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FICTION AUTUMN 2023



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LITERARY FICTION

Lion Christ, <i>Sauhund</i>	2
Monika Helfer, <i>Die Jungfrau</i>	4
Wolf Haas, <i>Eigentum</i>	6
Doris Knecht, <i>Eine vollständige Liste aller Dinge, die ich vergessen habe</i>	8
Hans Platzgumer, <i>Grosses Spiel</i>	12
Dirk Schümer, <i>Die schwarze Lilie</i>	14
Jenifer Becker, <i>Zeiten der Langeweile</i>	16
Rafik Schami, <i>Wenn du erzählst, erblüht die Wüste</i>	18
Thomas Lehr, <i>Manfred – Bekenntnisse eines Außerirdischen</i>	20
Navid Kermani, <i>Das Alphabet bis S</i>	22
Drago Jančar, <i>Als die Welt entstand</i>	24
Moshtari Hilal, <i>Hässlichkeit</i>	26
Dietlind Falk, <i>No Regrets</i>	28
Tanja Schwarz, <i>Vaters Stimme</i>	30
Tijan Sila, <i>Radio Sarajevo</i>	32
Elke Heidenreich, <i>Frau Dr. Moormann & ich</i>	36
Michael Köhlmeier, <i>Das Schöne</i>	38
Castle Freeman, <i>Treue Seele</i>	40

MEMOIR

Helene Maimann, <i>Der leuchtende Stern</i>	42
Horst Bienek, <i>Es gibt nur die Kunst, die Liebe und den Tod. Dazwischen gibt es nichts</i>	44

POETRY

Jan Wagner, <i>Steine & Erden</i>	46
Franz Josef Czernin, <i>geliehene zungen</i>	48

ESSAY

Herta Müller, <i>Eine Fliege kommt durch einen halben Wald</i>	50
Franz Schuh, <i>Ein Mann ohne Beschwerden</i>	52

BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

54

NEW RELEASES
FICTION



What happens
to someone who
runs away until
he finds himself –
a touching, radi-
cally honest book

Lion Christ,
born in Bad Tölz, studied film and creative writing
and lives in Leipzig. He received the Munich
Literature Scholarship 2021 for *Sly Dog*, his
debut novel.

- A modern novel about sexuality and
class – for once without shame and
repression
- A fascinating cosmos of contradiction
on freedom and restraints – a journey
from the provinces to the profligate,
prudish Munich of the 1980s

LION CHRIST

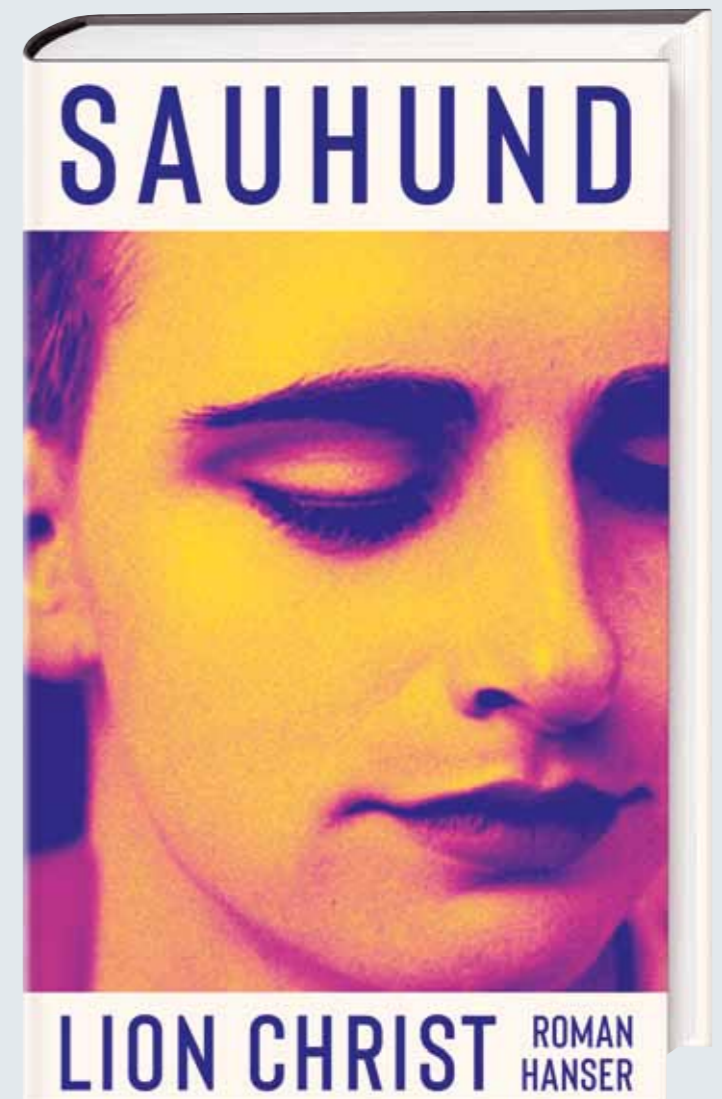
English sample
translation
available

»I'm the show!« Munich 1983. Flori is a country
lad, thirsting for life, glamour and fame, and
looking for a man who'll love him for the rest of
his life. He is an incorrigible opportunist,
a sly dog and an optimist. *Sly Dog* is a fast and
furious homage to him and all the lovers who
died in the first decade of AIDS.

In the Munich of Franz Josef Strauss and
Freddie Mercury, where stifling conservatism
lives side by side with wild hedonism, each
step forward is a small liberation. In his blue
Opel Kadett, Flori runs away from his parents
and first love – the carpenter's son Gregor –
and the expectations people have of him.

»So what? I'll muddle through somehow!«
he shouts, diving into the club scene and
beds of married couples, illicitly repurposed.

It'll all work out in the end, won't it? But,
of course, life is not that simple. Lion Christ
tells an unforgettable story about a wide
range of issues that are far from resolved.



Sales
All rights available

Lion Christ
Sly Dog
304 pages
August 2023



»What an unforgettable character Gloria is! With care, Monika Helfer shines a light into the most secret corners of her friend's soul.« Daniela Dröscher

Monika Helfer, born in 1947 in Au/Bregenzwald, is a writer and lives with her family in Vorarlberg. She has published numerous novels, stories and children's books. Her work has won the Austrian Literature Prize, the Solothurn Literature Prize and the Johann Peter Hebel Prize, among others. For *Die Bagage* (novel, 2020), she received the Schubart Literature Prize 2021 from the City of Aalen. Her most recent publications by Hanser are the novels *Vati* (2021) and *Löwenherz* (2022).

- **Monika Helfer has transformed her memories into major literature**
- **The story of a decades-long friendship between two women**
- **On the suffocating atmosphere of the 1960s – on marriage, intimacy and belonging**

MONIKA HELFER

»Gloria's mouth pouted like Brigitte Bardot's, only she was more beautiful. It was her first attribute.« Gloria and Moni have been best friends since childhood – one is rich, the other poor. Half a century later, the two women meet again and Gloria confesses a secret she's kept her whole life: she has never slept with anyone. Gloria was always popular, eccentric and beautiful, a wannabe actress and highly sociable. Gloria and Moni grew up in the stuffy 1960s, confronted with marriage, claustrophobia and violence. How did they become the people they are? What do loneliness and prosperity mean? Once again, Monika Helfer's voice is outstanding in its virtuosity, conveying stories of intimacy and belonging in a sparkling, light-hearted tone. On the heels of Helfer's trilogy about her own family, *The Maiden* is an exhilarating novel about a decades-long friendship between two women.



Sales

Monika Helfer's previous works have sold in more than 18 territories

Monika Helfer
The Maiden
160 pages
August 2023

»Pierced by
arrows of
memories,
we sit and
sigh.«



Wolf Haas

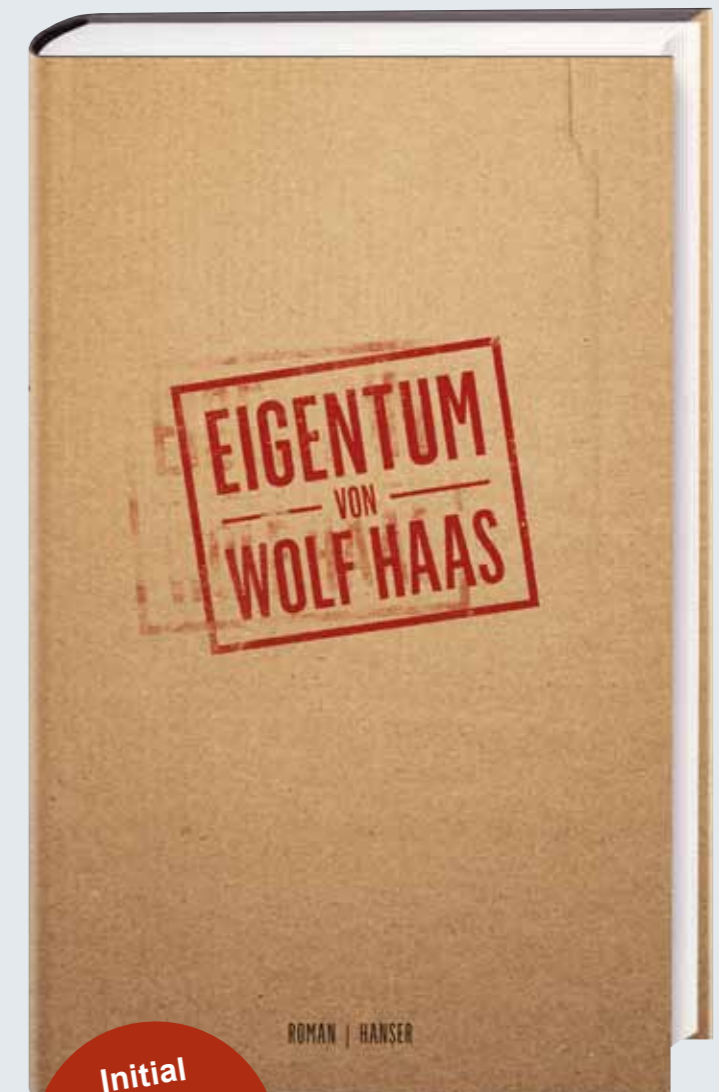
was born in 1960 in Maria Alm am Steinernen Meer. He has received many awards for his literary work, including the Berlin Literature Prize, the Bremen Literature Prize and the Joseph Breitbach Prize. His novels include *Das Wetter vor 15 Jahren* (2006), *Verteidigung der Missionarsstellung* (2012) and *Junger Mann* (2017) as well as nine Brenner-based thrillers, the last of which was titled *Müll* (2022). Wolf Haas lives in Vienna.

- The new novel by Haas, now out with Hanser
- Tender and full of grim humour, he tells the story of his mother's life
- Wolf Haas's most personal book to date
- In inimitable style, he spins a story around his mother's life and death, exploring what poverty does to people

WOLF HAAS

English sample
translation
available

Haas's mother, almost ninety-five years old, is dying, but she tells her son that she feels fine. »It annoyed me to no end. My whole life long, Mum had painted a picture of how much she was suffering. Three days before she died, she announced that she was doing fine. There had to be a mistake.« His mother experienced the meaning of property by losing everything. She was born in 1923, but »then inflation came and the money was gone.« As a child, she endured poverty, worked and saved every penny. But it was never even enough for her to buy even a single square metre. Wolf Haas tells his mother's desperate story with such loving, grim humour that it is simply unforgettable. At last, a new novel by Wolf Haas – containing everything that his readers hoped for. *Property* is an enjoyable, touching read.



Initial
print run:
100.000
copies

Sales
All rights available

Wolf Haas
Property
160 pages
September 2023

»She wrote everything down: the big important things, which then somehow didn't matter and were forgotten. Laconic and sobering, but also disarming and reconciliatory. Thank you, Doris Knecht!«

KATHARINA USLAR, Uslar & Rai

»With intensity and exactitude, Doris Knecht illuminates a life layer by layer. A book that delights, excites, and impresses.«

MARIA-CHRISTINA PIWOWARSKI, Ocelot

»With unlimited courage, Doris Knecht peers into the soul of a woman who shifts back and forth between daughter and mother, punk and skeptic, glamorous and strapped for cash. Full of feeling, irony, and melancholy, she analyses a whole generation of women.«

PETRA HARTLIEB, Hartliebs Bücher

»As always, Doris Knecht draws us immediately into her story, and, as always, what comes across as light at first glance has a lot going on inside. From the very first page, I constantly recognized myself.«

SABINE ABEL, Buch in der Au

»DORIS KNECHT
at her best!

Honest, unsparing, funny delightful – I can't wait to give this book to all my friends.«

MARIE KATZLINGER, Buchhandlung Lehmkuhl



»I think men should read books like this to understand what women actually feel and what is sometimes done to us.«

Elke Heidenreich, Der Spiegel



Doris Knecht,

born in Vorarlberg, is a columnist (for Falter and Vorarlberger Nachrichten among others) and a writer. Her first novel, *Gruber geht* (2011), was nominated for the German Book Prize and was adapted for cinema. Most recent publications by Hanser include *Besser* (2013), *Wald* (2015), *Alles über Beziehungen* (2017) *weg* (2019) and *Die Nachricht* (2021). The film version of *Wald* will be released in cinemas in autumn 2023. She has received the Ravensburger Foundation Literature Prize and the Vienna Economy Book Prize. Doris Knecht lives in Vienna and the Waldviertel. <https://www.doris-knecht.com/>

- A novel that pulls you in from the very first sentence – written with unstinting humanity
- A woman's story written for all women (and men) in the thick of life
- Filled with wit and humour, kindness and compassion

DORIS KNECHT

She's the daughter who always seemed invisible alongside her well-behaved, blond sisters. She's a single mother who's always longed for more freedom and support. She's the over-sensitive girl who was always more emotional than the others. She hates change.

But something has to give. Because her children are about to move out, it's time to downsize and declutter her old life, to find out what she wants to keep and who she wants to be in the future. What's it like to start life afresh? Doris Knecht's new novel is a deeply humane and intimate self-interrogation of a woman at a crossroads, struggling to find out the truth about herself. Yet she knows that she will never succeed.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Die Nachricht: The Netherlands (Ambo/Anthos)

Doris Knecht

A Complete List of All the Things I Have Forgotten

240 pages
July 2023



100th anniversary of the Kantô earthquake on September 1st, 2023. The disastrous event claimed over 140,000 lives. Leaking gas turned the cities of Tokyo and Yokohama into a sea of flames

»Here he stood.
The terrible noise.
The horrendous
disaster.«

Hans Platzgumer

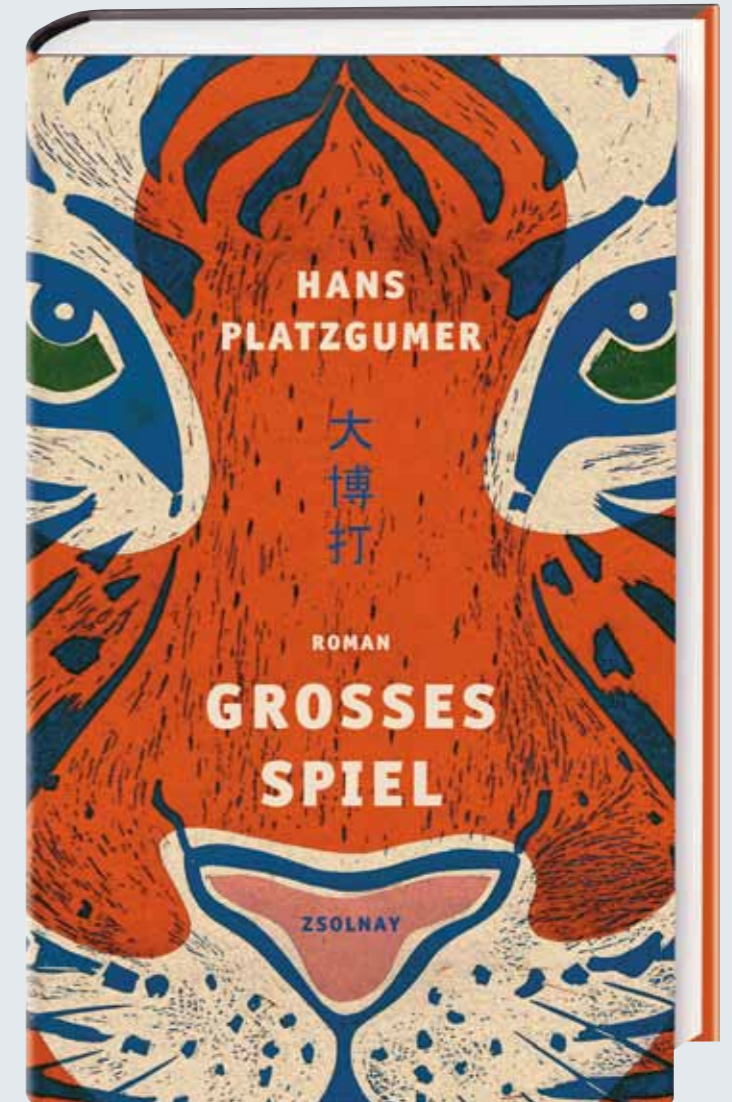
was born in Innsbruck in 1969 and lives in Bregenz. After graduating from the Vienna Music Academy he went on to study film music in Los Angeles. He has released electronic music with various partners and writes novels, radio plays, opera, theatre music and essays. *Am Rand* was a big success and longlisted for the German Book Prize 2016. His most recent novels were *Drei Sekunden jetzt* (2018) and *Bogners Abgang* (2021).

- A lack of leadership leads to a power vacuum that triggers political divisions
- An emperor, a military leader and a revolutionary – an exciting psychological web

HANS PLATZGUMER

A power vacuum that ideologues know how to use. A natural disaster that turns a country on its head. Based on a period of Japanese history, Hans Platzgumer tells a universal, captivating story that feels almost uncanny in its striking resemblance to modern-day political intrigues.

In 1912, Yoshihito, a young man aged only 32, was crowned emperor of Japan in Tokyo. His nearly fifteen-year rule would go down in Japanese history as the Taishō era. Military officer Amakasu, a staunch servant of the Japanese secret police, looks back on the war that shaped his life. For decades, in the shadow of Emperor Yoshihito, who was more interested in poetry and plants than politics and the state of his empire, he fought a bitter battle against the anarchist and insurgent Sakae Ōsugi and his wife Itō. But then the great Kantō earthquake in 1923 not only destroyed Tokyo but ushered in a political zero hour. In the shadow of the natural disaster, Amakasu's police force flouted rules and laws, and the Japanese people were at their mercy.



Sales

All rights available

Hans Platzgumer

Big Game

336 pages

August 2023



»A great storyteller.« DONNA LEON

»A historical novel, love story and action tale packed into a financial thriller – it reads like a film noir, a real pleasure!«

Denis Scheck, swr lesenswert about *The Black Rose*

Dirk Schümer

was born in 1962 in Soest, and studied German language and literature, philosophy and medieval history in Hamburg and Paris. In the early 1990s, he worked as an editor and cultural correspondent for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in Venice and Vienna, and has worked in the same roles for the Welt Group since November 2014. His first novel *The Black Rose* was published in 2022 by Zsolnay and was a big success.

- Following the success of *The Black Rose*, Schümer's gripping, new historical novel
- Set in Florence 1348 – in a mood of deathly fear, blissful love, the Plague and hopes for the future

DIRK SCHÜMER

It's 1348. The Plague rages in the financial metropolis of Florence, while the sons of the powerful banker Pacino Peruzzi are being murdered one by one. Wittekind Tentronk, who has moved to the city on the Arno to work as the agent of the patriarch, recognises too late that the murderous race for money and revenge going on here is one he can only lose.

As he did in his much-acclaimed novel *The Black Rose*, Dirk Schümer draws an arc here to the present day. He looks at the biggest banking crisis in history pre-2008, the worst pandemic of all time, and the Crimean War. He also follows Wittekind's romance with the attractive market woman Ciocca, as well as the distinguished group of friends that surrounds Dante's alcoholic son, Jacopo, and the down-and-out poet Boccaccio.

The result is a page-turning portrait of an era steeped in history that draws many parallels to the present day.



Sales

All rights available



Over
25.000
copies
sold

Dirk Schümer
The Black Lily

608 pages with a map
July 2023

»A literary
grenade that
I would like to
throw into
Silicon Valley
with gusto.«

Philipp Winkler

»Downtime is only on
the surface about esca-
ping from the Internet.
It is actually about
escaping from what
we call reality.« Juan Guse



Jenifer Becker,
born in 1988, works as an author, cultural theorist
and visual artist. She studied Creative Writing
at the Literature Institute Hildesheim, where she
has been teaching and researching since 2015.
Her work deals with the ambivalences of digital
cultures. She lives in Berlin.

- A radical thought experiment and
something we've all thought of doing
many times: taking time out from the
digital world
- A highly topical debut, for readers
of Leif Randt and Ottessa Moshfegh

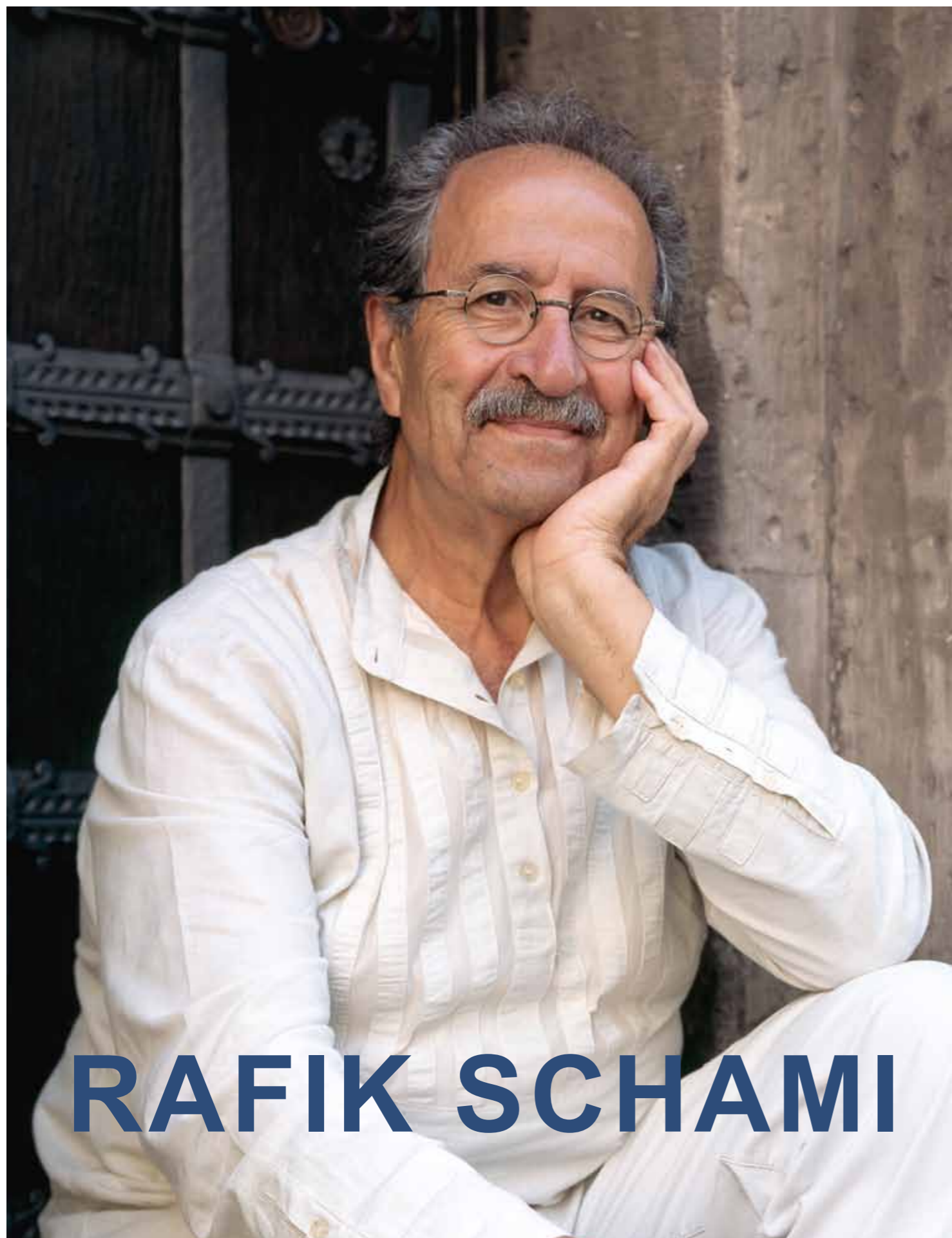
JENIFER BECKER

Mila, thirty, goes offline. Her fear of being in the
public eye is suddenly too great. Every trace
she deletes of her online presence feels like an
act of liberation. But at the same time,
Mila isn't convinced that her new yoga routine
is more fulfilling than her morning smartphone
check. What she nostalgically thought of as
rediscovering boredom quickly turns into
aching loneliness. She doesn't share her life
online anymore, but no one share's their life
with her either, now that her lifestyle has
become more akin to that of Emily Dickinson
than her former friends. And the urge to reach
that weightless state of total disappearance
becomes ever stronger. A debut voice
that describes the world we live in with
hypnotic precision and subtly plays
on our longing for freedom.



Sales
All rights available

Jenifer Becker
Downtime
240 pages
August 2023



RAFIK SCHAMI

»A genius of the Middle East.
Rafik Schami is a tireless bridge
builder between East and West,
a Middle Eastern master of
the German language.«

Sabine Berking, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

»For over 30 years, Rafik Schami
has brought the Arabic world
to life for the German public.«

Leonie Berger, SWR2

»A unique story teller of
the Arabian Nights, who knows
exactly how to warm European
hearts with Middle Eastern stories.«

Christine Lötscher, TAGES-ANZEIGER



»When he tells stories, the desert blossoms – the new novel by master storyteller Rafik Schami.« Denis Scheck

Rafik Schami

was born in Damascus in 1946 and has lived in Germany since 1971. His work has been translated into 33 languages and has received numerous awards, including the Hermann Hesse Prize, the Nelly Sachs Prize, the »Gegen Vergessen – Für Demokratie« prize, the Gustav Heinemann Peace Prize and the Carl Zuckmayer Medal. Most recent publications by Hanser include *Die geheime Mission des Kardinals* (Roman, 2019) and *Mein Sternzeichen ist der Regenbogen* (2021).
www.rafik-schami.de

- A novel rich in heritage and fairy tales, set in a mythical Arab country
- Rafik Schami combines the most beautiful Arabic tales into an exciting novel
- An ode to the tradition of storytelling

RAFIK SCHAMI

A celebration of storytelling that is rich, enthralling and moving. Rafik Schami has rescued gems of Arabic storytelling from oblivion and has combined them in this personal, poetic novel. In an Arab country in the 19th century, the wise and just King Salih reigns. When the queen is killed in an assassination attempt, their only daughter sinks into deep melancholy. Unbeknownst to her father, she has fallen in love with a poor fisherman. When Karam, the coffee-shop storyteller, learns of her illness, he resolves to heal the princess. Every evening, he gathers gifted storytellers in the palace to bring the young woman back to life with the most beautiful stories: of courage and cowardice, intelligence and superstition, friendship and enmity, love and the wisdom of the heart. Schami's new novel is a homage to storytelling that will inspire not only readers of *Tales from One Thousand and One Nights*.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Sophia: Bulgaria (Atlantis), Czech Republic (Zelený kocúr), Greece (Livani), Hungary (Lábnym), Italy (Garzanti), Poland (Noir Sur Blanc), Serbia (Laguna), Slovakia (Zelený kocúr), Spain (Salamandra), Turkey (Kafka Kitap), Uzbekistan (Voris)

Rafik Schami

[When You Tell Stories, the Desert Blossoms](#)

480 pages
August 2023

A surprising story about the limits of human knowledge – and the desire to exceed them



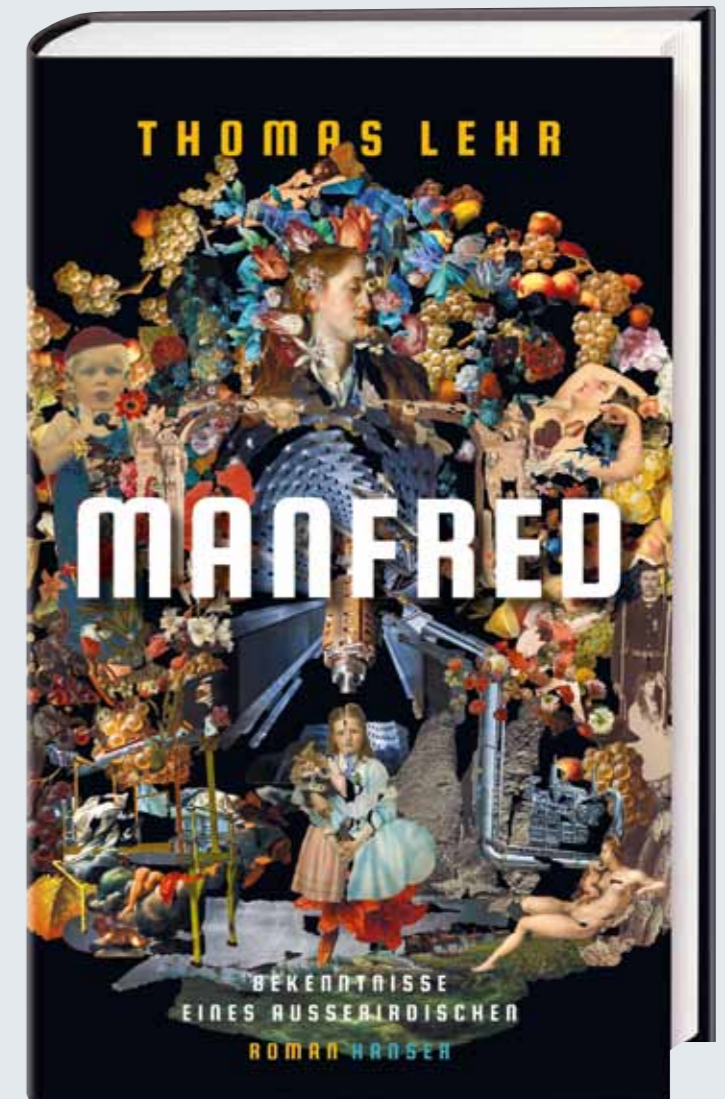
Thomas Lehr, born in 1957 in Speyer, lives in Berlin. He has received many awards for his literary work, including the Berlin Literature Prize, the Bremen Literature Prize and the Joseph Breitbach Prize. His most recent publications by Hanser include *September. Fata Morgana* (novel, 2010), *42* (novel, 2013) and *Schlafende Sonne* (novel, 2017).

- An insanely enjoyable read
- An exquisite literary work of art and storytelling

THOMAS LEHR

English sample translation available

The most insane novel Thomas Lehr has ever written. Manfred is a very average specimen of the genus *Homo sapiens* – yet he still manages to set off the intergalactic alarm. Alien Zorrgh takes possession of Manfred's consciousness to find out why. Normally, the alarm only goes off when a human reveals the existence of aliens – humans like Descartes, Einstein, and Hieronymus Bosch. But by no stretch of the imagination does Manfred possess such intelligence. In his early thirties, he's pale and pot-bellied and works alone from home. How could he have discovered what aliens call »true thought«? Zorrgh helps Manfred, who in the blink of an eye achieves wealth and beauty. Soon, he's in touch with his childhood sweetheart Sabine, who suspiciously reminds Zorrgh of Ada Lovelace, the first female programmer in world history. Zorrgh does not realise that Manfred and Sabine will drive him to his limits until the showdown at the bitter end.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Schlafende Sonne: UK/USA (Seagull)

Thomas Lehr

Manfred

Confessions of an Alien

352 pages

August 2023



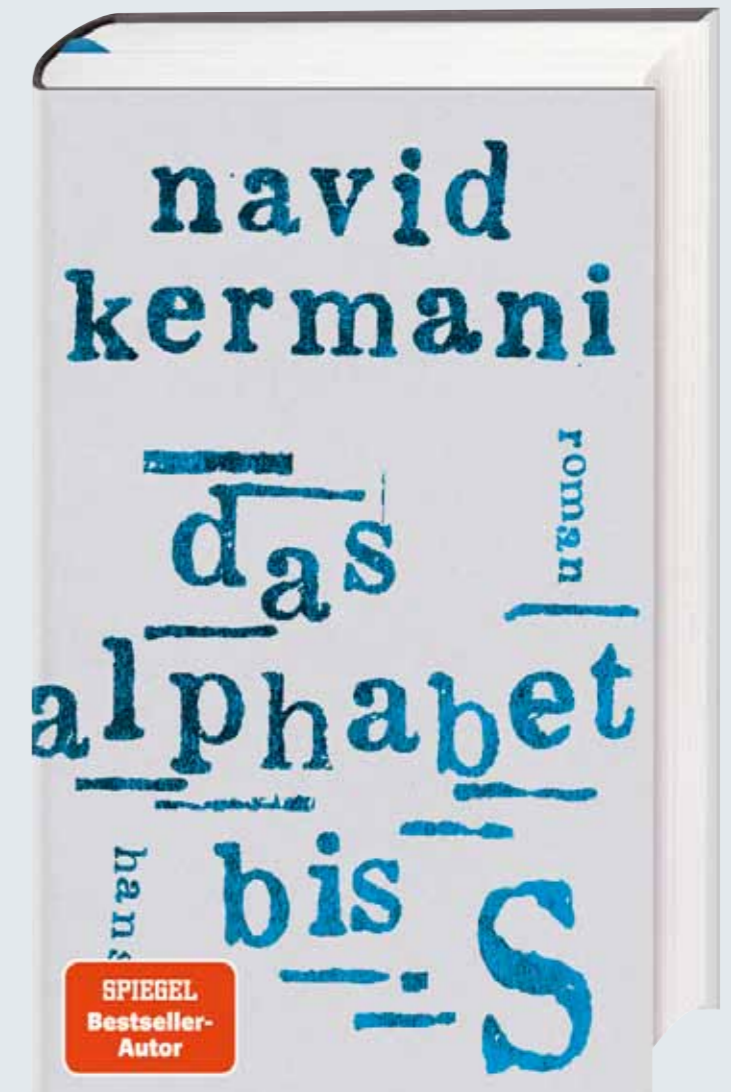
Kermani's book is one of a kind – a novel and journal, and a tribute to the magic of literature

Navid Kermani, born in Siegen in 1967, lives in Cologne. He has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in 2015, the Hölderlin Prize of the City of Bad Homburg in 2020 and the Honorary Prize of the Austrian Book Trade in 2021. Most recently published by Hanser are *Grosse Liebe* (novel, 2014), *Album* (2014) and *Sozusagen Paris* (novel, 2016). In 2022, *Jeder soll von da, wo er ist, einen Schritt näher kommen* (Come a Little Closer, All of You, Wherever You Are) was published, which made it to No. 1 on Der Spiegel bestseller list.
<http://navidkermani.de>

- About a writer at the height of her success yet at her lowest personal point in life
- The major, long-awaited novel by Navid Kermani in which he skilfully combines modern topics such as war, gender and identity

NAVID KERMANI

A woman in her fifties has suffered multiple setbacks. Her marriage has failed, her mother has died and suddenly, her role as a public intellectual comes into question – the same job that had led her husband to take over childcare while she tended to the world's woes. She finds support in books that speak to her like living people. But sometimes, single moments, no matter how brief, buffet her with terror, grief and shame. Like his protagonist, Kermani's book is one of a kind. A novel, journal, essay and meditation, all rolled into one – a celebration of literature. This is a book like no other because, like all major books, it has created its own form.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Jeder soll von da, wo er ist, einen Schritt näher kommen: Netherlands (Cossee), Arabic (Red Sea Bookstores), English world (Polity Press), Italian (Keller)

Navid Kermani

The Alphabet up to S

528 pages
September 2023



»Every morning, the deafening noise of the world breaks the silence. This is how the world is created.«

»Drago Jančar is a great storyteller.«

Norbert Mappes-Niediek, Frankfurter Rundschau

Drago Jančar

was born in Maribor in 1948, lives in Ljubljana and is regarded as the most significant living Slovenian author. His novels, essays and plays have been translated into many languages. In 1974 he was arrested for »hostile propaganda«. He has won numerous awards including the Kresnik Prize, the Jean Améry Prize and the 2020 Austrian State Prize for European Literature. His most recent novel was *When Love is At Rest (In ljubezen tudi)* (2017).

• **Drago Jančar is the leading voice in Slovenian literature**

• **A story of growing up in times of radical change**

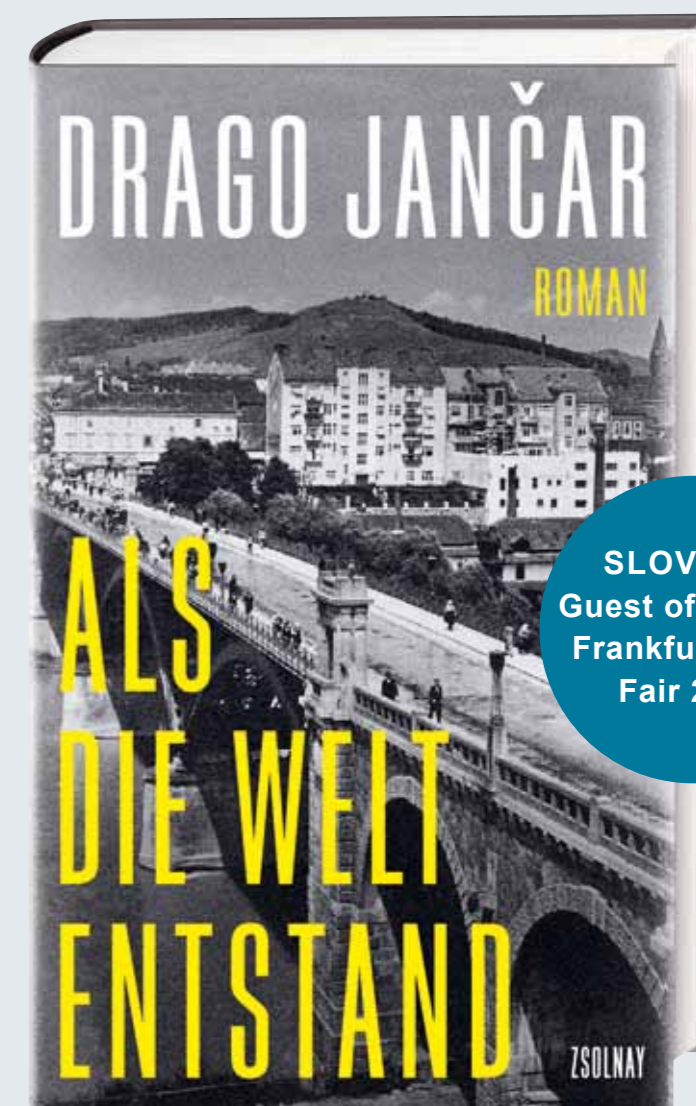
• **A young boy caught between the ideologies of his two parents**

DRAGO JANČAR

Danijel doesn't know who to please: his father, who forever celebrates victory over Nazi Germany with his comrades from the League of Communist Fighters. Or his mother, who sends him to the Capuchin Order for religious instruction. One side makes him pledge the pioneers' oath, the other, the creed of Pater Aloisius.

Changes are in store when a young secretary called Lena moves into the ground-floor flat, not only capturing Danijel's imagination but also creating a stir in the entire district. Drago Jančar's skilful story is set in the town of Maribor in the 1950s. Normality is slowly returning. The immediate hardship and deprivation of the post-war period, and the struggles of the Yugoslavian people, are over for the time being.

Danijel grows up during this time of transition, and we embark on a journey shaped by his psychological development, desires, search for role models and longings.



SLOVENIA
Guest of Honour
Frankfurt Book
Fair 2023

Sales

Croatia (Meander), France (Phébus), Italy (Nave di Teseo), Netherlands (Querido), Poland (Sedno), Serbia (Meander)

Drago Jančar
*When the World
Was Created*

(Original Slovenian Title:
Ob nastanku sveta)
272 pages
August 2023



»I observed beautiful, successful women whom I wanted to be like and whom my mother and aunts were not like.«

Moshtari Hilal
is an artist, curator and author who lives in Hamburg. She studied Islamic Studies in Hamburg, Berlin and London with a focus on gender and decolonial studies and is the co-founder of the collective Afghan Visual Arts and History as well as the research project *Curating Through Conflict with Care*.
www.moshtari.de
<https://www.instagram.com/moshtariiii/>

- Every ideal form of beauty is profoundly political – nowhere is this more obvious than in our approach to ugliness
- An act of liberation: objectively and with keen social awareness, Moshtari Hilal shakes up our self-awareness
- In this evocative, tightly-woven text, Hilal creates a unique hybrid, merging her essay with visual references

MOSHTARI HILAL

Poetic and touching, intimate and highly political, Moshtari Hilal talks about us all when she talks about the norms we subject ourselves to. How do power and beauty join forces, and determine who is considered ugly? What role does ugliness play in hatred? Dense body hair, brown teeth and big noses: Moshtari Hilal questions ideas of ugliness – ostensibly her own, but in fact, all of ours. In this unique book, she writes about beauty salons in Kabul as a backdrop to the US invasion, Darwin's theory of evolution, Kim Kardashian and a utopian place in the shadow of her nose. Her explorations, analyses, memories, visual references and own drawings take the reader into the most intimate realms, putting self-image to the test. Why are we afraid of ugliness?



Sales
All rights available

Moshtari Hilal
Ugliness
208 pages
September 2023



»Dietlind Falk tattoos the punk into your hearts.«

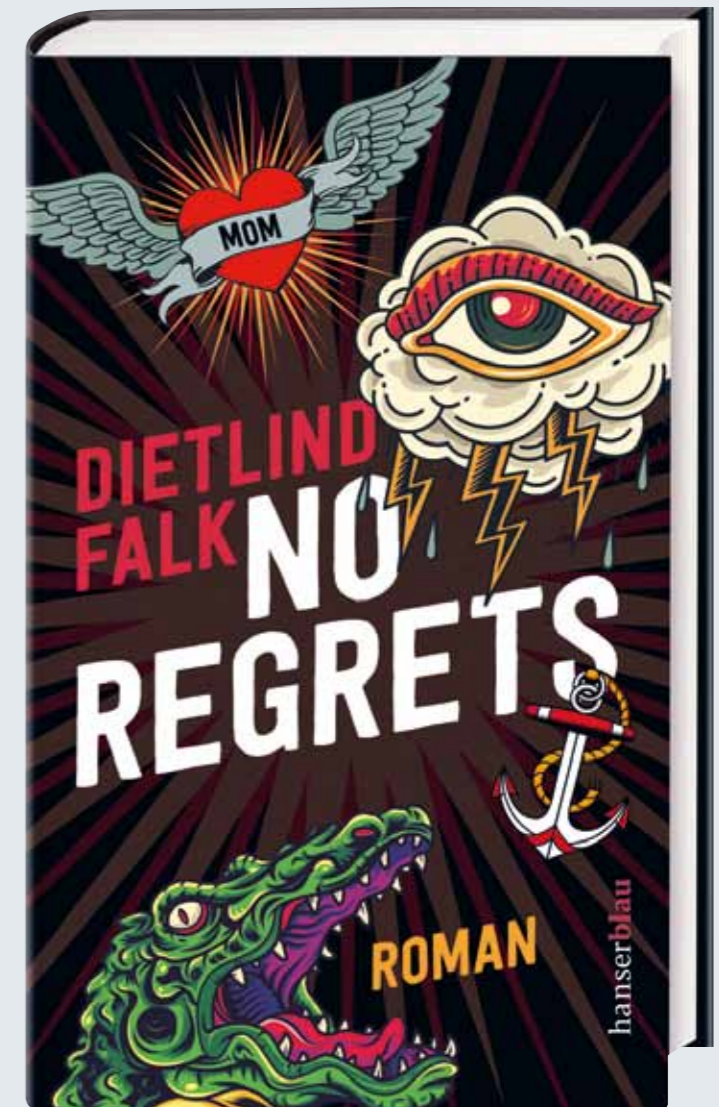
Simone Buchholz

Dietlind Falk, born in 1985, grew up in the Ruhr area. She is a freelance translator from English and French and has translated Mark Haddon and Octavia E. Butler into German, among others. Her novel *Das Letzte* was published by Albino Verlag in 2017. Dietlind Falk plays in a punk band and lives in Düsseldorf.

- As dry as Sven Regener, as true to life as Rocko Schamoni
- An enchanting story about friendship and freedom – and how to rediscover them both
- A perfect gift for anyone who was once a punk (and at heart still is)

DIETLIND FALK

A stinky, stuffed alligator in a shop window, empty beer bottles on the counter, deafening heavy metal: Welcome to the NO REGRETS tattoo studio. Here, in a place somewhere between Gelsenkirchen and Lüdenscheid, best friends Hänk and Muddy have been tattooing roses, anchors, football club insignias and skulls for decades. But the world around Hänk and Muddy has changed, and these two have-beens are out of date. To save NO REGRETS from ruin, they bring young Luz into the business – and an unlikely friendship develops between these three outsiders that gives more than just NO REGRETS a new lease of life.



Sales
All rights available



Dietlind Falk
No Regrets
224 pages
September 2023



»Tanja Schwarz' observations are unflinching, her descriptions nuanced and her feel for language is almost divine.«

WDR5 Bücher review of *In neuem Licht*

Tanja Schwarz

was born in Hechingen in Baden-Württemberg in 1970. She studied at the German Institute of Literature in Leipzig and has received numerous awards. In 2021, her novel *In neuem Licht* was published by hanserblau. Schwarz lives with her family in Hamburg.

- Absent fathers – a major social issue rarely covered in literature from a daughter's perspective
- Schwarz captures the complexity of family relationships and explores issues of belonging with great precision

TANJA SCHWARZ

»Would I have turned out differently if my father had been around while I was growing up?«
Nina is in her late forties and is separated from her partner with whom she has a son, Lenny. She has never had any contact with her own father. When Lenny writes to him, Hans suddenly comes back into her life. At first, they connect surprisingly quickly, but painful questions soon arise about the past and cracks come to light. Had she missed out, or is quite the opposite true – was everything better the way it was? An answer emerges when she learns of the tragic death of her brother, whom she never met. With honesty and empathy, Tanja Schwarz pens characters whose family relationships are not always simple, but painfully familiar.



Sales

All rights available



Tanja Schwarz
Her Father's Voice

304 pages
August 2023



»Tijan Sila is a strong narrator, focused, creative and funny.« WDR Cosmo

»Being raised between blue helmets and Bon Jovi.

A youth that blossoms and grows among the rubble.

Tijan Sila's language is harsh, vulnerable and unaffected. This radio has its own unmistakable sound!«

Mickey Beisenherz

Tijan Sila, born in 1981 in Sarajevo, came to Germany in 1994 as a war refugee. He studied German and English language and literature in Heidelberg. His first novel *Tierchen Unlimited* was published in 2017, followed in 2018 by *Die Fahne der Wünsche*, and in 2021 by *Krach*. He has also published essays in *Die Zeit*, *taz* and *der Freitag*. Tijan Sila lives in Kaiserslautern.

- What war does to people – Tijan Sila talks about his life in Sarajevo during the siege
- A brutally honest book about experiences that took him to the limits of existence as well as growing up in times of war

TIJAN SILA

»This is the story of my childhood and my war.«

When the war began in April 1992, Tijan Sila was only ten years old but to this day, he can still remember the smell of lit explosives. As Sarajevo is slowly engulfed in flames, the boy grows into a young man. He wanders through the ruins of the bombed-out city, collecting the things left by those who fled or died, to exchange them for food on the black market.

He learns to survive, and accepts the cruel new normal – but at what cost? This is a story of the unexpected, about how poets become murderers and murderers become heroes. It's about people abruptly deprived of all humanity, and how the shrapnel of war is embedded in the brain of every survivor.



Sales
All rights available

Tijan Sila
Radio Sarajevo
176 pages
August 2023



»What this woman sees –
you can't help but be amazed.«

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Elke Heidenreich lives in Cologne. She studied German and Theatre Studies and worked in radio and television for many years. For her work she has received numerous awards. Hanser has recently published *Männer in Kamelhaarmänteln* (2020) and *Ihr glücklichen Augen* (2022). [instagram.com/dies_ist_elke_heidenreich](https://www.instagram.com/dies_ist_elke_heidenreich)

Michael Sowa, born in Berlin in 1945 where he still lives, is a freelance artist and draughtsman. He has illustrated numerous magazines, book covers and books, among others stories by Axel Hacke and Hans Magnus Enzensberger.

- **Elke Heidenreich shines with a sparkling wit and clever observations**
- **A neighbourly love-hate relationship full of passion**

ELKE HEIDENREICH

»What kind of a neighbour forces you to negotiate over when you're allowed to laugh?«

Dr. Moormann is annoying. And she's not even a doctor in the first place, her husband was, but she lets everyone call her ›doctor‹ anyway. Well then, let her. And she's a know-it-all. When you try and do her a favour, she complains. Not a good neighbourhood. Will it ever change? When the narrator plays Schumann on the piano, Dr. Moormann asks, spitefully, ›Why do you always play that piece, are there no others?‹ Indeed, nothing seems to please her. When the pug pees on the flowerbed, their relationship hits rock bottom. But then a side of Dr. Moormann comes to the fore that no one could have predicted.



Sales
All rights available

Elke Heidenreich
Dr. Moormann & I
112 pages
August 2023

»Rousing
rhapsodies
by an
ingenious
observer
of art.«

Iris Radisch, DIE ZEIT



Michael Köhlmeier

was born in 1949 in Hard am Bodensee and now lives in Hohenems/Vorarlberg and Vienna. Hanser has published his novels *Abendland* (2007), *Zwei Herren am Strand* (2014) *Matou* (2021) and *Frankie* (2023) as well as two volumes of poetry and *Die Märchen* (with illustrations by Nikolaus Heidelbach, 2019). Michael Köhlmeier has received numerous awards.

• A beguiling invitation to read, listen and take an open-minded look at the world

• An entertaining text about art, culture and all things beautiful – an appeal to be curious

• A short study in intellectual appreciation

MICHAEL KÖHLMEIER

In his beguiling invitation to read, listen and take an open-minded look at the world, Michael Köhlmeier surveys sources of happiness for all kinds of aesthetes. All Things Beautiful is an entertaining text about art, culture and other things of beauty – an appeal to be curious.

Michael Köhlmeier invites you on a very personal journey, from Tolstoy to Mozart to Batman's Joker. Who does art speak to? Did Shakespeare invent human feeling – or even the human being? Did Bob Dylan create the most beautiful version of ancient poetry?

What is beauty anyway?

Michael Köhlmeier is a global flâneur who combines his wonder with present-day questions big and small. He celebrates all the facets of aesthetic enjoyment and has created a short study in intellectual appreciation. This book is the ideal companion for anyone who wants to be inspired by beauty.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Das Mädchen mit dem Fingerhut:

Belarus (Haliyafy), Denmark (Bechs), France (Actes Sud), Iran (Shahab Publications), Italy (Giunti), Norway (Bokvennen), Syria (Dar Ninawa), UK/USA (Haus)

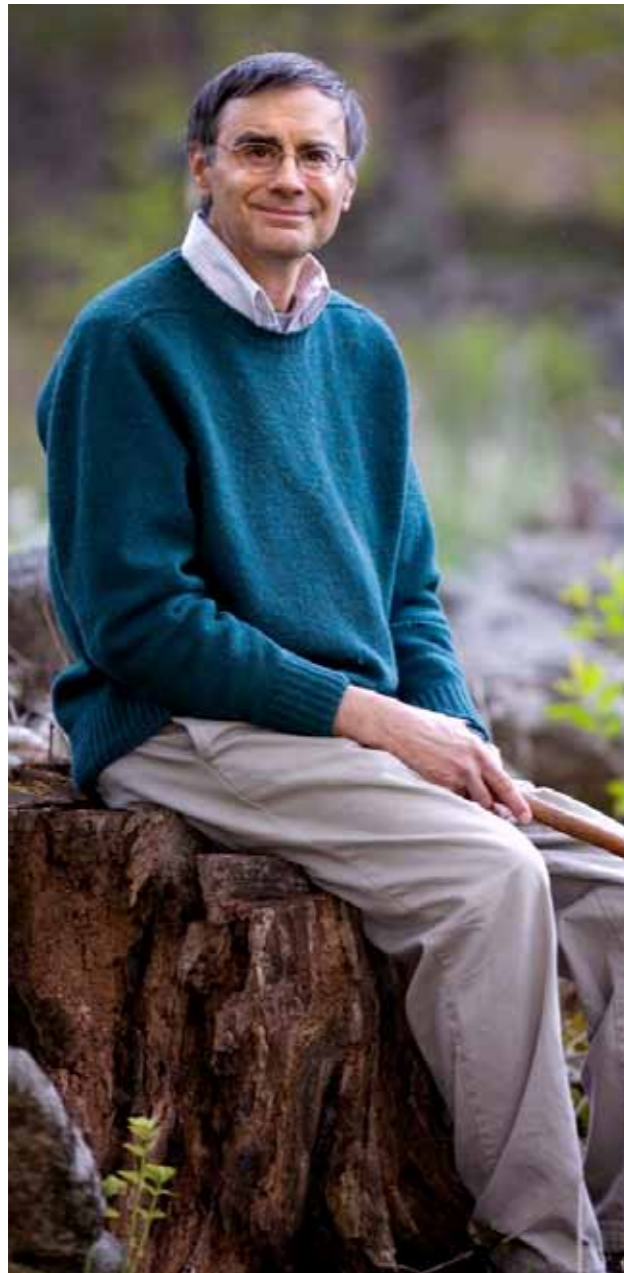
Michael Köhlmeier

All Things Beautiful

59 things to excite you

256 pages

September 2023



»Castle Freeman writes with profound wit and a deep understanding of the human psyche.« The Guardian

»Reading Castle Freeman makes you feel like you're sitting in the cinema having a great time, watching a film with incredibly laid-back, funny dialogue.«

Elke Heidendreich

Castle Freeman

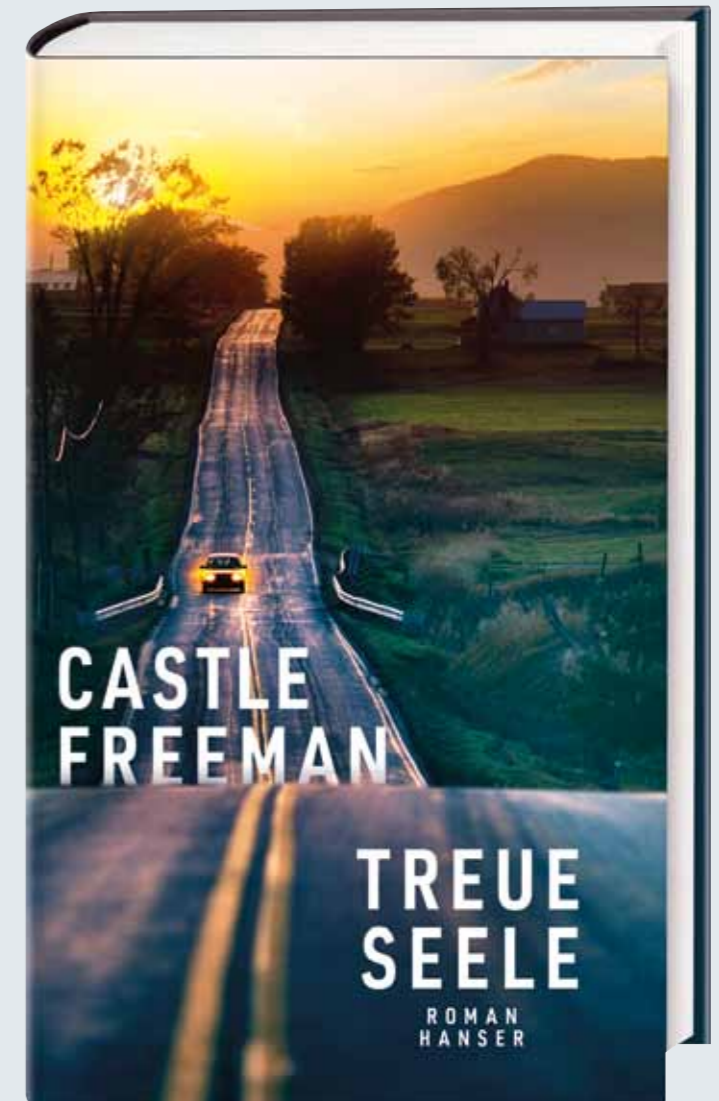
was born in 1944 in San Antonio, Texas, and raised in Chicago. He lives in Vermont. His novel *Go With Me* was filmed in 2015 with the title *Blackaway* starring Anthony Hopkins, Julia Stiles and Ray Liotta. His most recent publications with Hanser are the novels *Herren der Lage* (2021) and *Ein Mann mit vielen Talenten* (2022).

- A convoluted love story, told by the champion of laconic humour
- A firework display of cutting, comic dialogues
- An ode to the yokels of Vermont and the inimitable loyalty of mismatched couples

CASTLE FREEMAN

With his trademark dry wit, Castle Freeman tells a story laden with irony about the rocky road to a wedding in the backwoods of Vermont. The altar is a long way off, and Sheriff Wing has to restore order more than once – in his own way, of course.

»Port's like a hermit. No, he's like a bear: you know he's there, up in the woods. He's always around, but he's scarce. He keeps to himself. You might see him once every couple of years.« Connie Bennett doesn't care much for Port Conway. That her husband Cliff has to be friends of all people with this idiot who's not even a local – be that as it may. But when her outrageously beautiful half-sister Lucy moves in with her and Cliff and turns the whole of Vermont – including Port – upside down, things get out of hand. Because Lucy won't be told what to do, especially not by men.



Sales

All rights available



Castle Freeman

Loyal Soul

224 pages
July 2023



»Helene Maimann is an astute narrator of our generation. An exciting, tender book.«

Robert Schindel

Helene Maimann

was born in Vienna and is a historian, author and filmmaker. She has curated several major exhibitions on contemporary Austrian history and has won the Karl Renner Journalism Prize (2011), the Käthe Leichter State Prize for Women's Studies (2017) and the Axel Corti Prize (2019), among others.

- A personal insight into and a portrait of a generation
- Children of survivors are all over Europe. But only in Austria have they formed a network that is still in effect today – with Vienna at the centre

HELENE MAIMANN

These parents have all lived extreme lives: as fighters with Spain's International Brigades, in the Resistance and Allied armies, or as survivors of concentration camps or gulags in Siberia. Others were on Schindler's list. They were Jewish, Communist or both. After the Second World War when they started over in Vienna, it was clear that the world had changed. Their children moved from the margins of society to its midst. Many of them now belong to the cultural and political avant-garde. Historian Helene Maimann is one of them. She talks about how her parents' world shaped her views, but also how she confronted it, the hopes and failure it has led to, and what she shares with her friends Elizabeth T. Spira, Robert Schindel, André Glucksmann and others.



Sales

All rights available

Helene Maimann

The Shining Star
Children of Survivors

368 pages
August 2023

»Literature has something to do with life. Literature on its own is nothing.«

Horst Bienek, born in 1930 in Gliwice, was a student of Bertolt Brecht's until he was deported to a Soviet labour camp. Granted an official pardon in 1955, he moved to West Germany and worked as a novelist, filmmaker and critic. He died in Munich in 1990.

Daniel Pietrek, born in 1976 in Strzelce Opolskie, teaches literature at the University of Opole. He researched Bienek's estate and wrote about the author in his qualifying thesis to become a professor in 2013.

Gisela vom Bruch, born in 1943, is a trained librarian who catalogued Horst Bienek's estate and transcribed his diaries.

Michael Krüger, born in Wittgendorf/Zeitz in 1943, was Horst Bienek's editor and publisher. He is a writer and lives in Munich.

- A radically frank artist's journal
- A major social novel about the cultural scene of its time
- A highly personal history of homosexuality from the German post-war period to the AIDS crisis
- A central figure on the cultural scene of his time

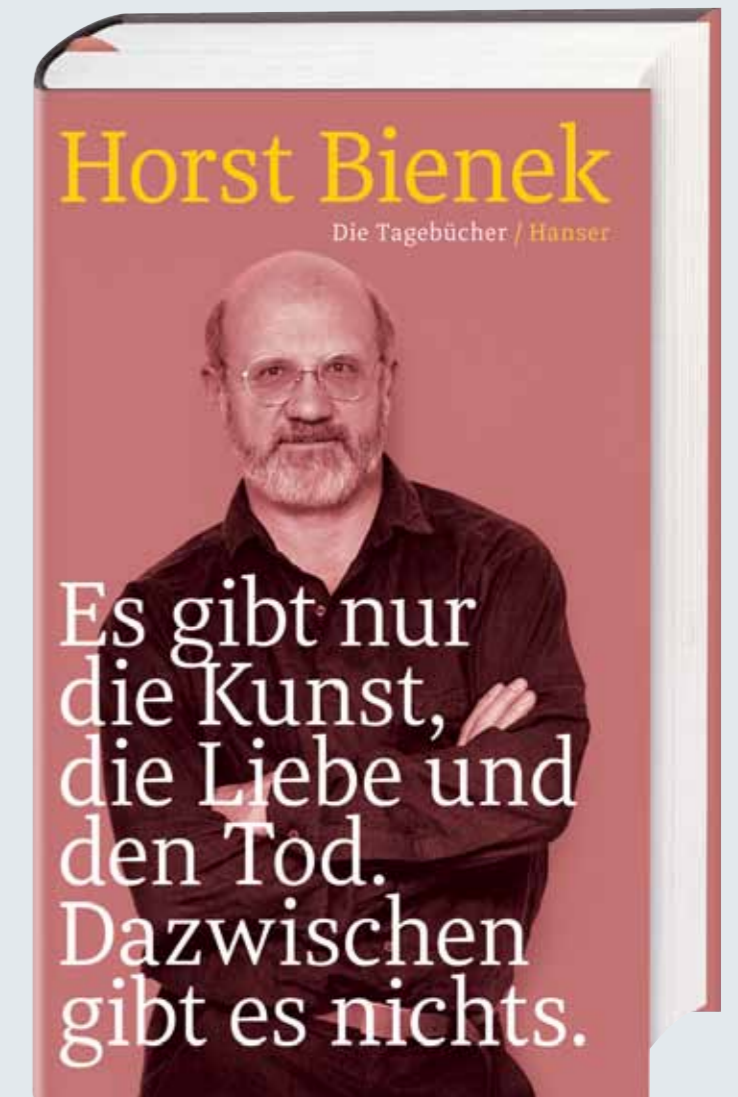
HORST BIENEK

As a critic, novelist and poet, Horst Bienek was a seminal figure on the cultural scene of his time. For forty years, he wrote a radically frank artist's journal, detailing the social panorama of the time and his very personal life.

'For the first time, there's a generation that talks about their homosexuality honestly, just like straight people have done for a long time.' Bienek's diaries read like an autobiographical novel. He writes passionately about literature, art and music, as well as his forays into the gay scene, charting his lust for life and disappointments. He met all the major figures of his era from Borges to Yourcenar and encountered protagonists of post-war literature from Reich-Ranicki to Joachim Kaiser, Bachmann and Frisch. A wild, picaresque epic by a tortured soul. Sometimes self-pitying, at others merciless, his scorn targets all those who tried to make out they were greater than they were.

Time and again, however, his vulnerable, compassionate side is revealed.

Sales
All rights available



Horst Bienek
Daniel Pietrek (eds.)
There Is Only Art, Love and Death. In Between, Nothing
The Diaries 1951–1990
1.408 pages
September 2023



»Inspired and unerringly surefooted, Jan Wagner has written poems that are as light as a feather but have a weighty impact.« Matthias Ehlers, WDR5

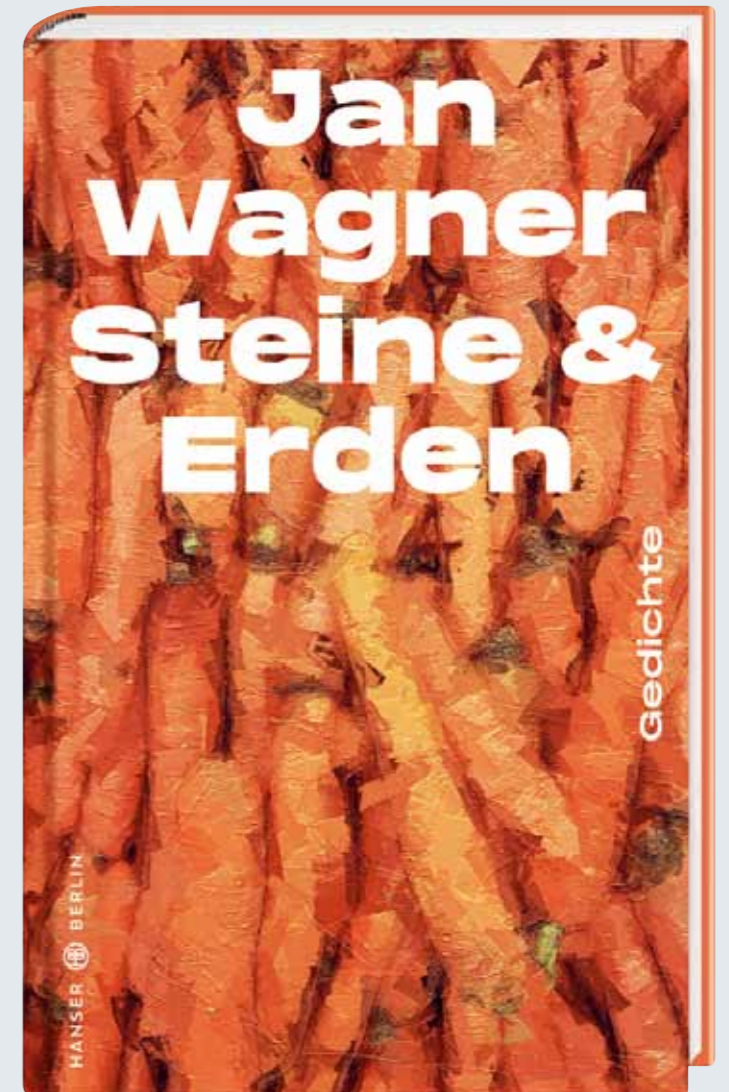
Jan Wagner

was born in 1971 in Hamburg and lives in Berlin. Hanser Berlin has published his poetry collections *Die Eulenhäuser in den Hallenhäusern* (2012), *Regentonnenvariationen* (2014), the anthology *Selbstporträt mit Bienenschwarm* (2016) and most recently *Die Life Butterfly Show* (2018), as well as his volumes of essays *Der verschlossene Raum* (2017) and *Der glückliche Augenblick* (2021). In 2015 Jan Wagner won the Leipzig Book Fair Prize for *Regentonnenvariationen*, and in 2017 he was awarded the Georg Büchner Prize.

• New poems by the Büchner Prize winner

JAN WAGNER

Twenty-two years after his collection *Probebohrung im Himmel*, Jan Wagner has found inspiration in commonplace soil with his new volume, *Rocks & Soil*. His keen eye extracts miraculous insights from the loamiest, chalkiest earthbound truths, converting them into poetry whose lightness and magical sound astound the reader. Objects come to life and tell their stories in his impressive lyrical cosmos – whether it's a »carrot-rocket« on its way to the centre of the earth, a steadily growing »rubberacropolis« of worn-out tyres or Dürer's Rhinoceros.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Selbstporträt mit Bienenschwarm: Afrikaans (Naledi), China (Jiangsu Phoenix), Italy (Bompiani), Norway (Solum), Serbia (Agora), Sweden (Råmus), UK/ USA (Milkweed)

Jan Wagner

Rocks & Soil

Poems

112 pages

October 2023

New poems by
an avant-garde
literary
virtuoso



»Franz Josef Czernin is always present
when two things make a third.«

Paul Jandl

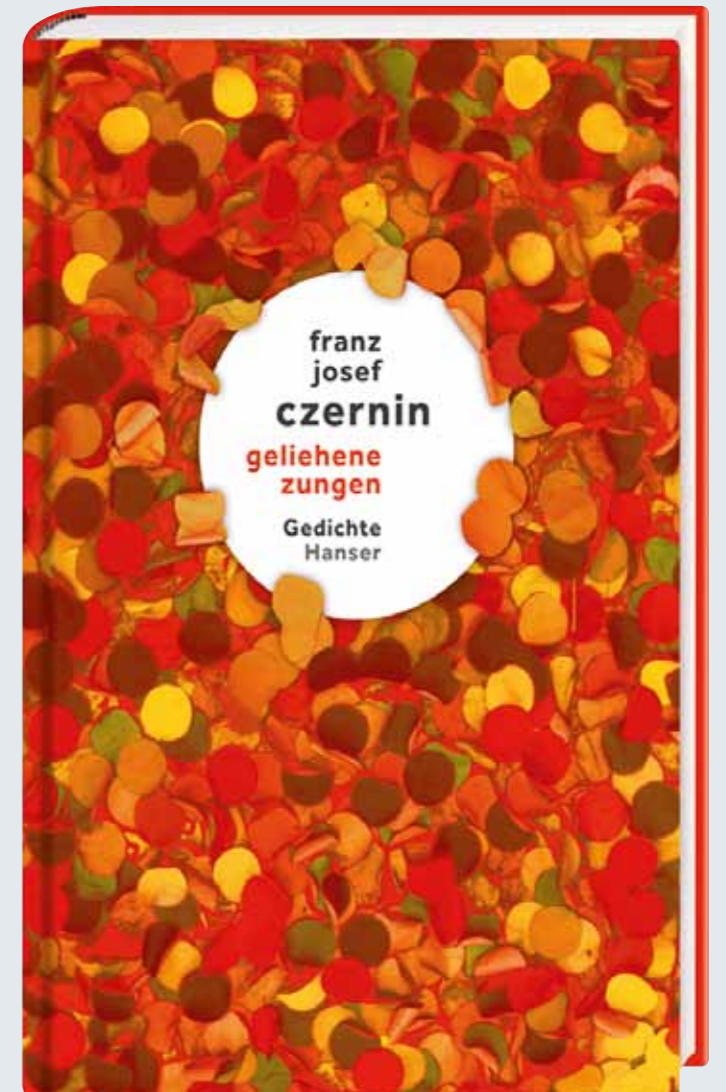
Franz Josef Czernin

who was born in Vienna in 1952, has published prose, poetry, essays and aphorisms since 1978. His work has been awarded the Heimito von Doderer Literature Prize, the Anton Wildgans Prize, the Georg Trakl Prize, the Austrian State Prize for Literary Criticism and the Ernst Jandl Prize, among others. He has been a member of the German Academy for Language and Literature since 2008. Most recent publications by Hanser are *staub. gefässe* (collected poems, 2008), *zungenenglisch. visionen, varianten* (2014) and *reisen, auch winterlich* (poems, 2019).

- Classic poetic devices such as rhythm and rhyme – interpreted in an unexpected way
- Czernin explores major poetic themes like love, art and death

FRANZ JOSEF CZERNIN

New poems by a major voice of the Austrian avant-garde. A self-portrait of the artist as an old man and an exploration of the arts, from opera to circus. Franz Josef Czernin's poems are experimental, playful and surprising; they take on a life of their own. Even where metre and rhyme play a supporting role, his words go their own way. Language speaks to itself – often ambiguous, sometimes absurd and then breathtakingly clear again. Franz Josef Czernin is »always present when two things make a third« (Paul Jandl). Or, as he himself says: »You come up with ideas you didn't know you had. But maybe you only have them when the language for them comes along.«



Sales

All rights available

Franz Josef Czernin

borrowed tongues

Poems

96 pages

September 2023

»An author whose work brings light to dark times using finely-tuned language.«

Felicitas von Lovenberg, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Herta Müller

was born in 1953 in the German-speaking town of Nitzkydorf in Banat, Romania. Her books have won numerous awards. Most recently, she was awarded the Prize for Understanding and Tolerance of the Jewish Museum Berlin and the International Bridge Prize of the European City of Görlitz/Zgorzelec. She was also inaugurated into the Order of Pour Le Mérite. In 2009 she received the Nobel Prize in Literature. Her work has been translated into over 50 languages and is published in German by Hanser. Her most recent publications by Hanser are the collage volumes *Im Heimweh ist ein blaue Saal* (2019) and *The Official Said* (2021).

- Poetic-political speeches by the Nobel Prize laureate
- Herta Müller draws on her life to comment on modern society
- On dignity and freedom, exile and home and the subversive power of laughter
- Written with analytical acuity, literary power and great depth of experience

HERTA MÜLLER

»I can say that the clearest thing I've learned is very simple: Freedom and dignity are always concrete.« Political and literary speeches by the Nobel Prize laureate over the last decade. Urgent and highly topical. Whether Herta Müller refers to the works of Böll, Liao Yiwu or Goldschmidt, or is discussing political events, she always stands up for honesty. She knows the subversive power of laughter, and that there is nothing dictators find so hard to take as the truth. Her view of society does not bend to anyone. When it comes to protecting minorities, the persecuted and those seeking exile, do we stand up for our values.



Sales

All rights available

Herta Müller

A Fly Comes Through a Half Forest

128 pages

July 2023

»A titanically
educated
thinker and
language stylist
of the highest
elegance.«

Eva Menasse, DIE ZEIT



Franz Schuh

was born 1947 in Vienna, studied philosophy, German and history. He is a lecturer at the University for Applied Art in Vienna and a columnist for newspaper and radio stations. He has received many awards including the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2006 and the Bruno-Kreisky Prize in 2021. Most recent publications by Zsolnay: *Fortuna. Aus dem Magazin des Glücks* (2017) and *Lachen und Sterben* (2021).

- A panorama of human tragicomedy
- Those looking for smart, funny writing should read Schuh's texts

FRANZ SCHUH

»From beginning to end, this book is dedicated to the year 2022, an annus horribilis in many people's lives, including mine.« After eleven months spent in different hospitals, the treasured Austrian writer Franz Schuh has returned. His stories, essays, and poems analyse prevailing situations, creating a panorama of human tragicomedy with engaging, sometimes melancholy humour. Whether he reports on his experiences on trains, his childhood in the Viennese suburbs or Anna Netrebko's mixed messages, Schuh's strong tragi-comic sensibility shows that smart humour is his vocation.



Sales

All rights available



Franz Schuh

*A Man Without
Complaints*

On Aesthetics,
Politics and Medicine

240 pages

July 2023

BACKLISHTS HIGHLIGHTS



»The best thing parents can do for their children is not to have them in the first place.«

Verena Keßler

was born in 1988 in Hamburg and lives in Leipzig, where she studied at the German Literary Institute in Leipzig. Her debut novel, *The Ghosts of Demmin*, was nominated for numerous awards and received the Kranichsteiner Youth Literature Fellowship. verena-kessler.com

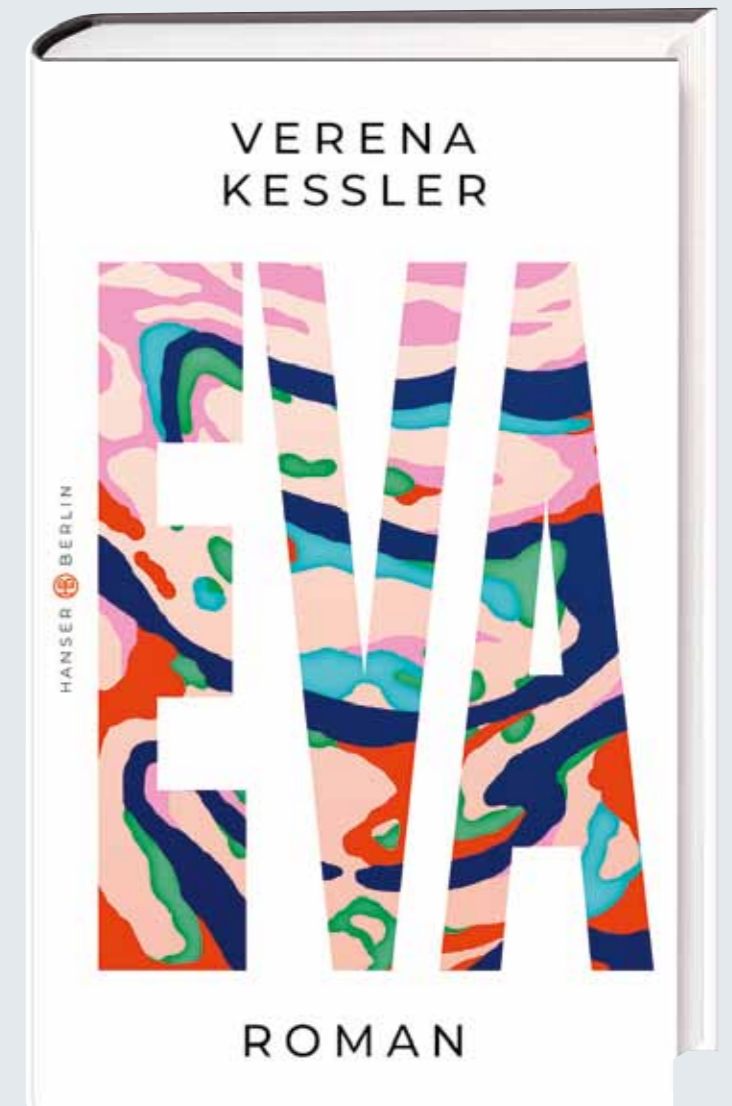
• In succinct and original prose, Verena Keßler's story is about the possibilities and impossibilities of being a woman in the 21st century

• She covers the topics of childbirth and climate change in her nuanced, warm-hearted and profound portrait of motherhood

VERENA KESSLER

English sample translation available

What if Sina can't get pregnant? What if Mona had never had children? Would the world be a better place? Yes, says climate activist Eva Lohaus. She thinks stopping births is the only way to save the planet. As she struggles with the consequences of her radical vision, sisters Sina and Mona wrestle with their own life plans. From afar, they envy each other and close up, they feel pity. But together, they try to resist the responsibility and pressure of expectations. It's not until Mona's new neighbour enters the scene that their view of motherhood starts to change. What arguments can be found for and against having children in today's world? In precise, strikingly pared-down language, Verena Keßler tells a story about four women who eventually find very unique answers to these questions.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Die Gespenster von Demmin: France (Actes Sud), Greece (Kastaniotis Editions), Poland (Książkowe Klimaty)



Verena Keßler

[Eva](#)

208 pages
March 2023



»The book is so superbly effortless, warm and wise, so determined, skilful and free, that reading it is a genuine benefit to you as a person. There are very few books that one finishes thinking about how great it would be to be friends with the author. This is one of them.« Eberhard Rathgeb, DIE ZEIT

Arno Geiger

born in 1968, lives in Vienna and Wolfurt. His works are published by Hanser, most recently *Alles über Sally* (novel, 2010), *The Old King in his Exile* (2011), *Grenzgehen* (Three Speeches, 2011), *Selbstporträt mit Flusspferd* (novel, 2015) and *Unter der Drachenwand* (novel, 2018). He has received, among others, the German Book Prize (2005), the Hölderlin Prize (2011), the Adenauer Foundation Literature Prize (2011), the Alemannic Literature Prize (2017), the Joseph Breitbach Prize (2018), the Bremen Literature Prize (2019) and the European Literary Prijs (2019) awarded in the Netherlands.

• For decades, Arno Geiger lived a double life. Now he tells us all about it

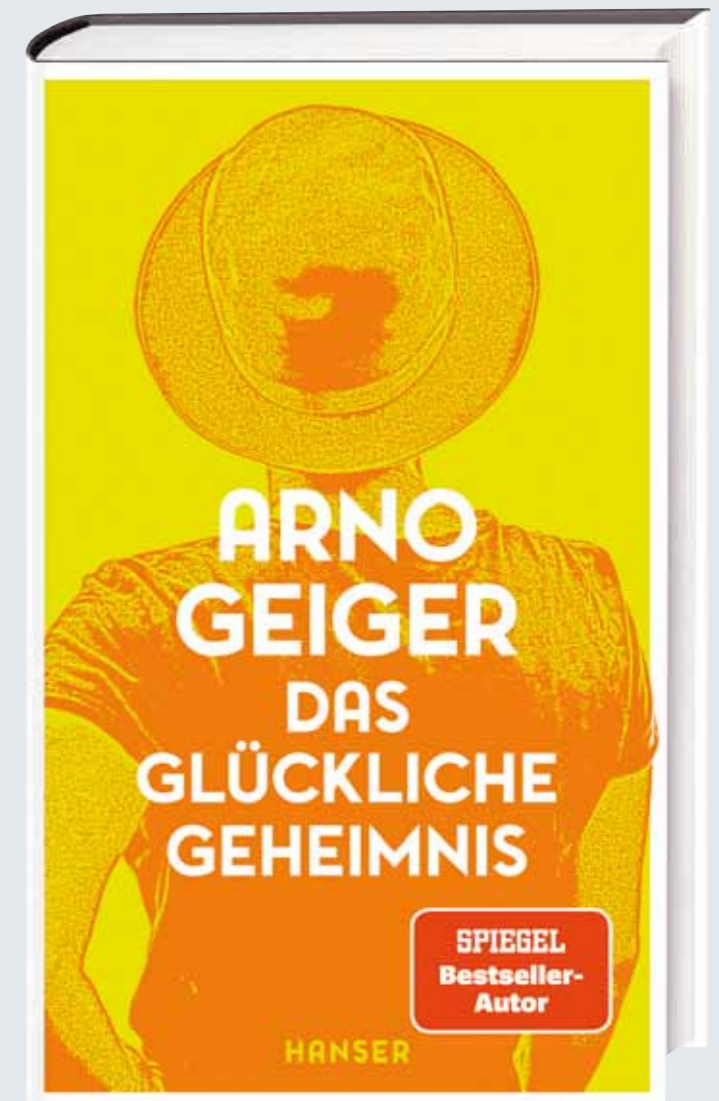
ARNO GEIGER

On the
SPIEGEL
bestseller list

English sample
translation
available

Early one morning, a young man sets off on his bike along the city streets. Where he goes and what he does remains a secret. When he returns, he's exhausted – but often happy. »When you're young, life's a piece of cake.« And yet we all have to find our path through it. Arno Geiger tells the story of how he personally found his way. Of how he did things others decided not to. Of how convoluted, painful and surprising our paths can be, including the one to true love. Of how he hit a wall as a writer before he found success.

And of his mounting worries about his parents. This is a book filled with life experience and street knowledge. It shows an understanding of human nature, love and sorrow. Incisively, and with great humour and openness, Arno Geiger writes of his endeavours, disappointments, discoveries and rejections that culminated in happy success.



Sales

Sweden (Lindelöws)

Arno Geiger

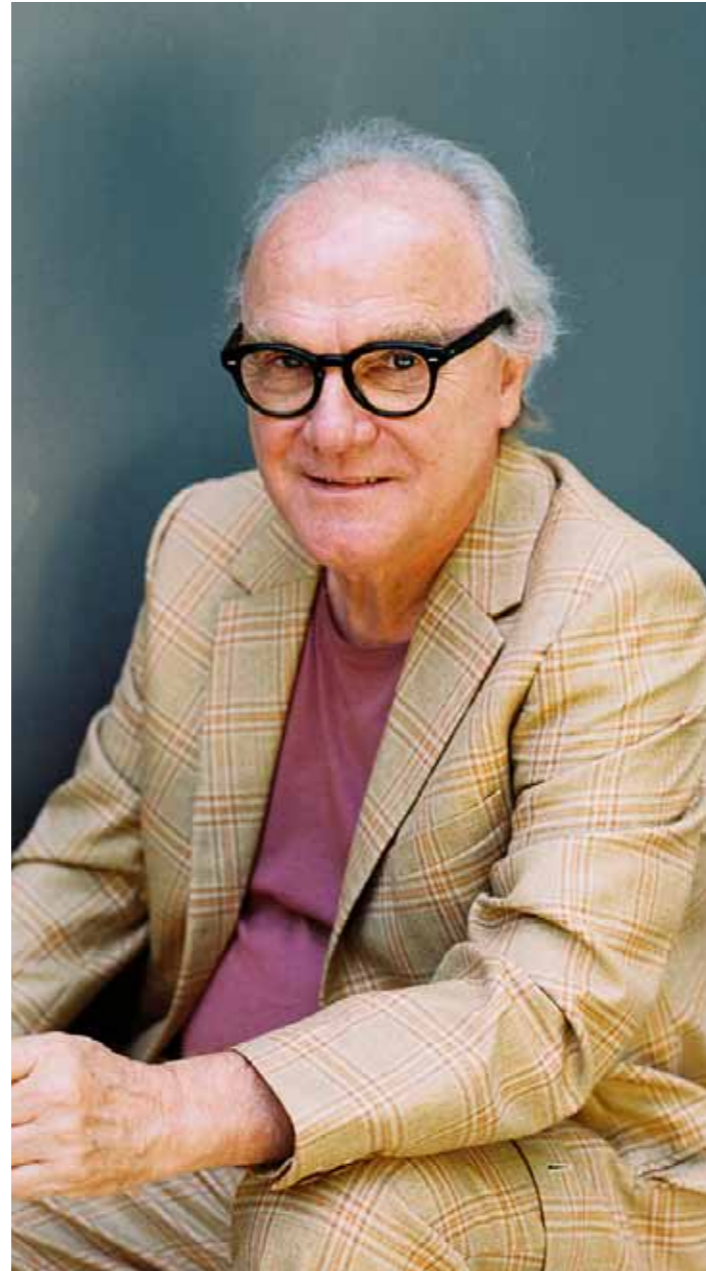
The Happy Secret

240 pages

January 2023

»Köhlmeier
observes
and under-
stands like
no other.«

Sandra Kegel, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Michael Köhlmeier

was born in 1949 in Hard am Bodensee and splits his time between Hohenems and Vienna. Hanser has published a number of his previous works, including *Abendland* (2007), *Two Men on the Beach* (2014), *Brother and Sister Lenobel* (2018), and *Matou* (2021). Köhlmeier has received numerous awards, among them the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Literature Prize, the Ferdinand Berger Prize, and the Marie Luise Kaschnitz Prize for his complete works.

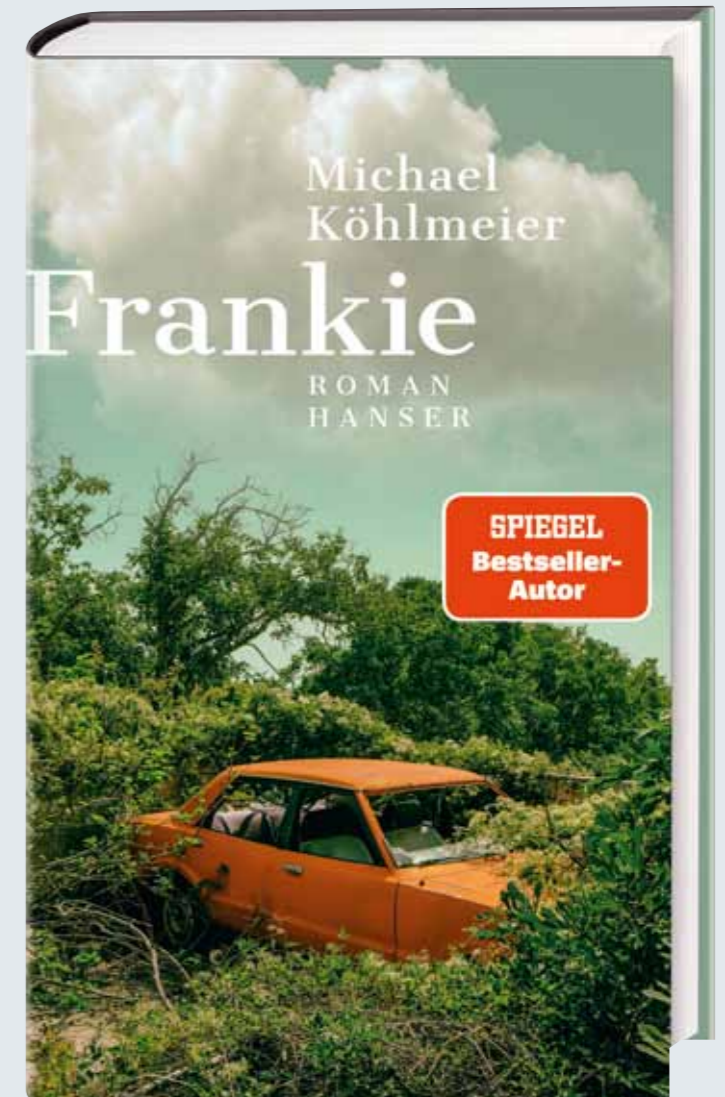
- A teenager, a grandfather just released from prison and a loaded pistol – Michael Köhlmeier poses the question: How do we become adults?
- A madcap roadtrip full of tension and heart

MICHAEL KÖHLMEIER

On the
SPIEGEL
bestseller list

English sample
translation
available

Frank is fourteen and lives in Vienna. He likes to cook and spend evenings at home with his mother. But then his life is turned upside down. His grandfather, whom Frank has only met a handful of times, is released from prison after eighteen years – the sentence for a capital crime. The old man takes command of the boy's life, at times tyrannically and at others, tenderly. He fascinates Frank. In the end, the two face off at a motorway service station. Can Frank escape the influence of this fiendish man? Michael Köhlmeier explores themes like initiation, rebellion, and liberation as well as our eternal fascination with evil in a story about a couple you'll never forget.



Sales

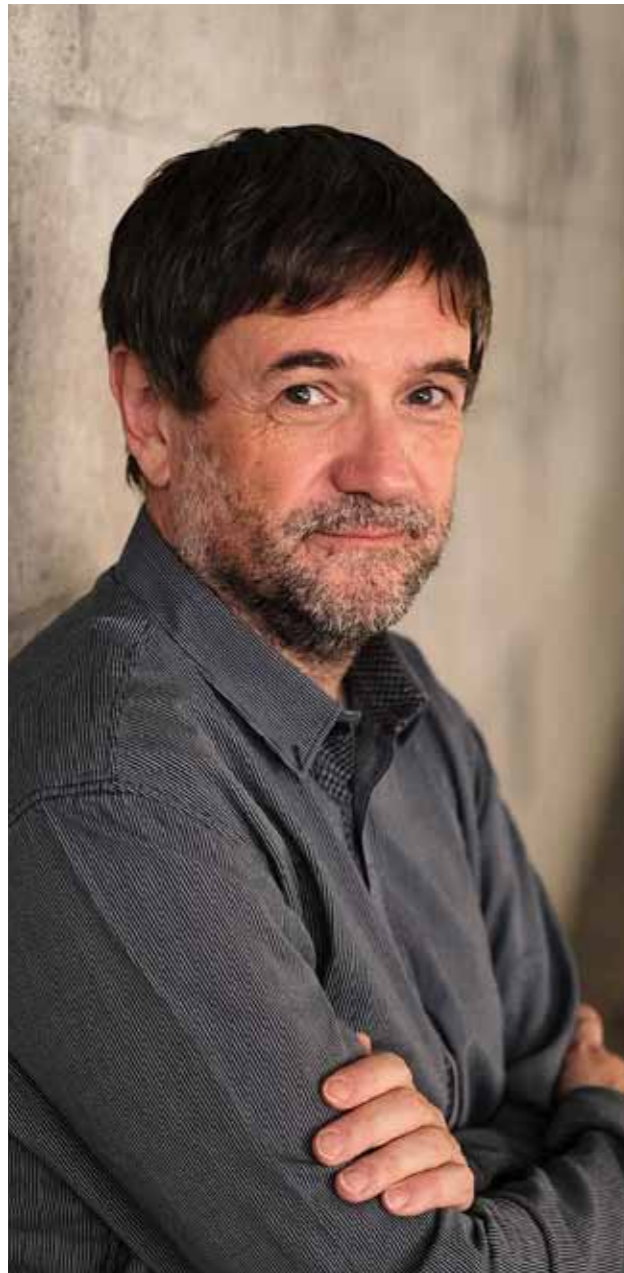
Selected backlist:

Das Mädchen mit dem Fingerhut:

Belarus (Haliyafy), Denmark (Bechs), France (Actes Sud), Iran (Shahab Publications), Italy (Giunti), Norway (Bokvennen), Syria (Dar Ninawa), UK/USA (Haus)

Michael Köhlmeier
Frankie

208 pages
February 2023



»That is what we are doing. We are freeing ourselves. We are living. We are becoming who we are.«

Markus Orths

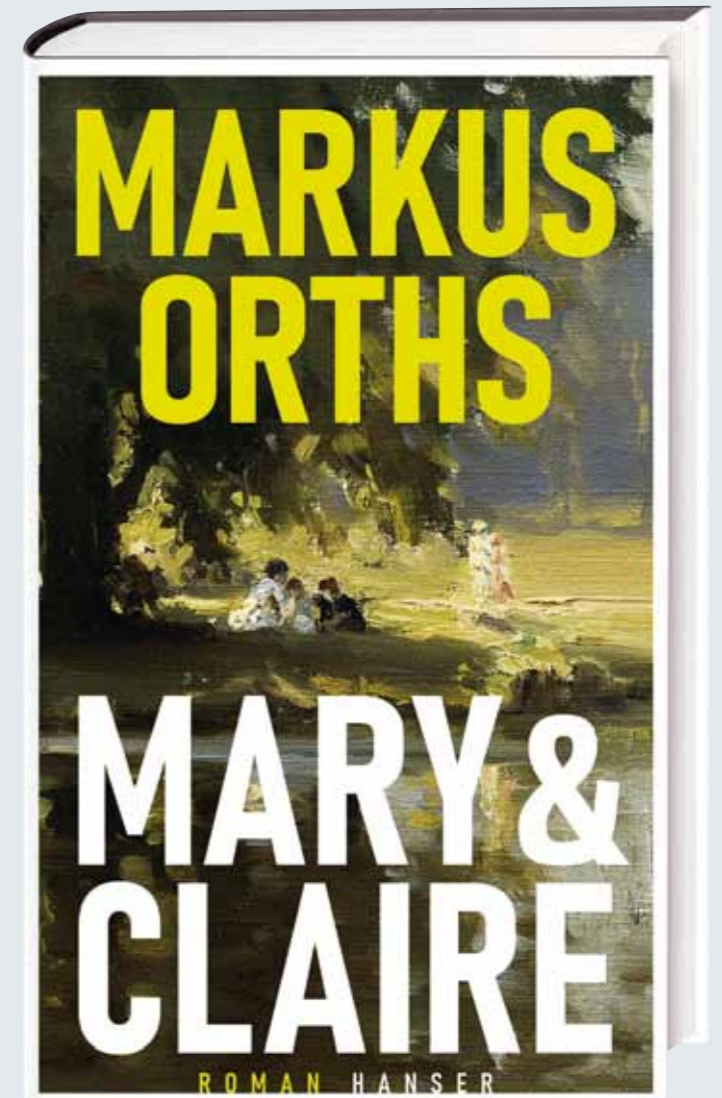
was born in 1969 and studied philosophy, Romance languages and English in Freiburg. Now he lives in Karlsruhe with his wife and three children. His novels have been translated into sixteen languages, and the novel *Das Zimmermädchen* was adapted for cinema in 2015. He has also written several radio plays and children's books. Hanser has published his novels *Max* and *Picknick im Dunkeln*.

- This tale is about success and failure in love, life and literature
- A captivating, elegant novel about the stepsisters and writers Mary Shelley and Claire Clairmont

MARKUS ORTHS

English sample translation available

Mary and Claire are in love with Percy – and Percy is in love with Mary and Claire. He's a romantic who believes that love is a fiery bond connecting everyone. The two women join Percy on a trip to escape the confines of London. All they long for is to breathe freely, travel and read, break loose, love and write. And into their fold, they welcome the most infamous rock star of the early 19th-century literary scene – the young Lord Byron. The four gather in a house on Lake Geneva during a violent thunderstorm. Intoxicated by opium, Byron suggests they play a game. Who can write the scariest story? From then on, Mary and Claire's lives change forever.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Max:

Croatia (OceanMore), Serbia (Sluzbeni Glasnik)

Markus Orths

Mary & Claire

304 pages

February 2023



Annika Reich's new novel, »an intelligent seismograph of today's society.«

Denis Scheck

Annika Reich

born in Munich in 1973, lives in Berlin. She is a writer and columnist for DIE ZEIT online feature »10 nach 8.« She is also the co-founder and artistic director of the action alliance WIR MACHEN DAS und WEITERSCHREIBEN, an award-winning portal for writers from war and crisis zones. Hanser has published her novels *Durch den Wind* (2010), *34 Meter über dem Meer* (2012), *Die Nächte auf ihrer Seite* (2015) and her children's books *Lotto macht, was sie will!* (2016) and *Lotto will was werden* (2018).

- A mysterious lakefront property, a difficult legacy, and five eccentric women in a family who can't stop fighting each other
- On the open secrets and lifelong lies of women who have never learned to show solidarity
- Sensitive, melancholic, warm-hearted and full of energy: a family saga that is resolutely female

ANNIKA REICH

In one family, all the women – whose husbands have died one by one – live together in a splendid lakeside property. Only the enigmatic grandmother knows the full extent of the family's skeletons in the cupboard. But she has always mastered the art of keeping up appearances. When Leni refuses to do just that, she's slowly but surely shown the door. Her sister remains behind and now has to fight the ominous family tradition alone. Annika Reich describes how a family of sisters, mothers, daughters and grandmothers succumb to the treacherous pull of female betrayal, even if what they long for most is to support each other. Then the grandmother dies and the spectres of the past can no longer be hidden.



Sales

All rights available

Annika Reich

Our Men Don't Die

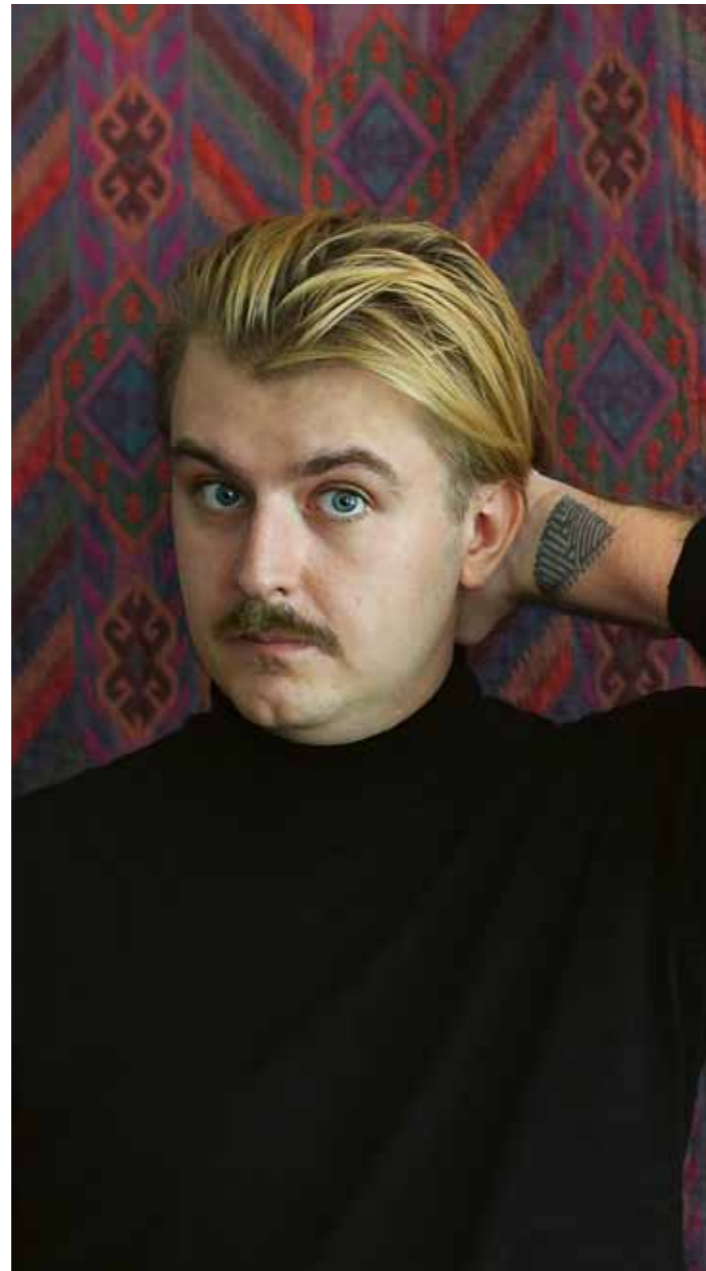
208 pages

February 2023

»You can no more protect yourself from an authoritarian system than you can from God. Because in this world, God lives in Moscow. He decides who survives and who dies.«

»An important book that's being published just at the right time.«

Daniel Schulz



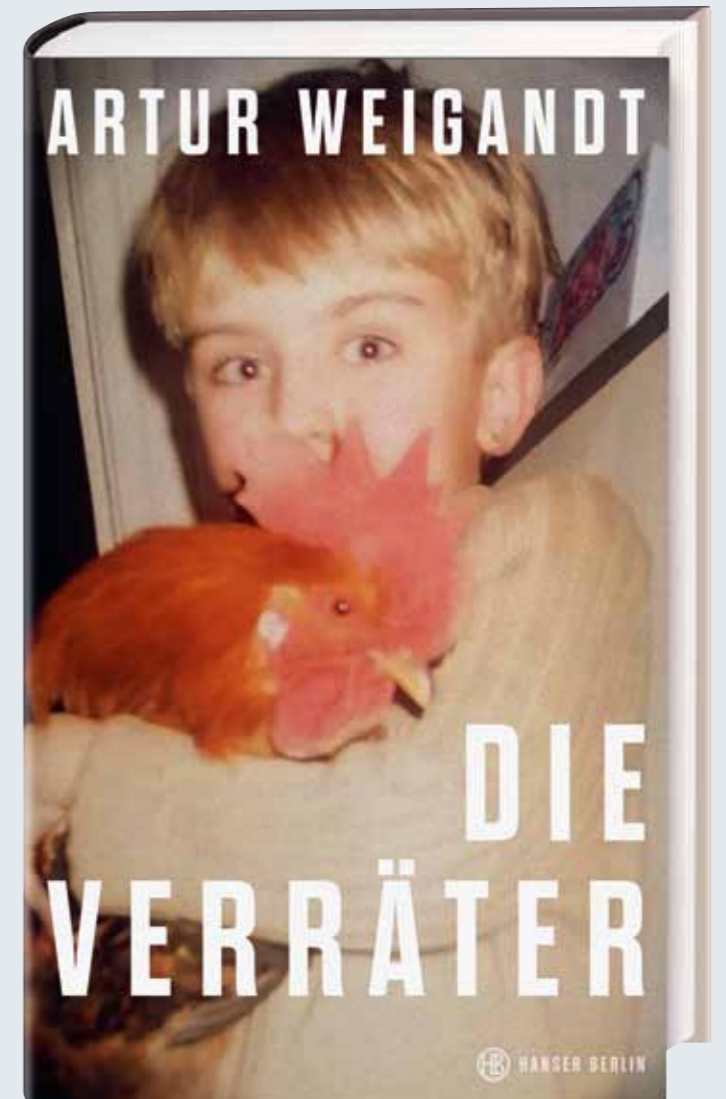
Artur Weigandt

was born in 1994 in Uspenka (Kazakhstan), studied aesthetics in Frankfurt am Main, and has lived in Prague, Kyiv and Tbilisi. He trained at the German School of Journalism in Munich. In 2021, Medium magazine named him one of their »Top 30 under 30« journalists. He has worked for F.A.Z., ZEIT-Magazin, DIE ZEIT and WELT.

- On the collapse of the Soviet Union, the search for one's roots and the war in Ukraine
- Artur Weigandt chronicles the fates of those who have lost their homes and left their country in search of better fortune

ARTUR WEIGANDT

Uspenka is a village in the vast steppe of present-day Kazakhstan, where roads, cows, and people run parallel. The events that took place in Uspenka could have happened anywhere in the USSR: Its people were repressed, coerced and deported. When the Soviet Union collapsed, many of them abandoned Uspenka to start a new life abroad. And thus became traitors to their homeland. Artur Weigandt was born in Uspenka and has written a journalistic novel about this commonplace village and the people who once lived there, in whose memories it lives on. He forces himself to confront his own roots, and vividly describes how frightening home can be, especially when war breaks out.



Sales

All rights available

Artur Weigandt

The Traitors

176 pages
March 2023

»Birgit Birnbacher has a fine feeling for people on the margins, for those who have been thrown off track.«

Christoph Schröder, Süddeutsche Zeitung

»She writes with precision and without false pathos.«

Wiebke Porombka, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Birgit Birnbacher

born in 1985, lives as a sociologist and author in Salzburg. Her debut novel *Wir ohne Wal* was published in 2016 and was awarded the literature prize of the Jürgen Ponto Foundation, the Rauriser Förderungspreis and the Theodor Körner Förderpreis. In 2019 she was awarded the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize. Her novel *Ich an meiner Seite* was published by Zsolnay Verlag in 2020 and was longlisted for the German Book Prize 2020.

• A sensitive literary novel about crucial current issues

• The new novel by Bachmann prizewinner Birgit Birnbacher

BIRGIT BIRNBACHER

English sample translation available

A single error catapults Julia from her nursing job back to her former life in the village where she grew up. There, everything seems even worse than she remembers. The factory where half the community used to work has closed. Her father's health is alarmingly fragile, and after years of sacrifice, her mother has left him and her sick brother to make a fresh start. When Julia meets Oskar, who's recovering from a heart attack, she's envious at first. Oskar's income will tide him over for a year and he's making plans. But what does Julia see for her future?

How can we continue to work in a way that's fulfilling? How can we distribute care work fairly? And how do we want to live in a world in which work no longer needs us? Birgit Birnbacher, a master of »unsentimental empathy« (Judith von Sternburg, Frankfurter Rundschau), uses captivating, lyrical language to ask how and from what we want to live. The Bachmann prizewinner is an adept literary narrator who uses everyday language directly, honestly and sensitively.

What We Live On is a novel about work and family, daughters and mothers – and the rift between boundless individualism and romantic love.



Sales

Selected backlist:

Ich an meiner Seite:

Bulgaria (Black Flamingo), Croatia (Hena Com), Italy (Mar dei Sargassi)



Birgit Birnbacher
What We Live On

192 pages
February 2023



»This
amazingly
short novel
takes your
breath
away.«

Joachim Leitner, Tiroler Tageszeitung

»A wonder-
ful book.«

Myriam Schellbach, HR2 Kultur

»This book
is a godsend.«

Bernd Melichar, Kleine Zeitung

»A moving book
that sticks with
you even when
you set it down.
Birgit Birnbacher
is a quiet but
immensely capti-
vating narrator.«

Frank Pommer, Rheinpfalz

»Thanks to
Birnbacher's
precise eye and
dry humour, a
whole world grows
out of this back-
water. *Wovon wir
leben* is also a
reflection and
sharp analysis
of contemporary
working environ-
ments taken from
real life.«

Martina Läubli, Neue Zürcher Zeitung am Sonntag

»An outstanding example
of contemporary litera-
ture that not only focuses
on its subject but is
linguistically convincing
besides. [...] This novel
should be read with a
pen in the hand; there
is so much to highlight.«

Carsten Otte, Die Zeit online

»Simply
ravishing!«

Gregor Dotzauer, SWR

»Unput-
downable.«

Ariane Heimbach, Brigitte Woman



»What distinguishes Glattauer is not only his wit, but also his eye for extraordinary perspectives.«

Tanja Kummer, SRF

Daniel Glattauer

born in Vienna in 1960, is a journalist and writer. His E-mail novels *Gut gegen Nordwind* (2006) and *Alle sieben Wellen* (2009) became international bestsellers and were translated into 40 languages. Further books are *Darum* (2003), *Der Weihnachtshund* (2004), *Ewig Dein* (2012) and *Geschenkt* (2014) and some theatre plays such as *Die Wunderübung* (2014), *Vier Stern Stunden* (2018) and *Die Liebe Geld* (2020).

- Exposing society's double standards
- New novel by the author of the international bestsellers *Gut gegen Nordwind* and *Alle sieben Wellen*

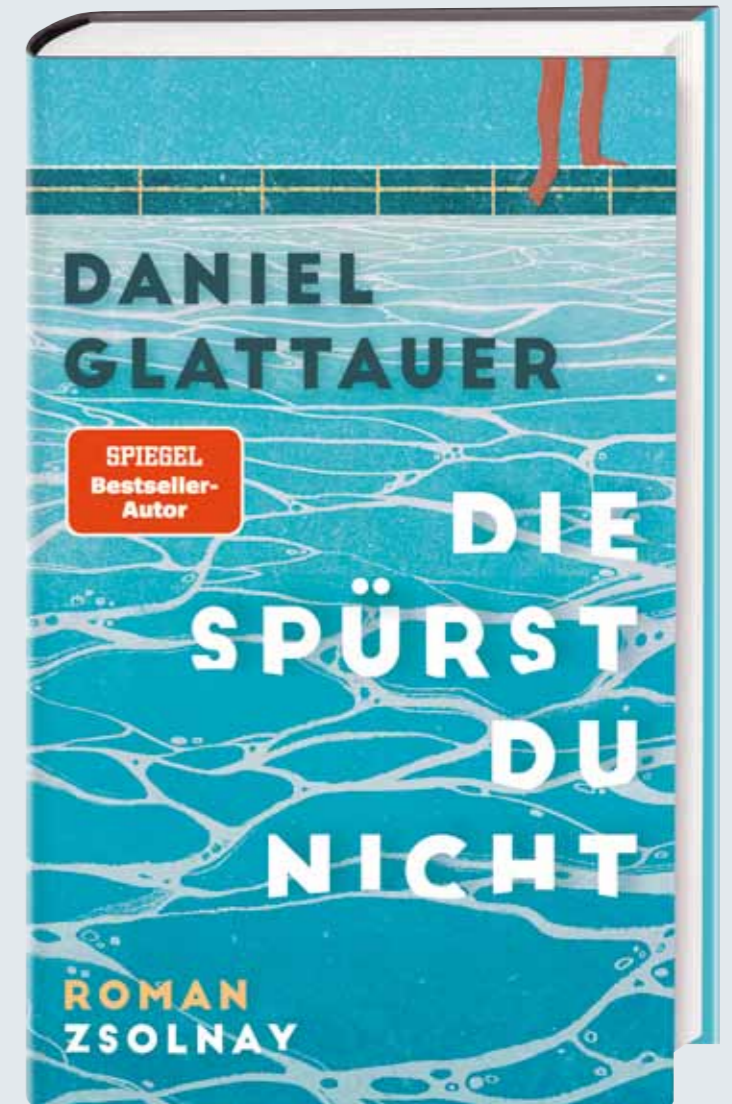
DANIEL GLATTAUER

English sample translation available

Two families, the Binders and the Strobl-Marineks, are treating themselves to a luxury holiday in Tuscany. Engelbert Binder is a charming wine-maker, his considerably younger wife Melanie a failed actress. Oskar Marinek is a cynical humanities scholar, and his wife Elisa Strobl-Marinek is a successful politician for the Green Party. Sophie Luise, the Strobl-Marinek's teen daughter, has brought along a schoolmate to fight the boredom. Her name is Aayana, a child refugee from Somalia. But no sooner has the holiday mood begun with chilled prosecco and antipasti than catastrophe strikes.

You Don't See Them is a novel about relationships in the style we have come to expect from Glattauer. And it's a court drama – a genre he is particularly apt at writing after working for years as a court reporter.

The novel uses many text styles (blog posts, E-mails, comments, newspaper articles and dialogues) and thus presents a 'best-of' in Glattauer's repertoire. Glattauer uses these elements to take a snapshot of morality in a privileged society, exposing its double standards and lending a voice to those who have virtually none.



Sales
Italy (Feltrinelli)

Sold into 40 languages



Daniel Glattauer
You Don't See Them

304 pages
March 2023

»Daniel Glattauer's excellently-told novel is revealing and wrestles with prejudices and cultural misunderstandings.«

Irene Prugger, Wiener Zeitung

»Glattauer builds up an almost thriller-like tension and pulls out all the stops in his writing. His characters so lifelike, their circumstances familiar to the reader: school bullying and marital problems, work stress and lack of time. He constantly changes his writing style. The dialogues between characters are particularly brilliant, at times biting and always pointed.«

Ute Krebs, Chemnitzer Freie Presse

»Daniel Glattauer is a shrewd, well-versed, brilliantly gifted entertainer ... as always with Glattauer, I couldn't stop reading.«

Eva Menasse, ZDF Literarisches Quartett

»A great comeback, his fine linguistic wit makes you unable to put the book down.«

Münchner Merkur

»A thrilling family tragedy that dares to tackle big social issues. A gripping read!«

Juli Zeh, ZDF Literarisches Quartett

»A varied and entertaining story you follow almost breathlessly.«

Maren Ahring, NDR Kultur



Franzobel's new novel is an enchanting trip through a wild era. It is also the biography of a simple but unusual man, who went on the longest road trip with Einstein's brain.

Franzobel

born in 1967, is one of Austria's most popular writers. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize (1995), the Arthur Schnitzler Prize (2002) and the Nicolas Born Prize (2017). Most recent publications by Zsolnay are the novels *Das Floß der Medusa*, which was short-listed for the German Book Prize 2017 and won the Bavarian Book Prize in 2017, *Die Eroberung Amerikas* (2021) and the crime novels *Groschens Grab* (2015) and *Rechtswalzer* (2019).

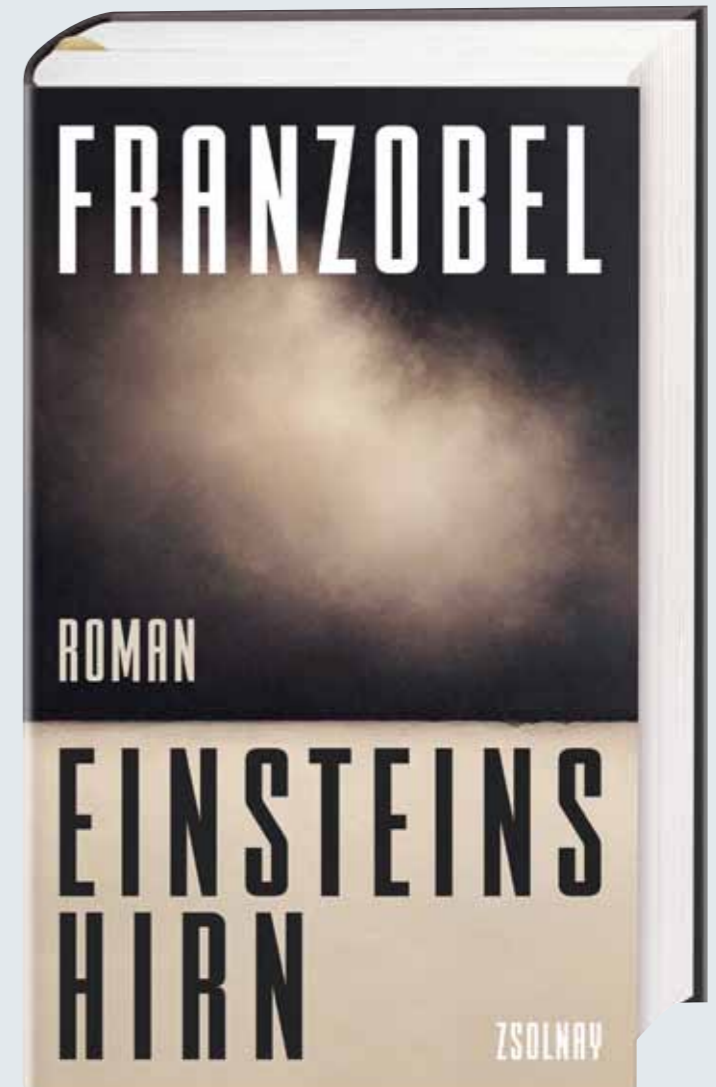
- An imaginary true story
- An ingenious road trip through 50 years of American history in the 20th century

FRANZOBEL

Albert Einstein died shortly after midnight on 18 April 1955 at Princeton Hospital, New Jersey. According to his wishes, his body was cremated and his ashes scattered at an unknown location. But beforehand, pathologist Thomas Harvey removed Einstein's brain. »I intend to discover the seat of genius in it,« he swore. No matter what his circumstances, it accompanied him on his wanderings through smalltown America for the next 42 years.

Harvey and the brain witness John F. Kennedy's election as president, the first moon landing, Woodstock and Watergate, and the end of the Vietnam War. Then at some point, the brain starts talking to him. Harvey is hounded by Einstein's estate to publish the results of his investigations, but he always eludes the task. »Such a brain is a globe on which all continents are still undiscovered,« he believes. Together they visit a rabbi in New York and Einstein's great love Margarita Konenkova in Moscow. They eat spaghetti with Andy Warhol, watch the televised moon landing, celebrate Woodstock and discuss climate change with Oprah Winfrey.

English sample translation available

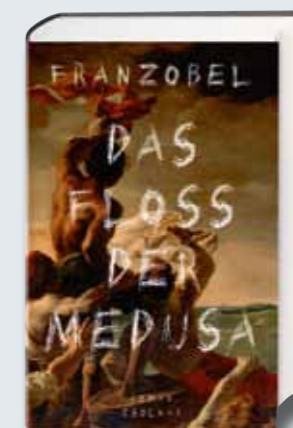


Sales

Selected backlist:

Das Floß der Medusa:

Denmark (Turbine), France (Flammarion), Italy (Saggiatore), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Romania (EuroPress)



Franzobel
Einstein's Brain
542 pages
January 2023



»A funny history of the world.«

Sebastian Fuchs, Welt

»A furious reading pleasure like Forrest Gump once was.«

Wolfgang Popp, Austrian Broadcasting

»Franzobel creates a true road movie full of beautiful, atmospheric insights into provincial America and the sore soul of an ordinary man who can't stop dreaming of a great future and the fame he might gain thanks to Einstein's brain.«

Bernd Noack, Nürnberger Nachrichten

»A hilariously funny book and a truly picaresque adventure.«

Katharina Teutsch, Deutschlandfunk Büchermarkt

»Franzobel has noticeably taken great pleasure in writing this novel. It bursts with absurdities and is full of witty ideas, while at the same time showing the darker side of its protagonists.«

Joachim Dicks, NDR Kultur

»This mischievous novel of the 20th century not only makes you laugh a lot, but also teaches you a great deal about Einstein's documented and fictionalized thoughts.«

Thomas Kliemann, General-Anzeiger Bonn

»Franzobel is a phenomenon.«

Alexander Košenina, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



»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 Aurore in Los Angeles.

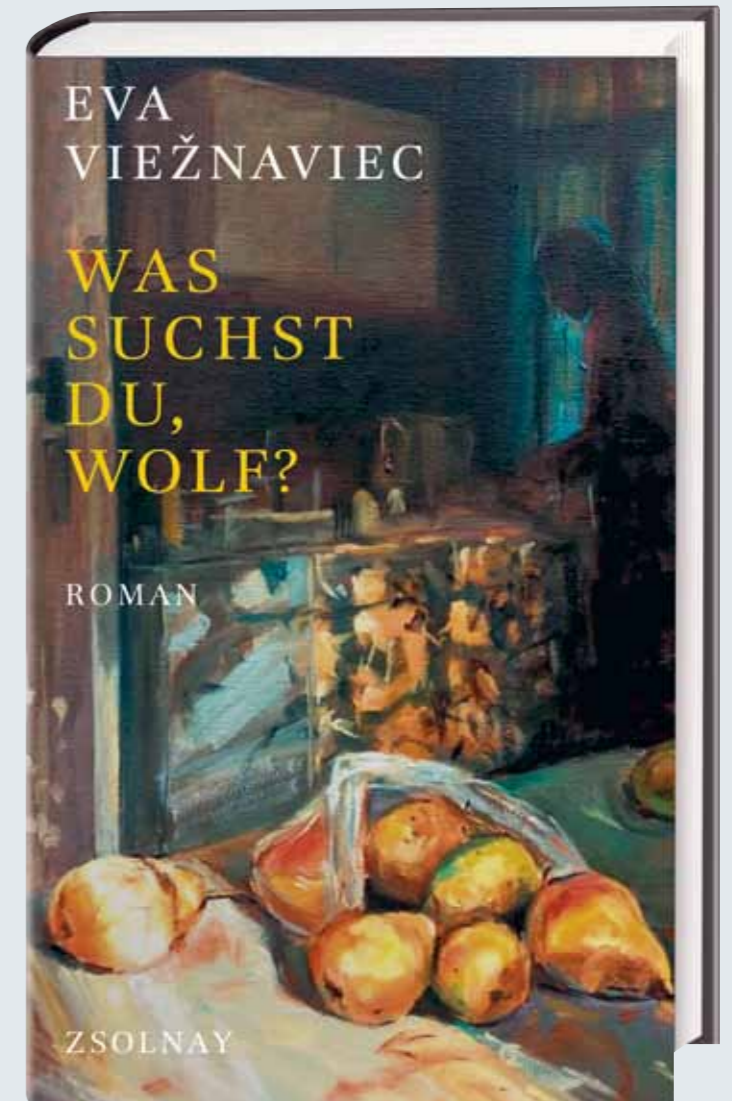
- An epic contained in a small volume
- A tribute to the women of a whole generation

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), Sweden (Ersatz)

Eva Viežnaviec

*What Is It You
Seek, Wolf?*

(Original Belarusian title:
Па што ідзе, 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 20th 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

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