Rights List

Children's & Young Adult Books Spring 2025

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Have You Ever Seen That? Gloria Köpnick & Rainer Stamm



Never Give Up! Henrike Wilson & Christiane Schwabbaur



The Captain and Mimi Cat Esther Kinsky



Edvard Zoë Beck



The Little Wood Thieves and the Mystery of the Juggernaut Ole Nymoen & Wolfgang M. Schmitt

Jöry Hilbert COCO STOLPERBEIN

Coco Stolperbein

Jörg Hilbert



The Alliance of the 3½ Anna Kim



Lonely Pig Jörg Hilbert



Friederike Mayröcker & Angelika Kaufmann



Vega II – The Storm in My Heart Marion Perko



The Pugfish Clemens J. Setz



When the Mouse Didn't Know Where It Was Jörg Hilbert



The Wild Horse Under the Stove Christoph Hein



The Humming Underneath the Skin Stephan Lohse



The Story of Doctor Dolittle Hugh Lofting



Vega I – The Wind in My Hands Marion Perko

Clemens J. Setz Pugfish



For ages 3 and up

What on earth is going on with the pugfish? A second ago he was purple, now he's red, and soon he'll be in a balloon floating overhead? Impatient and curious, he keeps on moving: Can you climb up this wall of ivy? You bet you can: »Pugfish climb/Pugfish race/Pugfish laughs in danger's face!« And when a second pugfish appears, suddenly, he's no longer alone: »Pugfish Pugfish number two/Pugfish with some fat to chew!«

Clemens J. Setz composed these wonderful rhyming tercets for his young daughter, and they are perfectly complemented by Stefanie Jeschke's vibrant illustrations.



»Pugfisch major anarchy!«

»Pugfish dizzy. Pugfish sit. Pugfish sudden flash of wit!«

Clemens J. Setz, born in Graz in 1982, studied mathematics and German language and literature at the University of Graz from 2001 to 2009. Today he lives in Vienna. Clemens J. Setz is the author of novels, short stories, poems and plays. He has received numerous awards for his works.

© Rafaela Pröll

Illustrated by Stefanie Jeschke 32 pages · March 2025 (Original title: Mopsfisch)

Till Eulenspiegel / Till Eulenspiegel (2015) •



28 pages · September 2022 (Original title: Nur nicht aufgeben!)

You can do it!

All beginnings are difficult. This little bird also knows a thing or two about that. The big day has arrived, it's time to leave the nest. But that's pretty high! Will it be OK? Just don't look down for too long. It can't be helped, it has to be done. Well then: focus, take a run-up, spread your wings – and jump... Rats, that went wrong! Only one thing to do: keep at it and don't lose heart.

An unflappable, loveable little bird – masterfully illustrated with expressive and delightful drawings by Henrike Wilson!

Henrike Wilson, born in 1961, studied graphic design and painting in her hometown of Cologne and in the USA. Today she lives in Berlin where she works as a freelance illustrator. She has illustrated the picture books *Santa's Littlest Helper Travels The World*, *Brave Charlotte* and *Die Kleine Schusselhexe* (stories by Anu Stohner). *The New York Times* called *Brave Charlotte* one of the best-illustrated books of the year. Henrike Wilson has also illustrated books by Rafik Schami, Jostein Gaarder and David Grossman. Christiane Schwabbaur worked as a fulltime editor for many years before she decided to spread her wings and stay in the publishing business as a freelance editor and agent. She lives in Munich with her family.

Rights sold to: Lithuania (Gelmes)

Jörg Hilbert When the Mouse Didn't Know Where It Was





© Ellen Bischke

36 pages · September 2024 (Original title: Als die Maus nicht wusste, wo sie war)

The story of Noah's Ark told for kids – from one of Germany's most beloved authors of children's books

The little mouse is flabbergasted: Where is it? And how did it get here? It's dark, and somewhere, frogs are croaking. A strange coincidence, says the mouse. Curious, it begins to explore this myterious place. Along the way, it comes across all kinds of animals: giraffes, rhinoceroses, camels – even a cat! But the cat does nothing to the little mouse. How can that be? And is the mouse really here by chance? Or is there something else going on?

In catchy rhymes and striking illustrations, Jörg Hilbert retells the story of Noah's Ark from the perspective of one of its passengers. Hilbert drew inspiration for this story from the animal sculptures of the ANOHA Children's World at the Jewish Museum in Berlin, many of which were based on the author's own sketches.

Jörg Hilbert, author and illustrator of children's books, has published over one hundred books, the most famous of which are his stories about Ritter Rost (with music by Felix Janosa). He is a distant relative of Joachim Ringelnatz and also performs as a speaker and lute player. After *Coco Stolperbein, Schwein allein* is his second book published by Insel Verlag.

Jörg Hilbert Lonely Pig





© Ellen Bischke

32 pages · April 2023 (Original title: Schwein allein)

»The pitiful pig moans: >I am so alone, that's not right <. «

Together with his newfound companions, Pig meets even more friends, a crocodile, gnomes, a giant and many more. But Pig still feels very lonely and abandoned. But is that really the case? Of course not!

In catchy rhymes, Jörg Hilbert talks about loneliness. But also about the fact that you are not always alone when you think you are.

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Jörg Hilbert Coco Stolperbein







© Ellen Bischke

Insel

32 pages · April 2022 (Original title: Coco Stolperbein)

New people moved in and calamity, it was the Stolperbein family ...

Mrs. Right and Mr. Important live side by side peacefully and amiably – everything is in order: the lawn is trimmed, the car is parked properly, and naturally it is clean. Until one day the attic is converted and a new family moves in: the Stolperbeins, including their cat and their daughter Coco. And Coco brings a great deal of messiness into the wonderful order Mrs. Right and Mr. Important have created...

In catchy rhymes, children's book author Jörg Hilbert tells a story of living together in our colourful society, of acceptance and of friendship.

Jörg Hilbert, author and illustrator of children's books, has published over one hundred books, the most famous of which are his stories about Ritter Rost (with music by Felix Janosa). He is a distant relative of Joachim Ringelnatz and also performs as a speaker and lute player. After *Coco Stolperbein, Schwein allein* is his second book published by Insel Verlag.

Gloria Köpnick • Rainer Stamm Have You Ever Seen That?



An ABC through the World of Art: An Art Guide for Children 64 pages · April 2024 (Original title: Hast du das schon gesehen?)

Are you ready to go on an adventure through the world of art? *Have You Ever Seen That*? is the ideal companion for kids who want an introduction to the fascinating world of paintings. Whether it's A for Ant, C for clown or T for tiger, learning is child's play with this beautiful new book. As they work their way through the alphabet, young readers will find out facts about works by famous artists, and about all the different epochs, styles, and techniques. With each page packed with fascinating facts about every artwork!

Gloria Köpnick is the director of the Lyonel-Feininger-Galerie in Quedlinburg. From 2014 to 2020, she worked as a research associate at the Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte in Oldenburg. For her PhD, she researched the history of the Oldenburg »Alliance for Contemporary Art (1922–1933)«. Her research focuses on Modernist art, the cultural history of the Weimar Republic, and the Bauhaus. She works as a freelance author, critic, and lecturer.

Rainer Stamm is an art historian and literary studies academic, and the editor of the books *Rilkes Bildbetrachtungen* and *Rodins Aquarellen*, both published with Insel Verlag. His most recent publication, likewise through Insel Verlag and written together with Glorai Köpnick, was the book *Max Liebermanns Garten*.

Esther Kinsky The Captain and Mimi Catt





© Heike Steinweg

With illustrations by Gerda Raidt 47 pages · September 2022 (Original title: Der Käptn und die Mimi Kätt)

»>Guys, now only solidarity can help us!< yelled Mimi Catt, and everyone cheered.«

So cold! And so much snow! Mimi Catt, a snow-white and very clever cat, would prefer nothing more than to stay in her small, cosy basement flat. Even though a nasty mud-brown pug just did his business right in front of Mimi Catt's window. And on top of it all, a huge ocean liner is stuck in the frozen canal outside the flat! »How is this possible?« Mimi Catt wonders. But once she meets the captain and the sailors aboard this mysterious ship with whom she can sing such glorious songs all day and all night long, nothing really astonishes her anymore and together with the seafarers she enjoys the most beautiful and craziest winter of her life.

Esther Kinsky was born in Engelskirchen in 1956. Her oeuvre, which includes poetry, fiction, essays and translations from the Polish, Russian, and English, has been awarded numerous prestigious awars, including Kleist Prize in 2022. Kinsky's novel *Grove* won the Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse 2018 and the Düsseldorfer Literaturpreis 2018, was shortlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2021, longlisted for the Warwick Prize for Women in Translation 2021, and the English translation by Caroline Schmidt was nominated for the 2021 Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize. An unpublished and anonymously entered extract from her novel *Rombo* was awarded the newly founded W.-G.-Sebald-Literaturpreis in 2020.

Hugh Lofting The Story of Doctor Dolittle



With illustrations by Reinhard Michl 124 pages · March 2023 (Original title: Die Geschichte von Doktor Dolittle)

The Story of Doctor Dolittle – with new illustrations by Reinhard Michl! A magnificent rediscovery!

The physician John Dolittle lives in the small town of Puddleby-on-the Marsh, and he is not on good terms with the local people. Things are entirely different with the animals, he is able to help even the sick crocodile. Many patients end up staying with the shy doctor after their treatment, find a spot in the garden or in the house, because he knows how to speak their languages! All of this becomes too much for Dolittle' s surly sister and she moves out. No »normal« patients were coming to the surgery anymore anyway ...

When a new and incurable animal disease breaks out in Africa, Dolittle and his loyal friends decide to charter a ship, despite the lack of money, and set off for the unknown continent to help the animals there.

This edition of Hugh Lofting's 1920 children's classic has been illustrated by the masterful Reinhard Michl, whose specialty is drawing animals, for the Insel-Bücherei. A magnificent rediscovery!

Hugh Lofting, born in the UK in 1886, worked as a land surveyor and civil engineer before settling as a freelance writer in New York. World War I took him to the front in Flanders, where he created the character of Doctor Dolittle in letters to his children. From the letters, *The Story of Doctor Dolittle* was published in 1920 and it was followed by numerous other world-famous adventures with Doctor Dolittle. Lofting died in Topanga, California, in 1947.

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Christoph Hein The Wild Horse Under the Stove





© Heike Steinweg

With illustrations by Manfred Bofinger 200 pages · December 2023 (Original title: Das Wildpferd unterm Kachelofen)

The beloved children's classic

The cast of characters who sleep under the sofa in Jakob Borg's room sure are a motley crew: there is Snout the donkey, who feels called to be a professor and loves nothing more than a good meal. There is the Fake Prince, who can fly, but only when no one is watching. Then there is Katinka, who desperately wants a horse, and Eagle Eye, the great explorer, who finds the most important thing in life in a tent one night. And finally, there is old Panadel the Vagabond, who knows the answer to every questions.

A book jam-packed with the adventures of Jakob Borg and his friends: whether it's heading off on a treasure hunt, experiencing a terrifying earthquake, or watching a donkey do a somersault. There are battles and ghosts and pirates and a real magic prince – the kinds of adventures that make a childhood a happy one.

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

Rights sold to: Serbia (Čigoja štampa); Iran (Rahsaa Publications)

Anna Kim The Alliance of the 3½ (Volume 1) – The Treasure Hunt





© Werner Geiger

The Alliance of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ Illustrated by Katharina Madesta 284 pages · September 2024 (Original title: Die Allianz der $3\frac{1}{2}$ (Band 1) – Auf Schatzsuche)

A case for the detective team with the robot dachshund – the new mystery adventure for detectives aged 8 and up

Feli has to spend the summer holidays with her aunt in the small village of Worms. How boring, she thinks at first. At least she has her robot dachshund Frankenstein with her. He likes to dive headlong into wastepaper baskets when he's not gnawing on a flash drive. While exploring her aunt's villa, Feli and Frankenstein come across a big, old cupboard. Inside is a secret entrance to a seemingly abandoned detective agency. And the first case is already waiting for them: a little boy called Jojo needs help, because a valuable miniature pyramid has been stolen from the museum and the police think Jojo's mother was responsible! They set to work investigating the case, and soon receive some support from a girl called Meilin, who completes their investigative team, which they call the Alliance of the 3½. But the case is anything but simple. What is going on in the museum? Was the thief looking for the legendary 'Treasure of the Wormsiders'?

The thrilling first instalment in a series about a team of diminutive detectives, the Alliance of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ – full of adventure, humour, and a little bit of magic.

Anna Kim was born in Daejeon, South Korea, in 1977. In 1979, her family moved to Germany and then to Vienna, Austria, where she lives today. She has received numerous prizes and fellowships for her fiction and essays, including the European Union Prize for Literature.

Zoë Beck Edvard





© Victoria Tomaschko

My Life, My Secrets 192 pages · December 2023 (Original title: Edvard) Now a major made-for-tv series

Edvard is going to be fifteen soon and to his annoyance he is not yet the cool guy he would like to be: he has no hair on his chest, his voice is much too high-pitched and Constanze is not the least bit interested in him. To get to her, Edvard creates a fake social media profile pretending to be Jason from Chicago. What sounds like an ingenious plan at first soon begins to snowball into something much larger – with unexpected consequences ...

On his private blog, Edvard writes about everything that's on his mind: about his uber-tolerant – and uber-embarrassing – parents. About consistently and with absolute accuracy stepping in the little landmines the neighbour's dog leaves behind. And about Henk, of course – Edvard' s nemesis. When Karla joins his class and »Jason« develops a bizarre life of his own, Edvard's life threatens to descend into total chaos.

»Plunging into chaos and finding a creative way out of it. Moving and great fun!« Jugendbuch-Couch

Zoë Beck, born in 1975, completed her education in Germany and England. She is a writer, translator (including works by Sally Rooney and Denise Mina), publisher (CulturBooks), and works in film and television. She lives in Berlin. Zoë Beck belongs among the most important German crime fiction authors and has been awarded numerous prizes such as the Friedrich-Glauser-Preis, the RRadio-Bremen-Krimipreis and the German Crime Fiction Prize, among others.

Ole Nymoen • Wolfgang M. Schmitt The Little Wood Thieves and the Mystery of the Juggernaut





© Eileen Dibowski

Illustrated by Nick-Martin Sternitzke 268 pages · August 2024 (Original title: Die kleinen Holzdiebe und das Rätsel des Juggernaut)

The history of capitalism as an adventure story – for readers of all ages

Siblings Karl and Rosa lead a simple life on the island of Feudalia. They help their parents on the farm and play games in the forest while collecting firewood to keep their home warm. One morning though, when they arrive in the forest, there is a big sign that reads: "No wood collecting. Wood thieves will be prosecuted!" And this new ban is only the beginning. It is quickly followed by a series of radical changes that turn their lives upside down.

Soon enough, the family has been forced off their land. Along with most of the other inhabitants of the island, their parents now have to move to the city to work in the factories that have been built by the rich rulers of the nearby island of Capitalia. While their mum and dad have to slave away more than ever before, they hardly have enough money to pay the rent and put food on the table. The people of Feudalia had been promised that there would be plenty of money for everyone, but the reality is very different. But do things have to be this way?

Why do the workers get none of the wealth they are producing? Why is the money so unfairly distributed? On their mission for answers, Karl and Rosa are confronted by a mystery – until they're struck by a bright idea. A rebellious story about banding together to change the status quo.

Ole Nymoen studied sociology and economics in Jena and works as a freelance journalist. In their podcast »Wohlstand für Alle«, he and Wolfgang M. Schmitt talk about money, the history of economic ideas, and political economy.

Wolfgang M. Schmitt is a YouTuber, podcaster and a critic. He has been running the critically minded YouTube channel »Die Filmanalyse« since 2011. Together with Ole Nymoen, he wrote the bestseller *Influencers: The Ideology of Advertising Bodies* (2021).

Rights sold to: Italy (Gallucci)

Marion Perko Vega – The Wind in My Hands





© Julia Laubmann

Vega # 1 384 pages · August 2022 (Original title: Vega 1 – Der Wind in meinen Händen) The first instalment of a spectacular series

When the wind comes to life and the rain becomes a danger, the storm gets a soul and weather a face: Vega

Germany 2052: The hot, dry summers are causing the people to suffer. To alleviate the water shortage, Vega works as a weather maker – she manipulates the clouds and brings rain. But she has a secret: unlike her colleagues, she doesn't use chemicals and drones to do so. Because Vega can call up wind and rain with the power of her thoughts.

When children are injured in a mysterious weather accident, Vega becomes a target. How is she supposed to prove her innocence when no one is allowed to know about her gift? She receives unexpected help from Leo, a young scientist who is researching the nature of storms. In her search for the truth, Vega delves deeper and deeper into a web of influential environmental authorities, activists and corporations ... Who can she trust? And how can she protect the people she loves?

Marion Perko is a literary and media scholar. She worked in various YA publishing houses for ten years before setting up her own business as an editor, writing coach and author in 2016. She lives in Eastern Bavaria and writes children's and YA fiction.

Marion Perko Vega – The Storm in My Heart





© Julia Laubmann

Vega # 2 376 pages · September 2023 (Original title: Vega 2 – Der Sturm in meinem Herzen)

The spectacular finale of the climate saga

Vega's situation seems hopeless. She has been abducted and fallen into the hands of Bioverse, a powerful weather corporation. All because the secret she has kept her whole life was exposed: she can change the weather with the power of her mind, can conjure rain and summon the wind. In a world plagued by droughts and storms, this gift is priceless – a fact that is not lost on Bioverse's CEO Nathalie. She uses Vega's gift against her will to create a tool that will change the weather forever.

Vega must stop Bioverse, but she can't do it on her own. What are her former allies playing at? And should she trust Leo again, now that he has joined the side of the climate activists? Time is of the essence, because when the true scope of Nathalie's plans become apparent, every minute is crucial ...

»Fierce Vega is independent, a constant inconvenience to the powerful and when push comes to shove, she is a true force of nature.« Stiftung Lesen

Marion Perko is a literary and media scholar. She worked in various YA publishing houses for ten years before setting up her own business as an editor, writing coach and author in 2016. She lives in Eastern Bavaria and writes children's and YA fiction.

Stephan Lohse The Humming Underneath the Skin





© Hans Panichen

Novel 176 pages · July 2023 (Original title: Das Summen unter der Haut) A queer coming-of-age novel, from an era when coming out was still a distant dream.

»Axel has been missing for three days. I subtract the hours that have passed without him here from the eighty hours that I have known him. Twenty-six hours are left. In little more than a day it'll be like I never knew Axel Peschke.«

Hamburg, 1977. Julle is fourteen. Shortly before the summer break, a new student, Axel, joins his class. Julle falls in love immediately. No one knows that he is gay. Except for his sister and maybe his mother. Mothers tend to have a sense for these things, after all. Julle counts the hours that he has known Axel and befriends him. Together, they go to the public pool, feed Axel's rabbits, and discover a hidden, partially burned-down hut in the forest. Just as they get close to uncovering its secret, Axel suddenly moves away – and Julle has a hunch that after this summer, nothing will be like it was before.

With great imagination, empathy, and wit, Stephan Lohse tells the story of two boys and the things in life that mean everything. *The Humming Underneath the Skin* is a novel about love and friendship, about growing up in the seventies – a past as it perhaps never was, but should have been.

»[Lohse] impresses [readers] with a sense for language that captures the vibrations that pass between people, that connects and separates the days in their moods.« Cornelia Geissler, Berliner Zeitung

»This is a calm book that is told with great empathy and authenticity. Truly beautiful.« WDR 2

Stephan Lohse, born in Hamburg in 1964, studied drama at the Max Reinhardt Seminar in Vienna and was employed at the Thalia Theater in Hamburg, the Schaubühne in Berlin and at the Schauspielhaus in Vienna. His novel *Ein fauler Gott* (2017) was on the *SWR* Bestseller List and nominated for the *aspekte* Prize for Literature. He lives in Berlin.

Johann's Brother / Johanns Bruder (2020) •

A Lazy God / Ein fauler Gott (2017) •

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