

## Foreign Rights Spring 2021

### Fiction



Blanvalet ▪ Blessing ▪ btb ▪ C. Bertelsmann ▪ Diana  
Goldmann ▪ Heyne ▪ Limes ▪ Luchterhand ▪ Penguin

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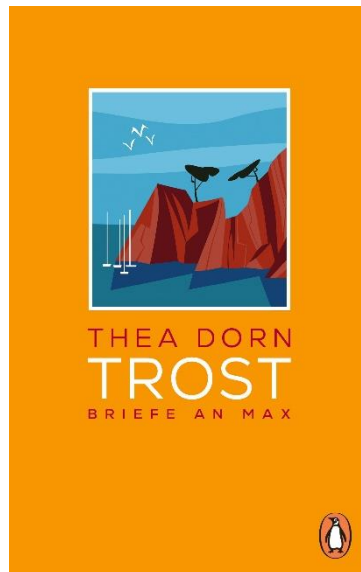
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## The book of the hour for all in need of solace

*Spiegel*  
Bestselling  
Author



Thea Dorn  
**Solace**  
[Trost]  
Letters to Max

Penguin  
176 pages  
4c throughout with 8 colour illustrations  
February 2021

**Thea Dorn**, born in 1970, studied philosophy and theatre science in Frankfurt, Vienna and Berlin. She worked as a university professor and as a dramaturg. She wrote a series of award-winning novels and bestsellers, theatre plays, screenplays and essays, and hosted the TV show "Literatur im Foyer". Since March 2017, she has been a fast member of the TV programme "Literarisches Quartett".

"How are you?" When Johanna receives a postcard with this seemingly harmless question from her old philosophy teacher Max, all breaks loose: the grief over her mother's death; the anger at the hospital staff who denied her to be close to the dying one. Inspired by further postcards, Johanna begins to face the demons that linger behind her desperation.

In this extraordinary postcard epistolary novel, author and philosopher Thea Dorn talks about the existential topics we, who often cannot find any help in religion anymore and are just as intoxicated as we are overwhelmed by the myriads of technological possibilities, often avoid: coming to terms with life's finiteness, and searching for solace in desolate times.

## Eerie, profound, archaic – a breathtakingly atmospheric image of post-Communist Romania

**New Books  
in German**

English sample translation  
available

[English video pitch](#) available

**Dana Grigorcea**, born in 1979 in Bucharest, studied German and Dutch literature in Bucharest and theatre and film directing as well as quality journalism in Krems, Austria. She worked as journalist and has been living in Zurich as freelancing writer since 2013. Her novels and stories won multiple awards, among them the 3sat Prize of the Ingeborg Bachmann awards and have been translated into numerous languages.



Dana Grigorcea  
**Those Who Never Die**  
[Die nicht sterben]  
Novel

Penguin  
272 pages  
March 2021

Present-day Transylvania. After studying art in Paris, a young Bucharest artist returns to her home in the Romanian Carpathians – the small town of B., where she had spent every summer vacation during her childhood and teenage years with her great aunt among chandeliers and Persian carpets. Today, B. has outlived its glory days. Too many have left for good after the revolution to seek their fortune in Western Europe. The artist returns to an estranged world, one to which she is solely linked to through a few close friends and the strings that tie up her family history.

When a defiled body is found upon the grave of Vlad the Impaler, better known as Dracula, she realises that the past still holds B. tightly in its grip. She wants to tell the place's story even though it eludes her. While, in the beginning, she is afraid of mixing up the chronological order of events, she eventually comes to realise that every order makes sense. Because a story is not about causes and effects but about one thing only: Fate.

Dana Grigorcea paints a breathtakingly atmospheric image of a post-Communist society which still to this day appears to be caught in an intermediate realm. Without any warning at all, she leads her readers into the heart of a horror which can only be conjured by one's own imagination – or by the exigent Count Dracula.

## Nobody is safe from those crucial moments that change everything

**New Books  
in German**

English and Norwegian sample translations available

[English](#) and [Norwegian](#) video pitches available



**Matthias Jügler**  
**The Forsaken**  
[Die Verlassenen]  
Novel

Penguin  
176 pages  
March 2021

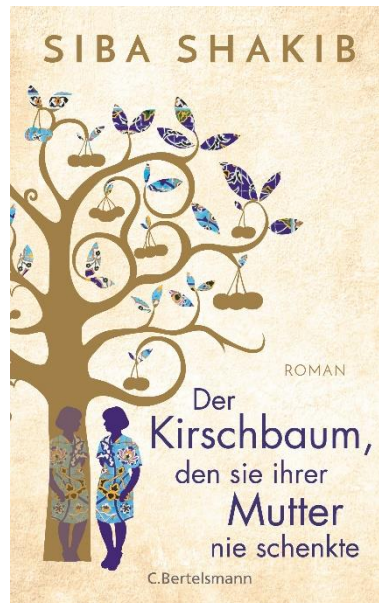
**Matthias Jügler**, born in 1984, did a degree in Slavonic and history of art in Greifswald and Oslo and studied creative writing at the Institute of Literature in Leipzig. His 2015 debut novel *Raubfischen* was awarded numerous prizes. Jügler has been a writer-in-residence in Pfaffenhofen, won a scholarship from the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, and was a writer-in-residence at the Goethe Institute in Uzbekistan. He lives in Leipzig with his wife and children, and is a freelance editor.

What would you forget, if you could?

Johannes looks back on his childhood in East Germany, and the cracks that ran through it: his mother's early death, his father's mysterious disappearance. All his questions remained unanswered, and he now treads carefully on his path through life. He's a melancholic loner, who has settled into a quiet existence. When Johannes finds a letter in an old chest – addressed to his father and sent only a few days before he left his son without a word – the discovery transforms not only his future, but also his past as a child in the GDR before the Wall came down. His memories arrange themselves into a new pattern, and with it his attitude to his own life changes.

With penetrating vigour and forceful clarity, Matthias Jügler tells a story of loss and betrayal, of the value of memory and the urgent questions that are troubling a whole generation. A warm-hearted, radiant novel written with extraordinary linguistic intensity.

## A compelling novel about the healing power of storytelling



Siba Shakib  
**The Cherry Tree She  
Never Gave Her Mother**  
[Der Kirschbaum, den sie ihrer  
Mutter nie schenkte]  
Novel

C. Bertelsmann  
450 pages  
April 2021

Born in Iran, **Siba Shakib** grew up in Teheran and attended a German school there. A writer and filmmaker, she has frequently travelled to Afghanistan, visiting the north as well as the territory controlled by the Taliban. Several of her documentaries have won awards. Her first book, *Afghanistan, Where God Only Comes to Weep* was an international bestseller. It was followed by the equally successful novels *Samira and Samir* (2003) and *Eskandar* (2009).

Middle-aged Anoush's life has reached a turning point: her friend Anouk, like herself the daughter of an Iranian father and a German mother, who was like a sister to her when they were children in Teheran, has committed suicide. Time stops for Anoush. It isn't the first time she has lost Anouk, but now she has lost her forever.

Anoush, who cut all ties with her parents in Iran many years ago, retreats into her small house in the Italian region of Marche. Nature and the simple life are what she needs right now – but despite her efforts she's unable to finish the novel she has been working on for a long time now. Then a mysterious woman appears at her door, claiming to have lost her memory. She looks familiar, but Anoush doesn't know why. While the woman – whom Anoush calls Anouk – takes Anoush back into her own past, the novel Anoush is working on helps both women to find themselves again. And Anoush finally manages to reconcile herself with her mother and with life.

A powerfully written novel about the healing power of storytelling, as colourful and artfully woven as an oriental rug.



# Persecuted, Smuggler, Prisoner, Thief, Sailor, Fighter, Saviour. The story of a hero.



English sample translation  
available

[English video pitch](#) available

Rights sold to:  
The Netherlands (Signatuur)



Takis Würger  
**Noah**  
[Noah]  
By one who survived

Penguin  
188 pages  
With 1 colour illustration  
March 2021

**Takis Würger**, born in 1985, works as journalist for the news magazine *Der Spiegel* reporting from Afghanistan, Libya or Iraq among others. His reports won numerous awards such as the German Reporter Prize and the CNN Journalist Award. At 28, he left for England to study history of ideas at the University of Cambridge. 2017 saw the publication of his debut novel *The Club*, which was nominated for the Aspekte Literature Prize and was awarded the Lit.Cologne Debut Prize.

Noah Klieger was 13 when he joined a Jewish underground organisation during the German occupation of Belgium helping to smuggle Jewish children to Switzerland.

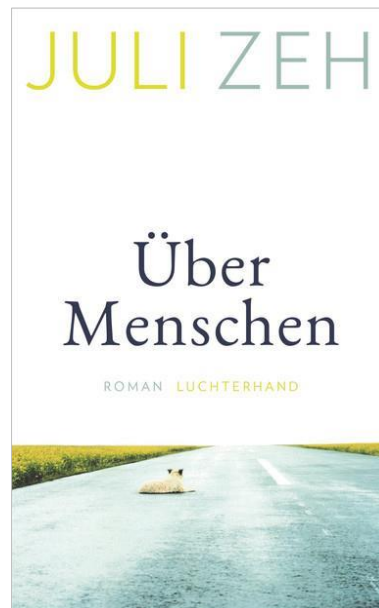
Noah Klieger was 16 when he arrived in Auschwitz as prisoner at freezing degrees one morning. Noah Klieger had never before boxed when upon arrival the prisoners were asked if there were boxers among them and he raised his hand. The daily extra ration of soup for the Auschwitz boxing squad let him survive long enough.

Noah Klieger was 20 when the extermination camp was liberated. He survived three death marches and four concentration camps in a time when a single word, a raised hand or a wrong step could decide about life and death. And yet, even in the dark, ice-cold hours, he found hope, he found those who fought the Germans, he found allies who stole potatoes with him, he found a doctor who saved his life, he found cunning and luck in one last loaf of bread.

Takis Würger tells the story of Noah Klieger's life – from his childhood days in 1920s France and his survival of the Nazi concentration camps to his commitment to the founding of Israel. The report of a great hero's life – breathtakingly well written.

A story that must never be forgotten.

## Do we dare to be truly human?



Juli Zeh  
**On Humans**  
[Über Menschen]  
Novel

Luchterhand  
416 pages  
March 2021

**Rights sold to:**  
The Netherlands (AmboAnthos)

**Juli Zeh**, born in 1974, studied law and took her PhD in the field of European and international law. This was followed by longer stints in New York and Kraków. Her debut novel *Eagles and Angels* was an international bestseller, and since then her books have been translated into 35 languages. She has been awarded myriad prizes for her work, including the Carl Amery Literature Prize, the Thomas Mann Prize and the German Order of Merit. She is also a judge at the constitutional court in the state of Brandenburg.

For more information visit [www.juli-zeh.de](http://www.juli-zeh.de)

Dora moved to the countryside with her little dog. She desperately needed a change of scenery, more freedom and room to breathe. But Bracken, the small village in Brandenburg, is not quite as idyllic as she thought. There is no furniture in the house yet, the garden resembles a wilderness, and the bus connection to the district town is a joke. But above all, behind the high garden wall there resides a neighbour who, with his shaved head and right-wing slogans, seems to conform to all the prejudices.

Dora has to ask herself what she is looking for: Distance from her boyfriend, who is becoming increasingly alien to her in his dogged climate activism? Refuge from the inner turmoil that keeps her up at night? Answers to the question of when the world actually got so mixed up? While Dora is trying to keep her thoughts and demons in check, things happen in her vicinity she could not have expected. She encounters people who do not fit into any mould, who fundamentally challenge her ideas and her previous life, and who make her experience something she would never have thought she was looking for.

Juli Zeh's novel tells the story of today – of our prejudices, weaknesses and demons, as well as the hidden strengths we reveal when we allow ourselves to be truly human.



## In the pub, they talk of life – Jaroslav Rudiš's first graphic novel

**Spiegel  
Bestselling  
Author**



Jaroslav Rudiš /  
Nicolas Mahler  
**Creatures of the Night**  
[Nachtgestalten]

Luchterhand  
144 pages  
With 144 colour illustrations  
February 2021

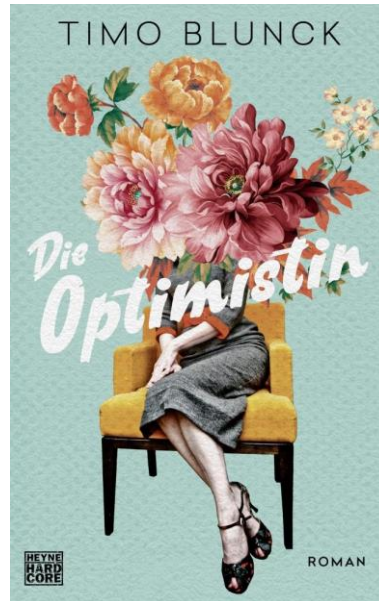
**Jaroslav Rudiš**, born in 1972, is a prize-winning author, scriptwriter and dramatist. He studied German and history and worked as a teacher and journalist. *Winterberg's Last Journey*, his first novel in German, was nominated for the 2019 Leipzig Book Fair Prize.

**Nicolas Mahler**, born in 1969, is a comic book artist and illustrator. He has won several prizes, including the 2010 Max & Moritz Prize for best German comic artist. His most recent book is his graphic interpretation of *Ulysses*, published by Suhrkamp.

One night, one city, and two friends who know that there's nothing greater than the truth of the moment when the pubs close. Drifting from one beer to the next and one tale to the next, two creatures of the night tell incisive, smart stories full of subversive humour about the tragedy of love and the madness of life, as well as about the traces of history that lie beneath and never quite disappear.



## A novel uniting generations and cultures



Timo Blunck  
**The Optimist**  
[Die Optimistin]  
Novel

Heyne  
352 pages  
March 2021

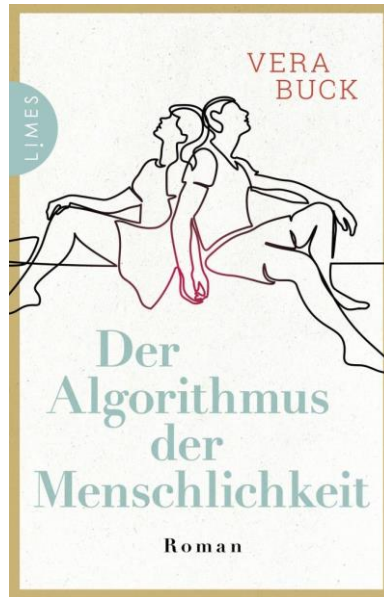
**Timo Blunck**, born in 1962, is a musician, singer, composer, producer and writer. From 1981 he played bass guitar in *Palais Schaumburg*, the internationally successful avant-garde punk band. About this time he and Detlef Diederichsen also set up the band *Die Zimmermänner*, with which he is still active today. Timo Blunck moved to London in 1990 and to the USA in 1993 before coming back to Hamburg to take over a company that licences and produces music in 2001.

Charlotte Keller is an unconditional optimist. Shortly before her eightieth birthday, she takes in the runaway bridegroom Toygar Bayramoğlu.

Over two days, in her flat in an old people's home on the Baltic coast, she tells him the story of her life. But Toygar soon realises that although her story may be accurate, none of it is true.

Charlotte Keller is the German version of Jonas Jonasson's *Hundred-Year-Old Man*.

## Why do people not want to be happy? And how can it be that only a machine can find the true path to happiness?



Vera Buck  
**The Algorithm  
of Humanity**  
[Der Algorithmus der  
Menschlichkeit]  
Novel

Limes  
384 pages  
March 2021

English outline available

**Vera Buck**, born in 1986, studied journalism in Hannover and scriptwriting on Hawaii. During this time she wrote texts for radio, television and print media and later short stories for anthologies and literary magazines. After working at universities in France, Spain and Italy, Vera Buck now lives and works in Zürich.

If you meet Mari, you will notice that she is beautiful and almost hauntingly perfect. But also that she fails to get jokes and vies everything rationally. And if you get to know her better, you will notice that Mari needs neither sleep nor food. Because Mari is only almost human. Her artificial intelligence is constantly learning to do one job: to make people happy.

When Mari ends up in a Berlin apartment after an unfortunate chain of circumstances with a motley crew of people, including the rebellious blogger Frieda and the lonely student Linus, she realizes that her mission is all but easy. The world follows its own logic, people's desires are irrational and Mari has to understand that there exists a world beyond provable facts. How is she supposed to make beings happy that have no clue what they want? She comes up with a solution no human would have ever expected...

*The Algorithm of Humanity* deals with questions that are becoming incredibly important in the current developments in the technology sector: What makes us human? Why do we need each other? And why do we actually need more of each other, and less of the new technologies that are constantly being developed?

For all readers of Graeme Simsion's *The Rosie Project* and Ian McEwan's *Machines Like Me*.

## A story about mothers and daughters, guilt and forgiveness, and how we become who we are



Heike Duken  
**We're Still Family**  
[Denn Familie sind wir trotzdem]  
Novel

Limes  
320 pages  
March 2021

**Heike Duken**, born in 1966, studied psychology and is a psychotherapist with her own practice. She has been writing ever since she could read the letters of the alphabet, and her first book was a pirate story she wrote as a Year 3 pupil. Her novel *When Life Gives You a Tortoise* was awarded a scholarship from the German Literature Fund and won high praise from both the media and readers. In *We're Still Family*, Heike Duken once again displays her particular talent for creating realistic and vivid characters.

The past is casting its long shadow over the family Fux, all the way from 1925 – when two young brothers were raised to become soldiers, and, in the 1930s, forced to decide whose side they're on – to the present day. Ina, the daughter of one of the brothers, is estranged from her family and its history. When she becomes pregnant at 19, she decides to raise her daughter Floh by herself, as the baby's father is unwilling to stay.

Years later Floh, now a young woman, starts looking into her family history – driven by her anger at her absent father, at the state and at society. What she discovers – as well as her own pregnancy – changes everything. History threatens to repeat itself, but Floh is determined to work together with her grandfather to overcome the curse of yesterday and search for the one thing that will, despite everything, keep the family together.

Inspired by Heike Duken's own family history.

## Grandmother and Granddaughter – and a German century



Anja Hirsch  
**What Dora Left Behind**  
[Was von Dora blieb]  
Novel

C. Bertelsmann  
336 pages  
March 2021

**Anja Hirsch**, born in 1969, studied in Freiburg, Bielefeld and Canada, and has a PhD in German. She works as a freelance journalist for various outlets (including *Deutschlandfunk*, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* and *WDR* radio), and has been a member of the jury for the Rolf Dieter Brinkmann Stipend and the independent publishers' Hotlist Prize. *What Dora Left Behind* is her first novel.

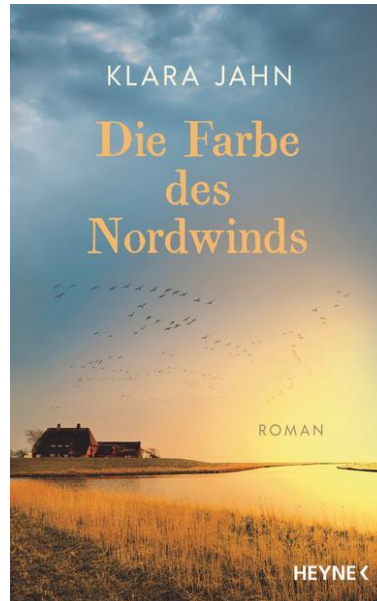
Isa's marriage is in trouble. Deeply hurt, she flees to Lake Constance. In her suitcase are old letters and diaries belonging to her mysterious grandmother Dora. To take her mind off things, Isa delves into Dora's story: In the 1920s, Dora studied decorative arts at the Folkwangschule, a Bauhaus-style arts academy. There, she developed an intense friendship with two fellow students – the miner's son Frantek and extravagant Maritz – which eventually turned into a love triangle. Years later, Dora married a manager at I.G. Farben, a fact hardly ever mentioned in Isa's family.

More and more questions spring up: What was Isa's grandfather's role in the Second World War, and why was her father sent to a notorious Nazi boarding school? The more Isa digs into her family history, the more she understands Dora, and herself. Ultimately, she is forced to ask what it means to live a responsible life – and faces an important decision.

A moving novel about the difficulty of the war-grandchildren generation to anchor themselves in their own lives and a fascinating search for clues in which the readers meet themselves again and again.

For readers of Christian Berkel, Anne Gesthuysen and Annette Hess.

## When the search for home turns into a search for yourself



Klara Jahn  
**The Colour  
of the North Wind**  
[Die Farbe des Nordwinds]  
Novel

Heyne  
400 pages  
March 2021

**Klara Jahn** is the pseudonym of a famous bestselling author. She is a historian, and loves telling big stories – and to dive deep into the history and people of her locations, guided by her love for nature and fascination with rugged landscapes. *The Colour of the North Wind* is her first book for Heyne in which she takes on northern Germany, whose austere beauty has enthralled her for years.

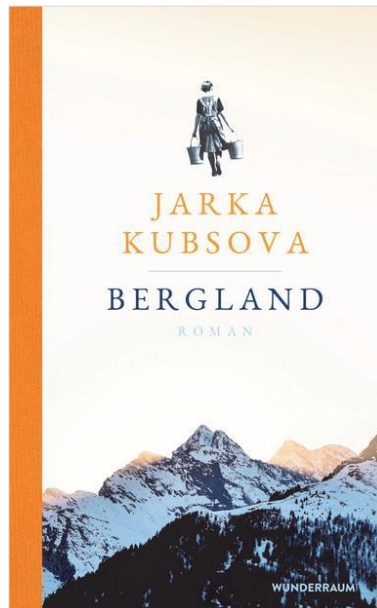
Ellen has always felt like a visitor in her own life. Except once, when she was young and briefly lived on the Halligen islands with her mother. She never wanted to leave, but had no say in the matter. Now she returns to these oddly familiar marshes – and to Liske, who once was like a sister to her.

As they grow closer, old conflicts are stirred up again; but Ellen refuses to give up. Because she knows that this is her true home.

For readers of Delia Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing*.



**An old mountain farm in South Tyrol.  
A woman battling against nature.  
A world with its very own rules.**



Jarka Kubsova  
**Mountain Country**  
[Bergland]  
Novel

Goldmann  
280 pages  
May 2021

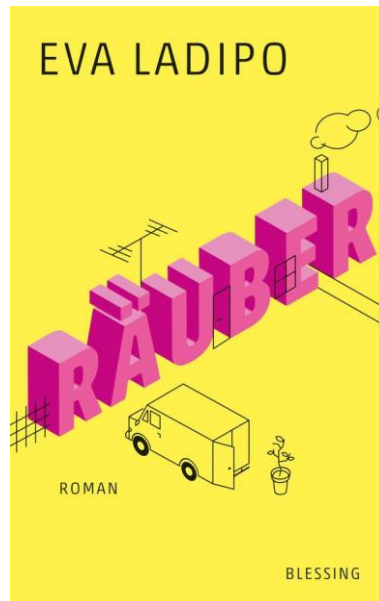
**Jarka Kubsova** was born in the Czech Republic in 1977. When she was ten, her family emigrated to Germany. After studying nursing in Hamburg, she joined the *Financial Times Germany*, first as a trainee and then as a reporter. She has also worked for *Stern* and *Die Zeit*. *Mountain Country* is her first novel.

Rosa is a woman like no other in Tiefenthal. During the early 1940s, as the sons of South Tyrol are being devoured by the war, the youngest daughter of the Breitenbergers remains behind on the farm with her father. In the tough years following her father's death, Rosa is left to her own devices in this isolated landscape, battling against nature to forge a life for herself.

Two generations later, Rosa's grandson Hannes and his wife Franziska depend on tourists for the farm's survival. But life up here is no picnic. And with their new problems comes an old question: should they stay or leave?

For all readers of Robert Seethaler and Dörte Hansen.

## Who owns the city?



Eva Ladipo  
**Robbers**  
 [Räuber]  
 Novel

Blessing  
 544 pages  
 March 2021

**Eva Ladipo**, born in 1974, studied political science at Cambridge and did her PhD on the Russian tax system. She began her career as a journalist at the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and most recently worked for the *Financial Times*. She spent several years in Russia and Colombia, and now lives in London with her husband and two children. Her first novel, *Turning Point*, was published in 2015.

When the social housing flat he lives in with his mother is sold, Olli Leber knows what it means: People like him no longer have the right to live in the centre of Berlin. But the young construction worker does not want to be quietly disposed of and blows the counterattack.

He finds an unexpected ally in Amelie. The well-known journalist has old scores to settle and her own reasons for feeling betrayed by the city. Together, the two embark on a battle for justice. A fight that gets more and more out of control.

The big novel about average earners being priced out of city centres.

## A glimpse behind the façade of a seemingly perfect family



Angelika Waldis  
**Lots of Nice People**  
[Lauter nette Menschen]  
Novel

Goldmann  
256 pages  
March 2021

**Angelika Waldis** was born in Switzerland in 1940. Together with her husband, she spent many years publishing *Spick*, a pioneering magazine for schoolchildren. She published her first book at the age of sixty-five. Swiss booksellers named her novel *I'm Coming With You* their favourite German-language book of 2019.

The Dreheres are a perfectly normal family, with two children, a house and a cat. They eat together, they talk to each other. But the new year brings changes with it: when Inge's latest project, the young refugee Tariq, moves into their basement, Heiner grumbles and hides away in their summer house, where he composes poems and angry letters. The two teenage sons Nick and Josch rebel in their own way, and discover the joy of forbidden things.

At the end of this perfectly ordinary year, nothing will ever be the same again in the Dreheres' lives – except for the cat.

### Press

"Angelika Waldis writes with an imaginative playfulness and superb lightness of touch, without ever becoming superficial."

*Jury of the ZKB Schiller Prize*

## If you keep meowing, things will eventually turn out all right



Sophie Faber  
**Wanted: Dream Man.  
Cats Provided.**

[Traummann gesucht. Katzen  
vorhanden.]

Novel

Heyne Paperback  
304 pages  
April 2021

**Sophie Faber**, born in 1973, lives in Berlin's Schöneberg district with her three tomcats, and shares her time between the two significant men in her life: her husband and her vet. She always carries a lint roller in her handbag, and is quite sure that she'll be a quirky cat lady in her old age.

Beatrix 'Trixie' Vogelsang is in her mid-forties, works as an assistant to the young vet Finn, and gets on famously with every one of the clinic's fluffy, button-eyed and feathered patients. She loves to bring love into the world, and acts as an – occasionally successful – matchmaker for the animals' owners.

But what about her? Since her husband's death she's been content to spend her evenings with her three tomcats Freddie, Godzilla and Nosferatu. But does it always have to be this way?

## Three women, an unforgettable summer, and a place that reawakens memories



Lucinde Hutzenlaub  
**Three Women,  
One Summer**  
[Drei Frauen und ein Sommer]  
Novel

Penguin  
400 pages  
May 2021

**Lucinde Hutzenlaub** is a writer and columnist for *Donna*, and the manager of a large family with four children. Her book *I Thought Growing Older Would Take Longer* (with Heike Abidi) was in the bestseller lists for weeks. She lives and works in southern Germany, near the Swabian mountains – and has long wanted to tell a story set among those picturesque peaks.

Shortly before her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, Kiki finds out that the man with whom she planned to spend the rest of her life is about to marry someone else. And then her mother asks her to come with her on a visit to Kiki's aunt in the mountains. Kiki only reluctantly agrees. But on a summer's evening by the lake, as the last rays of the sun warm the flat pebbles on the shore and Kiki inhales the scent of ripe raspberries, she begins to understand why her aunt Elsie feels so bound to this place.

At last, Elsie tells her the tragic story of Kurt, the love of her life, whom she met here during the last years of the war. Kiki senses her own attitude to many things in life change – particularly when the charming carpenter Jakob crosses her path...

## The sweet scent of strawberries in the summer, and powerful emotions – welcome back to California!



Manuela Inusa  
**Strawberry Promises**  
 [Erdbeerversprechen]  
 Californian Dreams (Vol. 4)  
 Novel

Blanvalet Paperback  
 416 pages  
 February 2021

**Manuela Inusa**, born in 1981, knew even as a child that she was going to be a writer one day. Her short stories, novels and more than thirty self-published novelettes have reached many readers. Her best-selling *Valerie Lane* series quickly found an enthusiastic readership and conquered the Spiegel bestseller list.

Amanda has spent many happy years with her family on their strawberry farm near Carmel-by-the-Sea. Until her husband Tom died 18 months ago leaving her on her own with her daughter Jane. Jane finds it hard to deal with the loss of her father, and Amanda, too, struggles to go on without her beloved Tom and run the plantation single-handedly.

When her best friend suggests that she joins a bereavement support group, Amanda eventually agrees, in the hope that she'll learn how to deal with her sorrow. However, what she doesn't know is that she'll encounter someone very special there. And then she remembers a promise she once made her husband...

### The bestselling *Californian Dreams* series:



**Winter Vanilla**  
 (Vol. 1)

- More than 95,000 copies sold

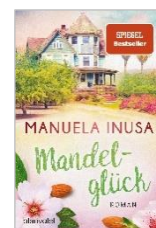
September 2019



**Orange Dreams**  
 (Vol. 2)

- More than 65,000 copies sold

April 2020



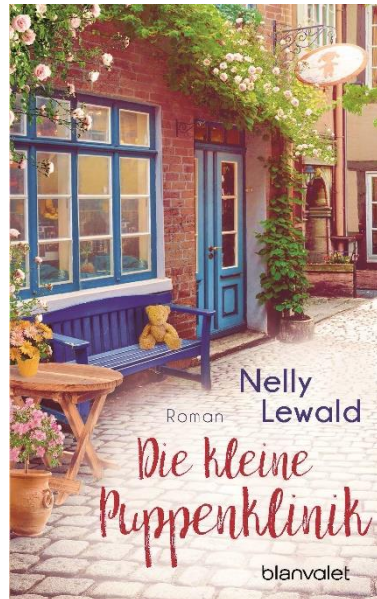
**Almond Joy**  
 (Vol. 3)

- More than 70,000 copies sold

February 2021



## As she fights to save her toy hospital, a young toy doctor discovers what she's made of



Nelly Lewald  
**The Little Toy Hospital**  
[Die kleine Puppenklinik]  
Novel

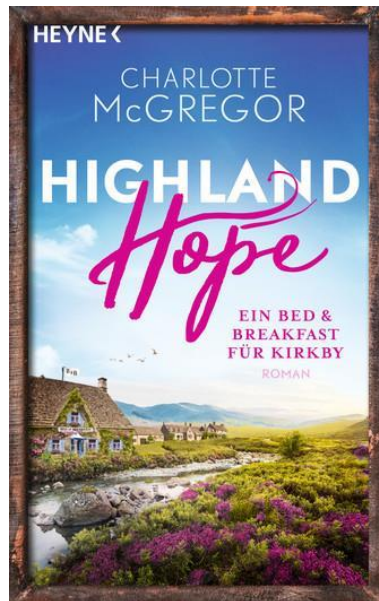
Blanvalet Paperback  
320 pages  
May 2021

**Nelly Lewald** is the pseudonym of a successful German children's and YA author. Her novels have been translated into many languages, and have won several awards. *The Charming Toy Doctor* was her debut novel for adults, and her first for Blanvalet.

Lena's toy hospital in a Munich back yard is a jewel from the days of old: here, adults delight in long-forgotten memories, and the neighbourhood children think of it as their very own paradise. Lena loves treating her cuddly patients, and the way the children's faces light up. The only problem is that her private life and happiness have always played second fiddle. When the owner of the plot of land dies and a group of Chinese investors plans a luxury development, Lena has to choose between giving up and fighting for her toy hospital.

She decides to go into battle – with the help and advice of her colleague Ekki, her notoriously opinionated friend Katja, charming Mateo and eight-year-old Emma. And in the process, she learns to take charge of her own life too.

## The rough charm of the Scottish Highlands, a picturesque village and passionate love



### Charlotte McGregor **Highland Hope – A Bed & Breakfast for Kirkby**

[Highland Hope 1 – Ein Bed & Breakfast für Kirkby]  
Highland Hope saga (Vol. 1)  
Novel

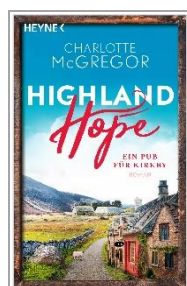
Heyne Paperback  
384 pages  
April 2021

**Charlotte McGregor** knows what it feels like to yearn for a place, and even as a small child she was always drawn to cities and countries she only knew from books or films. The journalist spent many years writing travel pieces for newspapers and magazines, before deciding to immortalise her favourite locations in her novels. Scotland is currently the place that makes her heart beat faster, and she regularly visits its towns, villages and Highlands, enthusiastically embracing all things whisky, haggis and kilt.

Colleen Murray has nothing to lose when she leaves Boston behind at the request of her late father to spend a few months in his Scottish birthplace of Kirkby.

At first, she barely notices the beauty of the Highlands and the villagers' idiosyncratic charm, but then she meets Alex Fraser, the owner of the romantic local B&B. Not only is the single father just her type, but he also shares her love of horse riding. Will Colleen's journey to her roots finally help her to find her place in the world? Happiness seems to be within reach – until Alex's past catches up with him, and threatens to ruin everything...

### The Highland Hopes continue:



### Highland Hope – A Pub for Kirkby [Highland Hope 2 – Ein Pub für Kirkby] Highland Hope saga (Vol. 2)

*The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.  
Star chef Isla on her quest for love ...*

Heyne, 350 pp, July 2021

## Charming, warm-hearted and fresh as a spring day



Emma Sternberg  
**A Garden for Two**  
[Ein Garten für zwei]  
Novel

Heyne Paperback  
400 pages  
May 2021

**Emma Sternberg** was born in 1979. After studying media science for four years she was given a job in radio and never finished her M.A. thesis, which she has always regretted – even if only a little. Her debut novel *Five by the Sea* was a big success and has been on the *Spiegel* bestseller list for weeks.

Lu is smart, quick-witted and super-successful as a lawyer in a top law firm. But then her big brother Pip dies and all of a sudden Lu no longer knows which way is up and which way is down. At first she just wants to hole up in Pip's gazebo, but then spring comes.

Nature awakens, and while Lu digs in the earth, she discovers not only that happiness is something you can touch with your hands. But also what she really wants from life.

## "Meike Werkmeister's stories quite simply make us happy."

*Karla Paul, literary critic at ARD*

*Spiegel*  
Bestselling  
Author



Meike Werkmeister  
**The Wind  
Is Singing Our Song**  
[Der Wind singt unser Lied]  
Novel

Goldmann Paperback  
464 pages  
April 2021

**Meike Werkmeister** lives with her husband and their son in Hamburg and freelances as a journalist for various magazines. Whenever she finds the time she goes to the seaside – especially to Norderney, where she has been holidaying with her family since she was a child.

Toni is a world traveller, at home everywhere and nowhere – until a phone call from her father takes her back to the North Sea. The village of St Peter Ording, with its pretty thatched houses and miles of beach is heaven on earth for many. But Toni has never quite felt at home here, where the wind howls through the streets all year long.

Now, too, her old home doesn't make things easy for her: her parents are becoming more and more eccentric, and everything reminds her of her first true love. While helping out her parents on their holiday farm, Toni realises that she has to grab life by its horns to give it a new direction. And she's not the only one...

### Previous titles by Meike Werkmeister:



**Stars Can Only Be  
Seen in the Dark**

*Spiegel* bestseller:  
More than 110,000  
copies sold

Goldmann, 320 pp, April 2019

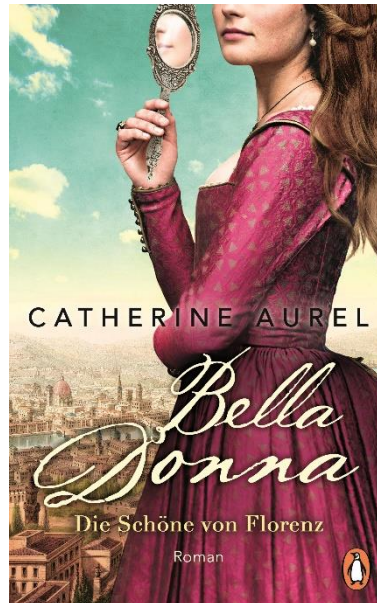


**The Light Dances  
Over the Sea**

*Spiegel* bestseller:  
More than 62,000  
copies sold

Goldmann, 416 pp, May 2020

**The price of beauty.  
The art of loving.  
Welcome at the Bellani's!**



Catherine Aurel  
**Belladonna –  
A Florentine Beauty**  
[Bella Donna. Die Schöne von  
Florenz]  
Daughters of Italy series  
(Vol. 1)  
Novel

Penguin  
400 pages  
May 2021

**Catherine Aurel** has three great passions: writing, the past, and her fascination for Italy. Ever since she was a child, she was drawn to picturesque Florence, Mantua and Rome, cities alive with impressive history and stunning art. Several inspiring research trips later, she sat down to write her 'Daughters of Italy' series.

Florence, 1469. Cosima Bellani's days as the city's Great Beauty are over. The ageing courtesan's looks are beginning to fade, and she fears for her future. When the young noblewoman Simonetta begs for her help in winning her husband's heart, Cosima has a brilliant idea: she will start a cosmetics business, creating her own products – for the trade in powders and salves, white lead and rouge is flourishing. With her help, Simonetta becomes the most beautiful woman in Florence – who has not only influential Giuliano de Medici, but also the ambitious painter Sandro Botticelli at her feet.

But then a bitter power struggle breaks out in the city, and Cosima and Simonetta are embroiled in intrigue. Soon they're dealing not only in exquisite beauty treatments encased in gilded jars and caskets, but also in secrets...

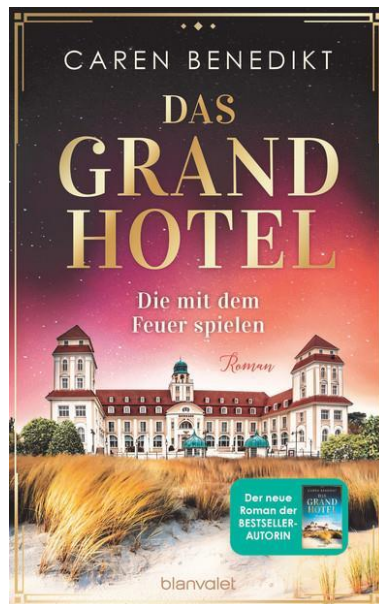


## Downton Abbey on the Baltic – soaked in the atmosphere of the notorious Roaring Twenties

*Spiegel*  
Bestselling  
Author

Lavish TV adaptation with a first-rate director and cast planned

**Caren Benedikt** is the pseudonym of author Petra Mattfeldt. After legal training she freelanced as a journalist and now mainly works as a novelist.



Caren Benedikt  
**The Grand Hotel – Those Who Play with Fire**  
[Das Grand Hotel – Die mit dem Feuer spielen]  
The Grand Hotel saga (Vol. 2)  
Novel

Blanvalet  
512 pages  
March 2021

Bernadette von Plesow has had to deal with a lot of things in her life, but the past year has almost broken her. She has been able to protect her glamorous hotel, but not her family: her son Alexander died in a fatal accident, and her sorrow weighs heavily on her, especially because they parted on bad terms. Her daughter Josephine lends her support, but Bernadette finds it hard to dedicate herself body and soul to the hotel. And suddenly there's a man at the door, whom she recognises from an old photograph...

Meanwhile, Bernadette's son Constantin – owner of the disreputable Hotel Astor in Berlin – has his own way of grieving for his brother. He knows that he is to blame for Alexander's death, because the accident was an act of revenge from the head of the Frankfurt underworld. Constantin refuses to let it go, and has come up with an insidious plan to avenge his brother's death – but he's playing with fire...

**The Grand Hotel – Reaching for the Stars**  
[Das Grand Hotel – Die nach den Sternen greifen]  
The Grand Hotel saga (Vol. 1)

*Spiegel* bestseller with more than 56,000 copies sold

Blanvalet, 528 pp, March 2020





## Berlin in the Roaring Twenties: two sisters conquer the heart of the city – and its men



**Rights sold to:**  
Hungary (Central Media)

Nora Elias  
**The Beauty Salon –  
The Sisters' Inheritance**  
[Der Schönheitssalon 1]  
The Beauty Salon saga  
(Vol. 1)  
Novel

Goldmann Paperback  
450 pages  
April 2021

**Nora Elias** is the pseudonym of a writer of historical novels. She started writing as a student and is now devoting herself increasingly to recent German history. She loves traveling and long hikes. Her novel *Antonia's Daughter* was awarded the much sought-after DELIA Literature Prize in 2018.

Berlin, 1924. Helena Rosenberg has grown up in modest circumstances. One day, she discovers that the father she never knew has named her as heir in his will, and that she has a half-sister. So she decides to leave her provincial home and move to the big city – but when she arrives, she finds not only a sister who's far from happy to see her, but also a pharmacy up to its eyes in debt.

Then Helena has a splendid idea: They're going to produce and sell their own make-up. Together, Helena and Charlotte conquer the market, as well as the hearts of men – and the dazzling city of Berlin. But they're dancing on the edge of a volcano ...

### Press

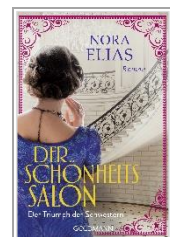
"A stunningly vivid novel that makes you think – it'll stay with me for a very long time. A must-read!"

*Monika Schulte on Antonias Daughter*

**The Beauty Salon – The Sisters' Triumph**  
[Der Schönheitssalon – Der Triumph der Schwestern]

The Beauty Salon saga (Vol. 2)

Goldmann, ca. 450 pp, September 2021



**They were enemies – until they fell in love. But their love could cost them more than their lives.**



Clara Frey  
**The House  
of Lost Children**  
[Das Haus der vergessenen  
Kinder]  
Novel

Blanvalet Paperback  
640 pages  
May 2021

**Clara Frey** was born in Augsburg and studied German, history of art and drama in Würzburg and Munich. Even as a child she always carried a notebook with her, in which she recorded everything that struck her as important. Aside from writing, her other great loves are cooking and travel.

France, 1940. When Antoine Mardieu is drafted into the Vichy government and relocated to the small town of Izieu, little does he know that his life will change for ever. He meets Marguerite, who works in the Izieu children's home, and falls head over heels in love with her. When he discovers that she is a Jewish refugee from Germany, he's forced to reassess his old convictions. He realises that his superiors have been lying to him – but does his change of heart come too late?

In the present day, Valerie, a teacher, meets the French historian Rick at a sailing course on Lake Constance. Rick has come to Germany to discover the truth about his long-lost grandfather. Although Valerie is in a relationship, the two fall passionately in love. But it looks like their families share a decades-old bond that could seal the lovers' fate ...

## Fin-de-siècle London, and the fascinating legends and myths surrounding the Thames

*Spiegel*  
Bestselling  
Author

**Rights sold to:**  
Italy (Giunti)

**Susanne Goga**, born in 1967, is a renowned literary translator. She had written two historical crime stories before turning to the classical historical novel. She is a winner of the DeLiA literature prize and the Golden Homer, and member of the PEN centre in Germany.

[www.susannegoga.de](http://www.susannegoga.de)



Susanne Goga  
**The Secret  
of the Thames**  
[Das Geheimnis der Themse]  
Novel

Diana Paperback  
448 pages  
February 2021

London, 1894. Charlotte and Tom have been married for two years, but a cloud hangs over their happiness: they haven't been able to have children yet, and there's much that remains unspoken between them.

An exciting book project about the magical places of London unexpectedly brings the two closer together again. But without suspecting it, Charlotte and Tom find themselves in deadly danger after a body is found on the Thames ...

**This island is her destiny. A moving tale of a woman's fate in a picturesque setting.**



Anna Jessen  
**The Island of Dreams –  
Storms of Life**  
[Die Insel der Wünsche –  
Stürme des Lebens]  
Island of Dreams trilogy (Vol. 1)  
Novel

Goldmann  
544 pages  
March 2021

**Anna Jessen** has loved the North Sea since she was a child. To her, rocky Heligoland is the 'Island of Dreams', fascinating for its unique nature, loveable people and not least its unique history. Aside from travelling, Anna Jessen's great passions are writing, music and working in the book trade.

Hamburg, 1887. The young flower girl Tine Tiedkens is destitute. To escape her misery, she decides to try her luck on the island of Heligoland. But the crossing to the fashionable island turns into a nightmare, and when she arrives everything seems set against her.

But then she unexpectedly runs into the young hotelier Henry Heesters, who once bought flowers from her in Hamburg, and lands a position in his elegant hotel. With diligence and enthusiasm, Tine works her way up from waitress to housekeeper – and falls in love with Henry. He, too, loves her – but just as happiness seems to be within reach, fate intervenes once again...

### The Island of Dreams trilogy continues:



Goldmann, ca. 500 pp, June 2021

**The Island of  
Dreams – Tides of  
Happiness**  
(Vol. 2)



Goldmann, ca. 500 pp, July 2021

**The Island of  
Dreams – Cliffs  
of Destiny**  
(Vol. 3)

## Dark clouds gather and a few young teachers have to decide between conformism and resistance...



Julia Kröhn  
**The Alster School – Times of Change**  
 [Die Alster-Schule – Zeit des Wandels]  
 The Teacher from Hamburg (Vol. 1)  
 Novel

Blanvalet Paperback  
 432 pages  
 June 2021

**Julia Kröhn** has two great passions: telling stories and engaging with history. She studied history and has since then published numerous novels. After her great success *The Fashion House*, which was a top 20 *Spiegel* bestselling book, and her highly acclaimed two-novel *Riviera* saga, she now presents her next opulent saga set in front of a glistening backdrop. While writing the story, the daughter of two teachers, who studied pedagogics herself, has been inspired by many of her own school experiences.

Hamburg, 1931: a fresh wind blows through the schools of the Weimar Republic. Once reigned by the cane, now students approach their teachings with head, heart and hand.

Felicitas, who has just started teaching, is passionate about the new ideals of progressive education. And physical education teacher Emil seems to be like-minded, as he is secretly in love with her. Yet, the bourgeois lifestyle he aspires to does not suit Felicitas' urge for freedom.

It is a whole different story with her friend Anneliese, who does everything to win Emil over for herself. While the budding affection between Anneliese and Emil drives a wedge between the two friends, dark clouds appear at the horizon of history: The Nazis seize power and the flag flying the swastika is raised above the schoolyard. Felicitas and her colleagues have to decide: Do they want to serve the Führer in their work? Or stay true to their own ideals?

**The Alster School – Years of Resistance**  
 [Die Alsterschule – Jahre des Widerstands]  
 The Teacher from Hamburg (Vol. 2)

Blanvalet, ca. 450 pp, August 2021





## The second book in the epic trilogy set in Belle Époque Vienna

*Spiegel*  
Bestselling  
Author



Marie Lacrosse  
**The Coffee House –  
Fool's Gold**  
[Das Kaffeehaus –  
Falscher Glanz]  
The Coffee House saga (Vol. 2)  
Novel

Goldmann  
650 pages  
April 2021

**Marie Lacrosse** has a PhD in psychology, and is a self-employed psychologist working mainly as a corporate consultant. She became a popular author of historical fiction under her real name Marita Spang – her *Vineyard* trilogy was a big *Spiegel* bestseller – and today focuses almost exclusively on her writing.

Young Sophie von Werdenfels has taken up a position as Empress Sisi's lady-in-waiting. But things are difficult for her at court. Countess Marie Festetics, Sisi's favourite, is dogging her every step, brimming with jealousy and suspicion. It isn't long before Sophie discovers that the shallow glamour of life at the imperial court hides a multitude of intrigues.

As lady-in-waiting, she also has to attend the wedding of Richard – her one true love – and Amalie von Thurnau. When she herself is ordered to marry a much older nobleman, she flees the court and seeks refuge in her uncle's coffee house. Her uncle is seriously ill, so little by little she begins to take over the reins...

### The Coffee House saga by Marie Lacrosse:



**The Coffee House –  
Turbulent Times**  
(Vol. 1)

*Spiegel* bestseller:  
More than 25,000  
copies sold

Goldmann, 736 pp., September 2020



**The Coffee House  
– Secret Desires**  
(Vol. 3)

Goldmann, ca. 650 pp., October 2021



## Flowers are her passion. Love is her destiny. Will her dreams come true?



Rena Rosenthal  
**The Royal Gardener –  
Dreams of Spring**  
[Die Hofgärtnerin –  
Frühlingsträume]  
The Royal Gardener saga  
(Vol. 1)  
Novel

Penguin  
688 pages  
With 1 b/w illustration  
March 2021

As a child, **Rena Rosenthal** would spend every free minute in her parents' tree nursery. Unlike the rest of her family, she didn't become a gardener, but her love for flowers has persisted. So it was clear from the start that her first family saga would be set amid the scent of lilacs and stunning rhododendrons.

Oldenburg, 1891. All her life, Marleene has dreamt of being a gardener, working with nature and growing the most beautiful flowers in the world.

But her dream seems out of reach: only men are allowed to be professional gardeners. But Marleene won't give up. She cuts her hair and dresses like a boy – and is hired by the famous court nursery. Marleene is beside herself with joy! Yet the other workers make things difficult for her, and it becomes increasingly hard to keep up the masquerade. When she meets the owner's two charming sons, her feelings are thrown into turmoil. Marleene has to decide whether to follow her dream or her heart...

## A woman tracks down a secret love, and ends her family's decades-long silence



Bettina Storks  
**Klara's Silence**  
[Klaras Schweigen]  
Novel

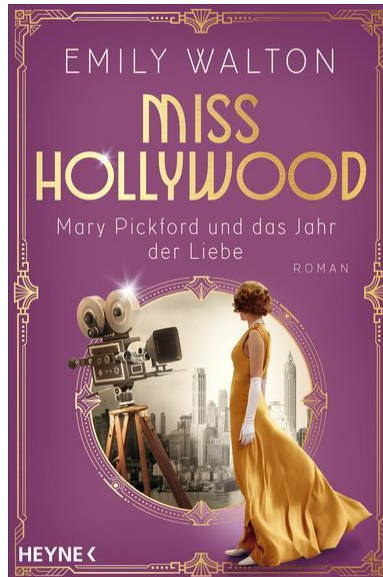
Diana Paperback  
400 pages  
March 2021

**Bettina Storks**, born in 1960, studied German literature, German philology and cultural sciences and gained her PhD at Freiburg University. After several years working as an editor she published her novels *The House on the Edge of the Sky* and *The Voices Over the Sea*.

Freiburg, 2018. Following a stroke, Miriam's ancient grandmother suddenly starts speaking French – a language that she supposedly never learnt. Miriam soon realises that Klara is hiding something, and sets off on the trail of her family's history, from post-war Germany's French occupied zone all the way to Brittany. What's the true story behind Klara's sudden move to Konstanz in the 1950s?

Miriam's search for answers takes her all the way to Brittany, always on the trail of a family secret kept for decades ...

## Hollywood's most famous silent movie actress – and the most wonderful love story of all time



Emily Walton

### **Miss Hollywood – Mary Pickford's Year of Love**

[Miss Hollywood – Mary Pickford und das Jahr der Liebe]  
Novel

Heyne Paperback  
448 pages  
May 2021

**Emily Walton** was born in Oxford in 1984 and has lived in Austria since 1992. She studied journalism and German in Vienna, and is a freelance journalist and author. In 2016 she published her debut, the fictionalised biography *The Summer When F. Scott Fitzgerald Nearly Cut a Waiter in Two*. She has been awarded several stipends and prizes.

1918. From Hollywood to New York City, one woman's name is on everyone's lips: Mary Pickford. The glittering Jazz Age is still just a faint glow on the horizon, but Mary is already being blinded by the light – both on set and off it, where the flashbulbs won't leave her alone. She's the most successful silent movie actress of all time, and her face is on the cover of every gossip rag; men are queuing up to marry her, women want to be her, and Charlie Chaplin is her number one fan.

Nobody suspects that behind the façade of the girl they call 'Goldilocks' hides a strong woman – but also a very lonely one, in love with a man she cannot have. Little does she know that she's about to become the leading lady in Hollywood's most romantic love story of all time...

**He only appears where people die.  
He's closer to death than to anything or  
anyone else.**



**Bernhard Aichner**  
**Dark Room**  
[DUNKELKAMMER]  
A Bronski crime novel (Vol.1)

btb  
352 pages  
March 2021

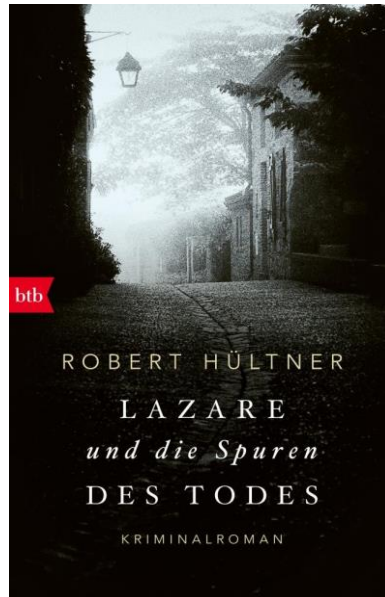
**Bernhard Aichner**, born in 1972, works as an author and photographer and writes novels, audio plays and stage plays. He trained as a journalist at the second largest Austrian daily newspaper, where he grew particularly fascinated by police photographs of accidents, murders and natural disasters. Aichner has been awarded several literary prizes and scholarships for his work, including among others the 2015 Crime Cologne Award and the 2017 Friedrich Glauser Prize. His books are bestsellers and translated into numerous languages.

[www.bernhard-aichner.at](http://www.bernhard-aichner.at)

Winter in Innsbruck. A homeless man seeks refuge in a long abandoned house in the woods. In the bedroom, he finds a dead body. It has been lying there for twenty years. It's just what the press photographer David Bronski has been waiting for. He and his colleague, the journalist Svenja Spielmann, are tasked with reporting from the scene – but what he won't tell anyone is what connects him to this spectacular case.

Ever since he can remember, Bronski has taken photographs of misfortune. His eye is trained on the darkness in our world. He goes where people die. He immortalises everything that's bad, and is fascinated by the silence of death. It's like an addiction. Bronski is closer to death than to anything or anyone else, and lives only for his secret passion: analogue photography. The dark room is his safe haven – here, he creates his works of art, portraits of dead people. Scarred by a terrible event in his past, this is his attempt to rediscover meaning in life.

## A politically topical and many-layered story



Robert Hültner  
**Lazare  
and the Trail of Death**  
[Lazare und die Spuren des  
Todes]  
Inspector Lazare (Vol. 2)  
Crime novel

btb  
320 pages  
June 2021

**Robert Hültner** was born in 1950. He has worked, among other things, as an assistant stage director, drama adviser and director of short films and documentaries, has travelled with a movie company bringing films to villages with no cinema of their own, and has restored historic films for the Museum of Film. He has won many awards for his Inspector Kajetan novels, including the German Prize for Crime Fiction (twice), the prestigious Glauser Prize and the Tukan Prize.

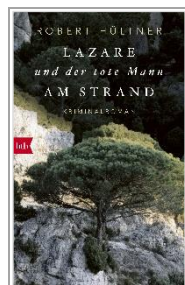
[www.robert-hueltnr.de](http://www.robert-hueltnr.de)

Inspector Lazare is summoned to Sète in the south of France, where a young Muslim girl has gone missing. At first, it looks like Nadia may have been radicalised and travelled to Syria, but then Lazare unexpectedly finds himself caught in the maelstrom of society's dark underbelly: There are clear signs of a connection to the Catalan underworld, a whole region is in danger of becoming infested with radioactive waste – and suddenly two bodies turn up. As always, Lazare is reluctant to collaborate with the local police.

### Press

"If Hültner was American, he'd be world-famous."

*Radio Bayern 2*



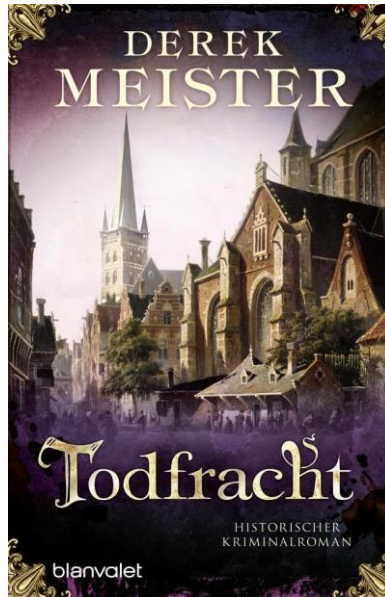
**Lazare and the Dead Man on the Beach**  
[Lazare und der tote Mann  
am Strand]  
Inspector Lazare (Vol. 1)

"Historical accuracy, linguistic awareness, brilliant character drawing, knowledgeable depiction of the milieu [...] a highlight of German-language crime literature." *Die Zeit*

btb, 384 pp, June 2017



## Historical high tension in a cunning crime case



More than 27,500 copies sold

Derek Meister  
**Death Freight**  
[Todfracht]  
Patrician Rungholt (Vol. 4)  
Historical crime novel

Blanvalet Paperback  
400 pages  
With 4 b/w illustrations  
May 2021

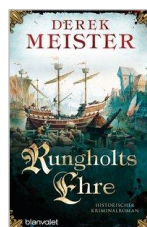
**Derek Meister**, born in 1973, studied film and television screenplay writing and adaptation at the Film Academy of Potsdam-Babelsberg. As a freelance author, he has written successful series and other screenplays for television.

[www.derekmeister.de](http://www.derekmeister.de)

Lübeck 1393: A prostitute is found dead in a cesspit. Her arms and legs have been fettered and it looks as if she has been tortured during interrogation. During his investigations, Rungholt stumbles across an Englishman who has been stranded in Lübeck after a naval blockade and who has a mysterious little wooden box on him. The fragile freight is worth a fortune and puts the patrician on the tracks of murderous trade warfare from which only his son-in-law Daniel can rescue him ...

### Press

"A gruesome murder and a breath-taking chase set in the Hanseatic Middle Ages – a must-read!" *Osnabrücker Zeitung*



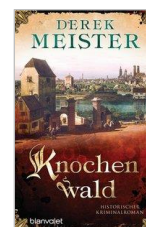
**Rungholt's Honour**  
(Vol. 1)

• 50,000 copies sold



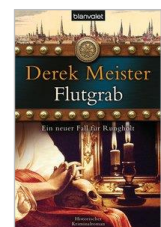
**Rungholt's Sin**  
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• 45,000 copies sold



**Bone Forest**  
(Vol. 3)

• 37,000 copies sold

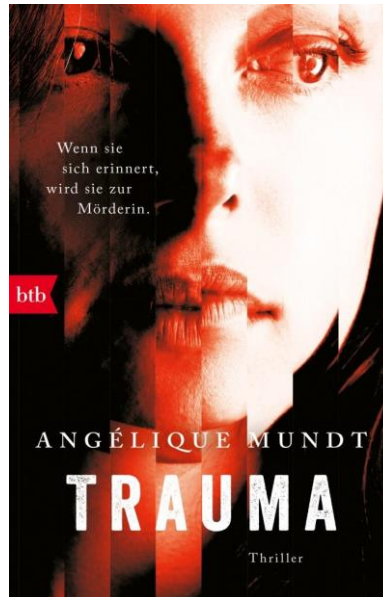


**Flood Grave**  
(Vol. 5)

• 20,000 copies sold



**I can't remember.  
No one believes me.  
What if I am a murderer?**



Angélique Mundt

**Trauma**

[Trauma]

If she remembers, she'll  
become a murderer

Thriller

btb Paperback

352 pages

April 2021

**Angélique Mundt** was born in 1966. After studying psychology she worked for a while in the field of psychiatry before setting up her own practice. She is involved in volunteer work in the crisis intervention team of the Red Cross, which gives "first aid to the souls" of people in potentially traumatic situations.

Leila experiences her own personal nightmare: she can't remember the night her music producer was killed. Yet, neither her family nor the police believe her when she says that she remembers nothing. All of a sudden, Leila falls out of her normal life. Less and less she is able to separate between what really happened and what is only a product of her own imagination.

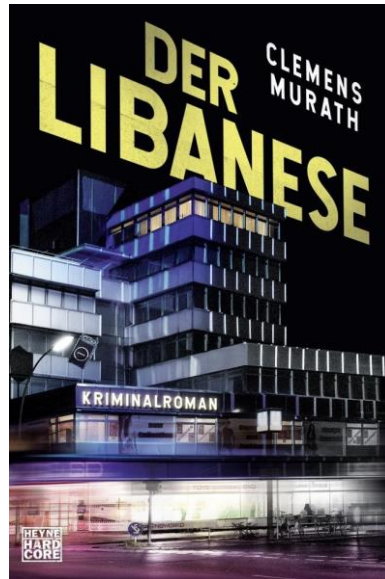
With the help of a psychiatrist, Leila tries to get to the bottom of her buried memories. What did she do? The closer the two get to Leila's memories, the more often threatening incidents occur in the acute ward of the psychiatric hospital where Leila is being treated. Coincidence? Or does one of the other patients target Leila? Little by little, Leila discovers connections that frighten her greatly. If she is right, if these nightmares are now part of her memories, then she must protect herself and her life – at all costs...

"I can only write about the abyss because I know it well."

*Angélique Mundt*

## "A stylish sledgehammer of a book!"

Bernhard Aichner



Clemens Murath  
**The Man from Lebanon**  
[Der Libanese]  
Crime novel

Heyne  
480 pages  
March 2021

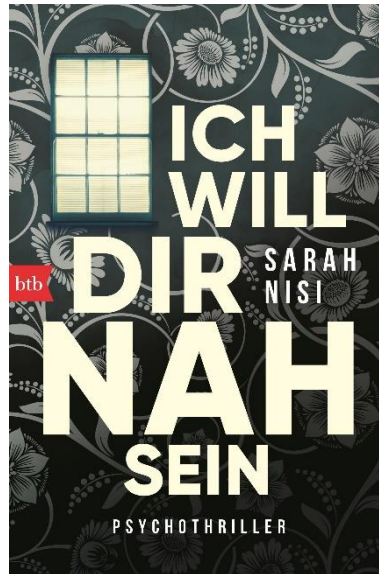
**Clemens Murath** has written screenplays for more than thirty award-winning films and TV series. He won the German Screenwriting Prize for *Im Schatten des Jaguar*, and was nominated for the Grimme Prize for *Es ist nicht vorbei*. *The Man from Lebanon* is his first novel, and a sequel is already in the works. He lives in Berlin.

Frank Bosman and his team from the State Criminal Police are conducting a hopeless fight against Arslan Aziz, head of the extended Lebanese family that has cornered the drugs market in Berlin. When the Albanian mafia aggressively tries to push its way in and Arslan's brother Tariq murders a rival, Bosman spots a chance to bring the whole clan to justice. But the arrest ends in bloodshed, and now Bosman's in trouble: not only are Internal Affairs on his case because of the fatal shoot-out, but he has to put up with a young eyewitness who could land him in jail any minute.

As if that wasn't enough, it turns out that his brother-in-law Harry, a dodgy film producer, is caught up in the case. He owes Aziz a large sum of money that he's in no position to pay back...

*The Man from Lebanon* is the first in a new crime series featuring investigator Frank Bosman.

**He wants to be close to her. Closer and closer. Until he can go no further.**



Sarah Nisi  
**I Want to Be Close to You**  
[Ich will dir nah sein]  
Psychological thriller

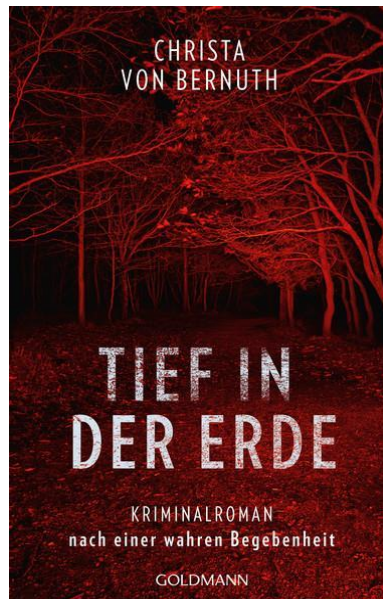
btb Paperback  
336 pages  
May 2021

**Sarah Nisi** has lived in London since 2012. She was born in Hildesheim, and worked as a corporate lawyer in Düsseldorf for several years before moving to London to study creative writing. Since then the German–British author has dedicated most of her time to writing. Many of her short stories have already been included in anthologies from various German publishers, and she came second in the German Agatha Christie Prize for crime writing with her story *Clear the Stage*. *I Want to Be Close to You* is her first novel.

In London Underground's lost property office, Lester Sharp looks after abandoned objects: mobiles, keys, wallets – he particularly likes taking care of clothes and medical gadgets. He's a collector in his private life, too, and something of an oddball. Women aren't interested in him, and he generally finds it difficult to have relationships with other people. When he meets the young woman Erin, he doesn't know how to behave at first – but soon finds a way to get close to her. Closer than she might like...

For readers of *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, *Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, and Melanie Raabe's books.

## An abducted girl, a grave in the forest – and a village that still refuses to talk about it



### Christa von Bernuth **Deep Under Ground**

[Tief in der Erde]

Crime novel based on a true  
story

Goldmann  
384 pages  
March 2021

**Christa von Bernuth** is an author and journalist. Her first thriller – *The Woman Who Lost Her Conscience* – appeared in 1999, and her crime novels have all been translated into several languages, including Swedish, Dutch, Russian and Polish. Following a spell writing social novels, *Deep Under Ground* marks the author's return to the thriller genre.

A village in Upper Bavaria, 1981. Ten-year-old Annika is cycling home, but never arrives. Following unbearable days of waiting, the police make a shocking discovery: They unearth a chest in the forest, and find the girl's body inside. Annika was buried alive. A trail leads to the nearby boarding school, but is never followed up. Years later, a suspect is convicted of her murder – but he maintains his innocence to this day.

In this novel based on her own research into the events, Bernuth revisits the case in pursuit of the truth about what really happened all those years ago.

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