

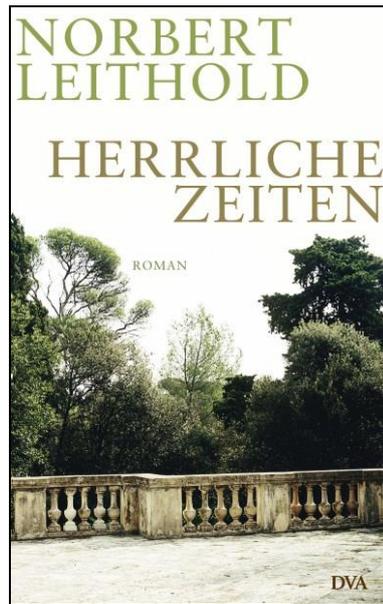


VERLAGSGRUPPE
RANDOM HOUSE
BERTELSMANN

Best of
Random House Germany

Fiction
Spring 2014

The dramatic story of an entrepreneurial family in Berlin in the turmoil of the 20th century



Norbert Leithold
Marvellous Times
[Herrliche Zeiten]
Novel of a family

DVA
544 pages
March 2014

[Online special available](#)
English sample translation available

Norbert Leithold was born in 1957 and began his literary career in the late 1980s with *Control Loss* (1988), *Lord Müll* (1989) and *Fourth Germany* (1991), which he published under the pseudonym Norbert Bleisch. He has won many awards for his work, including the Alfred Döblin Promotion Prize. *Marvellous Times*, which he worked on for ten years, is his fourth novel.

It is the eve of World War II. Berlin industrialist Hermann Kypscholl considers himself to be on the winning side of life, his family have all they need, and there is no shortage of champagne at parties with his illustrious guests in his Wannsee villa. Daughter Anna is about to embark on a career as a race scientist; son Otto, who really wants to become an artist, is forced by his father to join the Wehrmacht and robs pieces of art for important Nazis. But after 1945, nothing is as it used to be: Anna has gone missing, Otto is in prison as a war criminal, and the division of Germany has made a rift right through the family. It is not until the 1960s that Anna's daughter and Otto's son find each other, but they are both suffering from the wounds caused by the war.

In epic language and with great psychological precision, Norbert Leithold has traced the rise and fall of an upper-class family through three generations and drawn a vivid panorama from the Third Reich up until 1968 in West and East Germany.

For readers of Uwe Tellkamp's *Der Turm*, Eugen Ruge's *In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts* and Thomas Mann's *Buddenbrooks*.

Press

"This novel is a complex, rough-edged, top-quality prism, the facets of which reflect three decades of German history."
Sächsische Zeitung

"With *The Monster*, Terézia Mora has succeeded in writing a wonderful novel about an existential experience." *SWR 2*



Rights sold to:

France (Piranha), Hungary (Magvető),
Macedonia (Goten), Turkey (Epsilon)

Terézia Mora was born in 1971 in Sopron, Hungary. She has lived in Berlin since 1990, and is a translator. Her stories have won her the Open Mike Prize for Literature, the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize and the Adelbert von Chamisso prize for aspiring writers. *Every Day* was her first novel, for which she was awarded several prizes, and which was translated into 16 languages.

www.tereziamora.de



Terézia Mora
The Monster
[Das Ungeheuer]
Novel

Luchterhand
688 pages
September 2013

[English sample translation available](#)

"There's nothing special about such stories; they happen all the time: was once an engineer, lost his job, lost his wife, ended up on the streets." A very ordinary fate, perhaps, but if it happens to you, you just cave in.

This is the position Darius Kopp is in, an IT specialist who first lost his job, then the great love of his life. For Flora, his wife, committed suicide, and ever since Darius has hardly been able to carry on. In the end, he gets into his car and travels first to Hungary, where Flora had grown up, and then just drives on and on. During his journey, he reads Flora's secret diary he found after her death and discovers how monstrously vulnerable Flora's life had always been – and that he hadn't had a clue about any of it.

A man's journey to look for the truth about his wife. About himself. And about this dark and monstrous world.

Press:

"The expeditions into human life, the immersion into the depths of human relationships – this novel is masterfully woven." *rbb Inforadio*

"With *The Monster*, Terézia Mora has succeeded in writing a wonderful novel about an existential experience." *SWR 2*

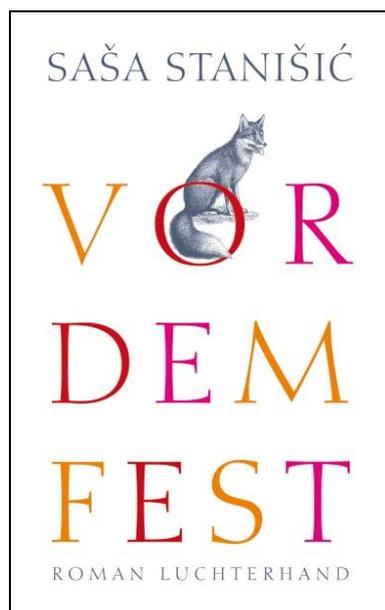
- SPIEGEL Bestseller
- 80,000 copies sold

"This novel should be read much like chocolate should be eaten: (...) not all at one time." *WDR-Hörfunk*



Rights sold to:

Bosnia (Buybook), France (Stock), Korea (Nangiyala), The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Poland (PWN)



Saša Stanišić
Before the Festival
[Vor dem Fest]
Novel

Luchterhand
320 pages
March 2014

[English sample translation available](#)

Saša Stanišić was born in Visegrad in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1978 and when he was fourteen had to flee to Heidelberg with his family to escape the civil war in his home country. He studied at the German Literature Institute in Leipzig from 2004 to 2006. His debut novel, *How the Soldier Repaired the Gramophone*, was enthusiastically received by public and press alike; it was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2006 and has been translated into 30 languages. Stanišić has received several awards, including the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize.

It is the night before the village festival in Fürstenfelde. The village is still asleep. Except for the ferryman – he is dead. And Mrs. Kranz, the painter who wants to capture her village by night. A bell ringer and his apprentice want to ring the bells. A vixen is looking for eggs for her young, and Mr. Schramm cannot decide whether to get some cigarettes or shoot himself in the head. They all have a mission. They all want to complete a task before the night is over.

None of them will admit to having observed the break-in in the village archive. The door of the building is still open. But it is not what has been stolen that is distressing those awake but what has escaped: old stories and memories have broken out and are creeping with the people round the houses.

They all add up to make a novel about a long night, a mosaic of village life in which long-time residents and newcomers, the dead and the living, artisans, pensioners and unemployed demigods in soccer shirts all meet up.

Press

"Stanišić writes so directly and poignantly (...), a humorous yet just as poetic book exuberantly filled with burlesque incidences and tragic-comical stories." *Focus*

- Awarded the Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse 2014
- *How the Soldier Repaired the Gramophone* translated into 30 languages
- SPIEGEL bestseller: 50,000 copies sold

"*The Talented Mr Ripley* has met his equal!" *Nelleke Geel, Editor Signatuur*

Rights sold to:

Australia/ World Engl. (Text),
Czech Republic (Euromedia),
France (Albin Michel), Italy (Marsilio),
The Netherlands (Signatuur),
Russia (AST), Spain (Seix Barral),
Spain/Catalan (Edicions 62)

Sascha Arango was born in Berlin in 1959 and is one of Germany's most prominent screenplay writers. He has also authored audio plays and stage plays and has been awarded several prizes, including the Grimme Prize twice.



Sascha Arango
The Truth and Other Lies
[Die Wahrheit und andere Lügen]
Novel

C. Bertelsmann
304 pages
February 2014

English sample translation available

Famous bestselling author, loving husband, generous friend – Henry is an extremely pleasant person to have around, or so it seems. But then his mistress – and editor – becomes pregnant and as a result the whole of his carefully constructed life threatens to come apart. When he tries to get rid of his girlfriend, he makes a terrible mistake. Not only are the police soon after him, but his past, which he had painstakingly been keeping under the carpet, also threatens to catch up with him.

In order not to be called to account, Henry works out an ingenious plan. Craftily and cold-bloodedly, he intertwines lies and truths a, with happy coincidences playing a not insignificant part. But bit by bit the noose tightens.

Arango has told the gripping story of Henry as he stands completely free of vertigo on the edge of the abyss. Arango shows us a man who is always able to evade the consequences of his actions – until he takes one step too many.

A psychological suspense novel in the tradition of Patricia Highsmith's "Mr. Ripley" novels.

Press

"The sheer elegance of the story is already more than enough to keep you reading deep into the night, but the refinement with which the author lures you into choosing Henry Hayden's side is stunning." *Nelleke Geel, Editor Signatuur*

"Noir fiction of the most beautiful kind, even in its most evil moments maintaining a certain tenderness." *Spiegel Online*

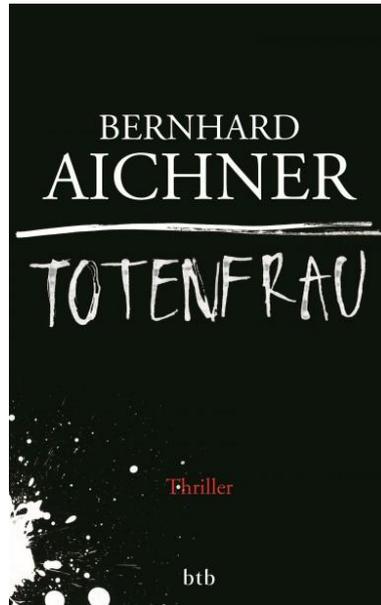
A woman wants revenge – and gets it

Rights sold to:

France (Editions de L'Archipel), Italy (Rizzoli), The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Poland (Sonia Draga), Spain (Maeva), UK (Weidenfeld & Nicolson/Orion), US (Scribner/Simon & Schuster)

Bernhard Aichner was born in 1972 and lives in Innsbruck, Austria, where he works as an author and photographer. Aichner writes novels, audio plays and stage plays and has been awarded several literature prizes and scholarships for his works. He spent half a year working for an undertaker to do research for *Woman of the Dead*.

www.bernhard-aichner.at



Bernhard Aichner
Woman of the Dead
[Totenfrau]
Thriller

btb
448 pages
March 2014

[English sample translation available](#)

Blum is an undertaker. She is the loving mother of two children and is popular because of her huge heart, her black humour and her coolness; she rides a motorbike, likes drinking and is happily married. Blum has a good life.

But then everything goes to pieces when her husband, a policeman, is killed in an accident. Mark is run over before her very eyes. A hit-and-run job. Her life breaks apart. Blum grieves but refuses to come to terms with her fate. The most important thing in her life is no longer there. Her support, her happiness. Quite by chance she discovers that there is more to her husband's accident than meets the eye, that five influential people wanted his death.

Blum seeks revenge. What happened? Why did Mark have to die? When she has collected the answers, she strikes...

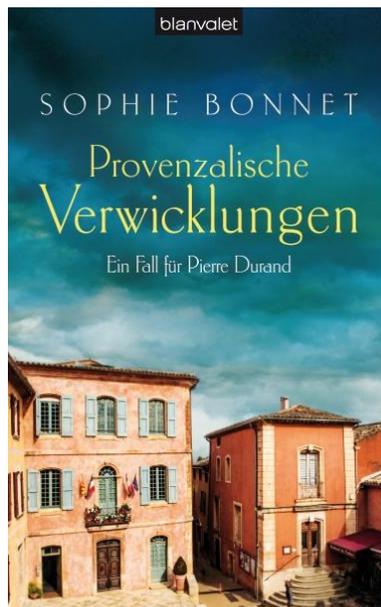
Press

"If you think Lisbeth Salander is one tough lady, just wait until you meet the Totenfrau!" *Francesca Cristoffanini, Foreign Fiction Editor, Rizzoli*

"...after the Scandi noir genre, what next? Very probably Aichner's murderous heroine." *Anthea Bell, Translator of the English edition*

- SPIEGEL bestseller
- 30,000 copies sold

Likeably quirky villagers, a gripping case of murder and some delicious things to eat



Sophie Bonnet
Provençal Entanglements
[Provenzalische
Verwicklungen]
A case for Pierre Durand

Blanvalet
320 pages
March 2014

[Online special available](#)

Sophie Bonnet is the pseudonym of a bestselling author who has already had several novels of suspense published in Germany and internationally. *Provençal Entanglements* is her first book in which she has incorporated her two big obsessions – French cuisine and her love of Provence.

www.sophie-bonnet.de

Sainte-Valérie, an idyllic village amidst the vineyards and olive groves of Provence. One-time inspector Pierre Durand from Paris would be enjoying the late summer in his adopted home village if his girlfriend hadn't just left him. And then the tranquillity of rural life comes to an abrupt end: the local Casanova is found murdered in a wine cellar – next to a recipe for "coq au vin". Was this a macabre act of revenge by some cuckolded husband? The villagers stick together. And very soon Pierre has a niggling suspicion that behind the lovely façade of Sainte-Valérie there is a gaping abyss...

For readers of Jean-Luc Bannalec.

- SPIEGEL bestseller
- 15,000 copies sold

A successful young woman and a fatal maelstrom of bullying and intrigues



Susanne Kliem
The Protectoress
[Die Beschützerin]
Novel

carl's books
320 pages
March 2014

Susanne Kliem was born in 1965 and has worked in PR for television series and the largest German theatre, the Theater der Welt. She has been writing crime stories since 2009, for which she was awarded the Krefeld Short Crime Story Prize and nominated for the Agatha Christie Prize.

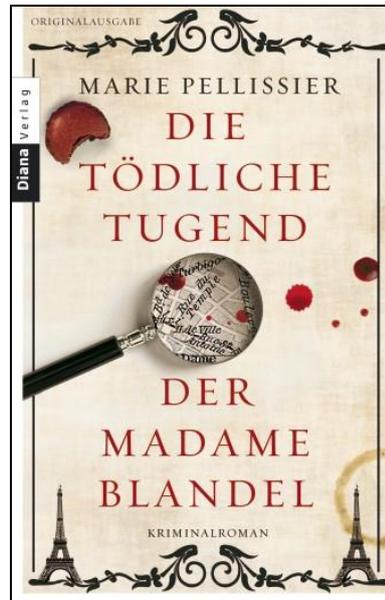
www.susannekliem.de

Janne Amelung, a successful event manager working for a Berlin television station, has to present her department to a group of management consultants. She is all the more relieved that consultant Vanessa Ott seems to be a pleasant, open-minded person and even privately seeks her company.

Only a few weeks later, Janne's situation has completely changed: she has become the victim of bullying and intrigues. Somebody is not only trying systematically to ruin her career but also to destroy her relationship with the man of her life, Gregor. Vanessa alone seems to be standing by her. Then she hears of a mysterious case of death the consultant was involved in. Janne gradually realises that Vanessa's life is a construction of lies – and Janne herself might be the next victim...

For readers of Nicci French, Ruth Rendell and Liza Marklund.

Fatal rendezvous in the city of love



Marie Pellissier
**The Fatal Virtue of
Madame Blandel**
[Die tödliche Tugend der
Madame Blandel]
Crime Novel

Diana Paperback
336 pages
May 2014

Marie Pellissier was born in 1971 and in her early twenties fell in love with the city of Paris, where she lived for many years. *The Fatal Virtue of Madame Blandel* is her first crime novel.

Paris, Place des Vosges. For over forty years, the *gardienne* Lucie has been watching over the wellbeing of the building and its inhabitants. Only the cold-hearted Vanessa Blandel makes life difficult for her. When Vanessa's body is pulled out of the Seine one day, Lucie believes she has made a big mistake. For in her well-meaning obsession for tidiness and cleanliness she has wiped away important clues in the Blandels' *piano nobile*. No matter what, she simply has to find out before the police do who has Vanessa on their conscience. Lucie has a neck-and-neck race with investigator Inspector Legrand that takes her deep into the heart of the metropolis on the Seine...

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