



**FOREIGN
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**FICTION
SPRING
2026**

HANSER LITERATURVERLAGE

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NEW RELEASES
FICTION

A portrait of Norbert Gstrein, a middle-aged man with short hair and a slight beard, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. He is sitting outdoors with his arms crossed, leaning against a stone wall. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with some greenery and a wooden post. The text 'NORBERT GSTREIN' is in white, and 'IN THE FIRST LIGHT' is in red, both in a bold, sans-serif font.

NORBERT GSTREIN IN THE FIRST LIGHT

»Norbert Gstrein is one of the most elegant stylists among German-language authors. His winding, finely rhythmical, and consistently lyrical sentences possess a seductively lulling quality – so much so that one often only realizes in retrospect what unsettling truths the author occasionally slips past his readers.« SWR

»For years, Norbert Gstrein has been one of the most dependable sources of literary excellence.« NDR

Two world wars,
one century –
a fiercely
individual life
shaped by beauty,
tragedy, and
contradiction



Norbert Gstrein

was born in Tyrol in 1961, and lives in the North of Germany, close to the Danish border. Recent publications with Hanser include the novels *Die kommenden Jahre* (2018), *Als ich jung war* (2019), *Der zweite Jakob* (2021) and *Vier Tage, drei Nächte* (2022) as well as the collection of essays *Mehr als nur ein Fremder* (2023).

- Born in 1900, two world wars: the lifetime of a century full of beauty, tragedy and decisions
- This historical novel spanning the 20th century is acutely relevant now
- A great literary author at the height of his powers

NORBERT GSTREIN

English sample translation available

Norbert Gstrein offers us the entirety of a human life – although every existence is fragile in this novel that begins with a blow from an axe: Adrian's father renders him unfit to fight in the First World War – perhaps even saves his life in so doing. The wonder of this story lies in the bull-headed, tender person who limps through eighty years of life from this point onwards. Adrian twice sees his whole world collapse, twice has dealings with young men who have had less luck than he has, and, in his old age, experiences an unhopd-for love story, despite being a man who was taught everything except how to love. How can one live in the shadow of war and killing? With its fearless examination of the past, *In the First Light* raises this major question of our present day.



Sales
France (Bourgeois)

Norbert Gstrein
In the First Light
416 pages
February 2026



»One of the best German writers.«

Anna Prizkau, FAS

Abbas Khider

was born in Baghdad in 1973. He was imprisoned at the age of 19 due to his political activities. After his release, he fled Iraq and spent time in several different countries. He has been living in Germany since the year 2000, and studied literature and philosophy in Munich and Potsdam. He has received numerous awards for his work, most recently the Berlin Literature Prize. His publications with Hanser include *Ohrfeige* (novel, 2016), *Deutsch für alle* (2019), *Palast der Miserablen* (novel, 2020) and *Der Erinnerungsfälscher* (novel, 2022).

- A poetic and allegorical book about how totalitarian rule pervades everyday life
- Abbas Khider's pigeon-loving young Noah is an unforgettable character
- A thrilling story full of powerful images – Abbas Khider was a pigeon fancier himself when he was young

ABBAS KHIDER

English sample translation available

This is a poetic and allegorical book about how totalitarian rule pervades everyday life. Noah is fourteen years old, and a pigeon fancier. One day, he finds his beloved animals fluttering anxiously through the air: the helicopters of the caliphate are circling above the city. Noah will live through a summer full of upheavals: he has to blacken out female body parts on product photos for his father, his older brother is promoted to the position of head of a security agency, his mother and sister are no longer allowed to leave the house on their own – and soon, the lives of his pigeons are under threat. With great tenderness and a fine sense of humour, *The Pigeons' Last Summer* tells a story about the loss of childhood and becoming an adult in a society governed by despotism and violence. A thrilling story full of powerful images – a major new novel by Abbas Khider, who was himself a pigeon fancier when he was young.



Sales

Selected Backlist:

Der Erinnerungsfälscher: Bulgaria (Black Flamingo), Denmark (Straarup & Co)



Abbas Khider
The Pigeons' Last Summer
216 pages
January 2026



»Novels don't usually contain so much infinity. A major novel of ideas from one of our most enjoyable contemporary authors.«

Clemens J. Setz

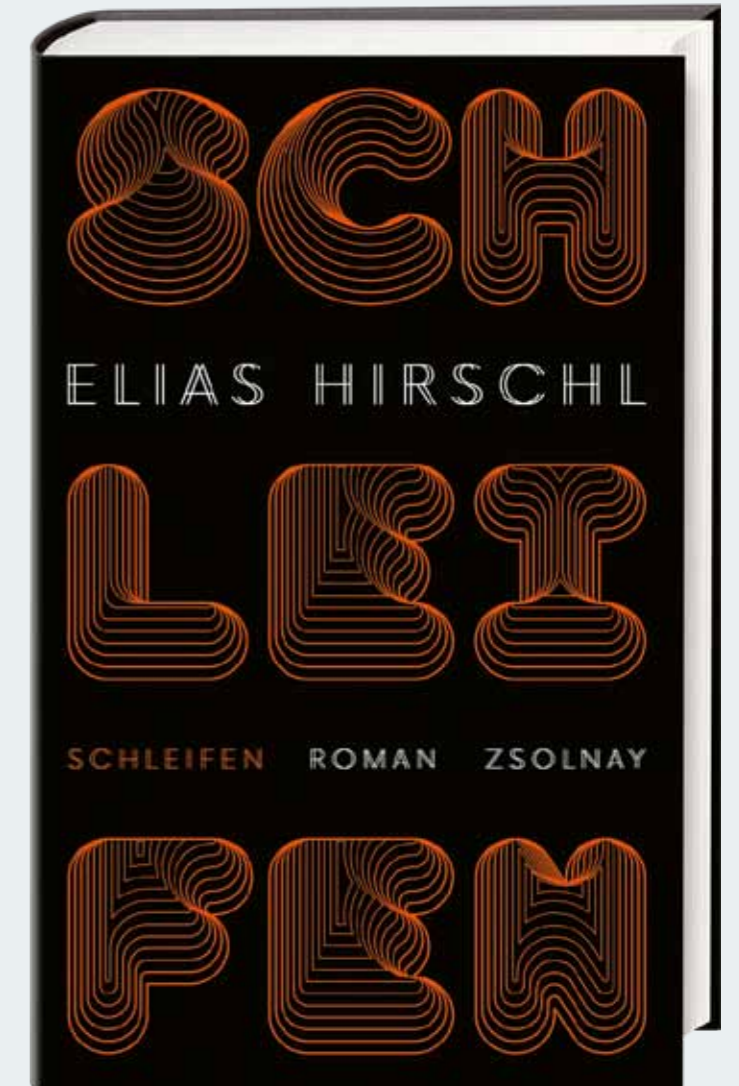
Elias Hirschl was born in Vienna in 1994. He works as a writer, slam poet and musician. He received the Reinhard Priessnitz Prize in 2020. His publications include *Hundert schwarze Nähmaschinen* (2017), and most recently published by Zsolnay *Salonfähig* (2021) and *Content* (2024).

- The philologist Franziska Denk and the mathematician Otto Mandl: a fictional couple for the ages
- Searching for the perfect language – a shrewd literary game

ELIAS HIRSCHL

English sample translation available

Franziska Denk grows up in the orbit of the Vienna Circle, and suffers as a child from a peculiar illness: she immediately develops any symptom she hears or reads about. The young Franziska finds a soulmate in Otto Mandl, a brilliant mathematician, and learns to immunise herself against her affliction using words from dead languages. The pair develop an absolute obsession with language, and embark on a search together for the perfect language – a search that takes them to all imaginable limits. *Schleifen* is a great, an astute novel about power and the influence of language on our lives, which is also genuinely fun to read. In Elias Hirschl's writing, the sheerly impossible constantly turns out to be true – and the rest is extremely skilfully imagined.



Sales
All rights available



Elias Hirschl
Loops
416 pages
January 2026



Birgit Birnbacher

»Birgit Birnbacher has a keen sense for the marginal, for people who have been thrown off course. She tells in an at once restrained and crystal clear, diaphanous and subtle style.«

Christoph Schröder, Süddeutsche Zeitung

»She writes with precision and without false pathos.«

Wiebke Porombka, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»The language has a laconicism that hides a blazing fire.«

Peer Teuwsen, NZZ am Sonntag

»This book examines the most exciting and challenging thing there is – entirely normal life.«

Günter Kaindlstorfer, ORF





»When everything stays normal,
he sometimes thinks: this is going
to be a catastrophe.«

Birgit Birnbacher, born in 1985 and 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. Zsolnay published her novels *Ich an meiner Seite* (2020) which was longlisted for the German Book Prize and *Wovon wir leben* (2023).

- A sensitive, literary novel about life with neurodiversity
- A major new novel by the winner of the Bachmann Prize

BIRGIT BIRNBACHER

Oz is different and finds school difficult – but this time, something really bad has happened. On his way home, he longs for at least a small catastrophe that might distract his mother from the teacher’s letter he has to give to her. When Oz gets home, Ann – who has the same fluttering nerves as her son – is not, as expected, ready to celebrate his school report: something really has happened. Grandma Zilly, who lives in the mountains, has disappeared ... Birgit Birnbacher’s new novel once more tells, in an »at once restrained and crystal clear, diaphanous and subtle« (Süddeutsche Zeitung) style, a story of people – and of the opportunities opened up by letting your thoughts grow wild. Might people who aren’t able to conform actually have something to oppose to our overwrought nature and environment?



Sales

Selected backlist:

Wovon wir leben: Croatia (Leykam International), Italy (Mar dei Sargassi)



Birgit Birnbacher
They Want to Tell Us

224 pages
March 2026

About growing up in the in-between – told with tenderness, humour, and deceptive ease



Safia Al Bagdadi

was born in 1979 in Saarbrücken, and has been living in Paris since 2008. She studied acting at the Konservatorium in Vienna and communication studies in Munich; she is an actor and author.

Safia Al Bagdadi: safiamonney.com, on Instagram and on Facebook

- There couldn't be a more heartwarming and accessible tale of life between different cultures
- A tragicomic family epic in which the reader will want to hug every character
- For readers of Joachim Meyerhoff and Alina Bronsky

SAFIA AL BAGDADI

English sample translation available

Layla's parents are the most glamorous couple in the world – or in Saarbrücken, at any rate. Her Iraqi father is constantly coming up with spectacularly doomed business ideas, while simultaneously promising his astonished family that they will move to New York, acquire a house with a slide on the Tigris, and all in all have a wonderful future. Her French mother, in contrast, comes from the poshest bourgeoisie, has rebelled against her own parents, but still perfumes herself with Chanel N°5. Everything about this family is destined to go wrong, and yet for a few childhood years manages to be tremendously easy and beautiful. But then, in 1990, the Gulf War breaks out. Reality catches up with Layla's father, and he becomes a stranger. Safia Al Bagdadi tells a moving, funny and deceptively simple tale of growing up in between cultures.



Sales
All rights available

Safia Al Bagdadi
Our House with the Slide
320 pages
February 2026

FRANKA* **A Slap in the Face for the Cause of Women**

MOSCH **Nothing Quite Fits Anymore**

JACKY* **The Math Didn't Add Up**

ANNA **I Have a Countdown Inside Me**

FRANKA* II **The Price of Exhaustion**

LANA **Half a Life**

ANTONIA **And Suddenly Everything Is Fine**

MARICA **Slowness Is a Friend**

CARO **A Life at My Own Pace**

LENA* **Discipline and Anarchy**

SARALISA **I'm Fucking Chalant**

YAEL **No Longer Cute**

LANA II **The Most Fearful Wish I Could Have**

MARION **Loneliness**

FRIEDERIKE **The Right to Live Wrong**

ANTONIA II **Stressed Vibes**

CAROLINE **As If I Were Leading a Double Life**

LOUISE* **Enigmatic Desire**

JULIA* **The World Is Burning Around Me**

JOHANNA* **I Don't Want to Take Anything Else On**

KATHARINA* **I Don't Want to Be Any More Visible**

CAROLIN **Out of the Mouse Hole**

RARRARA **.Jobs? What .Jobs?**

*name changed

Lina Muzur

was born in 1980 in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina), has been the publishing director of Hanser Berlin since 2019, and was part of the *10nach8* editorial collective at Zeit Online, for which she wrote articles herself from 2016 to 2025. Her publications as editor include, among others, *Sagte sie. 17 Erzählungen über Sex und Macht* (2018).

- A modern survey of a whole generation of women – and a collective portrait of female reality
- 33 voice messages from women who have reached the middle of their lives, and are speaking intimately about their real concerns
- A book that feels like chatting to a friend: intimate, familiar, inspiring

LINA MUZUR (ED.)

How do women live today? How do they deal with strokes of fate, with social change, with growing older, with exhaustion? This book is an attempt to take stock, in which women themselves are given a voice. Women who are furious, who are single mothers, who have lost their homes, their parents, their heads. They have little or big children, and they love them, but they are broken. They're doing fine, they say. They've been lucky in life, they say. They need their friends more than ever, they say. 33 voice messages from women who have reached the middle of their lives, and in which they speak openly, intimately and semi-anonymously about everything that used to be disdainfully referred to as women's problems. A choir of female voices, which paints an unfiltered and radical picture of where a whole generation is at.



Sales
All rights available



Lina Muzur (Ed.)
Women's Problems
33 New Messages
224 pages
January 2026

»David Vajda has a rare gift for rendering characters with an exactness so true that it strikes the very heart of the target.«

Philipp Tingler



David Vajda

was born in Munich in 1989 and studied philosophy and political science in London and Cambridge. He has written freelance journalism for, among others, the Guardian, the Financial Times Magazine and Reportagen, and has published short stories in Edit and DUMMY. His first feature film, which he co-directed with his brother, premiered at the 71st Berlinale Film Festival. He was awarded a Work Stipend for German Literature by the Berlin Senate for his debut novel *Diamanten*. David Vajda now works as a freelance author and director, and divides his time between Berlin and Vienna.

<https://davidvajda.com/>

- A linguistically dazzling, tenderly serious debut, which is brought to life by the quirky charm of its distinctive characters
- A tragicomic family portrait full of warmth and wit about the impossibility of grief
- Four siblings grow up between the post-Yugoslavian artistic avant-garde and the cold German upper classes

DAVID VAJDA

English sample translation available

He calls them Mačak – tomcats – or his gems. Sometimes idiots too, when they don't understand his jokes. But however many names their ex-Yugoslav father gives them, however many legs of lamb and wine he serves up, he is not able to fill the hole left behind by their mother's death. In his tragicomic debut, David Vajda tells the story of four adult siblings and their eccentric family, scattered all over the world, between the bohemian life and the German upper classes, between Berlin and Hollywood. They meet up in Greece for their uncle's opulent wedding, in Belgrade at Tito's grave, in Provence with their esoteric aunt – but the one thing they can't seem to do is grieve. They'd rather escape into sarcasm or into the grotesque, and indulge in easy ways of passing the time. A unique first novel: funny, tender, and serious.



Sales
All rights available

David Vajda
Gems
176 pages
February 2026

»Sooner or later, we all must choose a version of the truth, and we must stay with that truth.«



Cihan Acar was born in 1986 near Heilbronn, where he now lives with his family. He studied law in Heidelberg, and moved for a time to Istanbul and Berlin in order to dedicate himself to writing. His novel *Hawaii* was published in 2020, and received the Doppel-feld Foundation's Literature Prize, the Thaddäus Troll Prize and a literature grant from the Land of Baden Württemberg.
<https://www.instagram.com/cihanacar3000/>

- **A German-Turkish Succession set in the provinces: power, gambling, loyalty, and betrayal**
- **With elegance and a panoramic eye, Cihan Acar tells of the abysses of a family whose reputation and prosperity rest on shaky ground**

CIHAN ACAR

Cumali Karagöz is an important man in Steinheim, admired by many, feared by others, and who some would like to see behind bars. Having grown rich thanks to his gambling business, he lives in a pompous mansion with his family: his wife Hannah, who struggles with her role as a housewife, and dreams of escape; his daughter Zaha, who idealises and worships him; and his son Ediz, who suffers from social phobia. When Cumali decides to open a huge casino with a novel concept, the mood in the town turns, and the family suddenly finds itself in the stocks. An epic German-Turkish family novel – and the story of a man with delusions of grandeur, who swings back and forth between rise and fall, longing and greed, guilt and innocence. And who, in so doing, confronts his family with the decisive question of which side it is on.



Sales
All rights available



Cihan Acar
Casino
224 pages
February 2026



»But, in reality, I had lava in my heart and a machine gun in my breast.«

Maja Iskra

was born in 1981 in former Yugoslavia, and studied landscape architecture in Belgrade, Vienna and Valencia, and transmedial art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. She lives and works in Vienna. *Uppercut* is her first novel.

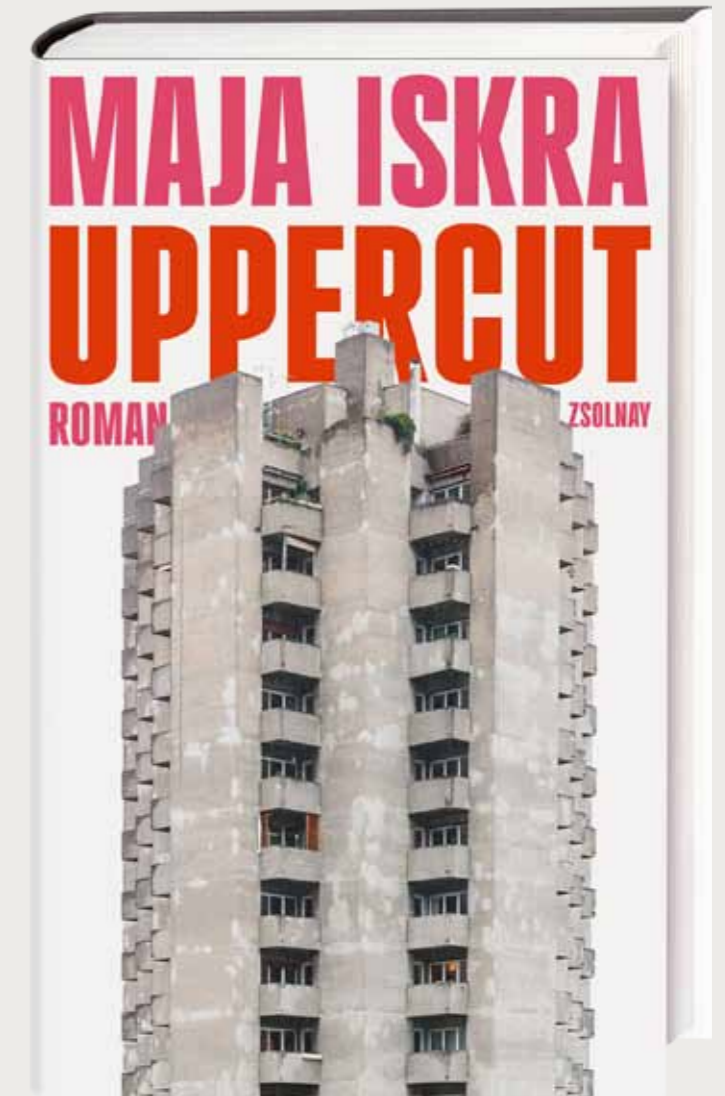
- A childhood caught between violence, friendship, love and solidarity

- A tale of emancipation in 1990s Belgrade

- A powerful and emotional debut

MAJA ISKRA

Punchy, challenging, and hard-hitting. What is true of an uppercut, also applies to Maja Iskra's debut novel of the same name. Its protagonist, a successful young woman who lives and loves in Vienna, remembers her childhood in 1990s Belgrade. The war is almost only perceptible here as background noise, but life at home, out on the street and in school is hard and brutal – even the girls beat each other up. But they also patch things up with each other again, and learn to respect and encourage each other. They don't give up. Moving, and written in an almost telegraphic style and with a barrage of pop-cultural and literary references, *Uppercut* celebrates the victory of a whole generation over adverse conditions.



Sales

(Original Serbian edition: Lom, Belgrade)
France (Plan B)

Maja Iskra

Uppercut
(Original Serbian title:
Aperkat)
160 pages
February 2026

»A novel of shattering tenderness, exploring origins, motherhood, and the beauty standards that have long held women captive. A book that echoes long after it is finished.«

Mareike Fallwickl



Betty Boras

was born in 1984 in Arad in Romania, and emigrated to Germany as a child. She studied German, philosophy and Spanish in Tübingen, works as a secondary school teacher, and lives with her husband and two children near Stuttgart. *Das schönste aller Leben* is her first novel.
Betty Boras: <https://www.instagram.com/betty-boras/>

- A gripping and stirring debut novel about motherhood, migration and self-determination
- The best-connected blogger in the Bookstagram community

BETTY BORAS

Shortly after the fall of the dictatorship, Vio and her parents flee from the Romanian Banat region to Germany. Try to fit in, and whatever you do, don't get attract attention – this is the price to pay for arriving in a new country, and hard work and beauty are its currency. Despite all obstacles, Vio finds her place in society. When however, years later, her two-year-old daughter is scarred by an accident, Vio's self-reproach threatens to break her. In the 18th century, Theresia must pay a high price for being viewed as desirable.

She ends up in the sights of the chastity commission, and finds herself disenfranchised and abducted. Both women carry within them the earth of Banat, weaving a story of suffering and beauty between the centuries.



Sales

All rights available

Betty Boras

The Most Beautiful of Lives

240 pages
February 2026

Rafik Schami's
new novel –
a luminous
blaze of love

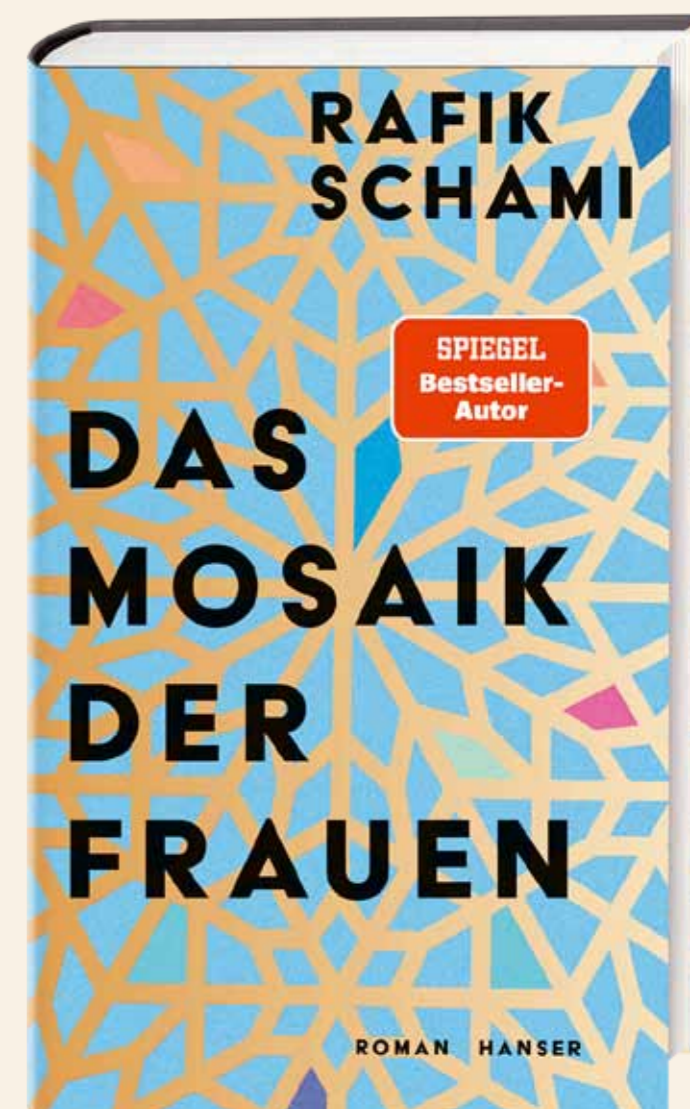


Rafik Schami was born in Damascus in 1946 and has been living in Germany since 1971. His extensive body of work has been translated into 35 languages, and has received numerous awards. As well as his numerous books for children and young adults, his recent publications with Hanser include *Die geheime Mission des Kardinals* (novel, 2019), *Mein Sternzeichen ist der Regenbogen* (2021) and *Wenn du erzählst, erblüht die Wüste* (novel, 2023). **Rafik Schami:** www.rafik-schami.de

- **At last – a new, major, endearing and warm-hearted novel by Rafik Schami**
- **A recollection of the loves of a lifetime – and what was learnt from them**
- **A tale that is riveting and true to life, between Syria and Germany**

RAFIK SCHAMI

Nadim Suri tells us about the loves of his life. How he grew up in Damascus, the son of a Christian Syrian father and a German-Jewish mother. How he was officially buried in his homeland as a young man, and secretly fled to Germany via Beirut. How he came to have a successful career as an interpreter in Heidelberg, and that he has women to thank for his most important qualities. Every chapter is dedicated to a woman, and even if some of his love stories end tragically – Nadim's first wife, Salma, was murdered by the secret services – every one of them leaves behind an essential piece in the mosaic of his soul. A novel full of thrilling, adventurous scenes, but also full of warmth and affection – an homage to the power of women.



Sales

Selected Backlist:

- Wenn du erzählst erblüht die Wüste:** Turkey (Ayrinti Yayinlari)
- Die geheime Mission des Kardinals:** Spain (Salamandra), Turkey (Ayrinti Yayinlari)



Rafik Schami
The Mosaic of Women
288 pages
May 2026



A revelation:
the master of
philosophical
storytelling on
letting go and
the meaning
of life

Pascal Mercier

was born in Bern in 1944, and died in Berlin in 2023. Following *Perlmanns Schweigen* (1995) and *Der Klavierstimmer* (1998), his novel *Nachtzug nach Lissabon* (2004) became a global bestseller. This was followed, in 2007 by the novella *Lea*, and in 2020 by the novel *Das Gewicht der Worte*. In 2006, Pascal Mercier received the Marie Luise Kaschnitz-Preis, and in 2007 in Italy, he was awarded the Premio Grinzane Cavour for best foreign novel. He also published two books with Hanser as a philosopher, under his real name, Peter Bieri: *Das Handwerk der Freiheit* (2001) and *Eine Art zu leben* (2013). Pascal Mercier: <http://www.pascal-mercier.de>

• **A surprise: five hitherto unknown short stories by bestselling author Pascal Mercier**

• **Philosophy as a literary treat**

• **An exhortation to examine one's own life**

PASCAL MERCIER

Pascal Mercier is the master of philosophical storytelling. *Night Train to Lisbon* and *The Weight of Words* encouraged millions of readers to think about major issues such as identity, freedom, time or the meaning of life. Now, in these five previously unpublished short stories, he also reveals himself to be a master of the short form. When is generosity harmful to an artist's dignity? Are there emotions that our mind cannot access? Once again, Pascal Mercier introduces us to unforgettable characters whose feelings and thoughts are incredibly close to our own – and thus opens up unexpected insights into our own selves.



Sales
All rights available



Pascal Mercier
The River of Time
112 pages
January 2026

Reconciling the seemingly irreconcilable and enduring the truly irreconcilable – **Navid Kermani's existential, incisive novel**



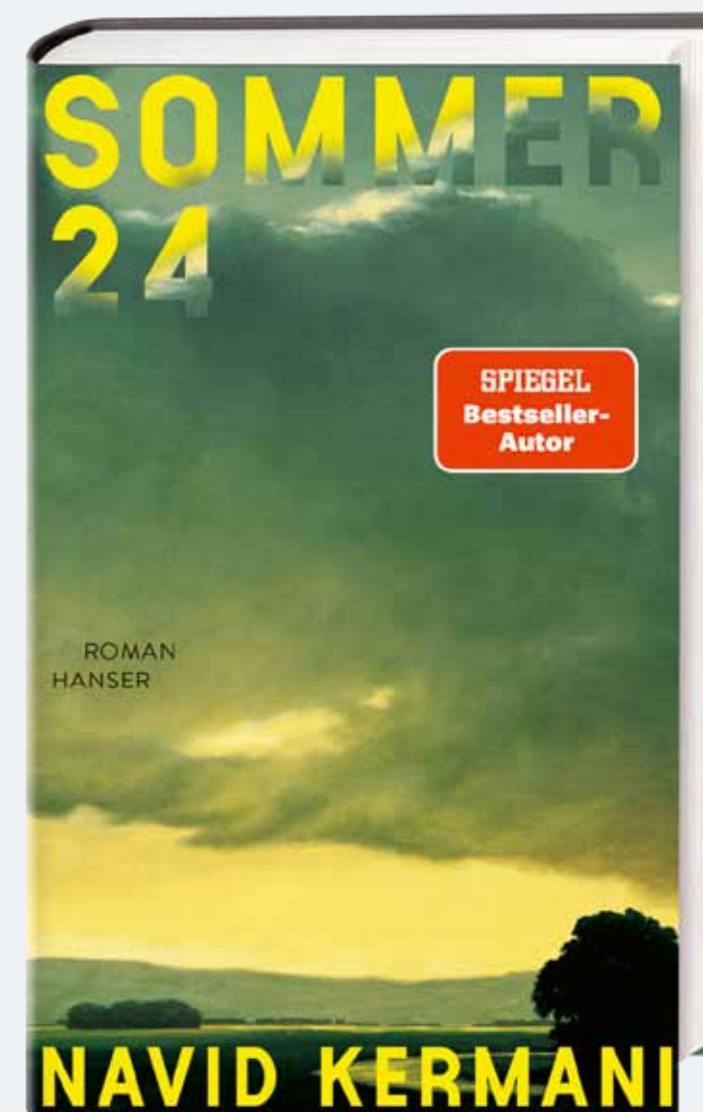
Navid Kermani

born in Siegen in 1967, is a freelance writer and lives in Cologne. He has won numerous awards, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, and, most recently, the 2024 Thomas Mann Prize. His latest publications with Hanser include, among others, *Das Alphabet bis S* (novel, 2023), his correspondence with Natan Sznaider about *Israel* (2023) and the children's and YA books *Ayda*, *Bär und Hase* (2017) and *Jeder soll von da, wo er ist, einen Schritt näher kommen* (2022).
Navid Kermani: navidkermani.de, on Facebook

- An enthralling novel about forgiving the seemingly unforgivable
- A book about a feeling we are all familiar with: the loss of normality
- An existential and politically astute novel by the winner of the Peace Prize

NAVID KERMANI

What is it like when your familiar world disintegrates, when what was normal yesterday no longer applies today? Navid Kermani captures this moment in the space of one single summer: a friend who recently went politically astray, has taken his own life. Wars are inching closer, and debates are getting shriller. The narrator's girlfriend thinks he's a macho, but this is far from the worst accusation that is currently shaking his perception of himself. With inimitable style, Navid Kermani manages to encapsulate our present moment through its contradictions, to forgive what appears to be unforgivable and, even more importantly, to endure the truly irreconcilable. An existential, clairvoyant novel for our time.



Sales

Selected Backlist:

Das Alphabet bis S: Arabic (Red Sea Bookstores), Russia (Eksmo)
Jeder soll von da, wo er ist, einen Schritt näher kommen: Arabic (Red Sea Bookstores), English world (Polity Press), Italian (Keller), Japan (Hosei), Netherlands (Cossee)



Navid Kermani
Summer 24
160 pages
February 2026



Intimate, accessible, and brimming with humanity – by the »master of biographical portraits«. Deutschlandfunk

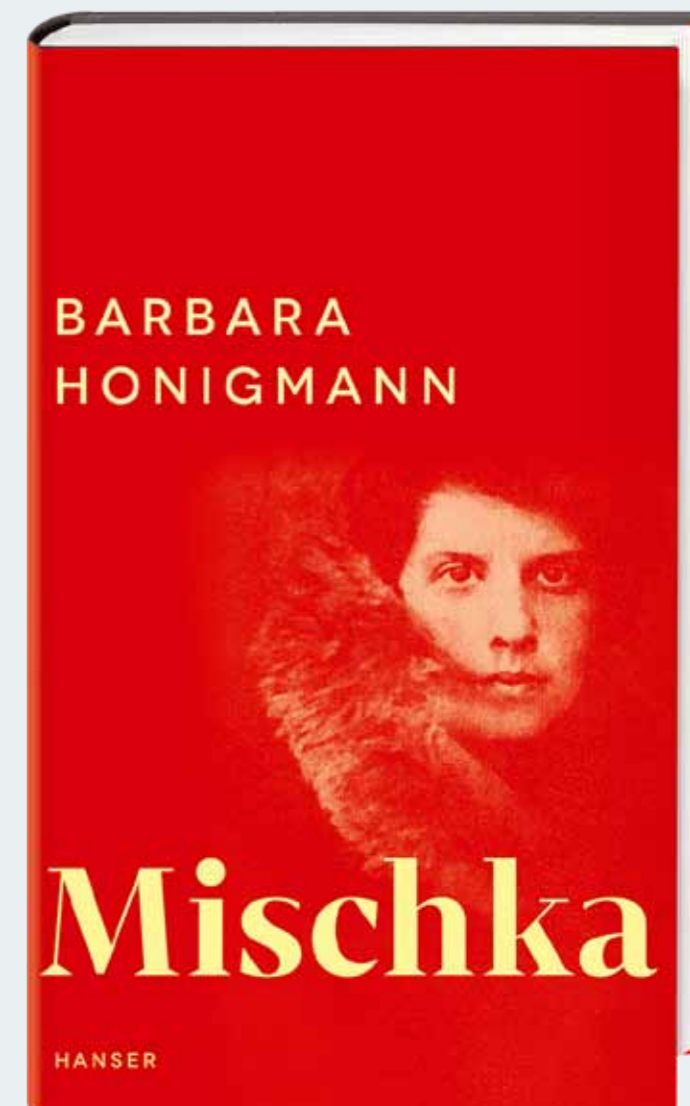
Barbara Honigmann

was born in East Berlin in 1949, and worked as a dramaturg and director. In 1984, she and her family emigrated to Strasbourg, where she still lives today. Honigmann's work has received numerous awards, including the Jakob Wassermann Prize, the 2020 Bremen Literature Prize, the 2021 Jean Paul Prize 2021, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Literature Prize in 2022, the Goethe Prize of the City of Frankfurt in 2023, and finally the Schiller Memorial Prize, the Jehuda Amichai Literature Prize and the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2024. Her work is published by Hanser, including, most recently, *Chronik meiner Straße* (2015), *Georg* (2019) and *Unverschämt jüdisch* (2021).

- Striking portraits of Jewish people who survived Nazi camps and gulags
- A memorial to a forgotten generation that stood up for its ideals in the face of persecution
- Barbara Honigmann's writing is personal, approachable, witty and full of humanity

BARBARA HONIGMANN

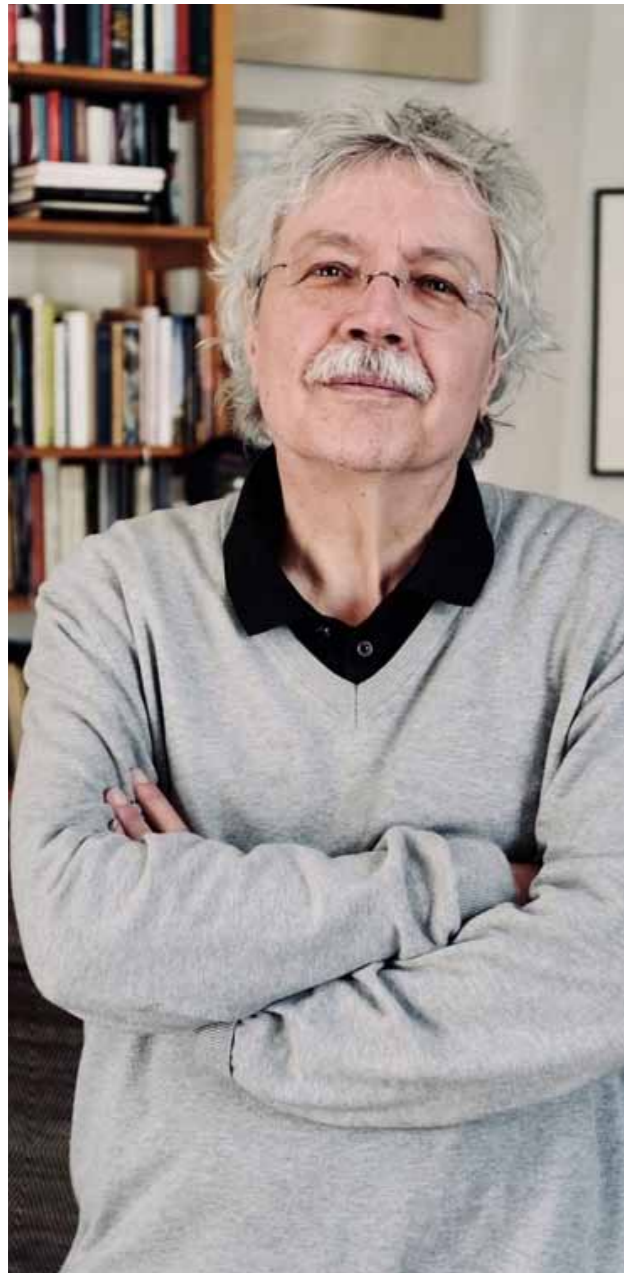
»Really it wasn't a circle – it was more of a cosmos, a universe that radiated around me in my childhood and youth.« Barbara Honigmann tells the story of the life and survival of those friends of her parents' who escaped from the camps of the Nazis and the gulag. Young Jewish communist intellectuals who paid a high price for their ideals, and of which a few managed, time and again, to find ways out. In the 1970s, for example, in her one-bedroom flat in Moscow, Mischka brought together poets and dissidents who were standing up to the Soviet regime. Against the background of the murderous global history of the 20th century, readers will be won over above all by the kindness, warmth and wit of these thrillingly recounted recollections of acquaintances, companions, and beloved individuals.



Sales
All rights available



Barbara Honigmann
Mischka
Three Portraits
112 pages
January 2026



»An absolute delight. This author is one of the most outstanding of our present day.«

Katja Gasser, ORF

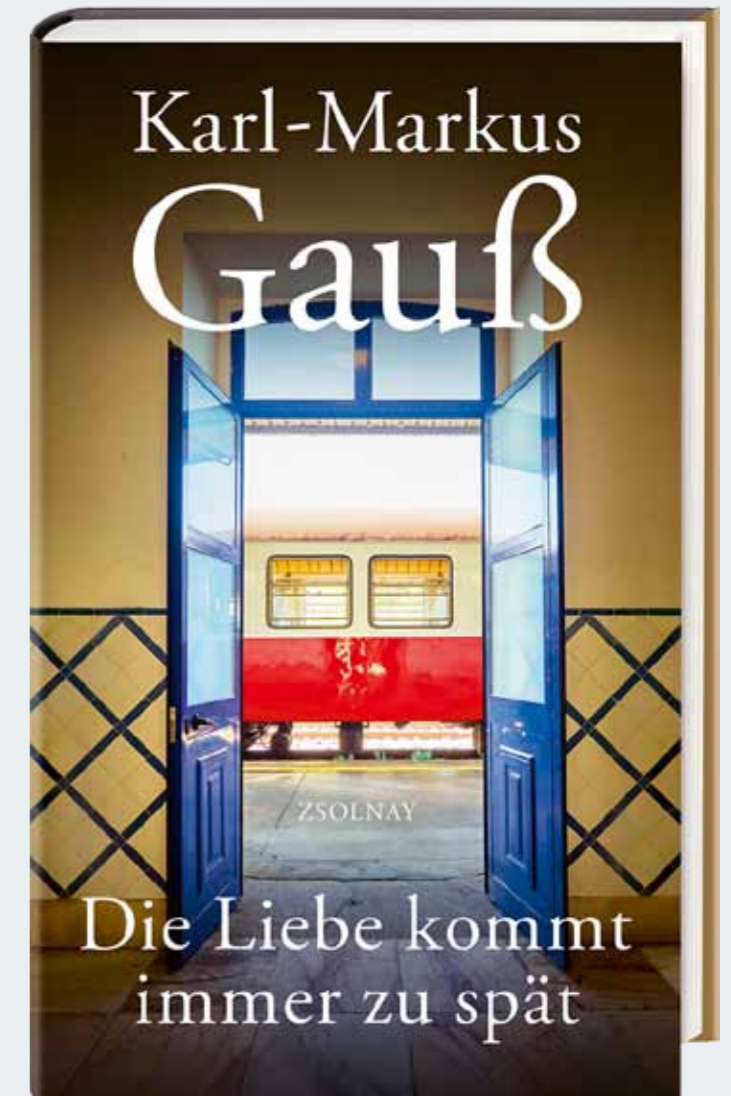
Karl-Markus Gauß

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 the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding. His most recent publications with Zsolnay are *Abenteuerliche Reise durch mein Zimmer* (2019), *Die unaufhörliche Wanderung* (2020), *Die Jahreszeiten der Ewigkeit* (2022) and *Schiff aus Stein* (2024).

- Take a trip with this versatile cartographer of the European margins
- Travel literature like no one else can write it

KARL-MARKUS GAUSS

Karl-Markus Gauß, the literary cartographer of the European margins, has set off on his travels again. He searches for the traces of a multicultural world in Bosnia, and finds them in the life of his deceased friend Dževad Karahasan. In Slovenia, he follows the life paths of two brave women: a legendary lawyer who took the liberty to live sometimes as a woman and sometimes as a man, and a growth-restricted writer whose books were read all over the world, but died in absolute destitution in the city which now celebrates her. And in this book's third travel story, you will learn why Bruck an der Mur in Upper Styria and Beloianisz in the Hungarian Puszta are actually located in the Peloponnese, and why Austria also has a Greek history.



Sales

Selected backlist:

A Ship Made of Stone: Croatia (Fraktura), Greece (Vaxikon), Serbia (Akademska)



Karl-Markus Gauß
Love Always Comes Too Late
 Three Journeys
 144 pages
 February 2026

»The more danger we were promised in a particular place, the more fondly it welcomed us.«



Lukas Matzinger was born in 1990 in Upper Styria, and is a reporter for the Vienna-based weekly newspaper Falter. He has received numerous prizes, including the Claus Gatterer Prize and the Pressepreis der Wiener Ärztekammer.

Olivia Wimmer was born in 1983 in Grieskirchen, and works as a journalist for Ö1 and as a press photographer. Her photographic work includes reportages from Algeria, Turkey and Syria.

- 35,000 km from Vienna to China and back in a 40-year-old VW bus
- The authors break away from their own lives and are confronted with the foreign

LUKAS MATZINGER

The bloody sports shirts of Kirghiz polo players, bricks from Osama bin Laden's house in Abbottabad, a Bouquet of bacteria from Tajikistan and experiences that brought with them a few days in police custody in Baluchistan: Lukas Matzinger and Olivia Wimmer travelled for a year and 35,000 kilometres in a forty-year-old VW bus, from Vienna to China and back, and always straight through high risk areas. But behind the end of the world, in the most threatening and inhospitable areas, the most wonderful encounters were waiting for them: strangers gave them the best morsels and the widest beds – and showered them with stories. A travel novel in which everything is right, an adventure you can't predict – a great reportage about the big wide world.



Sales
All rights available

Lukas Matzinger
I Don't Sleep Well
Without my Kalashnikov
A Travel Novel
304 pages
With photos by
Olivia Wimmer
March 2026



»None of us, sensationalist as we are, could pull our eyes away from this woman and her murders, which were at once refined and monstrous – but our eyes are too weak. We needed someone who would make us switch from our eyes to our brains, and would tighten this in the vice of this book until we were no longer able to escape it.«

Elfriede Jelinek

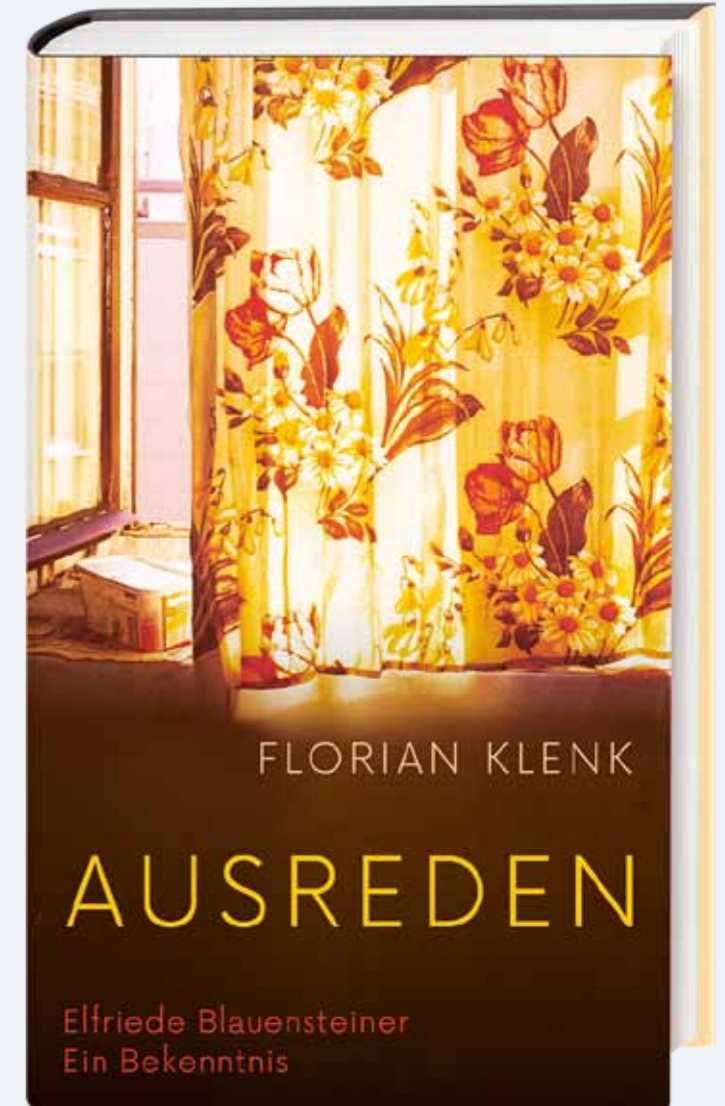
Florian Klenk, born in 1973, is a lawyer and journalist and has been editor-in-chief of the Viennese weekly magazine *Falter* since 2012. He has been awarded Journalist and Investigative Journalist of the Year several times and has received, among others, the European Journalism Prize Writing for Central and Eastern Europe. In 2011, Zsolnay published his book of collected reportage *Früher war hier das Ende der Welt* (2011), in 2021 *Bauer und Bobo. Wie aus Wut Freundschaft wurde* and in 2024 *Über Leben und Tod. In der Gerichtsmedizin.*

- For readers of Ferdinand von Schirach
- An intense monologue based on the court transcripts of the famous serial murderess
- True crime

FLORIAN KLENK

Elfriede Blauensteiner, known as the »black widow«, was arrested in Vienna in early 1996 and later condemned for the multiple murders of her nursing patients and partners. She speaks here in a documentary record of her own self. What we are reading here is no novel, no thriller, but the record of a life. Here, she bears witness. Transcripts, expert opinions, and disclosures come together to form a monologue that forces us to reset our ideas of guilt, justice and empathy. Of course, guilt is an issue in this book – but not in the legal sense. Yes, this woman has murdered people. But someone who knew at the age of seven that her own mother longed more for the death of her own child than for her recovery cannot develop any sense of morality. There are books you can't put down. Not because they are entertaining, but precisely because they are almost impossible to bear. *Ausreden* is such a book.

»The deeper I sink into these letters, transcripts and witness hearings, the clearer it becomes to me: she was no beast, she was the product of a cold century.«



Sales
All rights available

Florian Klenk
Excuses
Elfriede Blauensteiner
An Avowal
144 pages
January 2026

Michael Köhlmeier on the big and small questions of our time



Michael Köhlmeier

was born in Hard am Bodensee in 1949, and lives in Hohenems in the Austrian state of Vorarlberg, and in Vienna. His recent publications with Hanser include the novels *Matou* (2021), *Frankie* (2023), *Das Philosophenschiff* (2024) and *Die Verdorbenen* (2025). Michael Köhlmeier has received numerous awards, including the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Literature Prize in 2017, the Marie Luise Kaschnitz Prize for his complete works, and the Ferdinand Berger Prize in 2019. In 2020, he was awarded the Johann Nestroy Ring.

- An invitation to give in to curiosity and astonishment
- An entertaining book about philosophy, literature, and all things good
- A short course on how to view the world with wisdom

MICHAEL KÖHLMEIER

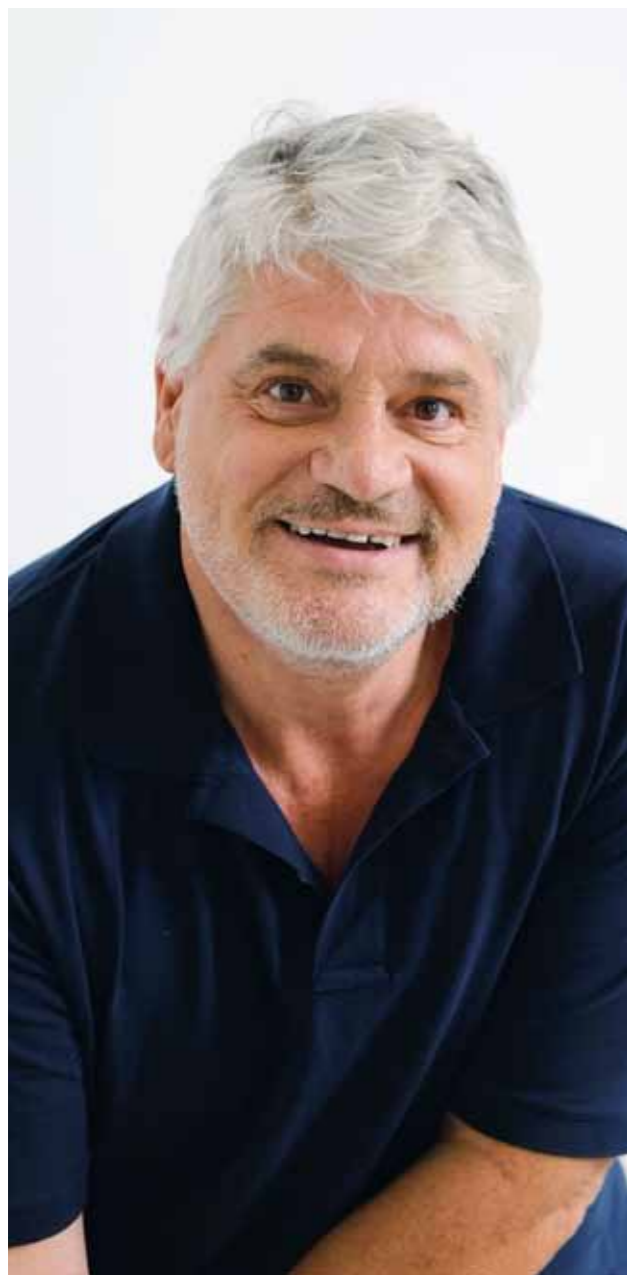
An invitation to let yourself be curious and astonished: Michael Köhlmeier asks us to join him on a very personal journey, from Shakespeare via his uncle Gerhard through to Coco Chanel. Is wanting to be forever young the same as wanting to live forever? Is boredom the vanguard of evil? Are fairytales reserved for children only, or can adults get something out of them too? And if Good exists, can each and every one of us make the world a better place? Michael Köhlmeier explores the great and small questions of what it is to be human. He celebrates all aspects of intellectual *savoir-vivre*, and offers us here a short course on how to view the world with wisdom. This book is the ideal companion for anyone who wants to know how to find Good in the world.



Sales
All rights available



Michael Köhlmeier
Good
53 Affections
304 pages
February 2026



»The poet
as urbane
philosopher.«

Andreas Wirthensohn, Wiener Zeitung

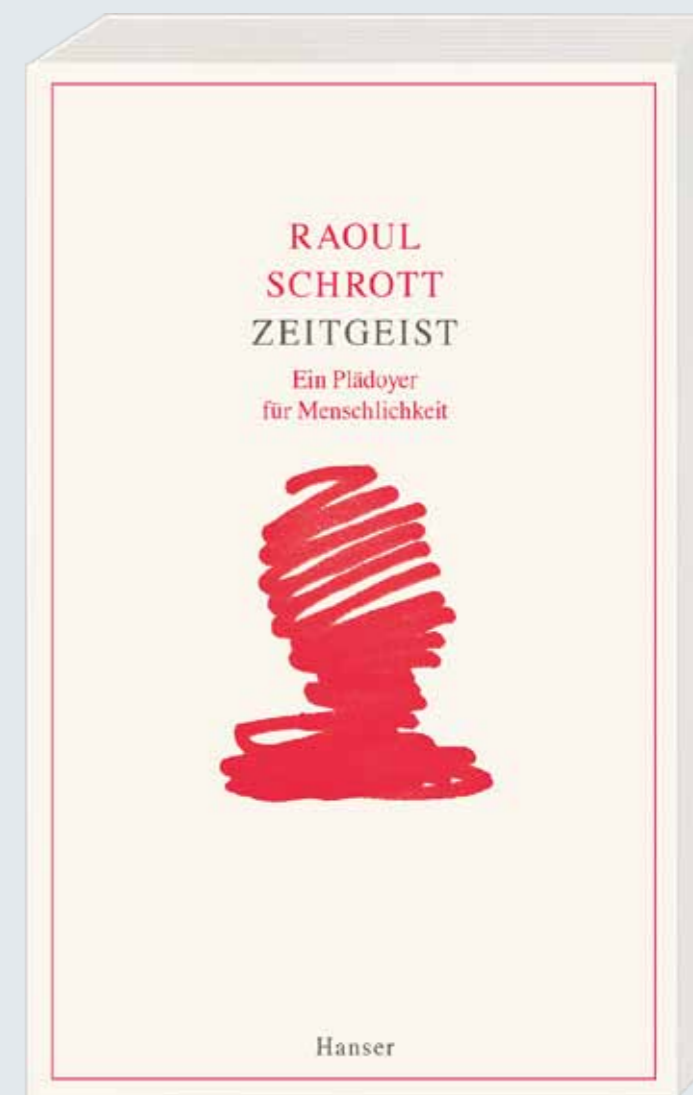
Raoul Schrott

was born in 1964, and has received numerous awards, including the Peter Huchel and the Joseph Breitbach Prizes. In 2023, he held the Ernst Jandl Lectureship at the University of Vienna. His publications with Hanser include, among other, *Erste Erde* (epic poem, 2016), *Politiken & Ideen* (essay, 2018), *Eine Geschichte des Windes oder Von dem deutschen Kanonier der erstmals die Welt umrundete und dann ein zweites und ein drittes Mal* (novel, 2019), *Inventur des Sommers* (2023) and most recently the unique book project *Atlas der Sternenhimmel und Schöpfungsmythen der Menschheit* (2024).

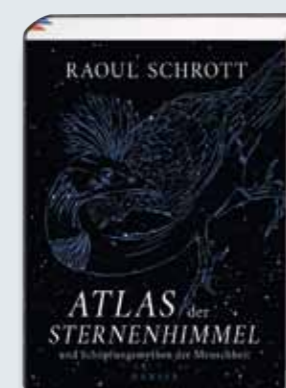
- **Half-essay, half-poetry collection: a bibliophilic turn-around book**
- **An insightful analysis of our society and our present moment through the example of the Zeitgeist**

RAOUL SCHROTT

What is the Zeitgeist? How does it come into being? How does it spread and influence societies? In what way do we give in to it or resist it? And what effects does it have on literature? This is a book only Raoul Schrott could have written: half-essay, half-poetry collection, a bibliophilic turn-around book. In his essay, Raoul Schrott presents a thought-provoking and insightful analysis of our present moment. On the flipside, his poems reflect our own selves in the portraits of various individuals: young or old, full of apocalyptic feelings or the promise of happiness, each one of them torn between their certitudes and their disorientation in the face of times that are pulling us all apart.



Sales
All rights available



Raoul Schrott
Zeitgeist
A Plea for Humanity /
About Us, Now
320 pages
February 2026

BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

»Verena
Keßler
pushes
her main
character to
the limit.«

Jessica Lind



VERENA KESSLER

English sample
translation
available

Shiny mirrors, muscle definition and casual flirtations at the counter. The protagonist in Verena Kessler's vibrant new novel loves her new job at MEGA GYM. There's no pressure, she doesn't have to do overtime, her colleagues are delightful and her boss is a proud feminist. Everything would be perfect – if only she hadn't told a white lie during the job interview. Because she claimed she had recently given birth, everyone constantly asks her about and wants to see photos of her baby. When bodybuilder Vick appears, it becomes clear that a fictional child is not the only secret this mysterious narrator is harbouring. A story about obsession, ambition and the self-destructive side of beautiful appearances.



Verena Keßler

born in 1988 in Hamburg, lives in Leipzig, where she studied at the German Institute for Literature. Her debut novel, *The Ghosts of Demmin*, was nominated for numerous awards and received the Kranichsteiner Youth Literature Fellowship. Hanser Berlin recently published *Eva*, for which she was awarded the literary prize, »Der zweite Roman«. Verena Kessler: verena-kessler.com and on Instagram

- A literary exploration of the gym: clever, funny and wild
- In *Gym*, Verena Keßler reveals the incredible range of her narrative skills
- A highly amusing, darkly humorous novel about ambition, the pressure to perform and the cult of the body

Sales

Catalonia (Bromera), Czech Republic (Prostor), France (Payot & Rivages), Greece (Doma), Italy (Feltrinelli), Netherlands (Atlas Contact), Spain (Anagrama), Sweden (Lind&Co), Turkey (Sel), WEL (Picador)



Verena Keßler
Gym
192 pages
August 2025

Kampmann's
prose has
a unique
magic



Anja Kampmann

was born in 1983 in Hamburg. She studied at the University of Hamburg and at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Her first novel *Wie hoch die Wasser steigen* (2018) was translated into multiple languages, nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize and the German Book Prize, and was a finalist for the National Book Award in the USA. Her most recent book of poetry *Der Hund ist immer hungrig* (2021) was awarded the Günter Kunert Literature Prize for Poetry. In 2024, she received the Marie Luise Kaschnitz Prize for her work.

Anja Kampmann: <https://www.anjakampmann.de/>, on Instagram

- The acclaimed author's latest novel
- A masterpiece that uses language of rare beauty
- The story of a confident woman in a world governed by male atrocities
- The rise of the right – an uncanny historical parallel

ANJA KAMPMANN

English sample translation available

Hedda has fought for her dream to perform in the Alkazar, a club in Hamburg's red-light district. But when new uniforms appear in the audience in the 1930s, none of that counts. Personal liberties are restricted and the show girls' lives become more and more precarious. Who can Hedda still trust? Her brother Jaan boards a whaling ship bound for Antarctica, hired as a harpoon-maker. Hedda starts to search for ways to escape with her younger brother Pauli. Anja Kampmann's story about a woman's self-assertion in a male-dominated era is written in tense, atmospheric language with a light touch.



Sales
France (Gallimard), Netherlands (Querido)



National Book Award Finalist

Anja Kampmann
Rage is a Bright Star
496 pages
August 2025



»Yuko Kuhn writes with warmth and intensity about two worlds – Japan and Germany, mother and daughter, rich and poor, old and young – with herself in the thick of it. So beautiful, you’ll cry.«

Doris Dörrie

»A family is lost and finds itself again. As comforting as your favourite childhood meal.« Isabel Bogdan

Yuko Kuhn was born in Munich in 1983. She studied cultural and business studies in Passau and Aix-en-Provence. In 2019, through her work at the HFF Munich, she began to write. She lives in Munich with her husband and three children.

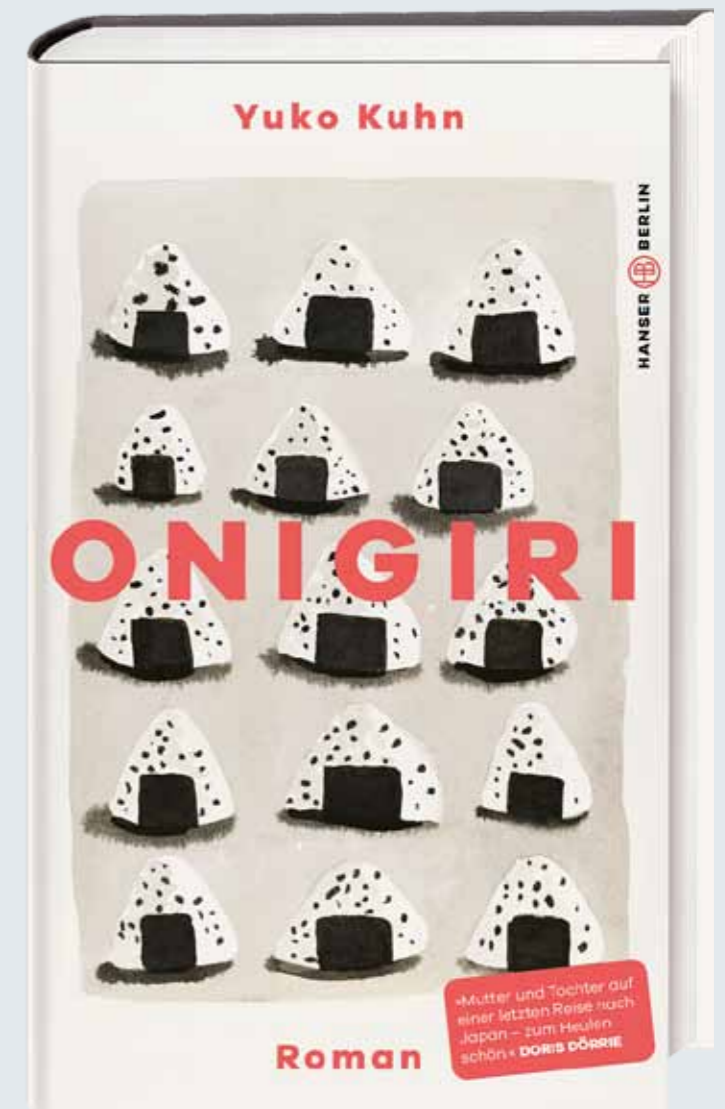
[Yuko Kuhn website](#), [on Instagram](#)

- **A German-Japanese family story like no other**
- **In her unique, concise and tender tone, Yuko Kuhn recounts a trip to Japan in search of lost memories**

YUKO KUHN

English sample translation available

When Aki finds out that her grandmother has died, she books two flights to Japan for her and her mother, Keiko, who is suffering from dementia. Even though it's risky to take Keiko out of her familiar setting, Aki wants her to see her family one last time. On their first night at a Japanese hotel, Aki has never seen her mother look so disoriented. But once they're sitting at dinner in her childhood home, Keiko changes from her normally quiet self to a happy, clear-spoken woman. On this trip, Aki recognizes the brave woman her mother once was – someone who wanted to live life to the fullest before a lethargy in Germany overwhelmed her, which felt so threatening to little Aki. Yuko Kuhn has created a remarkable novel about a German-Japanese family lost between cultures that rediscovers itself.



Sales
All rights available

Yuko Kuhn
Onigiri
208 pages
July 2025



»Milica Vučković tells a story that is far too realistic, terrible and enjoyable to read, making it all the more terrible! You're in for a ride!« **Barbi Marković**

»Totally hilarious... Despite the painful and delicate nature of the subject, Serbian author Milica Vučković has written a funny book about emotional abuse and male psychological terror against women. It's a screaming comedy, written in a language of elegant tension, with a nasty surprise lurking on almost every page.«

Franz Haas, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Milica Vučković

was born in 1989 in Belgrade and studied painting. She has received multiple awards for her literary work. *The Fatal Outcome of Athletics Injuries* is the first of her novels to be published in German.

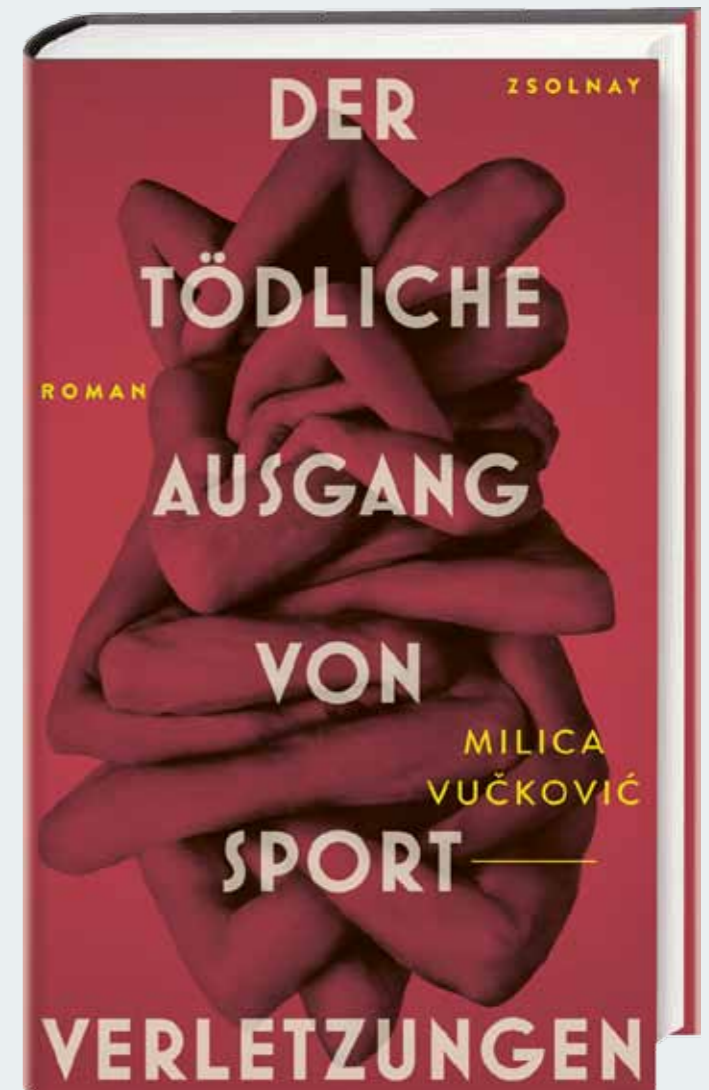
- **A frank novel that highlights the complex techniques of manipulation**
- **Exposes patriarchal patterns in which women are taught to suffer and accept that love must hurt**
- **Prizewinner of the best Serbian-language novel**

MILICA VUČKOVIĆ

English sample translation available

Eva is still young when her son is born and she starts to raise him on her own. But when she meets Victor, she believes she has found the love of her life. He is a journalist and writer who impresses Eva with his eloquence and great theories. However, his other qualities soon emerge: he is a brilliant manipulator and a sociopath, unreasonably jealous and quick to anger. And once he manages to lure Eva to Germany, things go from bad to worse.

Milica Vučković's extraordinary novel was a bestseller in her home country due to its witty, relentless deconstruction of the romanticized notion of love.



Sales

(Original Serbian edition: Booka, Belgrade)
France (Éditions Bleu et Jaune)

Milica Vučković

The Fatal Outcome of Athletics Injuries

(Original Serbian title: Smrtni ishod atletskih povreda)

192 pages
March 2025



»The characters Marko Dinić writes about so lyrically are not lost among the horrors of history. Their hopes and struggles are rendered visible through the power of literature.«

Clemens Meyer

Marko Dinić was born in 1988 in Vienna and spent his childhood and youth in Belgrade. He studied German Philology and Jewish Cultural History in Salzburg. Zsolnay published his first novel *Die guten Tage* in 2019.

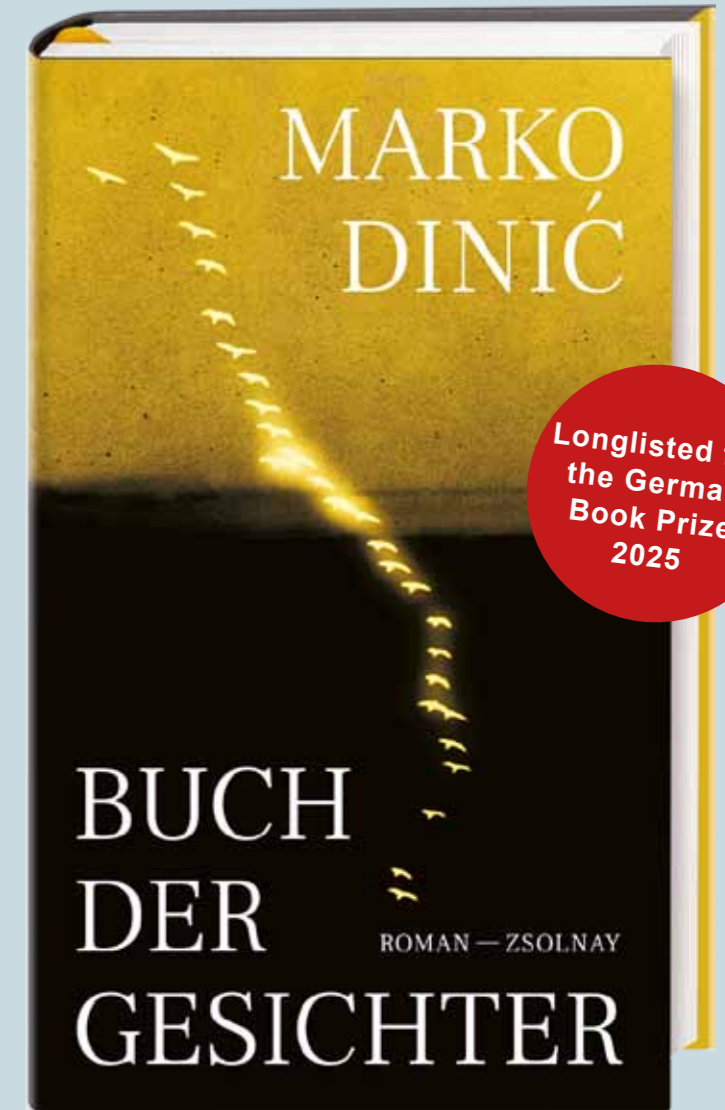
- A story that spans a century of European history
- Contemporary Holocaust writing, following on from a generation of historical witnesses

MARKO DINIĆ

English sample translation available

Belgrade 1942: On the day that occupied Serbia is declared »free of Jews«, Isak Ras ventures through the city one last time to clear up the unsolved mystery of his past. What happened to his mother who disappeared without a trace 21 years ago? Were the anarchists Rosa and Milan involved? Or the mysterious doppelgangers roaming the city? In eight chapters told from eight different perspectives in this epic novel, the solution to Isak's complex mystery is gradually revealed.

Marko Dinić has delivered an impressive book that spans the history of Serbia and Europe in the twentieth century. His *Book of Faces* is a modern addition to the literary tradition of »literature of remembrance« and Holocaust writing.



Longlisted for the German Book Prize 2025

Sales
All rights available



Marko Dinić
The Book of Faces
464 pages
August 2025



»Dinić skillfully reunites and reconnects the old threads in each new chapter ... and at other points, he manages to surprise with bold and dramatic images ... Here, *The Book of Faces* stands in the tradition of great Yugoslav narrative literature, ranging from Ivo Andrić and Aleksandar Tišma to Slobodan Šnajder, Dževad Karahasan, and Drago Jančar.«

Terry Albrecht, WDR5 Bücher

»A literary tour de force.«

Christoph Schröder, Der Tagesspiegel

»A magnificent historical panorama of Jewish life in former Yugoslavia ... Dinić masterfully handles the many tongues, his ›postmemory novel‹ is carefully constructed and is carried by a rich, vivid, and lively language.«

Bernd Melichar, Kleine Zeitung

»The *Book of Faces* is a literary return to the heart of Serbian history - oppressive, poetic, and highly topical.«

Theresa Hübner, SWR Kultur lesenswert

»A relentless, impressive magnum opus that is both challenging and richly rewarding.«

Judith Hoffmann, Ö1

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Barbara Honigmann

Karl-Markus Gauß

Lukas Matzinger

Florian Klenk

Michael Köhlmeier

Raoul Schrott