



# Foreign Rights Spring Highlights 2025



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# An old farmhouse, a sack of potatoes, and an inspiring tale to overcome the melancholia agitata of our time.



© Matthias Ziegler

**Stephan Schäfer** worked as a journalist, editor-in-chief, and large media company board member for many years. *25 letzte Sommer* is his first book. He lives with his family in Hamburg and in the countryside.

- **Movie adaptation in the making, release planned for 2026**
- **Top 3 Spiegel bestseller with over 160,000 copies sold**

## 25 Last Summers

*“Now I was sitting on this farm sorting potatoes. There were still 25 summers ahead of me, as Karl had put it so vividly at the lake. Some time is always now.”*

Two people who couldn't be more different meet at the kitchen table of an old farmhouse. The narrator of this story, a media executive, leads a busy life that he perceives as an endless to-do list, whereas farmer Karl picks potatoes day after day – and spends a lot of time thinking.

When Karl surprises his guest with the fact that he has about 25 summers left to live, the two start a conversation about the big questions in life: Why do we spend so much time at work instead of with the people and things that are really important to us? Where do we find the courage to fulfill our dreams? And why does real life often only begin when we realize that we only have one?

*25 Last Summers* is a warm, profound story that taps into our longing for a life in balance.

*“An enchanting book.”* - DIE ZEIT

*“The novel is like Karl the potato farmer. It encourages us to let life into life.”* - NDR Kulturjournal

*“Stephan Schäfer’s debut novel is about nothing less than the meaning of life.”* - Sächsische Zeitung

### Rights sold to:

English, Worldwide Engl. (John Murray One, UK) | Spanish, Spain (Ediciones Maeva) | Hungarian, Hungary (General Press Könyvkiadó) | Slovenian, Slovenia (Založba Vida) | Dutch, Netherlands (Meulenhoff Boekerij) | French, France (Actes Sud) | Italian, Italy (Einaudi) | Korean, Korea (Seosamdok)



# We know stories about the beginning and the end of love. But who ever tells the story of what happens in between?



## The Love of Their Lives

Love elevates every life, lifting it to something greater, something luminous. So it is for Frieda and Georg – two souls who never sought love, yet were chosen by it. Frieda, a gentle primary school teacher; Georg, a restless medical equipment representative. Their first meeting is a moment of fate. Georg knows instantly: this radiant stranger is his great love – not the woman he dutifully calls each night from faraway hotel rooms. And Frieda, too, feels the pull and cannot get the tall man out of her head either.

Their longing turns feverish, their search relentless. And when, at last, they find each other again, Frieda unveils a daring dream: to love beyond the reach of time, in a world untouched by past or future. A love that exists only in the present, where no daily shores spoil their passion. It is the only way, she insists. Georg listens, his heart already hers. He agrees. And so, their story begins.

The story of an extraordinary love between two ordinary people – a novel of such poetic beauty and artistry, it feels like a song.

Whoever loved reading Nicholls' *One Day*, will love every page of *The Love of Their Lives*.

Dirk Gieselmann has received both the Henri Nannen Prize and the German Reporter Award for his writing. His latest journalistic work, *Atlas of Fear*, created in collaboration with photographer Armin Smailovic, was published to critical acclaim. The stage adaptation of the book premiered at Hamburg's Thalia Theater. Gieselmann lives in Berlin with his family.

**Dirk Gieselmann | The Love of Their Lives**

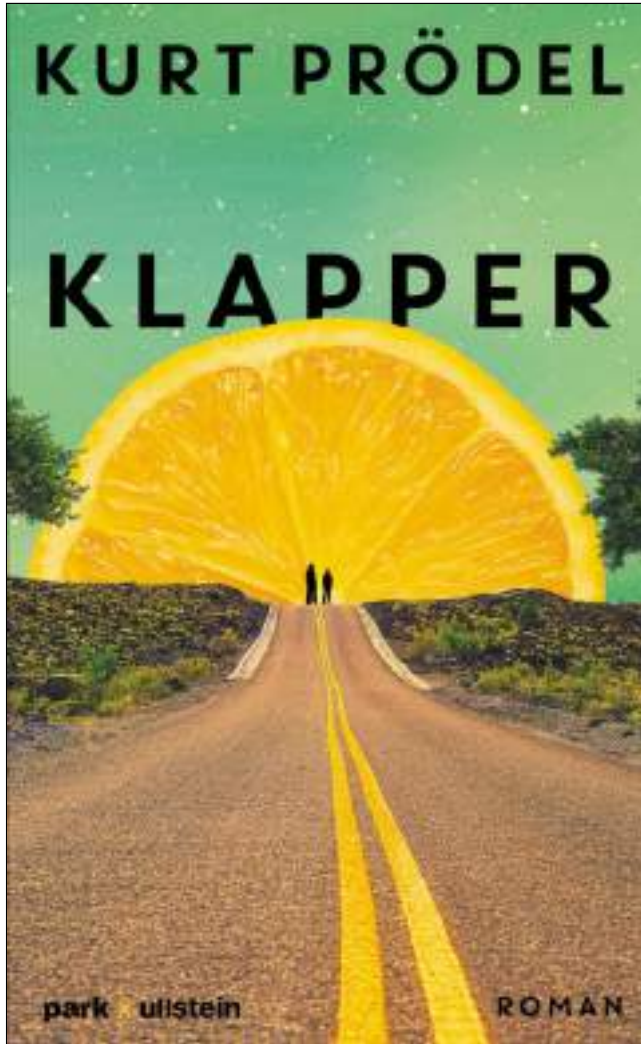
Ullstein Hardcover | Upmarket Fiction | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20305-3 | Price D: 22,99 € | 220 Pages | Published: 28.08.2025

**Contact:** Annemarie Blumenhagen | [rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de](mailto:rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de) | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

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# Friendship, loss, toxic masculinity, and the exhaustion of growing up caught between online and offline worlds.



- **Nominated for the lit.COLOGNE Debut Prize 2025**

## Rattles

2025: A message appears on Rattles' computer screen: BEAR, offline for 4,891 days. A sharp pang hits his stomach. Bear used to be his best friend, but that was a long time ago.

Summer 2011: Rattles, sixteen years old, spent his summer holidays alone in front of his computer. On the first day of school, Bear unexpectedly shows up in class – tall, strong, and completely unconcerned with social norms, she's the only one who doesn't treat Rattles, the pale nerd with long hair and cracking joints, like an outsider. And like him, she loves gaming. But as his feelings – and their friendship – grow, they both find themselves heading toward disaster. Years later, memories of Bear and what happened in 2011 disrupt the carefully ordered life Rattles has built.

Rattles is a heart-wrenchingly beautiful, touching, and highly original debut. Through friendship, identity, and loss, the novel captures the intensity of growing up and the impact of a single, transformative connection – how one person or encounter can shape and change our lives forever.

*“So moving, so funny, so absurd, and so well-written. The story of Rattles and Bear is a true gem.”* – Caroline Wahl

*“Kurt Prödel's captivating debut novel tells of that unique time when we search for ourselves only to discover the world instead. Suddenly, someone is dead, childhood is over – and yet every page still makes you laugh, which is, of course, pretty damn great.”* –

Benjamin von Stuckrad-Barre



**Kurt Prödel** is an artist and author. He has directed music videos, produced audiobooks, and worked on late-night show Studio Schmitt. He also plays drums for the punk band The Screenshots. Rattles is his literary debut.

© Julia Sellmann

### Kurt Prödel | Rattles

park x ullstein | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-98816-024-9 | Price D: 22,00 € | 256 Pages | Published: 30.01.2025

**Contact:** Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

**e-book**  
Available as e-book



# When you trust no one, you might as well follow a singing fish.



©Helen Sobiralski

**Charlotte Brandi** initially worked as a theater musician before rising to fame as part of the duo Me & My Drummer, which disbanded in 2018. Since then, she has made waves with her solo albums and joined Berlin-based superground Die Benjamins. *Fish Days* marks her literary debut.

## Fish Days

Sixteen-year-old Ella has grown so disillusioned with her short life that she decides to avoid friendships altogether, fearing that her frequent fits of rage will drive people away. Her parents' marriage is in shambles and Ella feels no connection with her two siblings. Her only confidant has always been old Eckard, but now he is slowly slipping into dementia. Leaving Ella with nothing but a "Billy Bass" plastic fish.

Then, one fateful night, just as Ella realizes that her younger brother Luis is missing, the fish suddenly comes to life and bursts into song. Claiming to have clairvoyant powers, it becomes her unlikely guide on a daring quest to find Luis. Along the way, Ella must face great dangers and the painful truth that, in her anger, she has nearly severed the bond that once tied her to Luis. But most of all, Ella must confront her own fierce nature in order to learn to open herself up to a hostile world.

Charlotte Brandi gives Ella an unmistakably defiant voice and stubbornness that will make you want to follow her anywhere. A novel as sulky as its heroine, yet a radiant champion of connection and compassion for the outsider in all of us.

*"So much rage and tenderness in a single novel, it grips you from the first page and doesn't let go until the very end."* – Jan Weiler

*"Charlotte Brandi is finally bringing a rebellious spirit back to German literature."* – Ilona Hartmann

### Charlotte Brandi | Fish Days

park x ullstein | Coming of Age, Fiction | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-98816-026-3 | Price D: 23,00 € | 304 Pages | Published: 27.03.2025

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**e-book**  
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# Three lives collide between L.A. and Berlin: A mesmerizing novel weaving past and present, dream and reality.



© Zeynep Bozbay

**Sascha Ehlert** is the founder and editor-in-chief of pop culture magazine *Das Wetter*, which he has been running since 2013. In 2014, he co-founded Korbinian Verlag, overseeing the publication of more than 20 books as co-publisher. Ehlert writes about music, literature, art, and film for various magazines and newspapers, including *taz*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, and *DIE ZEIT*.

## Palo Santo

Golo and Hedi, two young creatives, have decided to spend their lives together. A Berlin subway station – and nearly a century – separates them from legendary filmmaker Billy Wilder. What unites the three is a life lived in a Europe on the brink of darkness. While Jewish Billy experiences Germany’s descent into National Socialism, Hedi and Golo see the promise of freedom in their own world begin to fracture.

One recurring thought haunts them all: better to leave before it’s too late. They each find their separate ways to Los Angeles, get pulled into the city’s orbit and the liminal spaces between dream and nightmare, Hollywood history and luxury supermarkets, palms and utopias, feminist strip clubs and sacred incense. Parallel story- and timelines become ever more entwined as Billy, Hedi, and Golo struggle to understand what it is they’re truly seeking once they stop running.

Sascha Ehlert’s debut novel dazzles with impeccable construction as it weaves a transatlantic adventure that defies the boundaries of time. Through a rich tapestry of pop and film references, it reveals how deeply our present is shaped by the political and cultural echoes of the past. *Palo Santo* is also, at its core, a story of deep love in a time of profound uncertainty.

For readers of Melissa Broder and Theresia Enzensberger.

*“A story that drifts between dreams and sleeplessness, fiction and harsh reality, between gravity and absolute lightness.”* – Paula Hartmann

*“So much descriptive insight, so much honest observation – all without a hint of cynicism.”* – Edwin Rosen

### Sascha Ehlert | Palo Santo

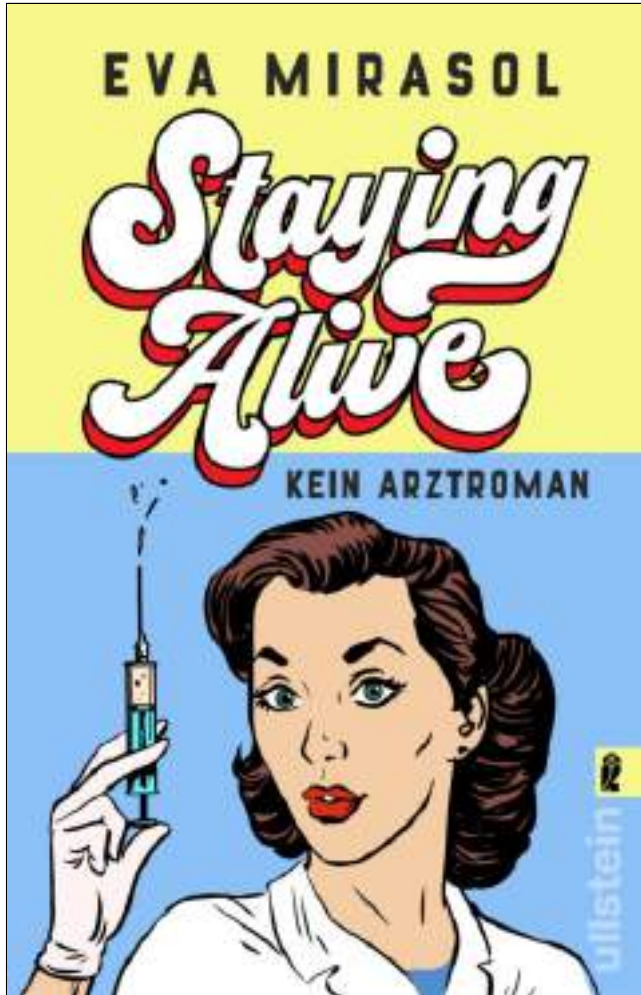
Claassen | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-546-10111-0 | Price D: 22,00 € | 256 Pages | Published: 02.05.2025

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | [rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de](mailto:rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de) | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

**e-book**  
Available as e-book



## Grey's Anatomy meets Giulia Enders: A hilarious novel about the anything-but-ordinary life of a young ER doctor.



**Eva Mirasol** is a medical doctor and author. She has written columns for taz and the Berlin Medical Association. A member of several literary reading series, she lives with her family in Berlin. *Staying Alive* is her debut novel.

© Hans Scherhauser

### Staying Alive

A bustling Berlin hospital. Monday morning in the emergency department. Fresh-faced assistant doctor Nicki steps into her first shift – and straight into chaos. There's no warm-up period here. It's trial by fire in a world where calm is a luxury and humor is a survival tool (not least against the exhausting monotony of male-dominated medical banter). But when Nicki finds herself drawn to Micha – her brilliant, sharp-tongued, and maddeningly charming boss –, her resolve to maintain professional detachment crumbles.

Welcome to life in a state of perpetual emergency: With the perfect blend of *Scrubs*-style humor, *Grey's Anatomy* heart, and charmingly quirky medical insider knowledge, this entertaining debut dives into the messy, unpredictable life of a young doctor in training. Overflowing waiting rooms, impatient patients, and razor-thin margins of error form the backdrop to rapid-fire dialogue and unforgettable characters.

With wit and a keen eye for the absurd, Eva Mirasol weaves the high-stakes dramas and darkly comedic moments of hospital life into an episodic, laugh-out-loud story. *Staying Alive* is a fresh and contemporary take on the workplace comedy – and a candid exploration of love, ambition, and surviving (barely) with your sanity intact. Hilarious, clever, and compulsively readable!

**Eva Mirasol | Staying Alive**

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Commercial Fiction | Taschenbuch | 120 × 187 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-07031-5 | Price D: 14,99 € | 336 Pages  
| Published: 30.05.2025

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**e-book**  
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# A thriller that hits with the force of an avalanche – vivid, dark, and relentlessly gripping.



© Andrea Seifert

**Lars Menz** studied geography, urban planning, and political science before pursuing a career in journalism. His literary work includes a novel and several short stories, earning him awards from institutions such as the Literaturhaus Zurich. *The Ramp* marks his debut as a thriller author.

## The Ramp

**A small town in the shadow of the snow-covered Alps. A long-buried crime shrouded in silence. A murder that drags everything to the surface.**

The illuminated ski jump towers high above the sleepy town beneath. A man is driven to the ramp by an electric cattle prod. At the highest point, his tormentor pushes him off – a rope around his neck.

When Ellen discovers the body hanging from the jump, panic freezes her in place. She knows the victim, and the gruesome scene reopens the wounds that drove her to flee her childhood home years ago. A grim realization dawns on Ellen: the murder is no coincidence, happening now, just as she's come back to take over the town's old medical practice. But she has no idea who would want to avenge a crime that was never reported – or how long it will take the police to realize that Ellen has the strongest motive for murder.

*The Ramp* is terrifically atmospheric and menacing with the haunting backdrop of the deadly Alps and a tight-knit village community that would rather see a young woman suffer an unimaginable crime than face the darkness in its own midst. With a relentless murderer unraveling a web of lies, Lars Menz weaves an immersive and nuanced thriller that lingers long after the final page – a tale to haunt us all.

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### Lars Menz | *The Ramp*

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Suspense, Thriller | Taschenbuch | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-07028-5 | Price D: 16,99 € | 304 Pages | Published: 30.01.2025

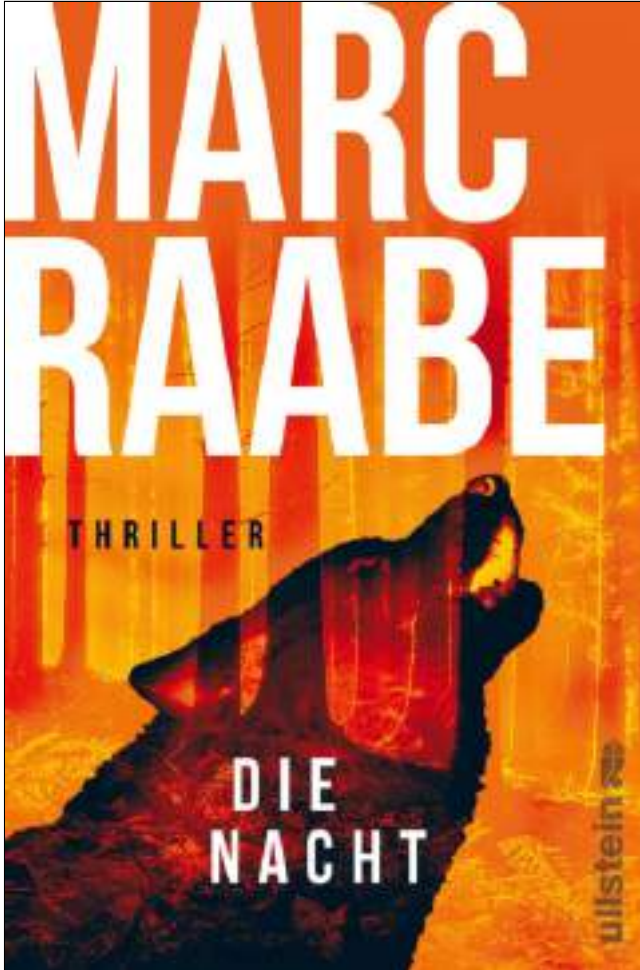
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**e-book**  
Available as e-book



## Art Mayer's most personal case: The closer he gets to the truth, the more danger he brings into the lives he's sworn to protect.



© Hans Scherhauser

**Marc Raabe** built up a TV and media production company before deciding on life as a writer in 2021 when he started the Art Mayer series. His bestsellers are published widely all over the world. His tools of the trade are cinematic storytelling, editing techniques, cliffhangers, and psychology. The result: fast-paced cerebral cinema with depth. Like his investigators, Raabe breaks rules sometimes.

- **A staple author of Germany's thriller elite, with every book a bestseller**
- **His thrillers have sold over 750,000 copies and were translated into more than ten languages**

### The Night

The disappearance of his neighbor, Dana Karasch, has been haunting gruff federal investigator Art Mayer like no other case before. Yet, just as with her younger brother fifteen years earlier – who went missing without a trace or official record – no one seems to care. Except Art. His bond with Dana's young daughter Milla, who lives just one floor below, has made his search increasingly desperate.

When Art turns to an old friend and powerful ally – the German chancellor – for help, the connection stirs up deadly enemies. A cryptic tip soon leads Art and Nele Tschaikowski to an abandoned trailer settlement deep in the woods, far from civilization. There, they make a grim discovery: multiple unidentified bodies – and the mutilated corpse of a high-profile Berlin judge.

*The Night* gives Art the case we've all been waiting for: a deeply personal quest tangled with the dark forces of political Berlin. Once again, top-tier thriller author Marc Raabe stuns with his unmistakably gritty style, raw empathy for flawed characters, and twists as gripping as the best movie.

**Part one and two of the Art Mayer series were instant bestsellers and remained on the list of months. Part four, *The Dawn*, is set to appear in spring 2026.**

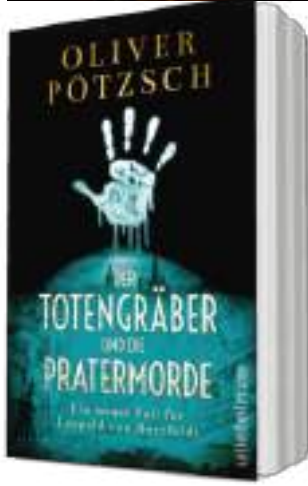
#### Marc Raabe | *The Night*

Ullstein Paperback | Suspense, Thriller | Paperback | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-86493-261-8 | Price D: 17,99 € | 464 Pages | Published: 27.03.2025

**Contact:** Annemarie Blumenhagen | [rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de](mailto:rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de) | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



# Vienna at the end of the 19th century: Death haunts the city, and an unlikely trio joins forces to confront it.



**Oliver Pötzsch** has worked as a TV journalist and screenwriter. His historical novels about the Schongau executioner Jakob Kuisl have brought him fame far beyond Germany's borders. His bestselling novels have been translated into over 20 languages. His *Gravedigger Series* regularly lands on the Spiegel bestseller list.

© Frank Bauer | [www.frankbauer.com](http://www.frankbauer.com)

## The Gravedigger Series

**Augustin Rothmayer** is a gravedigger at the famous Vienna Central Cemetery. A quirky yet highly educated eccentric, he is a specialist in death and pathologist avant la lettre.

**Leopold von Herzfeldt**, a young inspector and an ambitious Jewish dandy who faces a lot of resistance. He is fascinated by scientific criminology.

**Julia Wolf** starts as a telephone operator and eventually becomes a reporter. She impresses with her remarkable perceptiveness but also carries a heavy past of her own.

### Their cases to date:

**The Gravedigger's Almanac:** Several maids have been murdered, each brutally impaled. The gravedigger knows that staking is an ancient method of keeping the undead underground. Tracking down the serial killer takes him down into the city's less mysterious underworld. (2021; 448 pages)

**The Girl and the Gravedigger:** A famous professor of Egyptology is found dead in a sarcophagus in Vienna's art history museum. Word spreads that he has fallen victim to a curse. A mysterious case set against the backdrop of the 19th century's fascination with the occult. (2022; 496 pages)

**The Gravedigger and the Death in the Crypt:** In the crypt beneath Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral, tourists stumble upon the body of a renowned doctor who sought to expose widespread spiritualism as fraud. At the same time, children from an orphanage mysteriously vanish. (2023; 448 pages)

**The Gravedigger and the Prater Murders:** During a magic show, a young stage performer is accidentally sawed in half. Someone tampered with the apparatus. The investigation takes place in the world of illusionists and Vienna's Prater, where young girls disappear. (2025; 496 pages)

### Rights sold to:

Spanish, Spain (Planeta) | French, France (HarperCollins) | English, USA (Harper Via) | Italian, Italy (Società Editrice Milanese) | Czech, Czech Republic (Euromedia Group) | Slovak, Slovakia (Ikar) | Estonian, Estonia (Uhinenu) | Dutch, Netherlands (Uitgeverij De Boekerij)

### Oliver Pötzsch | The Gravedigger Series

Ullstein Paperback | Historical Crime, Historical Fiction | Paperback | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-86493-225-0 | Price D: 17,99 € | 496 Pages | Published: 26.06.2025

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | [rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de](mailto:rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de) | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450

**e-book**  
Available as e-book



# The bestselling saga continues: Follow the flower daughters to vibrant Sri Lanka, and beyond.



- **Epic storytelling for fans of Lucinda Riley: five stories, five continents, one big family secret**
- **Book one alone sold more than 50,000 copies**

## The Flower Daughters Series

When their beloved grandmother Rose passes away, five cousins return to the family sanctuary, a beautiful flower garden in Cornwall. But they are left with more than just a piece of land; they inherit a legacy rich with untold stories.

**The Flower Daughters:** After Rose's death, Dalia discovers a letter revealing her father's identity and she embarks on a journey to trace her heritage. Her quest leads her from Mexico City to ancient Mayan ruins, uncovering an unknown family and her parents' tragic love story that began at the historic Tulum site.

**The Wildflower Daughter:** Soley appears to have it all. Yet, the successful singer feels more alone than ever before. When an oil painting of a woman who looks like her surfaces at the family estate, Soley follows the portrait's trail to Iceland and delves into the history of a land to which she is profoundly connected.

**The Carnation Daughter:** After her grandmother's death, Lali feels lost. Rose had been her comfort after her mother left for Sri Lanka, a decision Lali never understood. When she finds her mother's poems, she is stirred to confront her. For the first time, Lali travels to Sri Lanka where she uncovers the secrets of a tea plantation.

**Each book follows one of the five women on their search for lost parents, true love – and themselves. Books four and five will take place in New Zealand and Namibia.**

### Rights sold to:

French, France (Editions Leduc) | Spanish, Spain (Penguin Random House) | Italian, Italy (Giunti) | Dutch, Netherlands (HarperCollins) | Bulgarian, Bulgaria (Lemur) | Danish, Denmark (Gyldendal) | Slovak, Slovakia (Tatran) | Serbian, Serbia (Laguna) | Czech, Czech Republic (Grada Publishing) | Norwegian, Norway (Cappelen Damm) | Macedonian, Macedonia (Matica Makeonska)



© Silke Ziegler

**Tessa Collins** lives with her family in a small town in Southern Germany. When she is not spending her time traveling, she dedicates it to writing about her dream destinations or enjoying the outdoors.

### Tessa Collins | The Flower Daughters Series

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Commercial Fiction | Taschenbuch | 120 × 187 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-06886-2 | Price D: 12,99 € | 400 Pages | Published: 31.07.2025

**Contact:** Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



Available as e-book



# Charming, vibrant, quintessentially Italian, and irresistibly romantic – love stories like no other in Roberta Gregorio’s wedding series.



© Eleonora Ferolla

**Roberta Gregorio** grew up in Bavaria right next to a beautiful river. She still lives by the water with her family, but now on the coast in southern Italy instead. Her great passions are words, texts, and manuscripts. When she is not writing or reading, she also likes to translate. If she needs a short break after all, she goes to the beach and lets her soul dangle.

## The Via dell’Amore Series

### *Capri Is Forever (Via dell’Amore 1)*

Goldsmith Chiara has built a new life in Milan, leaving Naples and a broken heart behind. But when her *nonna* calls, asking for help with a small goldsmith’s workshop on Via dell’Amore, Chiara can’t refuse. Sorting through the shop is chaotic, made worse by Pamela, the bridal boutique owner next door – all because they once loved the same man, Checco.

Chiara stumbles upon a forgotten wedding ring order for an imminent Capri wedding which the bride’s father is trying to stop from happening, refusing to collect the rings. But Chiara rushes to Capri just in time to deliver them – to none other than Checco, the best man. As sparks fly by the azure sea, the dream wedding proves to be more than just a union of bride and groom.

### *Happiness Begins on Capri (Via dell’Amore 2)*

On the surface, Letizia is living the dream – she calls the breathtaking island of Capri her home and makes a living as a singer. But behind the scenes, money is tight, and she struggles to support her ailing sister.

One evening, while performing at a wedding, she shares a fleeting, almost magical moment with Graziano, the pastry chef from the famed Via dell’Amore. But before he can even learn her name, she vanishes. Days later, fate intervenes: Letizia finds herself face-to-face with Graziano again, this time as his co-star in a promotional film about Naples’ most romantic street. Once more, the Via dell’Amore lives up to its name.

**Roberta Gregorio previously published two Capri novels and her successful Amalfi trilogy, The Shopkeeper Series, with Ullstein. Her works have been translated into several languages.**

### Rights sold to:

Bulgarian, Bulgaria (Emas)

#### Roberta Gregorio | The Via dell’Amore Series

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Feelgood, Commercial Fiction | Taschenbuch | 120 × 187 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-06925-8 | Price D: 12,99 € | 320 Pages | Published: 26.06.2025

Contact: Annemarie Blumenhagen | rights@ullstein-buchverlage.de | Friedrichstr. 126 | 10117 Berlin | Phone +49 (0)30 23456 450



# The politics of nature: How the world's great natural history collections hold the key to humanity's survival.



## The Parliament of Nature

Sarah Darwin and Johannes Vogel are a power couple in modern botany, blending scientific brilliance with an unwavering commitment to the natural world. Sarah, a distinguished scientist and great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin, and Johannes, a renowned biologist and the visionary director of Berlin's Natural History Museum, have devoted their careers – and their lives – to the ambitious goal of saving our planet.

This book transports readers from the marshlands of Essex, UK, to the vast treasure troves of Berlin's Natural History Museum, tracing Johannes' early fascination with ferns and Sarah's vivid recounting of Charles Darwin's first steps into the jungles of Brazil. Expertly moderated by journalist Boris Herrmann, their lively conversation unfolds with practical guidance on sustainable living and an ambitious vision to create a "world-rescue machine." All centered around the vital role of natural history collections.

These extensive collections, including over 200,000 stuffed birds at the Berlin Museum alone, serve as invaluable tools for mapping historical trends, crafting timelines, and forecasting the future. For Sarah and Johannes, nature is inherently political, and museums – far from being mere repositories of the past – can spark essential debates and drive transformative change. Their passionate conversation about nature is, at its heart, a bold call for political innovation and action, demonstrating how science and advocacy can intertwine to shape a more sustainable future.

Beautiful photos and engaging discussions – this book brims with expertise, radical ideas, and a love for the natural world. Be ready to be swept away by brilliance and enthusiasm and hopefully feel encouraged to push for change.

*"Listening to a Darwin descendant in a meadow explaining evolution feels like watching the sunset with a Copernicus heir or throwing apples with a Newton relative."* – Heike Faller, *Die Zeit*

*"Johannes Vogel is someone who wants to save the world. He has a vision. He thinks politically, in the tradition of Rudolf Virchow and Alexander von Humboldt."* – Susanne Leinemann, *Berliner Morgenpost*



© Sarah Darwin

**Sarah Darwin** is the great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin, the founder of the theory of evolution. She is considered one of the leading experts in tomato research. On the Galápagos Islands, she was the first to document an endemic plant species found exclusively in this unique ecosystem.



© Johannes Vogel

**Johannes Vogel** is the director of the Natural History Museum in Berlin. Previously, he worked at the Natural History Museum in London, serving as head curator of botany from 2004 to 2012. His doctoral research focused on the sexual reproduction of ferns.



© Friedrich Bungert

**Boris Herrmann** is the US correspondent for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Previously, he worked in the newspaper's Berlin parliamentary office and served as a correspondent in Latin America.



# A historical road trip through Europe: Uncovering the real lives of the Germanic peoples – beyond myth and ideology.



© Max Slobodda

**Karl Banghard** is a renowned prehistorian and archaeologist. Since 2002, he has served as the director of the archaeological open-air museum in the Teutoburg Forest and has been instrumental in advancing public engagement with prehistoric archaeology.

## The True History of the Germanic Peoples

For centuries, the Germanic tribes have been shrouded in myth, portrayed either as fierce warriors or the “original Germans,” defined by their supposed “savagery” and bound to their homeland. Yet recent archaeological discoveries and scientific research reveal a far more complex reality with remarkable mobility and diversity – a challenge to long-held assumptions.

An outdated narrative can only be replaced by a new one – and Karl Banghard offers just that. He provides a fresh perspective that places the everyday lives of the Germanic peoples at the heart of their story. He takes us on a journey across Europe to key moments in Germanic history: In German Kalkriese, we uncover how Roman colonization worked; in Kamieńczyk, Poland, we discover what badger meat tastes like. A Danish burial site in Kassø reveals that female surgeons were nothing unusual among the Germanic tribes while the origins of runes in Svingerud, Norway, lead us on a trail all the way to North Africa.

Fast-paced and vivid, Karl Banghard’s book is a powerful antidote to ideological appropriation and a spirited proof of how archaeology can bring us closer to the Germanic tribes than ever before. Archaeology also continuously connects us to today, with ongoing excavations revealing the blind spots in our understanding of both past and present.

**Karl Banghard | The True History of the Germanic Peoples**

Propyläen Verlag | Archeology, History | Paperback | 135 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-549-10090-5 | Price D: 22,00 € | 280 Pages |  
Published: 02.05.2025

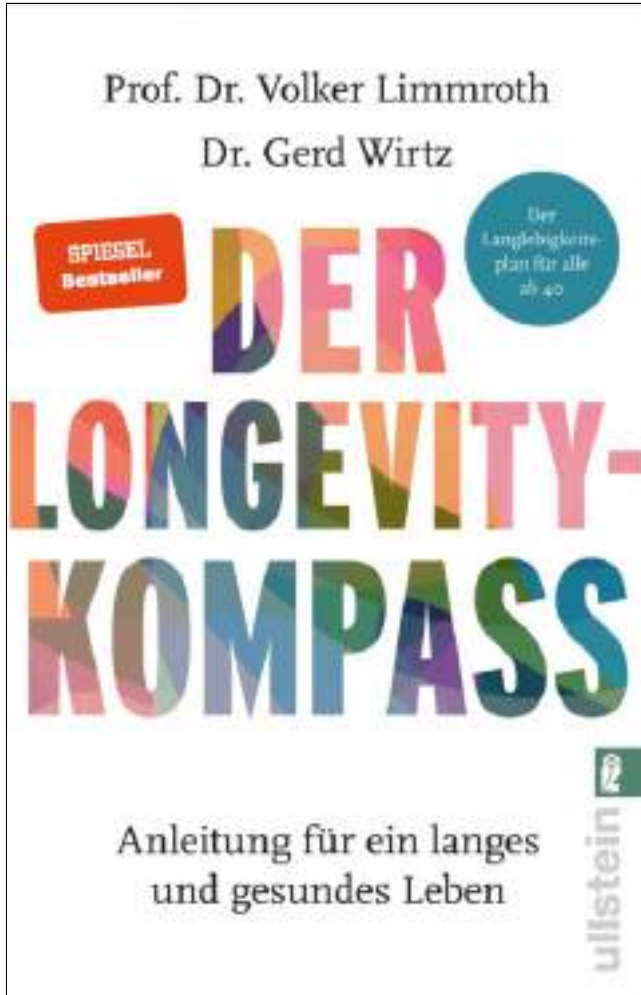
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**Page 14** | As from 15.02.2025

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# Learn how to live not just longer, but healthier and happier with proven strategies for vitality and well-being.



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The longevity plan for everyone over 40 and a must-read for anyone who wants to live not just longer, but better.

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**Prof. Dr. Volker Limmroth** is Head of Neurology and Intensive Care Medicine at Köln-Merheim Hospital. He specializes in strokes, multiple sclerosis, chronic pain, Parkinson's disease, and longevity medicine. Recognized as one of the best doctors in Germany, he has been featured repeatedly on the prestigious “Top Doctors” lists by magazines FOCUS and Stern.



© Volker Limmroth

**Dr. Gerd Wirtz** is a digital health expert, moderator, and keynote speaker specializing in the future of medicine. A PhD-trained neurophysiologist, he has dedicated his career as a science journalist to exploring the groundbreaking potential of digital healthcare. Drawing on more than 20 years of experience, he is sought-after as a moderator and coach on both national and international stages.



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### Volker Limmroth , Gerd Wirtz | The Longevity Compass

Ullstein Taschenbuch | Self-Improvement, Health and Body | Paperback | 120 × 187 mm | ISBN 978-3-548-07014-8 | Price D: 14,99 € | 304 Pages | Published: 02.01.2025

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# The story of one of heavy metal's legendary voices: How passion, rebellion, and a guitar can transform lives.



© Robert\_Eikelpoth

**Mille Petrozza** is the founder, lead vocalist, songwriter, and guitarist of Kreator, one of the world's most influential thrash metal bands. For over 40 years, Kreator has shaped the high-tempo heavy metal subgenre, selling millions of albums and headlining sold-out world tours. Their releases consistently top international charts, including #1 and #2 in Germany for the last two albums. Beyond music, Petrozza advocates for animal rights, leads a vegan lifestyle, and practices yoga.



© OlafHeine

**Torsten Groß** is a music journalist, author, and broadcaster. He worked as a Rolling Stone journalist, served as editor-in-chief of Spex, contributed to Arte Tracks and co-wrote Klaus Doldinger's autobiography. He remains a key voice in music criticism, hosting a radio show and podcast and having his work featured in Die Zeit, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Focus, and Rolling Stone.

## Your Heaven, My Hell

Western Germany in the 1970s: Mille Petrozza grows up in a working-class part of the Ruhr metropolitan region, the son of a refugee mother from East Germany and an immigrant Calabrian father who works underground. In the multicultural melting pot of the area, subcultures collide with the social upheavals of the time: coal mine closures, violence, and alcoholism. Heavy metal crashes into this chaotic world as a powerful force.

After attending a KISS concert, Petrozza becomes part of an international grassroots movement. Through metal, he breaks free from the youth gangs, and his first guitar grants him transformative power: with his band Kreator, Petrozza unexpectedly rises to international thrash metal stardom.

In his autobiography, Mille Petrozza shares the incredible story of his early years for the first time. How his mother signed the band's first record deal, and how a heavy metal clique in the Ruhr region evolved into one of the most significant and enduring thrash metal bands worldwide. A living, breathing testament to the power of subculture and the pure joy of music – told by one of the coolest, most down-to-earth metal heads out there.

*“I love this man.”* – Dirk von Lowtzow, Tocotronic

*“Kreator are absolute metal royalty! Mille is the driving force and has influenced so many – undoubtedly a legend.”* – Brian Slagel, Metal Blade

**Mille Petrozza, Torsten Groß | Your Heaven, My Hell**

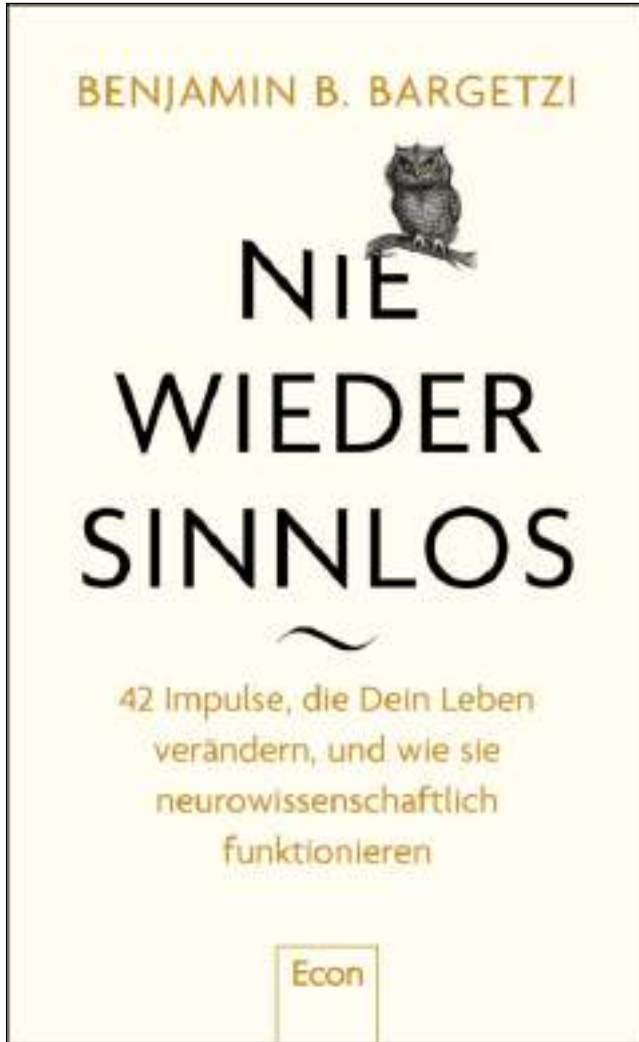
Ullstein Paperback | Music, Autobiography | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-86493-279-3 | Price D: 22,99 € | 256 Pages | Published: 02.05.2025

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# The right words at the right time will change your life.



**Benjamin B. Bargetzi** is one of Europe's most successful keynote speakers and visionaries at the intersection of humanity and the future. He studied and researched the human brain, psychology, and philosophy in Oxford, London, Singapore, and Zurich. His research focuses on how the human brain learns to cope with change and risk, how it confronts uncertainty, how fear can be overcome, and how individuals can achieve lasting psychological transformation. He developed artificial intelligence and worked for tech giants such as Google and Amazon, as well as the World Economic Forum, before ultimately returning to the study of the human mind and its potential.

## The End of Emptiness

Benjamin Bargetzi explores the full spectrum of human emotion, bridging psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience with the rhythms of everyday life – rather than embarking on a journey around the world in eighty days, we set off to explore the brain in forty-two sentences.

*The End of Emptiness* follows a distinctive approach: each chapter begins with a thought-provoking aphorism, chosen for its proven impact. Bargetzi then unpacks these ideas by way of cutting-edge neuroscientific research and intriguing psychological theories, connecting them to practical examples from daily life. He gradually transforms abstract concepts into something tangible, actionable, and deeply relatable.

The book invites its readers to reflect more deeply on conventional wisdom and personal values, effortlessly guiding them toward a life shaped by meaning, insight, and freedom. Truly a wild card for every stage of life.

*“I am deeply impressed by Benjamin’s creative intellect, his extensive expertise, and his scientific background. I consider him a leading expert in neurobiology, decision sciences, and psychology. I am convinced that he will leave an intellectual legacy in this world.”* – Prof. Karl J. Friston

### Benjamin B. Bargetzi | The End of Emptiness

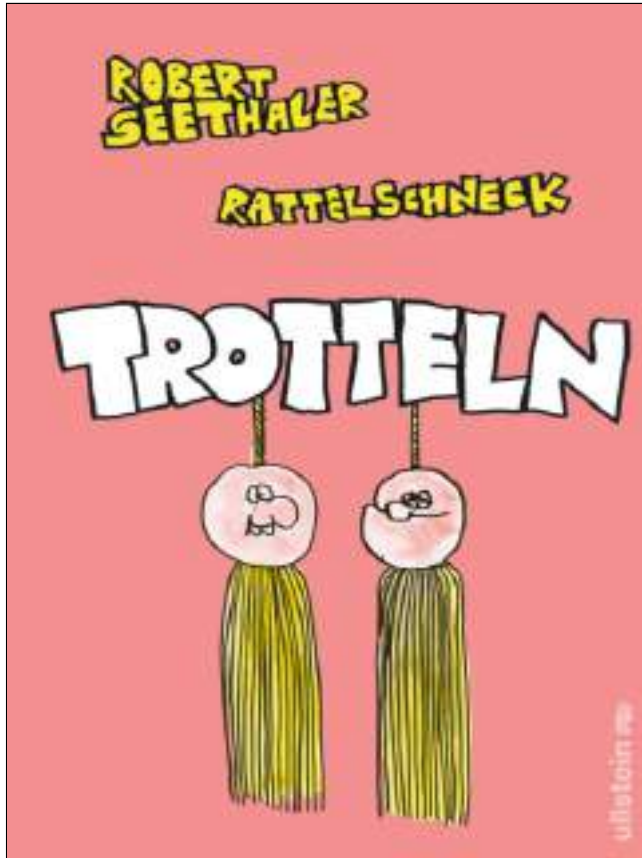
Econ | Popular Philosophy, Popular Psychology, Neuroscience | Hardcover | 125 × 205 mm | ISBN 978-3-430-21205-2 | Price D: 20,00 € | 336 Pages | Published: 27.02.2025

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Available as e-book



“The book is a mixture of fun and accidents – with brand new, extremely powerful superheroes.” (Robert Seethaler)



## Tasselheads

It all began in a Berlin-Kreuzberg pub. Two men sit across from each other, a pen, a pile of damp beer coasters, and – curiously – a small notebook resting between their glasses. One is drawing a rabbit, the other a camel. Each captures the other in their own way.

The two men are writer Robert Seethaler and illustrator Rattelschneck. What starts as an exchange of doodles soon evolves into something more; their figures take on lives of their own, spilling beyond the pages and into a half-year-long email correspondence. Their messages meander into the absurd, embracing the strange, and celebrating the art of creative bricolage.

*Tasselheads* defies categorization, blending words and images in a playful media mix. It explores a world where only the peculiar commands attention, upending expectations and delivering surprises at every turn. And yet, for all its mischievousness, it remains a book for adults – complete with a cast of utterly unconventional superheroes.



© Urban Zintel

**Robert Seethaler**'s bestselling books are being read across the globe with translations into more than 40 languages. His novel *A Whole Life* was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize and adapted for screen. His most recent novel, *A Café With No Name*, was a finalist for both the Prix Femina and Prix Médicis étrangers. He divides his time between Berlin and Vienna.



© Rattelschneck

**Marcus Weimer** forms one half of the illustrator-writer duo Rattelschneck. His career is marked by numerous awards, a variety of works, exhibitions, and regular contributions to publications such as *Titanic*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *junge Welt*, and *taz*. He lives in Berlin.

**Robert Seethaler, Rattelschneck | Tasselheads**

Ullstein Hardcover | Hardcover | 195 × 260 mm | ISBN 978-3-550-20405-0 | Price D: 24,99 € | 112 Pages | Published: 13.03.2025

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