most prominent corporations are now actively seeking to create a neurodiverse workforce – and it looks as if this might only be the start of a whole new development.

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AUTHOR

André Frank Zimpel



© Michael Draasch

André Frank Zimpel is a psychologist and professor for learning and development at the University of Hamburg. He is also scientific lead of the Centre for Neurodiversity Research, a psychotherapist, a special needs maths and art teacher, and head of the Centre for Attention Divergences.

FRANZ HIMPSL, DIRK VON GEHLEN

How AI Can Help You

50 IDEAS FOR AN EASIER LIFE

Date of publication: May 28, 2025

Stop the hype and the doom-mongering: how to stop worrying and learn to use AI well

To be honest, most of us aren't really following the debates around the rapid rise of AI: among all the technical details and talk of utopian opportunities and/or danger to society, what we don't hear enough about is how we can use these new inventions to make life easier for us.

"How AI Can Help You" gets up close and personal with AI, and reveals 50 ways in which we can already use it to lead a more healthy lifestyle and improve our relationships. Putting aside dystopian visions, AI can be used as a creative problem-solving toolkit, and in this book we learn how it works, how to try it out, and where to take it next – a comprehensive, accessible, evidence-driven, clued-up but still optimistic beginner's guide to how AI can make life easier.




**Non-Fiction, Current Affairs,
Non-Fiction, General
Non-Fiction**

Publishing House: Kösel
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 224 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Original title: Wie KI dein
Leben besser macht

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AUTHOR

Franz Himpsl

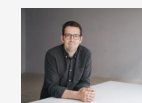


© Anja Zeltner

Franz Himpsl has a PhD in philosophy, and is a journalist, author, producer and podcaster. He works at the book-summarising service Blinkist and at the learning and development content firm Go1 as managing development editor, responsible for educational texts created with the help of AI.

AUTHOR

Dirk von Gehlen



© Martin Friedrich

Dirk von Gehlen heads up the Süddeutsche Zeitung's SZ Institute think-tank and is the brain behind the SZ's 'long read'. He is a journalist, speaker and writer well known for his contributions on various aspects of digital culture.

BORIS VON HEESEN

Men in the Driving Seat

HOW THE PATRIARCHY IS PREVENTING CHANGES IN MOBILITY

Date of publication: March 12, 2025

A plea for a forward-looking, modern traffic policy

Statistics suggest that men are kings of the road, with their noisy XXL cars and aggressive driving. But this is just a symptom of a bigger problem: static and powerful male-dominated networks in politics, administration, institutions, corporations and science are preventing the changes we urgently need to make to ensure sustainable mobility. With shocking facts and compelling arguments, masculinity expert and economist Heesen shows how patriarchal structures have shaped the way we move around, and are blocking the necessary changes.



**Non-Fiction, Politics,
Non-Fiction, Social & Cultural
Studies**

Publishing House: Heyne
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x20,6
cm
Illustrations: 10 b/w
illustrations
Original title: Mann am Steuer

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AUTHOR

Boris von Heesen



© privat

Economist Boris von Heesen, born in 1969, started out working for the social welfare office in Munich and drug rehab programmes in Frankfurt am Main, and is the founder of Germany's first ever online market research institute. He now works as a counsellor on men's issues and is executive director of a youth welfare service. He has spent many years writing about and advising on male-related issues, and has published two popular books on the subject.

KATHARINA HÖFTMANN CIOBOTARU, SOHRAB SHAHNAME

BLESSING VERLAG



**Non-Fiction, Current Affairs,
Non-Fiction, Essays, Letters
& Literary Studies**

Publishing House: Blessing
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 272 | 12,5x20,0
cm
Original title: Über den Hass
hinweg. Briefe zwischen Tel
Aviv und Teheran

Beyond Hate: Letters from Tel Aviv and Tehran

Date of publication: April 16, 2025

A personal perspective on the complicated relationship between Israel and Iran – and a bridge across the chasm of hate

"In September 2022, one of my Instagram followers in Tehran started writing to me. Initially, I didn't quite trust him and ignored him, but after 7 October 2023 it turned into an intense exchange between Tel Aviv and Tehran – about family, peace, freedom, our fears and dreams. I know full well that, for him, corresponding like this with an Israeli citizen could mean a death sentence."

After Hamas's 7 October attack, Iranian Sohrab Shahname and German-Israeli author Katharina Höftmann Ciobotaru become friends. This despite the fact that since the Islamic revolution, Iran – a country where around two hundred thousand current Israelis originally come from – has always been Israel's greatest enemy. Their brave correspondence is by turns highly political and deeply intimate – and always moving. A highly topical book about humanity and friendship.

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AUTHOR

Katharina Höftmann Ciobotaru



© Dana Lavie

Katharina Höftmann Ciobotaru, born in 1984, studied psychology and German-Jewish history. She is a freelance journalist and the author of several crime novels and non-fiction books. She has lived in Tel Aviv with her family for almost 15 years. She is also the author of the 2021 novel "AleF" ('Aleph'), a love story spanning several German and Israeli generations. She has been in touch with an Iranian citizen on Instagram for a few years, and after 7 October 2023 the two started writing to each other about their sorrows, their fears, and their pain – but also about how we must not give in to hate.

AUTHOR

Sohrab Shahname

Sohrab Shahname was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1992. He studied business administration and worked as a photographer for Iranian newspapers and news agencies for more than 7 years. This book is his first collaboration with anyone outside Iran. Sohrab Shahname is a pseudonym.



Non-Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs

Publishing House: btb

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 320 | 13,5x21,5 cm

Original title: »In mir tobt und brodeln stets etwas gefährliches«

MARGRET GREINER

"There's Something Dangerous Seething Inside Me"

THE LIFE OF ELSA ASENIEFF, "THE FEMALE VOICE OF DESIRE" (FAZ)

Date of publication: June 11, 2025

8pp colour insert

The first comprehensive biography of this leading fin-de-siècle feminist

Elsa Asenijeff (1867–1941) was born into a middle-class Viennese family. After her father died, she was forced to marry a wealthy man she did not love. With his support, she became one of the first women to study philosophy and psychology at the University of Leipzig. Alongside her studies, she also published poems, essays and short stories. In 1897, she met artist Max Klinger, and they embarked on a passionate relationship. The glamorous couple were at the centre of a circle of intellectuals and artists, and Asenijeff became the patron of young expressionist writers such as Franz Werfel. She herself attained literary fame with her poems and stories about female self-discovery and self-determination, championing autonomous female erotic desire and sexuality. When Max Klinger left her for a sixteen-year-old girl, she was thrown into poverty, briefly arrested, scorned as a troublemaker, misandrist and author of indecent works, and finally placed under guardianship. She spent the next two decades until her death in 1941 in a variety of psychiatric clinics and retirement homes. Thanks to this first ever comprehensive account of her life, Asenijeff is at last given the memorial she deserves.

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AUTHOR

Margret Greiner



© Thomas Dashuber

Margret Greiner has studied German and history and spent many years working as a teacher and journalist. Her work often focuses on the lives of exceptional women. Her most recent narrative biographies are "Emilie Flöge: Modeschöpferin und Gefährtin Gustav Klimts" ('Cut out for freedom: Emilie Flöge – fashion designer and Gustav Klimt's companion'), "Margaret Stonborough-Wittgenstein. "Grande Dame der Wiener Moderne" ('Margaret Stonborough-Wittgenstein: The grande dame of Viennese Modernism') and "Mutig und stark alles erwarten: Elisabeth Erdmann-Macke – Leben für die Kunst" ('Face life with strength and courage: Elisabeth Erdmann-Macke – a life lived for art').



Non-Fiction, Social & Cultural Studies

Publishing House: Penguin
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 240 | 13,5x20,6 cm
Original title:
Zusammenkommen

HEIKE KLEEN

Coming Together

EQUALITY IS SEXY – AND LEAVES YOU WANTING MORE


Date of publication: June 11, 2025

Why sex and feminism belong together: championing equality and self-empowerment, and removing social taboos

Do all women need five lovers, and do men have a right to sex? Does motherhood kill your libido? And what happens to desire once you have managed to escape traditional role models? These are just some of the questions Kleen deals with in her columns. And like many women, she knows that saying no to sex can be just as hard as saying yes to lust. With a decisive 'maybe', she has been expanding her sexual horizon and interrogating patriarchal traditions. She believes that only if we develop a real understanding for each other can there be true intimacy, trust and vulnerability – and make sex truly the best pastime in the world. Surely nothing is more erotic than doing it together.

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AUTHOR

Heike Kleen



© Eva Häberle

Heike Kleen, born in 1975, has a degree in German and political science. She is a freelance journalist and contributes to Spiegel, Tagesspiegel and Zeit Online, among others. She also writes for TV, including for ARD, ZDF and NDR. Her essays and non-fiction books deal with the links between sexuality, body image, role models and feminism. Her Spiegel column 'Liebesleben' is regularly one of the magazine's most-read online pieces.

MICHAEL MARTIN

Around the World on Two Wheels

BOUNDLESS FREEDOM: MOTORBIKE ADVENTURES ON FIVE CONTINENTS

Date of publication: February 19, 2025

4c images throughout

A biking adventure among spectacular landscapes – grippingly told and packed with stunning images


Michael Martin's bike is as good off-road as a camel, and just as low maintenance. Ever since he rode from Munich to Morocco on a moped as a teenager, this renowned photographer, geographer and adventurer has travelled practically all over the world on his bike. Whether he's crossing deserts, climbing 5,000-metre-high mountain passes in the Himalayas, or journeying through the snowy Canadian Arctic Archipelago at below-zero temperatures, he loves having the wind in his face, the heat and cold on his skin, and feeling every bump in the road all the way up his arms. "Around the World on Two Wheels" is a tale of adventurous trips, inspiring people, flat tyres and breathtaking nature – and the boundless freedom you can experience on two wheels.



**Non-Fiction, General
Non-Fiction, Non-Fiction,
Nature & Climate Change**

Publishing House: Ludwig
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 304 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Original title: Auf zwei Rädern
um die Welt

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AUTHOR

Michael Martin



© Jörg Reuther

Michael Martin is a photographer, lecturer, adventurer and geography graduate. For more than 35 years he has been reporting on his journeys to the deserts of the earth and has become the world's best-known desert photographer. He has published 30 picture books that were translated into many languages, held more than 2,000 lectures and produced several television films. The focus of his work is not only on the arid deserts but also the polar and ice deserts of the Arctic and Antarctic. He has won numerous awards, including an honorary medal from the Royal Geographic Society, and most recently the Gregor International Calendar and ITB Book Award.

HUBERT MESSNER, LENZ KOPPELSTÄTTER



Non-Fiction, General Non-Fiction

Publishing House: Ludwig
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 224 | 13,5x21,5
 cm
 Original title: Unser Südtirol

Our South Tyrol

THE PEOPLE, PEAKS AND PLACES WE LOVE – A VERY PERSONAL JOURNEY
 OF DISCOVERY

Date of publication: April 16, 2025

4c throughout

A fresh look at fascinating South Tyrol, with its moving past, special people and unique culture and cuisine

Native South Tyroleans Messner and Koppelstätter venture to the tops of mountains, along secret village alleyways and into farmers' kitchens to give us an insight into the hidden paradises beyond the tourist trail. In "Our South Tyrol", they recount the incredible events that have occurred here, as well as their own exciting experiences; they also meet the hardy characters typical of the region, and immerse themselves in an enchanting world of nature, culture and cuisine. Their tales are accompanied by stunning images taken by South Tyrolean photographer Peter Unterthurner. A wonderfully enriching armchair voyage for anyone ready to (re)discover the beauty of South Tyrol.

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AUTHOR

Hubert Messner



© Kay Blaschke

Hubert Messner, born in 1953, grew up in South Tyrol. He studied medicine and trained as a neonatologist in Milan, Toronto and London before joining the neonatology unit in Bozen. He accompanied his brother, mountaineering legend Reinhold Messner, several times as the expedition doctor in the Himalayas and in ice deserts.

AUTHOR

Lenz Koppelstätter



© Kay Blaschke

Lenz Koppelstätter, born in 1982, studied politics and social sciences in Bologna and Berlin, and is a graduate of the German Journalism School in Munich. He contributes to the FAS, Geo and Salon. Many of his books are Spiegel bestsellers.