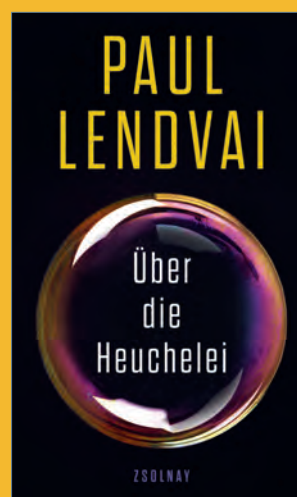
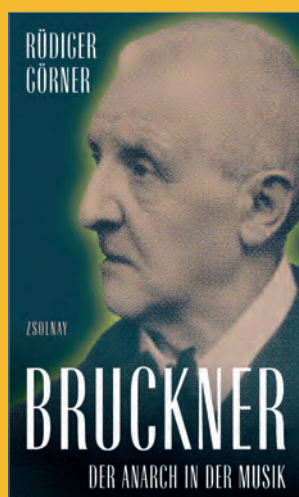
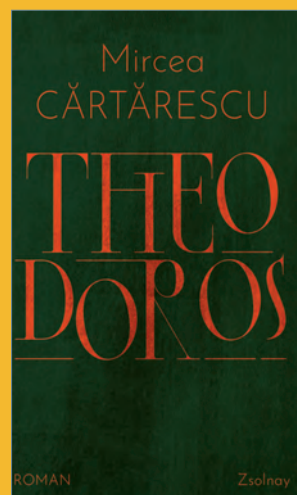
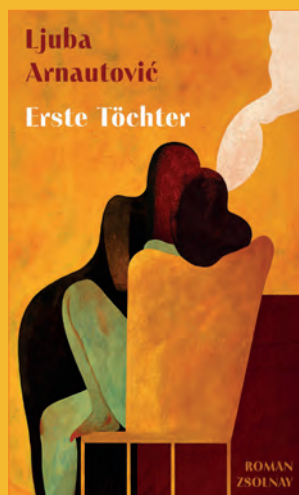


# FOREIGN RIGHTS AUTUMN 2024



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<http://foreignrights.hanser.de>

ZSOLNAY  VERLAG

  
100 Jahre ZSOLNAY



»The art of her narrative style is revealed in the fine balance between cool and emotional passages.«

Nicole Hennenberg, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

#### Ljuba Arnautović

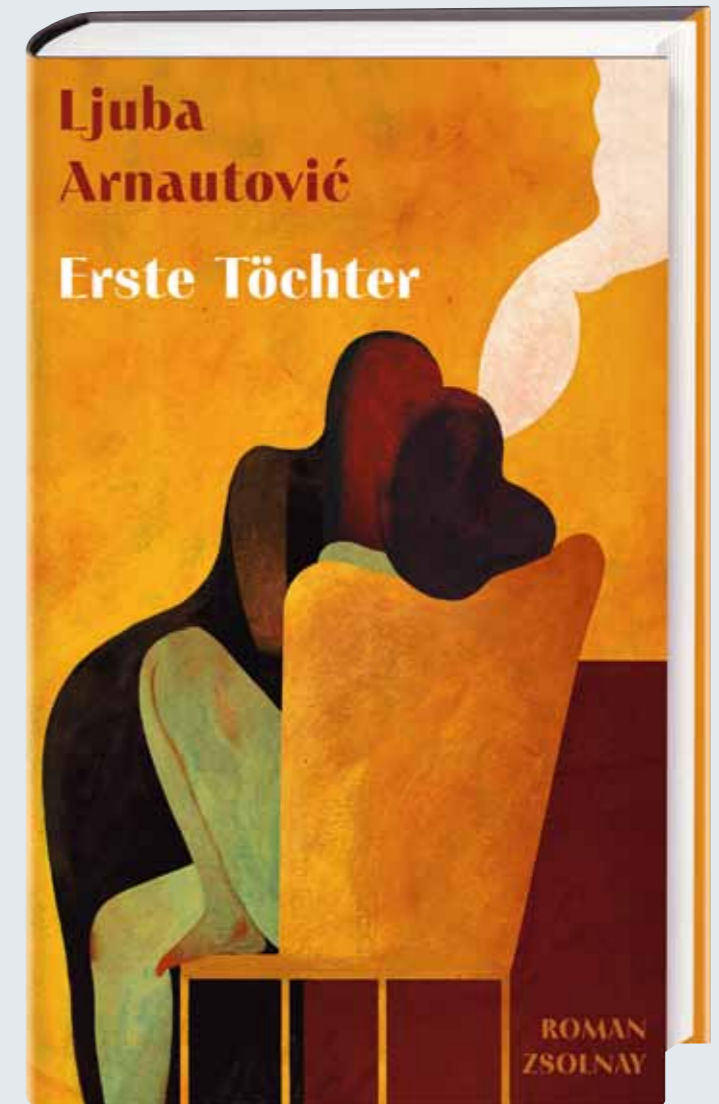
was born in 1954 in Kursk (USSR) and lives in Vienna. After studying social pedagogy, she worked for the documentation archive of the Austrian resistance, as a Russian translator and a radio journalist. Her first novel, *Im Verborgenen* was shortlisted for the Austrian Book Prize 2018. In 2021 her second novel *Junischnee* was published by Zsolnay.

- Arnautović's sober family story spans the drama of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Highly political yet highly poetic
- For readers of Natascha Wodin

## LJUBA ARNAUTOVIĆ

After spending twelve years in a gulag, Karl returns to Vienna with his Russian wife and two daughters. In post-war Austria, people do not want to know anything about his experiences. He and his family have to climb the social ladder as quickly as possible. Karl sets about doing this unscrupulously, not only using his Russian skills but also the women surrounding him, marrying and divorcing according to how it benefits him. Those who pay the price for Karl's race to regain status are his daughters Lara and Luna who are separated and grow up in different worlds: one in humble conditions with her mother in Vienna, the other, with her father and his new middle-class family in Munich. The two girls, once so important to each other, drift further and further apart. In the end, however, they manage to find their way back to one another.

Ljuba Arnautović writes »in clear, poetic language, without sentimentality« (ORF 1) about herself – and the upheavals of a century.



#### Sales

Croatia (Leykam International)

#### June Snow:

Croatia (Leykam international), Italy (Keller), Serbia (Futura Nojzac)



#### Ljuba Arnautović

**First Daughters**

160 pages  
August 2024



»A touching,  
extraordinary  
debut!«

Dana Grigorcea

»The characters in this  
novel are themselves like  
the feathers of a peacock:  
iridescent, proud and  
sadly beautiful.«

Daniela Dröscher



#### Maria Bidian

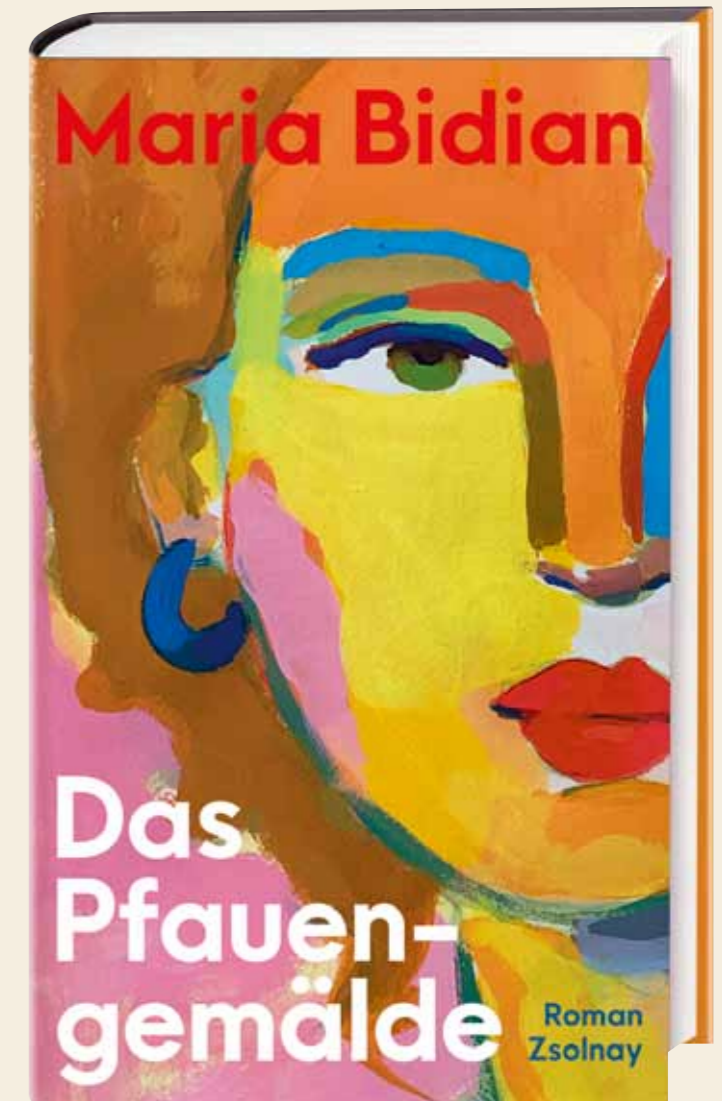
was born 1988 in Mainz, and divides her time between Berlin and a small village in Transylvania, where she is renovating an old farmhouse. *The Peacock Painting* is her first novel.

- A family saga by a new, promising voice
- Melancholic and reflective, light and funny
- For readers of Iris Wolff

## MARIA BIDIAN

In the summer two years after her father's sudden death during a mountain trip in Transylvania, Ana climbs aboard a train to Romania. Her trip to her father's home country is prompted by the fact that her family's property, which the communists confiscated and the family has struggled to get back for decades, is now being returned. While Ana's relatives are only interested in the legendary house for very different reasons, Ana wants to find one thing in particular: the peacock painting, a family heirloom that her father talked about very often. For her the picture ties together dozens of memories, wishes, hopes, and longings.

Is it possible to let go and remember at the same time? How can we hold onto love? Told in highly contemporary language with a thoroughly modern protagonist, Maria Bidian's rousing debut novel takes a fresh look at Romania's past and present. Melancholic, funny, political and very personal.



#### Sales

All rights available

#### Maria Bidian

[The Peacock Painting](#)

320 pages  
July 2024



»Judith Taschler knows how to captivate the reader.«

Sebastian Fasthuber, Falter

**Judith W. Taschler**

was born in 1970 in Linz, and grew up with six siblings and numerous animals and books in a big yellow house in the Mühlviertel region. After studying history and German language and literature, she worked as a teacher for several years. She lives in Innsbruck. Her novel *Die Deutschlehrerin* was awarded the 2014 Friedrich Glauser Prize. Her novel *Über Carl reden wir morgen* was published in 2022 by Zsolnay.

- An epic family novel spanning several generations
- For readers of Dörte Hansen and Daniela Krien

JUDITH W. TASCHLER

Elisabeth is the youngest of the four Brugger children and has long since left the family home in a country mill. While working as hospital nurse on the front, she sees a lot of suffering during the First World War. She then studies medicine and marries the son of an established line of Viennese doctors, who returns injured from the southern Front.

Together, the couple set up a doctor's surgery. Elizabeth cannot ignore the misery of women who, in their despair, visit backstreet abortionists. She tries to abide by the law and prevailing morals while helping these women. But she wonders how far she is willing to go. And she's very close to her brother Eugene – the only person who knows about his affair with the wife of his twin brother Carl. When Eugene hides a family from the SS, he himself becomes a wanted person.

Was it Carl who betrayed him?



Sales  
Croatia (Leykam International)



Judith W. Taschler  
**It's Only Light at Night**  
320 pages  
August 2024



**WINNER** of many prestigious **INTERNATIONAL PRIZES:**

»It is difficult to escape  
the creative pull of  
Cărtărescu's prose.«

Ulrich M. Schmid, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Cărtărescu is one of the great  
literary voices of Central Europe.  
He daringly questions our usual  
way of looking at the world,  
suggesting that rationalism  
is merely an attempt to create  
order. In fact, the world is made up  
of the nuances of our fantasies.«

Olga Tokarczuk

»A Shakespeare for our time.«

Aftonbladet

**MIRCEA CĂRTĂRESCU**

- THE VILENICA PRIZE (2011)
- THE LEIPZIG BOOK AWARD FOR EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING (2015)
- THE PREMIO FORMENTOR (2018)
- THE THOMAS MANN PRIZE (2018)
- THE PREMIO FIL DE LITERATURA (2022)
- THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK PRIZE (2022)
- THE MONDELLO INTERNATIONAL LITERARY PRIZE (2024)
- THE DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD (2024)





»Cărtărescu has the lively imagination of a child and the linguistic skills of an old master.« Malte Herwig, Der Spiegel

»This writer has gone all out.« Burkhard Müller, Die Zeit

#### Mircea Cărtărescu

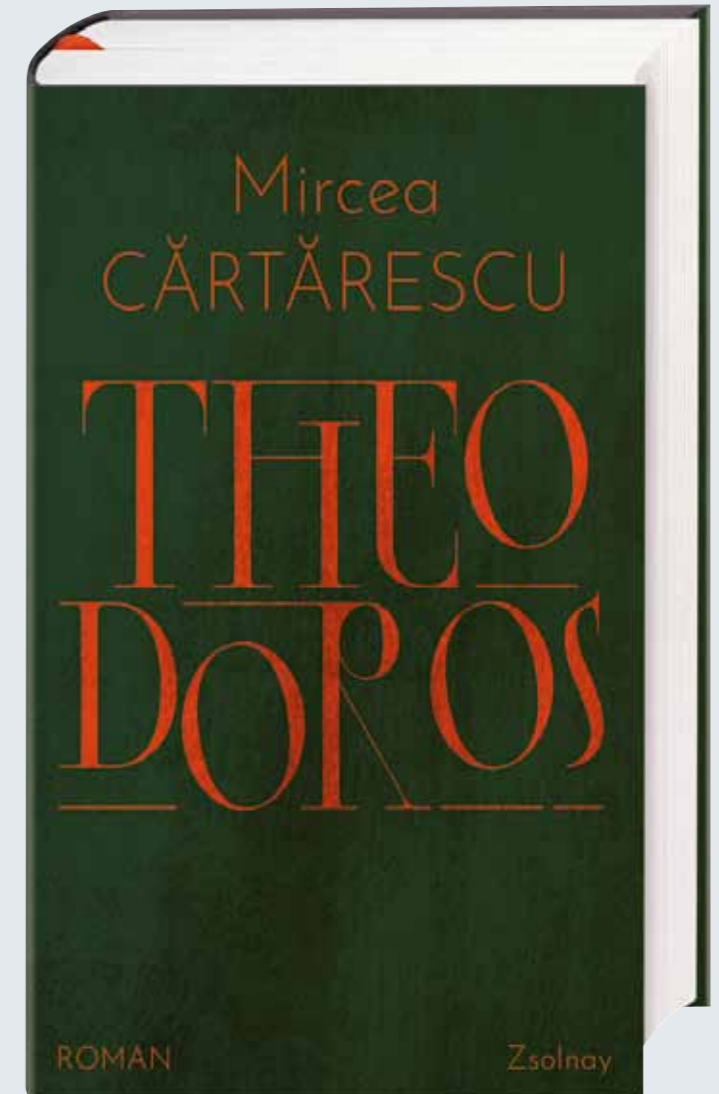
was born in 1956 in Bucharest where he still lives. His work has been translated into many languages and won many prizes, among them the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding (2015), the Premio Formentor, the Thomas Mann Prize (both in 2018), the Premio Fil de Literatura and the Los Angeles Times Book prize (both in 2022), and in 2024 the prestigious Modello and the Dublin Literary award. Zsolnay published his *Orbitor trilogy*, the story collection *Die schönen Fremden* (2016), the novel *Solenoid* (2019) and *Melancolia* (2022).

- One of the most important writers in the world
- Literary and historical, yet relevant to the present

## MIRCEA CĂRTĂRESCU

In 33 chapters, Mircea Cărtărescu interweaves the historical, the fantastical and the philosophical with spine-tingling stories to create a world that reaches into the present day and even the Last Judgment. Here, we encounter the Emperor of African Emperors, Queen Victoria of England, Tudor, an inquisitive child, the Queen of Sheba, and her son Menelik of Ethiopia who founded the oldest dynasty in the world.

»The barrel of the pistol still in his mouth, his brain scattered on the red table.« On Easter Sunday in 1868, before the British colonial army razed the mountain fortress of Magdala and took the Ethiopian Emperor Theodoros hostage, the ruler put an end to his own life. By portraying Theodoros in three different roles, Cărtărescu shows him as a crowned despot, a looting pirate in the Aegean and his humble beginnings as a servant boy from Wallachia. An epic novel by one of the most eloquent writers in the world.



#### Sales

(Original Romanian edition: Humanitas)  
Bulgaria (Hermes), France (Noir sur Blanc), Italy (Saggiatore), Spain (Impedimenta), Sweden (Bonniers), UK/USA (Deep Vellum)

#### Solenoid:

Sold in 19 countries



#### Mircea Cărtărescu

#### Theodoros

(Original Romanian Title: Theodoros)  
670 pages  
September 2024



An exciting  
rediscovery

*Marlen  
Haushofer  
and her  
early novels*



**Marlen Haushofer (1920-1970)**

born in Frauenstein, studied German literature in Vienna and Graz. Her work comprises novels, stories, radio plays and books for children. In 1968 she received the Austrian State Award for Literature.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine recently celebrated Haushofer's early feminist approach and her »illusionless, highly conscious female characters, locked in a world of no opportunities, who express an attitude to life that was perceived as restrictive«.

• One of the most important Austrian authors, best known for her novel *The Wall*

• Sensible portraits of women of the post-war generation trying to break free

# MARLEN HAUSHOFER



*A Handful of Life* is an incredibly modern portrait of a woman who refuses to accept the role assigned to her, ultimately leaving her husband and her child. Twenty years later, she returns to her hometown and has to finally confront her past: A summer in the country-side, her experiences at convent school, her depressive moods, a love affair with her boss, her middle-class married life, her faked suicide and her husband's second marriage to her friend Käthe. Has she found what she had hoped for, or is it just »a handful of life«?



*A Door Concealed* portrays a woman's struggle to cope with a difficult existence. Told from the perspective of a first-person narrator and punctuated by diary entries filled with illuminating thoughts and insights, the novel conveys the inner life of thirty-year-old librarian Annette and her ultimately futile attempt to break out of the routine that has her trapped. It is a first-class novel about the psychology of a woman and the psychological differences of men and women.

**Sales**

Croatia (Leykam International), France (Actes Sud), Spain (Contraseña), UK (Vintage Classics)

**Marlen Haushofer**

**A Handful of Life**  
160 pages  
First published in 1955

**A Door Concealed**  
200 pages  
First published in 1957



»Toxische Pommes is funny online – and as a writer. But these gems of stories that make up a Balkan mosaic, pack a punch with their emotion, absurdity and political narrative. As a whole, they are a huge find.«

SAŠA STANIŠIĆ

»Funny, sensitive, affectionate, self-deprecating, laconic – and sad, but you'll only know that once you stop grinning.«

VERENA ALTENBERGER

»This book has a bone-dry humour and is often quite brutal, and when you've got used to this combination, you'll be taken by surprise by tender melancholy.«

JOSEF HADER

174.000 followers on Instagram +++ 93.500 followers on TikTok

# TOXISCHE POMMES







»I don't know whether it hurts more to be pulled from your roots or never to have taken root in the first place.«

In real life **Toxische Pommes** is called Irina. She's in her early thirties and works as a lawyer in Vienna. She has been a comedy hit on TikTok and Instagram, where she has hundreds of thousands of followers and plays to sold-out audiences in the cabaret programme *Ketchup, Mayo & Ajvar*.

• **How to become the perfect immigrant?**

• **»A hilarious, dazzling satire«**

Süddeutsche Zeitung

English sample translation available

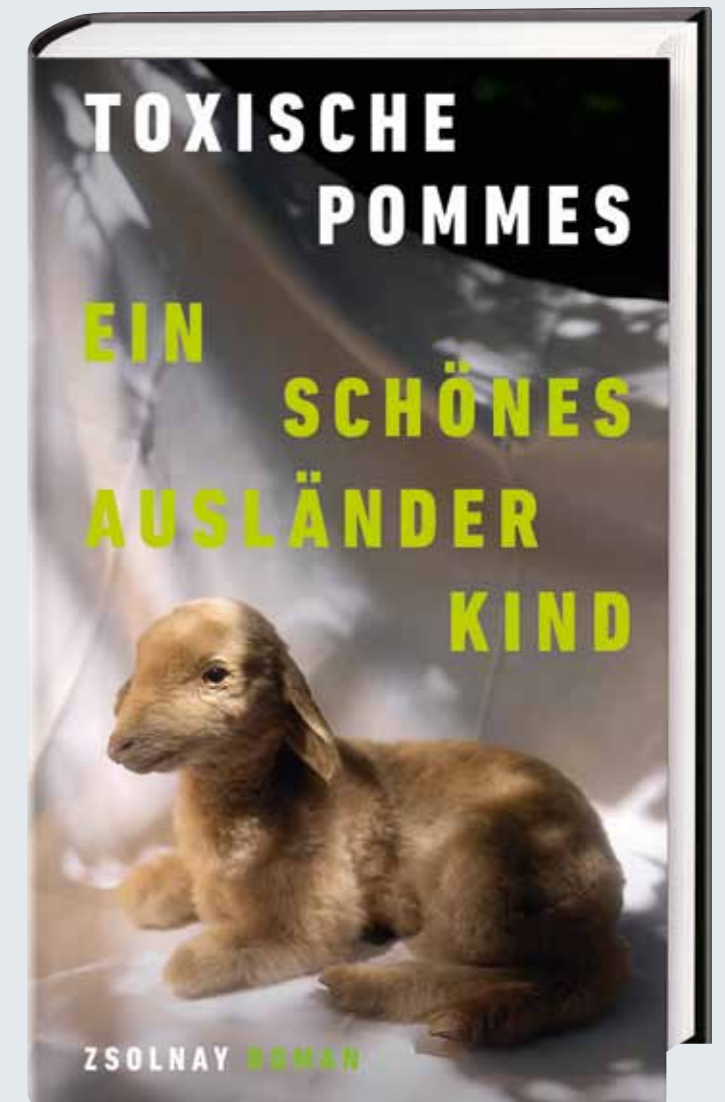
## TOXISCHE POMMES

The narrator's family escapes to Austria because of the Balkan war when she is still a very small child. They find refuge with a family close to Vienna, but their host, a teacher, demands housework and ›friendship‹ duties in exchange for her hospitality.

So the mother cleans, cooks and waits on the host even though she is a qualified pharmacist. Meanwhile, the girl's father, a trained engineer, can't find work as he doesn't speak German and thus becomes increasingly relegated to the role of father and house husband.

In the second part, the narrator blossoms into the perfect, ultra-integrated immigrant child, complete with citizenship, a university degree and a job in the civil service.

On her path to becoming the perfect immigrant child the wonderfully laconic *Toxische Pommes* parodies Balkan mentality and hipsterism, and exposes everyday microaggressions. A touching, funny novel that speaks from the heart to many people's experiences.



Sales  
Croatia (Leykam International)

*Toxische Pommes*  
**The Perfect Immigrant Child**  
208 pages  
March 2024





»I read Eva  
Viežnaviec's novel  
and recognised  
the village where  
I grew up. She  
brought it back to  
life in my soul.«

Svetlana Alexievich

#### Eva Viežnaviec

was born near Minsk in 1972 and has worked as an author and journalist since 1994. *What Is It You Seek, Wolf?* was awarded the highest prize for prose in Belarus in 2021. Substantial parts of the novel were written during her stay as a Lion Feuchtwanger fellow at Villa Aureore in Los Angeles.

• An epic contained in a small volume

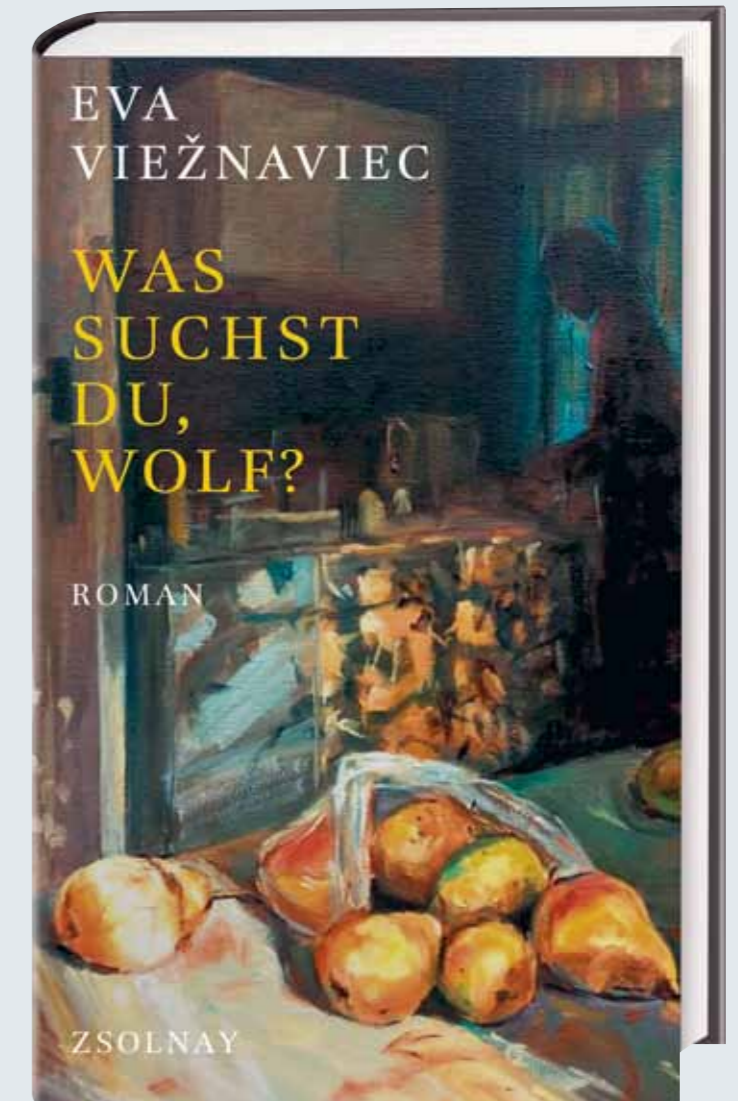
• A tribute to the women of  
a whole generation

## EVA VIEŽNAVIEC

English sample  
translation  
available

The short novel *What Is It You Seek, Wolf?* by Eva Viežnaviec caused a literary sensation in Belarus and was awarded the country's highest award for prose, the Jerzy Giedroyc Literature Prize, in December 2021.

The book sets off down the road like a modern-day beatnik novel. On an alcohol-fuelled trip, protagonist Ryna travels from Germany to Belarus for her grandmother's funeral. The old lady was a traditional healer who was considered a witch by her neighbours and tried to teach Ryna the »arts« of herbal medicine. Ryna's inner dialogue with her beloved grandmother imperceptibly turns into a monologue. What follows is the intrepid 100-year-old woman's account as a survivor of the First World War, the October Revolution and civil war, collectivisation and Second World War – the entire twentieth century with all its atrocities. The story ends in the present, a time when Ryna has found peace, thanks partly to her grandmother's wealth of experience. Without glorifying events, this melancholic, harrowing book draws hope from the magic of everyday life.



#### Sales

(Original Belarusian Edition: Pflaumbaum)  
Czech Republic (Pavel Mervat), Denmark (Palomar),  
France (Noir sur Blanc), Norway (Existenz), Poland  
(KEW), Spain (Gatopardo), Sweden (Ersatz)

Eva Viežnaviec  
**What Is It You  
Seek, Wolf?**

(Original Belarusian title:  
Па што ідзеш, воўча?)  
144 pages  
February 2023





»In language both visually rich and haunting, Eva Viežnaviec tells of her beloved grandmother and illuminates at the same time a piece of everyday history from Eastern Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century ... A novel that acts as a conversation between the living and the dead, a book full of hope – highly recommended.«

Terry Albrecht, WDR5 Bücher

»Strong and clear like vodka.«

Judith Leister, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»A literary thunderbolt ... An overwhelming novel, a challenge, a study of man, a history lesson, a psychogram of power and powerlessness – grand, important literature!«

Bernd Melichar, Kleine Zeitung

»In clear, almost harsh sentences, Viežnaviec's densely-woven family story spanning five generations tells of people instead of politics ... This book is a tribute to the women of Belarus, who are an example of how to survive on scorched earth.«

Cornelius Wüllenkemper, Deutschlandfunk Büchermarkt

»The reading develops a force that resonates for a long time.«

Roberta de Righi, Münchner Abendzeitung

»It hits with the force of a sledgehammer ... Powerful and, despite all the brutality, highly poetic. In a concise language, fed with historical details, Viežnaviec succeeds in bringing the monstrous upheavals and darkness in short episodes to life so vividly that the reader becomes dizzy over the course of such a condensed journey through time.«

Ingo Petz, Standard Album



# ON LIFE AND DEATH

*»I know how the perfect murder is carried out, but I'll be careful not to tell anyone.«*

CHRISTIAN REITER

# FLORIAN KLENK





»You could call this book chilling – or a celebration of science and the human spirit. You read it with bated breath and afterwards, see life and death with a different perspective.«

DANIEL KEHLMANN



Florian Klenk, born in 1973, is a lawyer and journalist and has been editor-in-chief of the Viennese weekly magazine Falter since 2012. He has been awarded Journalist and Investigative Journalist of the Year several times and has received, among others, the »Men's Prize« from Emma magazine and the European Journalism Prize Writing for Central and Eastern Europe. In 2011, Zsolnay published his book of collected reportage, *Früher war hier das Ende der Welt*, in 2018 *Alles kann passieren! Ein Polittheater* (together with Doron Rabinovici), and in 2021 *Bauer und Bobo. Wie aus Wut Freundschaft wurde*.

- For all true crime fans
- The new book by bestselling author Florian Klenk
- The Museum for Forensic Medicine in Vienna is a unique treasure trove of world renown

# FLORIAN KLENK

Was Beethoven's skull really his? How is it possible to identify the victims of the Lauda Air crash in Thailand? How did the »Black Widow«, otherwise known as Elfriede Blauensteiner dispose of her male victims? And how do knockout drops work?

The Viennese coroner Christian Reiter knows the mysteries of death. In his study, he collects skulls, hair, larvae, mummies and death masks. When the editor-in-chief of the weekly Viennese newspaper Falter, Florian Klenk, looks at these items, he discovers the depths to which humans can go and the powers of persuasion that science holds.

Dr. Reiter's intriguing experiences and family anecdotes come together in this depiction of a fascinating polymath who observes society via the dissection table and examines it alongside Florian Klenk.

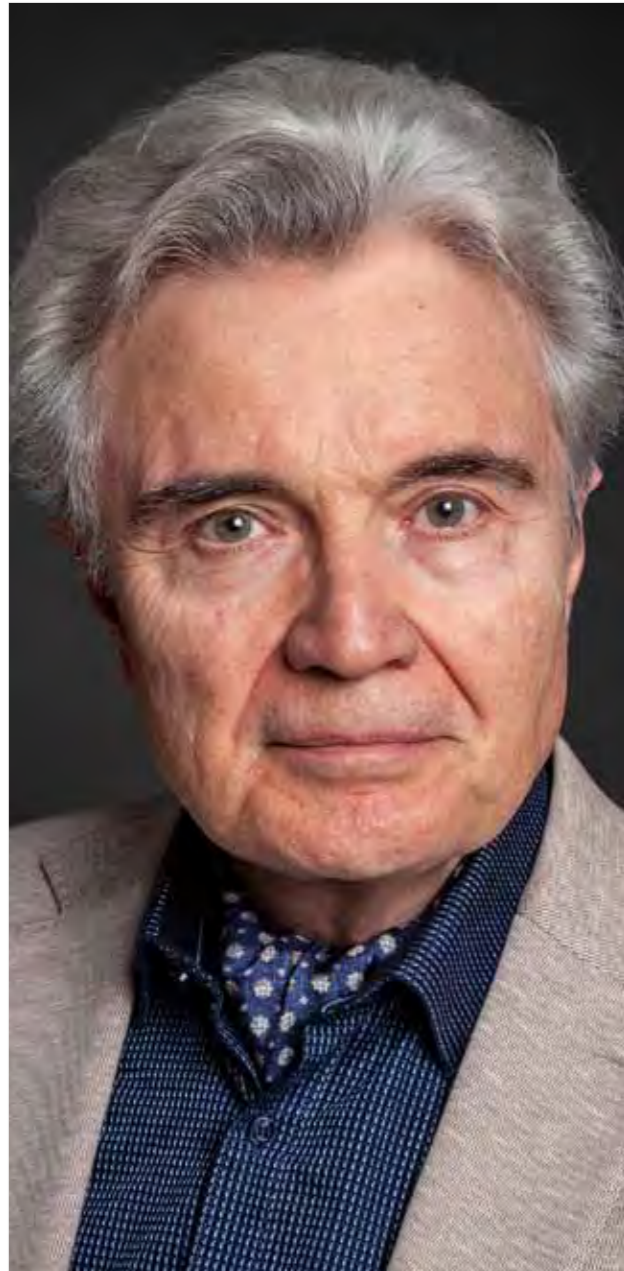


Sales  
All rights available



Florian Klenk  
**On Life and Death**  
In Forensic Medicine  
190 pages  
August 2024





»Görner  
narrates,  
interprets and  
comments  
forcefully.«

Friedmar Apel, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

#### Rüdiger Görner

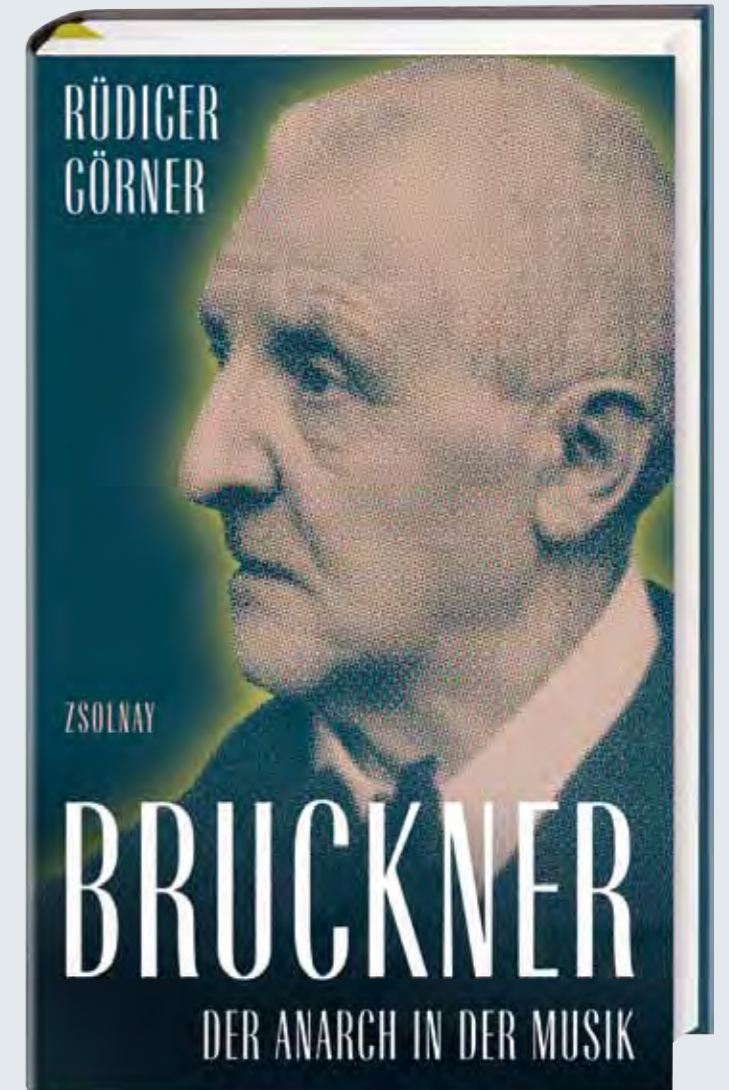
born in 1957 in Rottweil, is Emeritus Professor of Modern German Literature at Queen Mary, University of London. He is also Founding Director of the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations and of the Ingeborg Bachmann Centre for Austrian Literature at the University of London. Previous Books of his published by Zsolnay: *Rainer Maria Rilke. Im Herzwerk der Sprache* (2004), *Georg Trakl. Dichter im Jahrzehnt der Extreme* (2014), and *Oskar Kokoschka. Jahrhundertkünstler* (2018).

• A major biography to coincide with  
the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anton Bruckner

## RÜDIGER GÖRNER

Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896) was a highly acclaimed organist. Originally from the Upper Austrian province, he celebrated success in Paris and London. However, his compositions garnered little attention during his lifetime; his detractors and opponents, most notably Johannes Brahms, disregarded and vilified them. Richard Wagner was the only composer with whom Bruckner, who suffered from self-doubt, was able to establish a relationship, albeit one that was contradictory and confusing. Wagner saw something in Bruckner's compositions that other contemporaries could not see. Ultimately, the heyday of Bruckner's music only came after his death.

Rüdiger Görner skilfully interweaves the life and work of the soloist Bruckner in a narrative style that offers a glimpse into the works and the soul of the person behind them. He powerfully illustrates how the simple life of this provincial, strait-laced anarchist culminated in an impressive musical worldliness that led directly into the modern age.



Sales  
All rights available

Rüdiger Görner  
**Bruckner**  
The Anarchist of Music  
384 pages  
August 2024



**Excessively  
overrated?**

**Criminally  
under-  
estimated?**



**Gernot Bauer**

was born in Salzburg in 1970, studied at WU Vienna and completed the editorial course in magazine journalism at profil, where he has worked as a domestic policy editor since 1998.

**Robert Treichler**

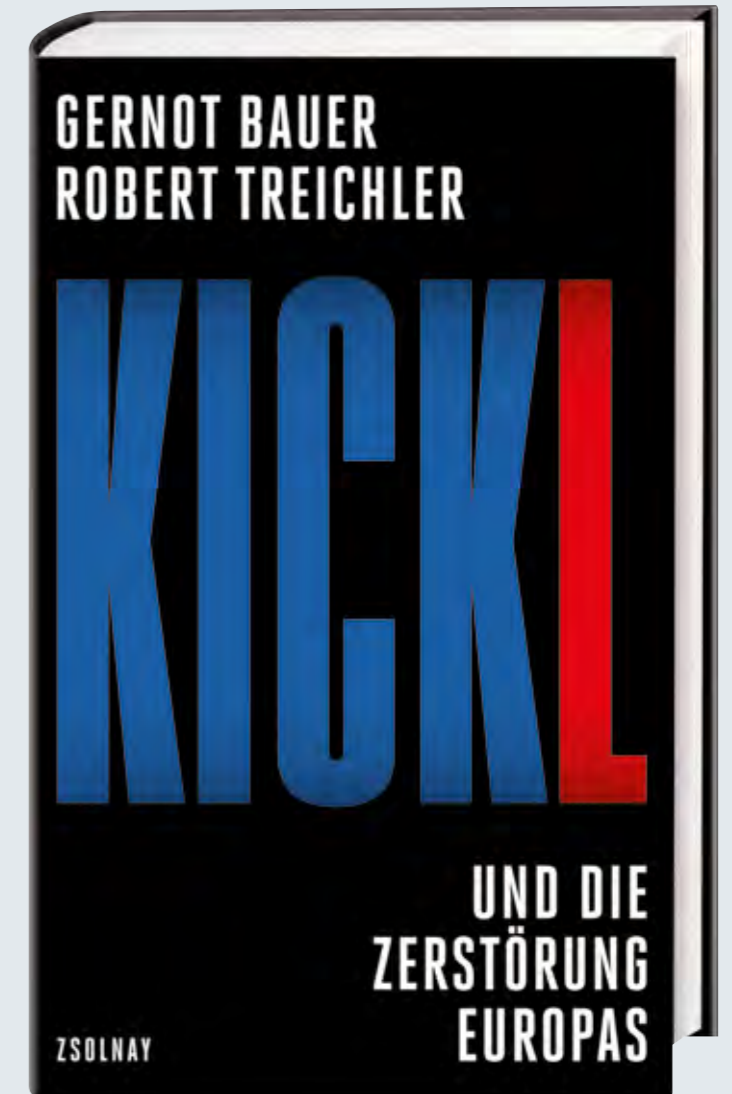
was born in Graz in 1968, studied French and Philosophy and has been a journalist at the news journal profil since 1997, serving as Deputy Editor in Chief since 2021.

- **The man who threatens to destroy the political foundation of Europe together with right-wing populists such as Weidel, Orbán and Le Pen**

- **Super-election year 2024 across Europe, including European elections in June and National Council elections in Austria**

**GERNOT BAUER • ROBERT TREICHLER**

Herbert Kickl operated in the shadows for almost three decades. He was the man who wrote Jörg Haider's speeches, and the fiercely disputed slogans that helped Heinz-Christian Strache into office as the Vice Chancellor of Austria. He has also been the only minister since 1945 to be dismissed from office. In the past, Kickl's radical rhetoric, acerbic argumentation and agitation stood in the way of his career. However, these characteristics now correspond to a zeitgeist that aspires to dismantle liberal democracy not only in Austria, but across Europe, with Alice Weidel, Viktor Orbán, Marine Le Pen, and other right-wing populists. Gernot Bauer and Robert Treichler have traced back this problem to its roots and provide a new perspective on an ascetic ideology, a volatile platform for the people – and an incendiary politician.



**Sales**  
All rights available

**Gernot Bauer  
Robert Treichler  
Kickl**  
And the Destruction  
of Europe  
256 pages  
April 2024





»We're in sore need of a writer like this, who sees so clearly, yet has remained enamoured of the world.«

Daniela Strigl, laudatory speech for the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding

**Karl-Markus Gauß**

was born in 1954 in Salzburg, where he still lives and works as an Author. His books have been translated into numerous languages and have received many prizes, including the Prix Charles Veillon, the Austrian Art Prize for Literature, the Johann Heinrich Merck Prize, the Jean Améry Prize and just very recently the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding 2022. His most recent publications with Zsolnay are *Abenteuerliche Reise durch mein Zimmer* (2019), *Die unaufhörliche Wanderung* (2020) and *Die Jahreszeiten der Ewigkeit* (2022).

• 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 May 2024

• »There's no place not worth exploring because everyone has a secret and a story,« as Karl-Markus Gauß says in his new book

# KARL-MARKUS GAUSS

Miniature scenes from travels that conjure up moments of happiness and amazement. Places where miraculous things happen and dreams have an impact on life. Austrian writer Karl-Markus Gauß talks about the »the woman who eats art« in a Viennese trattoria, a cemetery in Eastern Europe, his father's last cigarette, and the »beauty of ugly cities«. He always sees connections in the tiniest details and shows life as a balancing act between reality and dream. In evocative language, Gauß revisits the topics he is famous for in new and surprising ways. »You travel here and there, on a journey without a set time of arrival, in a mood that suggests that there's no better way to spend these hours.«

(Hannes Hintermeier, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*)



**Sales**

Croatia (Fraktura), Serbia (Akademska)

Karl-Markus Gauß  
**A Ship Made of Stone**  
Places and Dreams

144 pages  
March 2024





»Our world would be a better place if all journalists were as conscientious, cultured and humanistic as he is.«

Sir András Schiff

Paul Lendvai, born 1929 in Budapest, has lived in Vienna since 1957. He is head of the ORF European Studio and a columnist for the Standard. He has won numerous prizes and awards. His most recent publications are: *Die verspielte Welt. Begegnungen und Erinnerungen* (2019) and *Vielgeprüftes Österreich* (2022).

- From Helmut Schmidt to Angela Merkel, and from Vladimir Putin to Donald Trump - Why do leading politicians get it often so completely wrong?
- Observations of political events and those who drive them at close range

## PAUL LENDVAI

Russia's war, migration, climate change, inflation and a second term of Trump? An apocalyptic mood is in the air again. International secret services and highly funded research institutions are unable to find answers to these dramatic changes in the global balance of power. True, leading politicians have often got it completely wrong. This is clear when we think of assessments of Russia and China's development overseas, as well as Hungary and Poland within the EU. For decades, Paul Lendvai has been observing events and their leading actors – from Donald Trump to Viktor Orbán, Helmut Schmidt to Angela Merkel, and Vladimir Putin to Benjamin Netanyahu. Up close, he sees both the waning power of liberal ideas and the seductive offers of populist autocrats. Only one thing remains constant: hypocrisy.



Sales  
All rights available

Paul Lendvai  
**On Hypocrisy**  
176 pages  
January 2024