

# Suhrkamp Insel

Rights List  
London 2025  
Fiction

# Nina Bußmann

## Three Weeks in August

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© Heike Steinweg

A Novel  
(Original title: Drei Wochen im August)

### A tense chamber play set against the searing summer heat

A remote holiday house on the French Atlantic coast. This is where Elena wants to spend three relaxing weeks with her children. Her husband has stayed behind in Germany – their marriage has been shaky of late. But Elena has taken her babysitter, Eve, and one of her thirteen-year-old daughter's friends along with them. But day after day, what begins as a restorative break is placed under threat, both from without and within. The forests, tinder-dry from the drought, are engulfed in flames, unannounced guests show up, conflicts come to a head – fuelled by jealousy, mistrust, and complex relationships. Until one of the girls suddenly disappears.

*Three Weeks in August* is a densely constructed chamber play set against the searing heat of summer. Everything seems harmonious, but this idyllic scene conceals dark depths. Just one insensitive remark, one false accusation, and the complex web of relationships threatens to tear apart. Nina Bußmann tells all of this with great psychological finesse and a finely tuned ear for tension.

»A masterpiece.« *Paul Jandl, NZZ*

»Nina Bußmann produces masterful, precise descriptions in an artful and at the same time lucid language.« *Deutschlandfunk Kultur*

»The enormous drive that the novel possesses, the mood of tension and foreboding that smoulders above everything seem to be taken from the films of Michelangelo Antonioni« *Jan Wilm, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (on Earth's Mantle is Hot and Partially Molten)*

Nina Bußmann, born in Frankfurt/Main in 1980, studied General and Comparative Literature and Philosophy in Berlin and Warsaw and currently lives in Berlin. She has received various awards for her work, including the 3sat Prize at the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize 2011 for an excerpt from her debut novel *Große Ferien*.

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**Rights sold to: Netherlands (Meridiaan)**

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**Thicket / Dickicht (2020) •**

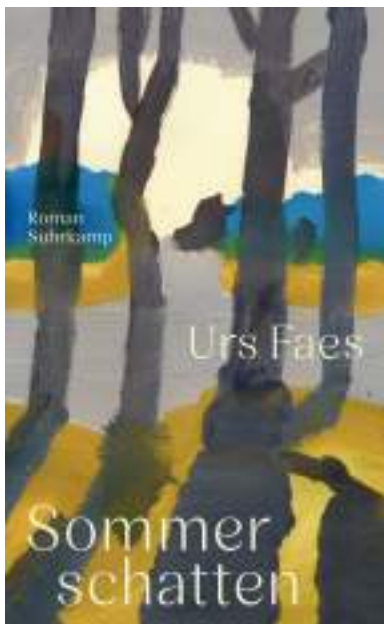
**Earth's Mantle is Hot and Partially Molten / Der Mantel der Erde ist heiß und teilweise geschmolzen (2017) •**

**Long Vacation / Große Ferien (2012) •**

# Urs Faes

## Summer Shadows

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### A deeply moving story about love, memory and loss

On the way back to his little shack on a vineyard near the Black Forest, the narrator receives a phone call that turns his world upside down. His partner Ina has had a serious accident while freediving. She is placed in an induced coma, and nobody knows whether she has suffered brain damage, whether she will ever wake up again at all. In the days that follow, he is terrified that she won't survive. He informs friends and relatives and thinks back on their first cautious encounter, on the paths they had walked together, their happiest moments. He waits by Ina's bedside, speaks to her, reads to her, hopes that she will wake up and return to him. His storytelling is a way of arming himself against the feeling of abandonment, the fear of losing her forever.

**Summer Shadows is a sensitive novel about a love found later in life, and about the power of memory. Memory as a bridge back to everyday life, to life itself.**

*»With his many novels, Urs Faes has proven what a brilliant storyteller he is.« Matthias Kehle, Badisches Tagblatt*

*»Urs Faes is a master of nuance.« Luzia Stettler, SRF*

*»Urs Faes comes from poetry, has always been a quiet author who approaches his characters cautiously, almost tenderly, looking precisely at the dynamics between relationships, and knows how to create an atmosphere in a harmonious fashion.« Theo Byland, P.S. Zürich*

*»The language in which the plot is recounted feels strikingly empathetic.« Giovanna Riolo, Freiburger Nachrichten*

Urs Faes, born in Aarau, Switzerland, in 1947, lives and works in Zurich and San Feliciano, Italy. In 2008 he was awarded the Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung.



© Jürgen Bauer

A Novel  
159 pages • April 2025  
(Original title: Sommerschatten)

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**Daytimes / Untertags (2020) •**

**Twelve Nights / Raunächte (2018) •** English world rights (Harvill Secker); Netherlands (De Bezige Bij)

# Yannic Han Biao Federer

## I See You Everywhere, Forever

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**Selected for New Books in German – translation funding guaranteed for the English language**

In precise and piercing language, Yannic Biao Federer tells of the loss of his son, of saying goodbye and care work, of parenthood and love. *I See You Everywhere, Forever* is a document of grief and mourning – and of the healing power of storytelling.

Charlotte and Yannic are expecting a child. Between prenatal screenings, wrapping up projects, and entering their income into parental allowance calculators, they are getting ready to start a new life as a family. Then comes catastrophe. Their son, Gustav Tian Ming, dies. While a moment ago they were googling changing tables and ordering nursing pillows, suddenly they find themselves picking out a baby coffin and deciding what kind of plot to buy at the cemetery. Everything feels wrong. Like some cruel joke. But it's all really happening. Devastated relatives and friends travel to be with them or pay their respects from afar, taking sacrifices to the temple. And while the couple are battling against a bureaucracy that seems to have no idea how to deal with stillborn babies, Yannic begins to write down what is happening around him. It's an attempt to make sense of what they are going through, to find a language for the grief and the pain, but also for the warmth and love that is concealed within them.



© Heike Steinweg

185 pages • April 2025  
(Original title: Für immer seh ich dich wieder)

»Bright light spills through the window, warming up the room, and I take off my sweater, walk around in a T-shirt. I know it's just weather, but I can't help but believe it's my son.

Look, I say, Gusti is sending us some morning sunshine.  
Yeah, says Charlotte, looking up, smiling. Yeah, he's consoling us.  
Exactly, I say, he's keeping an eye on us.«

»*The most beautiful and tragic and life-affirming text that I've read in a long time. How wonderful that Gustav has parents who are telling us his story.*« Daniela Dröscher

»*Probably the biggest strength of this impressive book is that it shows how, in the face of the ineffable, we retain the ability to feel and to find words for these feelings. An important, heartbreaking book.*« Daniel Schreiber

Yannic Han Biao Federer lives and works in Cologne. He writes novels, stories, essays, and reviews, which have been published by outlets such as *Deutschlandfunk*, *WDR*, und *SWR*. He is a member of PEN Berlin and the Junges Kolleg at the Nordrhein-Westfälischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Künste. He has received numerous prizes and grants for this work, including the Bayern 2-Wortspiele-Literaturpreis and the Förderpreis des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen in 2022.

# Heike Geißler

## Despair

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### An essay on resisting political despair

A young girl stands in front of her swimming teacher and begs to finally be put in the advanced group. Yet she can hardly swim at all without help. Her teacher is merciless, the girl descends into despair.

Thirty years later, Heike Geißler is grown up but still despairing – but she's determined to face up to this feeling. What is wrong – with gender roles, heroism, militarisation? What's missing? What are all the different sources of inhumanity? In speech, in political action. In state parliaments, and not just in East Germany. She fights against right-wing extremism, hostile structures and intolerable circumstances. And tries a new approach, a different perspective. So as to draw consolation and courage from it all.

*»This book is at once a mirror and a source of consolation. I'll carry it around in the pocket of my jacket as a kind of emergency package. Because whenever I'm overcome by despair, nothing helps more than finding words for this state in my pocket.« Peggy Mädler*



*»I've been waiting for this book for some time, and now that it's finally here I just want to go around telling everyone: just read it, you'll see why. Let the despair take you, listen to me.« Sandra Hüller*

Heike Geißler, born in Riesa in 1977, is an author, translator, and co-editor of the series *Lücken kann man lesen*. Most recently, she published the reportage novel *Seasonal Associate* (English edition published by Semiotext(e) in 2018). Heike Geißler has been awarded numerous fellowships and prizes. She currently lives in Leipzig.

© Heike Steinweg

An Essay  
221 pages • February 2025  
(Original title: *Verzweiflungen*)

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The Week / Die Woche (2022) • Netherlands (Het Balanseer)

# Peter Handke

## Snows of Yesteryear, Snows of Tomorrow

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### The new play by the Nobel Prize winner

As he walks, he gathers together the things he encounters, day by day, step by step: two crows at his feet, an apple with a bite taken out of it from the side of the trail, a swarm of flies “flying on the spot”. Along the way, thoughts of Odysseus, wandering through world events and history, memories of the snake on the edge of the childhood forest, the sound of raindrops on the leaves, the image of cloud shadow. Then the »laughter of children on the horizon«, their boisterous play drowning out the noise by the side of the road. There, he finds the peace that doesn't exist, »it reigns in the swinging mouths of the children«. Until one of them, who is talking incessantly, sets off, and another comments: »Supposedly he was seen some time ago, cowering as the last passenger on the very last night bus.«

*Snows of Yesteryear, Snows of Tomorrow* is a piece for the stage, a drama with no change in speaker, a song without a refrain. As if through speaking and singing, Peter Handke's figure were trying to harken into the silence, and at the same time to divert his ear, to do justice to the world and his experience of it. The speaker interrupts himself, starts over, and he doesn't just collect the things he encounters as he walks, but also follows the »afterimages with eyes tightly shut«.

»A radically stripped back art, tailored to the effect of the voice, freed of baubles and glitter, relieved of learned technique and method. A tender elegy to an eternal wanderer, perhaps even to the author himself...« Arno Frank, *Der Spiegel*

»As a title, *Snows of Yesteryear, Snows of Tomorrow* leaves subtle tracks of meaning in this 74-page text, which – something that is near impossible for prose – contains not a single weak, superfluous sentence and is thankfully utterly divorced from the poetic paltriness that often bears the insignia of literary prose.« Friederike Gösweiner, *Die Presse*



© Donata Wenders

74 pages · January 2025  
(Original title: Schnee von gestern,  
Schnee von morgen)

Peter Handke, born in 1942 in Griffen, Austria, lives near Paris. His books have been translated into more than 40 languages. In 2019, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

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**Rights sold to: Sweden (Faethon); Greece (Vaxikon)**

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**Zdeněk Adamec / Zdeněk Adamec (2020)** • France (Gallimard); Poland (Adit); Czech Republic (Větrné mlýny)

**The Beautiful Days of Aranjuez / Die schönen Tage von Aranjuez (2012)** • Spanish world rights (Casus Belli); France (Bruit du Temps); Italy (Quodlibet); Norway (Samlaget); Japan (Ronsosha); Serbia (Laguna); Slovenia (Hermagoras/Mohorjeva založba);

# Christoph Hein

## Ship of Fools



© Heike Steinweg

A Novel  
750 pages • March 2025  
(Original title: Das Narrenschiff)

### A sweeping, epochal novel about life in East Germany

A state is founded, like all states, for eternity, but disappears after forty years, almost without a trace. Are the people who once lived there condemned to oblivion, their dreams just a brief breeze in the great winds of history?

**In his sparking social novel, Christoph Hein brings men and women together who, upon the founding of the German Democratic Republic, are assigned the most diverse roles. He accompanies them through the dramatic developments of a nascent society, which strives to be the better Germany and yet stumbles from one failure to the next.**

Card-carrying communists, formerly fanatic Nazis, functionaries caught up in imbroglios, intellectuals trying to salvage their bourgeois lifestyles under real existing socialism, shoe salesmen, waiters, factory workers, building superintendents, and even a high-ranking Stasi agent recognise, in one way or another, their membership in an involuntary crew on board a social vessel that they increasingly come to view as a ship of fools, and whose course is verging ever nearer to the menacing cliffs of history.

»Christoph Hein is undoubtedly among the most creative contemporary German storytellers.« *Ulf Heise, Freie Presse*

Christoph Hein, born in 1944, lives in Berlin. He is the author of novels, novellas, short stories, plays, essays and children's books. His most recent novels were on the *Spiegel* bestseller list for weeks. His most recent awards include the 2019 Prix du Meilleur livre étranger (for *Glückskind mit Vater*), the 2019 Samuel Bogumił Linde Prize and the 2017 Grimmelshausen Prize.

**Rights sold to: France (Métailié); Domestic rights sales: German Audiobook (DAV)**

**Underneath the Dust of Time / Unterm Staub der Zeit (2023) • Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (DAV)**

**Horn's End / Horns Ende (1985) • France (Métailié); Korea (CommunicationBooks); Previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: Russia (Raduga); Italy (e/o); Netherlands (Van Genep); Denmark (Gyldendal); Sweden (Norstedt); Norway (Gyldendal Norsk); Finland (Otava); Japan (Dogakusha); Poland (PIW); Czech Republic (Odeon); Slovakia (Slovenský spisovateľ); Hungary (Europa); Bulgaria (Emas); Romania / Republic of Moldova (Univers); Estonia (Eesti Raamat); Israel (Sifriat Poalim)**

# Urszula Honek

## White Nights

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### Longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2024

*White Nights* is the debut work of prose by acclaimed Polish poet Urszula Honek. At first glance, the volume is made up of standalone short stories about the tragedies and misfortunes that befall a group of people who all grew up in the same village in southern Poland. At closer inspection, though, the stories reveal themselves to be intricately intertwined, slotting together to form an overarching narrative.

**In sumptuous and lyrical language, Honek tells stories of poverty, disappointment, tragedy, and despair, but manages to find sources of light in these typically dark themes. Packed with exquisite local detail, the stories are nevertheless clearly couched in a more universal context of meaning.**

*»A highly artistic study of death encapsulated in moving stories, [where] the setting seems to be a symbol of a larger (ultimately, cosmic) universe, signalled by a reality that is limited to a small number of characters...Honek reveals the bright side of something that is usually only known and seen through darkness.« Paulina Subocz-Białek*

*»Lyricism and brutality. The almost poetic beauty and trivial ugliness of everyday life. And everything is wrapped in a web of sadness and melancholy. The author knows how to create a mood and shows, to put it grandiosely, sensitivity to the human condition.« Anna Kozłowska, SwipeTo*

*»With complete cruelty, but also mastery, Honek symbolically kills her influences. She stands firmly on her own two feet, moving readers with her own voice - immediately clear, set and full.« Paulina Małochleb, Empik Critics' Choice*

Urszula Honek was born in Raclawice, Poland, and writes poetry and prose. She has won numerous awards for her work. *White Nights* is her first volume of prose, and was awarded the Witold Gombrowicz Literary Prize and the Kościelski Award in 2023.



© Jacek Taran

A novel in thirteen stories  
Original Polish title: Białe noce,  
published in 2023 by Czarne  
160 pages · February 2025  
(Original title: Die weißen Nächte)

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**Rights sold to: English world rights (MTO Press); Spanish world rights (Lumen); Arabic world rights (Dar Tashkeel); France (Grasset); Netherlands (Bezige Bij); Sweden (Ersatz); Hungary (Jelenkor); Greece (Vakxikon); Georgia (Intelekti)**

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# Jina Khayyer

## In the Heart of the Cat

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A Novel  
300 pages · August 2025  
(Original title: Im Herzen der Katze)

### **A stunning and uplifting novel set against the backdrop of the Woman, Life, Freedom movement in Iran**

When Jina Mahsa Amini is murdered by the morality police in Tehran in 2022 and the world's first ever women-led revolution breaks out in Iran, the narrator of *In the Heart of the Cat*, also called Jina, is confronted by images that take her back to some of her deepest memories of Iran, a place that could have been her homeland had the 1979 Islamic Revolution not robbed her of fundamental human rights and made her into a nomad. The tumultuous events sparked by the death of Jina Mahsa Amini and the courageous actions of the women and girls of Iran, who risk life and limb to resist Amini's murderers, leads Jina to delve into her own family history, which is deeply intertwined with the political vicissitudes of life in Iran.

*In the Heart of the Cat* brings together three generations of Iranian women to explore a political history and present it in an utterly personal way. First there is her mother, born in the early 1940s, who grew up in a democratic Iran and left during the rule of the Shah with little more than a suitcase and her first-born child Roya, Jina's older sister. Roya was born in the Iran of the Shah in the 1960s, before moving with her mother to Europe, going to school in Germany, Switzerland, and France, then to university, before returning to the Islamic Republic in the 1990s with her husband. And then there is Nika, Roya's daughter, Jina's niece, who is born under Islamic rule in 1999. On the day of Jina Mahsa Amini's death, Nika was in the process of enrolling at the University of Tehran, before getting swept up in the protests. Lastly, there is the narrator, Jina. Born in Germany in the 1970s, though she grew up with the language and culture of her ancestors, it wasn't until she visited Roya in Tehran for the first time in the year 2000 that she got to know Iran firsthand, an experience that caused her to question her preconceptions about identity, nationality, belonging, and freedom, and helped her to understand her connection to this country and what it means to be an Iranian woman.

But when Jina Mahsa Amini is murdered and Iranian women around the world hit the streets chanting Woman, Life, Freedom, Jina, her sister Roya, and her niece Nika are faced with a life-changing decision: fight or hide?

Written in glittering prose enriched by both the poetic force of the Persian language and the warmth of family bonds and rituals that only grow brighter against the dark backdrop of loss and trauma, this book is ultimately a story of unshakeable dignity and empowerment, of taking ownership of one's own history and of history as such. In *In the Heart of the Cat*, Jina Khayyer radically and emphatically redefines for herself what is woman, what is life, what is freedom.



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Jina Khayyer is a writer, poet and journalist. Born in Germany in 1975 and of Iranian descent, Khayyer studied painting at the Bauhaus in Dessau and journalism at DJS in Munich. Khayyer writes in German, French and English for a number of publications in various countries, including *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Die Zeit*, *Libération*, *The Gentlewoman*, and *Fantastic Man*. Her memoir *Älter als Jesus, Mein Leben Als Frau* was released in 2015. *In the Heart of the Cat* is her first publication with Suhrkamp Verlag. Khayyer lives and works in France.

*»I see the lifeless body of a young woman. The colours of an intensive care unit, pale blue, turquoise-green, ice-grey. Blood stuck to her ear. Instagram conceals nothing. Regardless of how many filters are placed on the pictures, anybody who wants can see the brutal reality. I read: Jina Mahsa Amini was beaten into a coma with a baton by the religious police. Now she is dead. I read her name again, Jina, Jina with a »J«. I have never heard of anyone with the same name as me.« From *In the Heart of the Cat**

# Esther Kinsky

## Home

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### The new, moving cycle of poems by Esther Kinsky

Images of flight, dispossession, and injury, spanning millennia, in history and myth: Eurydice, frantically fleeing from a god that is stalking her, fails to notice the serpent and dies from its poisonous bite. Landless cottagers in northern Scotland, relocated to less fertile land or forced to emigrate. A young German noblewoman, educated and gifted, resists the »given«, the »morals of complaisance« of her social status. A maid in Poland transforms into a bird, escaping poverty and the indignities of life. On the northern border of Italy, after being left on their own for months, women refuse to use human language after the return of the men.

Esther Kinsky's *Home* is a work cycle made up of seven long, plurivocal poems which, connected by brief, adjoining texts, bring together and crystallise recurring motifs of the violence, injury, and silence related to the overarching theme of flight and refuge. Kinsky finds moving images to illustrate how loss and the desire to start again have always been a component of human existence, providing sources of both hope and trauma.

»When a shoot of the rose of paradise has been grafted onto all roses, all errant wanderers will find their way home.«



© Heike Steinweg

Poems  
150 pages • April 2025  
(Original title: Heim.Statt)

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**Rombo / Rombo (2022)** • USA & Canada (NYRB); UK & Commonwealth (Fitzcarraldo); Spanish world rights (Periférica); Catalan rights (Angle); Portugal (Elsinore); France (Christian Bourgois); Italy (Iperborea); Netherlands (Pluim); Denmark (Atlanten); Norway (Forlaget Press); Finland (Lurra); Poland (Drzazgi); Turkey (Axis)

**Seeing Farther / Weiter Sehen (2023)** • USA & Canada (NYRB); UK & Commonwealth (Fitzcarraldo); Spanish world rights (Periférica); France (Christian Bourgois); Italy (Iperborea); Netherlands (Pluim); Hungary (Jelenkor)

**Grove / Hain (2019)** • English world rights (Fitzcarraldo); France (Grasset); Italy (Il Saggiatore); Ukraine (Knihy XXI)

## Alexander Kluge • Anselm Kiefer

## »Wisdom is the art of remaining faithful under shifting circumstances«

Alexander Kluge  
Anselm Kiefer»Klugheit ist die Kunst,  
unter verschiedenen  
Umständen getreu  
zu bleiben«

Bibliothek Suhrkamp



© Markus Kirchgessner

240 pages • October 2024  
(Original title: »Klugheit ist die  
Kunst, unter verschiedenen  
Umständen getreu zu bleiben«)

Anselm Kiefer and Alexander Kluge have been friends for many years – and they share an aesthetic and analytical interest in the deeply human possibility of reliability. But what is reliability? And how does it relate to the four currencies – power, love, truth, and money – that govern our lifetimes? But what is time, actually? And how are our present, past and future intertwined?

»**To remain faithful under shifting circumstances**« – according to Hölderlin, this can be considered a guiding principle of our actions. For Kluge and Kiefer, however, this phrase also harbours an artistic mission, namely that of keeping all that has become existentially and historically calcified fluid, to not allow the dead to remain dead, and to welcome the unborn into our midst.

**Alexander Kluge and Anselm Kiefer make pictures and texts oscillate sympathetically – they probe deep into the strata of history and offer diagnoses of the most contemporary social phenomena. In doing so, they sharpen our poetic perception of what keeps our polyform times together.**

»... Kluge and Kiefer give thought a good old shake. Which is productive, because they demonstrate what it means to ›not go mad‹ in complex and confusing situations (and is there any other kind?), and that though the mind ›knows precision‹, it also ›knows how to find its bearing in the approximate‹.« Jörg Magenau, taz.de

Alexander Kluge, born in 1932, is the director of numerous films and countless TV broadcasts as well as an author, but: »My books are my most important work.« He has received numerous awards for his oeuvre.

Anselm Kiefer, born in 1945, studied law, Romance studies and art. He was a student of Horst Antes and Joseph Beuys.

**World-Changing Rage / Weltverändernder Zorn (2017)** • English world rights (Seagull)

**Dispatches from Moments of Calm / Nachricht von ruhigen Momenten (2013)** • English world rights (Seagull); Chinese simplex rights (Beijing Imaginist Time Culture)

**December / Dezember (2010)** • English world rights (Seagull); Chinese simplex rights (Beijing Imaginist Time Culture); France (Diaphanes); Italy (La Grande Illusion); Turkey (Everest)

**Anselm Kiefer in Conversation with Klaus Dermutz / Die Kunst geht knapp nicht unter (2010)** • English world rights (Seagull); Chinese simplex rights (The Commercial Press)

# Ricarda Messner

## Where the Name Lives



© Diana Pfammatter

A Novel  
170 pages • February 2025  
(Original title: Wo der Name wohnt)

### Winner of the Fulda Literature Prize 2025

Number 36 and 37, they lived here side by side for years. As a child, she would play table tennis on the glass-topped table in her grandparents' apartment. As an adult, she eventually has to clear out their flat, bringing cutlery, pots and cassettes to her place next door. And there's something else she wants to preserve: Levitanus, her grandparents' surname. Her desire to adopt this name does not only accompany her in her daily life, it ultimately takes her all the way to Riga. She follows the words of her great-grandfather Salomon and finds a window in the former Riga Ghetto that is intricately linked with her family history – and she traces the movements of four generations of her family, from the Soviet Latvia of the seventies to present-day Germany.

**Ricarda Messner's debut novel revolves around a place imbued with memories. Time and again she returns to her life in two apartments, approaches losses and lacunae, draws connections between today and yesterday. In the most delicate way, *Where the Name Lives* brings an entire family to life, preserving the stories they have left behind.**

*»Ricarda Messner generously tells the story of her family, with the dead and the murdered. Through its language of longing, this deeply sincere debut novel reminds us that the dead we have lost, that the people who were taken from us, are always already here with us.« Senthuran Varatharajah*

*»How much tenderness can fit into a story? In this quiet, searching novel, Ricarda Messner tries to understand the concept of family – delivering a declaration of love to the sense of security that family can offer, despite gaps and misunderstandings.« Lena Gorelik*

*»Ricarda Messner's debut *Where the Name Lives* is a tentative attempt by a young woman to understand her family history and to preserve its memory. Based on the narrative of an unusual relationship between granddaughter and grandmother, the novel uses artefacts and reconstructions to circle in on the crimes of the Nazis in Latvia. *Where the Name Lives* finds a quiet and haunting language in which to show how losses echo in the realms of emotion and intuition, transcending generations.« Jury of the Fulda Literature Prize*

Ricarda Messner was born in 1989 and is the cofounder and editor of *Flaneur* magazine. Each issue of *Flaneur* is dedicated to a street in a different city, and the publication has received multiple awards. *Where the Name Lives* is her debut novel, for which she received the Alfred Doblin Scholarship. She lives and works in Berlin.

# Katja Petrowskaja

## As if It Were Over



### A war chronicle in columns - the follow-up to her prose minatures *The Photo Looked Back at Me*

»A book I never wanted to write.«

How does war change pictures? How does it change how we see? How does it change the people who live through it or those who observe it? With her photo columns – published in the newspaper between February 2022 and autumn 2024 – Katja Petrowskaja has unintentionally written a chronicle of the war in Ukraine.

It begins on the eve of the invasion, with a landscape in Georgia, somewhere along the great Military Road. Animals. The air is heavy with the threat of war. On the next page, the cry; My Kyiv! The inconceivable reality of the war, as monstrosity intrudes on the life of the writer.

The war destabilises our gaze. We see pictures of smiling people and instinctively wonder if they are still alive. A man stands in a hole in the middle of the street, »as if he were trying on a possible death, as if death were his new clothes«. A pale, laughing girl, clinging to an older woman. From the story behind this picture, we are surprised by the sudden realisation that the improbable is possible after all – that even miracles are possible in these times.

»Reading [*The Photograph Looked Back on Me*] transforms the way we remember, as if these dialogues between words and photographs restored a perspective we had forgotten.« Michele Neri, *Il Foglio* (Italy)

»What Petrowskaja is really doing is meditating upon what it means to see. What it means to live with and in history. To be a viewer, to be sure, but also a participant. The images stick with you.« Bodil Skovgaard Nielsen, *Information* (Denmark) on *The Photograph Looked Back on Me*

»With [*On The Photograph Looked Back on Me*], [*Petrowskaja*] enters the realm of great photographic literature, represented by authors like Walter Benjamin, Roland Barthes, Susan Sontag and W.G. Sebald. In the future, we will have to consider the author of this book a member of this circle as well.« Anton Holzer, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (Switzerland)

Katja Petrowskaja was born in Kyiv in 1970. She studied at the University of Tartu, Estonia, and was also awarded research fellowships at Columbia University in New York, and Stanford in California. Katja Petrowskaja received her PhD in Moscow. Since 1999, she has lived and worked in Berlin. Her literary debut *Vielleicht Esther* was translated into more than 20 languages and received numerous awards.



© Heike Steinweg

Texts From the War  
217 pages • February 2025  
(Original title: *Als wäre es vorbei*)

# Marion Poschmann

## The Winter Swimmer

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»We swam until the ice crust closed above us.«

Thekla swims in open waters, even when temperatures are icy. She views it as a full-body cognitive process. In this wintry landscape, she tries to get to explore the depths of her self, and of the relationship between body and soul, nature and spirit. While she delves into the breathtakingly clear water and tackles the violence of the cold, she manages to find a feeling of freedom and autonomy. Then along comes a stray tiger.

With poetic verve, Marion Poschmann tells of the excitement and joy of an extraordinary experience with nature. Of the desire to overcome oneself, to discover unknown abilities and to make the impossible possible. In artful turns of phrase, Poschmann melds a contemporary milieu study with a fantastical legend, playfully light and strongly structured verses culminate in a modern adaption of the *Leich*, one of the premier poetic forms of medieval German literature.



»Marion Poschmann is the poet of the space pointing towards the uncertain. ... [Her] creations are ephemeral, only revealing their delicate beauty as they become blurred, thaw and dissolve.« Christian Metz, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on *Nimbus*

»Poschmann [convinces] both as a poet and a novelist.« Volker Blech, *Berliner Zeitung*

»Poschmann's style has something easy about it. The words float into the lines that make up her poems like snow crystals.« Michael Opitz, *Deutschlandfunk*

Marion Poschmann was born in Essen in 1969 and currently lives in Berlin. Her works of poetry and prose have been honoured many times. Her volume of poetry *Geliehene Landschaften* was nominated for the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2016. Her novel *Die Kieferninseln* was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2017 and for the International Booker Prize in 2019.

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A Verse Legend  
80 pages • February 2025  
(Original title: Die  
Winterschwimmerin)

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# Ralf Rothmann

## The Museum of Solitude

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### Nine new masterfully crafted stories

»Every true and luminous short story also casts a novel-length shadow“, Ralf Rothmann once wrote, and *The Museum of Solitude* provides the proof for this assertion. Whether he’s talking about the “shindig” held by a young boy who consoles his crying brother while their parents are away or about a lecturer who takes her mother to a nursing home with strange scratch marks on the doors, whether he has a henchman despairing about the heartlessness of bricklayers or a pastor questioning his faith in god after losing his daughter, Ralf Rothmann always reveals a “truth behind the truth”, which in no small part is down to the vibrancy and magical precision of his language.

These nine stories tell tales of dignity and its absence. They depict people trying to get closer to the ideal of something like a successful life – or to at least get to the end of it without too many regrets. Some are damaged by the experience of being alone. “Angels on crutches”, they sense that they don’t necessarily need wings to transcend their circumstances, a little bit of love would be enough.



»With his powerful poetics, Ralf Rothmann is one of the most important German-language authors and he is possibly the most sensitive narrator of his generation.« Sandra Kegel, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Ralf Rothmann was born in Schleswig in 1953 and grew up in the Ruhr region. For his work, he has been awarded numerous prizes including the Heinrich-Böll-Preis 2005, the Max-Frisch-Preis 2006, the Kleist-Preis 2017, the Premio San Clemente 2018 (Spain) and most recently the Thomas-Mann-Preis 2023. His work *Der Gott jenes Sommers* received the Uwe-Johnson-Preis 2018 and the English translation of *Im Frühling sterben* was awarded the HWA Gold Crown for Historical Fiction (UK) 2018. Rothmann lives in Berlin.

© Heike Steinweg

Stories  
268 pages · May 2025  
(Original title: Museum der  
Einsamkeit)

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**To Die in Spring / Im Frühling sterben (2015)** • English world rights (Picador UK; USA/Canada sublicense: FSG; English audiobook sublicense: Tantor); Spanish world rights (Libros del Asteroide); Catalan rights (L'Altra Editorial); Chinese simplex rights (Archipel Press); Portuguese rights (Sextante Editora); France (Denoël); Italy (Neri Pozza); Netherlands (Arbeiderspers); Denmark (Rosinante); Sweden (Thorén & Lindskog); Norway (Gyldendal Norsk); Poland (W.A.B.); Czech Republic (Argo); Slovakia (Premedia); Hungary (Magvető); Bulgaria (Atlantis); Romania (ART); Croatia (Fraktura); Serbia (Laguna); Slovenia (Goga); Turkey (Yapi Kredi); Greece (Kastaniotis); Previously published in the respective language / territory; rights available again: Finland (Atena); Estonia (Hea Lugu); Kosovo / Albanian world rights (Buzuku); Domestic Rights Sales: German Audiobook (Hörbuch Hamburg); German Entire Radio Reading (NDR)



# Dirk Schmidt

## The Curve

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### A sensational German ganster novel

Who do you turn to when you're a terminally ill former mafioso who wants to rearrange your affairs and needs more than just a little help on your trip through Germany? Or if you're an American tycoon trying to track down the murderer of your daughter, who died in Berlin under mysterious circumstances? In these kinds of cases, you'd better call Carl. In years gone by, Carl ran the legendary youth centre 'The Curve' in the middle of the Ruhr region. But then he realised he had other talents.

Today, he runs a kind of one-stop shop for criminals that is as risky as it is lucrative. And for jobs like these, only his best employees come into consideration: Ridley, a kind of mathematical genius, a drug and sex freak with style and brains, and the super-fast fixer Betty, the one with the hole in her heart. But for both jobs, the buck stops with Carl. Which is no big deal. Until both of them suddenly start to move in a completely different, deadly direction...

*»The Curve is as violent as The Bible, but much better written. Dirk Schmidt's novel about our elective affinities is a heart-stopping thriller.«*  
Max Annas



© Paul Bergen

Thriller  
275 pages • March 2025  
(Original title: Die Kurve)

Dirk Schmidt was born in 1964 and studied German literature and theatre, film, and television studies at Ruhr University Bochum. After an early phase as a scriptwriter, Schmidt worked for decades as a copywriter and creative director at various advertising agencies. He wrote his first works for the radio while at university, his first crime radio play in 1993, and his debut novel, *Letzte Nacht in Queens*, was published in 2003.

# Serhij Zhadan

## Arabesques

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### Ukraine's most prominent author creates searing snapshots of life in a war-torn city

»The trams haven't been running since February.« Time and again, we encounter moments of calm in this city haunted by the spectre of war. People meet up in places that are still more or less intact: at the football field, in the church, in a sun-drenched office in a high-rise building. Readers of Zhadan's work will recognise characters from *Mesopotamia* and *The Orphanage*, people of whom you were never quite sure what they actually did. Are they musicians, unemployed teachers, advertising professionals, mechanics, or some kind of expert or consultant?

Now, though, they all have utterly different concerns: evacuating an old woman after the bombardment of a residential area; finding a job for someone who came back from the front with significant disabilities; or attending the funeral of a dead colleague who had led a combat unit on the frontlines.



**Each of these stories leaves a profound and lasting impression. Zhadan finds ways to express the vulnerability felt by the inhabitants of this city, and the radical changes to everyday life in a society that has come to accept that death is lurking around every corner, in every building, on every square.**

Serhij Zhadan was born in Starobilsk, near Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, in 1974 and studied German at Kharkiv University. He has been one of the most influential figures in the Kharkiv scene since the early 1990s. He made his literary debut at 17 and has published numerous volumes of poetry and prose. He was awarded the Jan Michalski Prize and the Brücke Berlin Prize (together with translators Juri Durkot und Sabine Stöhr) for *Ворошиловград*. BBC Ukraine named *Ворошиловград* the Book of the Decade. In 2022, Zhadan was named Man of the Year by *Gazeta Wyborcza* (Poland) and awarded the prestigious Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for his »outstanding artistic work and his humanitarian stance with which he turns to the people suffering from war and helps them at the risk of his own life.« Zhadan lives in Kharkiv and has been a soldier in the Ukrainian army since 2024.

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New Stories

Original Ukrainian title: Арабески,  
published in 2024 by Meridian  
Czernowitz | Literal translation of  
the German title: No One Will Ask  
for Anything  
165 pages · March 2025  
(Original title: Keiner wird um  
etwas bitten)

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