

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

Best of
Penguin Random House
Verlagsgruppe

Fiction
Autumn 2021

"It's the story of a German family. My own, as it happens." *Jo Lendle*

**New Books
in German**

**English sample translation
available**

English video pitch available



Jo Lendle
A Kind of Family
[Eine Art Familie]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
368 pages
August 2021

Jo Lendle was born in 1968. After studying cultural education and *animation culturelle*, he joined the German Literature Institute in Leipzig, edited the literary magazine *Edit* and has been a visiting professor and lecturer at several universities. He was awarded the Leipzig Promotion Prize for Literature in 1997. Since January 2014 he is head of the Hanser publishing house.

We don't choose the times we live in nor the times that shape us. Neither did Lud and Alma. Lud, who was born in 1899, and his brother Wilhelm revere Bach and Hölderlin, and share the same unattainable ideals. Wilhelm, who joins the Nazi party early on, measures others according to its standards; Lud measures himself by them, which torments him for the rest of his life. Alma lost her parents when she was a child, and her godfather Lud and his housekeeper become a kind of new family for her.

Lud is a pharmacology professor specialising in sleep and its induction, and while he spends his days at the university Alma is left home alone, unable to stop thinking about him. When he starts researching poison gas, he doesn't tell her about it. His struggle with his lofty ideals grows ever more desperate – for he can't get Gerhard, the man alongside whom he fought in the First World War, out of his head.

Taking us on a journey from the days of the German empire to National Socialism, the early days of the GDR and post-war West Germany, Jo Lendle's scintillating novel is the story of a family falling apart, of guilt, of the meaning of science, and of the subtle difference between sleep, anaesthesia and death. It is the story of a German family – which just so happens to be his own.

Press

"*A Kind of Family* reads like a short history of Germany, condensed into a single fate." *ORF ZIB*

"A groundbreaking work in German literature." *Ocean Vuong*

**New Books
in German**

English sample translation
available



Khuê Phạm
Wherever You Are
[Wo auch immer ihr seid]
Novel

btb
304 pages
September 2021

Khuê Phạm is one of the most important voices of the new generation of German-Vietnamese. She was born in Berlin in 1982 and studied in London at Goldsmiths College and the London School of Economics. After training at the Henri Nannen School of Journalism, she started as an editor at *Die Zeit* in 2009. She has won several awards for her journalistic work. In 2012, she published *Wir neuen Deutschen* (Rowohlt) with Alice Bota and Özlem Topçu, which is about immigrant children and their place in Germany. *Wherever You Are* is Khuê Phạm's narrative debut – a literary approach to her own family, whose moving life journey she traces over five decades.

She is 30 years old and her name is Kieu, like the girl in the most famous work of Vietnamese literature. But she prefers to go by "Kim" because it's easier in Berlin. In 1968, her parents had come to Germany from Saigon. She often wished for a family that didn't have to become German first, but simply was. The loss of her Vietnamese roots has never bothered her. On the contrary. Until she receives a message. On Facebook. From her uncle. Who has been living in California since he fled.

The whole family is supposed to meet for the reading of Kieu's grandmother's will. Kieu does not know these people. To her, the uncles and aunts are as unreal as the spirits of departed ancestors for whom her parents light a few incense sticks on Vietnamese New Year. It becomes a journey full of revelations – about her family, her origins and about herself.

Praise

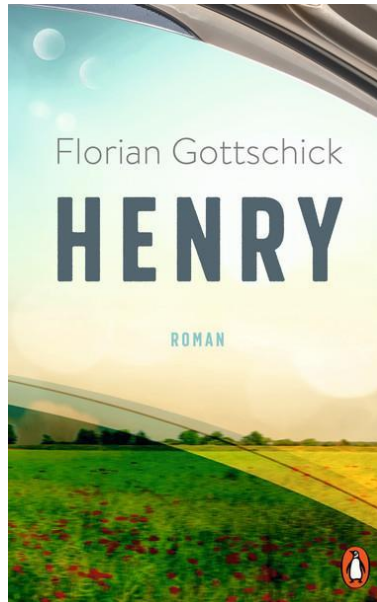
"Phạm's novel marks a seminal accomplishment that tells the dignified, thorough, and epic story of a Vietnamese family through clear, gem-like sentences and unflinching observations. With Phạm's vision, nothing is left unturned and all things are salvaged and lost at once. A courageous and bold achievement by a bright new voice."

Ocean Vuong

Of a kidnapping by mistake teaching all involved in a delightful way not to run away from life, but to arrive at themselves

English sample translation available

Florian Gottschick has graduated from the Babelsberg Film Academy in 2013 with a degree in film directing. His films have been shown at more than 70 international festivals. His graduate feature "*Nachthelle*" ("*Night Light*") was nominated for the Grimme Prize, and can be viewed online alongside his other films. His latest projects include three TV series for ARD and ZDF, as well as one of only three German Netflix Originals produced in 2020. He teaches screen acting, screenwriting and directing. *Henry* is his debut novel, and he is currently working on his second book.



Florian Gottschick

Henry

[Henry]

Novel

Penguin Verlag
320 pages
August 2021

Twelve-year-old Henrietta, whom everyone calls Henry, lives in Berlin's Wilmersdorf district and is longing for adventure. When her overprotective mother leaves her brand-new BMW on the street with her daughter asleep on the back seat, a young man gets into the unlocked car and drives off. He was only going to drive it round the block, but when Henry wakes up she convinces him to drive on.

Sven, his girlfriend Nadja and Henry take off on a road trip, and the exuberant, taboo-breaking trio become a close-knit team as they take a journey that will change their lives for ever.

A fast-paced, original, funny and vividly told novel by the award-winning filmmaker Florian Gottschick – the story of an accidental abduction, which teaches three young people the most important thing of all: if there's a purpose to life, it's living it. And it's never too late to look for the place where you'll find yourself.

Press

"Gottschick's gift as a screenwriter is unmistakable, the writing fast, the love for the characters palpable." *Neue Presse*

"A varied, tender and witty story with which Gottschick proves that he can tell of life's aberrations not only on the screen." *GALORE*

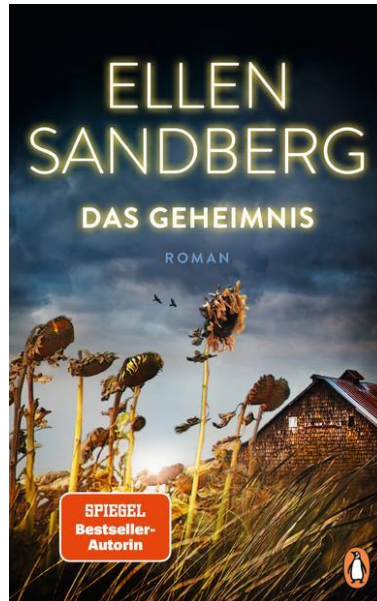
"A pleasure to read, like watching a good film." *Südwest Presse*

Time heals all wounds. But not your conscience.

Spiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

English reader report available soon

Ellen Sandberg worked in advertising before dedicating herself fully to writing, with huge success: her psychological thrillers and family stories regularly spend months in the bestseller lists, and have won her countless enthusiastic readers – most recently *The Inheritance* and *The Silent One*. She also publishes popular crime novels under her real name Inge Löhnig.



Ellen Sandberg
The Secret
[Das Geheimnis]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
432 pages
October 2021

Munich, 2020. Monika is a strong woman, but life hasn't been easy for her. Her mother Helga abandoned her when she was nine years old – to this day, she doesn't know why. Helga is a dark spot on Monika's inner landscape.

When life takes her back to the Moar estate on the shores of the Chiemsee, where her seventy-year-old mother is living in a commune, she discovers that the answers to her questions – questions about both her own and her mother's past – have been waiting for her there all along.

Moosleitn on the Chiemsee, 1975. The artist Helga is living on a farm with like-minded friends. She is known for her gloomy works, whose true meaning no one can fathom: only she knows the memories that are plaguing her – and that when she was forced to flee Silesia at a young woman, she had to make a decision for which she still can't forgive herself.

The moving story of a forbidden love, desperate courage, and compassion in the face of catastrophe

Spiegel
BESTSELLER

English sample translation available

English video pitch available

Rights sold to:

Finland (Aula & Co.), Israel (Armchair Publishers), Italy (Neri Pozza), Latvia (Zvaigne), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Romania (Prestige), US/World English (Other Press)

The journalist **Jan-Philipp Sendker**, born in Hamburg in 1960, was *Stern's* US correspondent from 1990 to 1995, and its Asia correspondent from 1995 to 1999, during which time he was based in Hong Kong. Since 1995 he has travelled widely in China, Japan and south-east Asia. His books have been translated into more than 35 languages, and have sold more than 3 million copies worldwide, making him one of the most successful German-language authors today.

<http://www.jpsendker.de>



Jan-Philipp Sendker
The Rebel and the Thief
[Die Rebellin und der Dieb]
Novel

Blessing
320 pages
August 2021

18-year-old Niri, his parents and his siblings are living a modest, but secure existence as employees in a wealthy family's villa. But then the pandemic arrives: Niri's whole family is made redundant, and facing abject poverty.

Niri has always been a good boy, but he doesn't understand his father's unwillingness to do something about their increasingly desperate circumstances, and refuses to wait for help from an indifferent government. He returns to the villa by night to find food for his family, sneaking past patrols through a city under curfew. At the villa, his childhood friend Mary is waiting for him – and she not only gives him food, but has a plan that will change the city, and them, for ever.

- **Spiegel bestseller: more than 30.000 copies sold**

Press

"A bit of Bonnie and Clyde, a touch of Robin Hood – Sendker once again hits his readers deep in the heart, soul and mind!" *WDR 5*

"A rousing novel and perhaps Sendker's most personal book to date."
Buchjournal

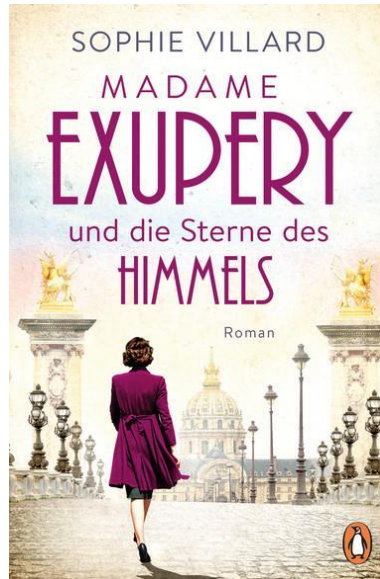
**With him, her dreams learned to fly.
But they came too close to the stars.**

Spiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

English sample translation
available

Rights sold to:
Hungary (Kossuth)

Sophie Villard is the pen name of a successful German author. She studied journalism and political science, and lives near Dresden with her family. Her novel about the famous art collector Peggy Guggenheim was a *Spiegel* bestseller, and her new book as well is about another inspiring and important female figure: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's wife and muse Consuelo, to whom we owe the story of the Little Prince.



Sophie Villard
**Madame Exupéry and
the Starry Skies**

[Madame Exupéry und die
Sterne des Himmels]
Novel

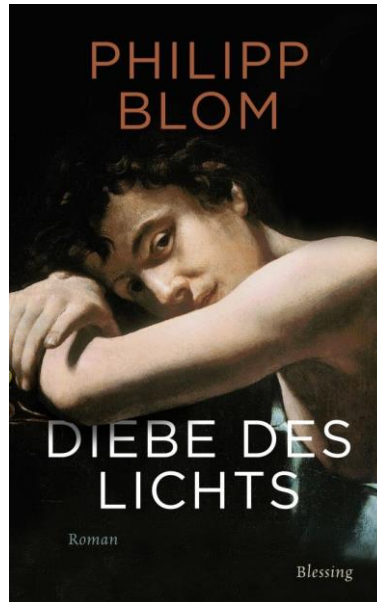
Penguin Verlag
480 pages
With 3 b/w illustrations
September 2021

Paris, 1930. When the young artist Consuelo meets Antoine de Saint-Exupéry at a party, it's love at first sight. The temperamental Salvadorean becomes the muse of the enigmatic pilot, who would much rather be writing and drawing than flying planes.

His deep love for her inspired "*The Little Prince*": Consuelo is the beloved rose that the prince protects with a glass globe, and which is always in his thoughts no matter where his travels take him.

The book made Antoine world-famous, but life by his side was not easy. Consuelo had to deal with his unfaithfulness, and fought hard to establish herself as an artist in her own right – until 1944, when Antoine took off on his fateful flight across the Mediterranean ...

The brilliant historical novel about murder, revenge, love, loyalty and betrayal, set in war-torn sixteenth-century Europe



English sample translation available

Philipp Blom
The Light-Thieves
[Diebe des Lichts]
Novel

Blessing
480 pages
October 2021

Philipp Blom, born in 1970, studied philosophy, history and Judaism in Vienna and Oxford, and obtained his PhD from Oxford with a thesis on the reception of Nietzsche. He is the author of bestselling history books including *The Vertigo Years: Europe 1900–1914* (2009) and *Fracture: Life and Culture in the West, 1918–1938* (2014), and has won the Friedrich Schiedel Prize for Literature and the NDR Kultur Prize for Non-Fiction. *The Light-Thieves* is his first work of historical fiction.

Sander has been on the run ever since 1572, when he saw his father murdered at the hands of the Spanish invaders in Flanders. He meets a master who teaches him how to paint flowers, while his brother Hugo, who hasn't spoken a word since their parents' death, mixes the paints for him.

But Hugo is as unreliable and quick to anger as he is gentle, and when he commits a violent crime, he and Sander have to flee. They find refuge in an artist's studio in Rome, witness the Pope's dissipation, are caught up in the intrigues proliferating in the Neapolitan cardinal's palace, and – both in their own special way – experience the joy of forbidden love. In the course of their adventures, Sander repeatedly finds a way out of seemingly hopeless situations ...

A major new novel that vividly portrays the Renaissance and its key players, including Giordano Bruno, Caravaggio and high-ranking clerics. Philipp Blom writes the way Caravaggio used colours: rich in contrast and with deep shadows, detailed and rich in affect, more intense than reality itself.

A Berlin hospital under construction. A young nurse facing the challenge of her life. The new historical saga by bestselling author Corina Bomann!

Spiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

English synopsis of all four volumes available

Rights to all four volumes sold to: Italy (Giunti)

With a total of over two million copies, **Corina Bomann's** novels are an indispensable part of the bestseller shelves. With her popular historical sagas, she is regularly number one on the *Spiegel* bestseller list – most recently with the volumes *The Colours of Beauty*, *Sophia's Triumph* and *The Women of the Lion's Court*. *Mathilda's Secret*. With her new series of novels about the Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin, she is fulfilling her heart's wish: inspired by the real chronicle of the clinic, she wants to create a monument to the clinic and its eventful history, making it the setting for a great historical saga.



Corina Bomann

Hour of Glory

[Sternstunde]

The Sisters of Waldfriede
Hospital (Vol. 1)
Novel

Penguin Verlag
608 pages
December 2021

Berlin, 1919. After the end of the war, the loss of her fiancé weighs heavily on the young nurse Hanna. Only her appointment to the newly founded Waldfriede Hospital can distract her from her private grief, for there is nothing she wants more than to help people in need. However, months of hard work, scarce food and uncertainty pass before the Waldfriede can open its doors to its first patients.

Encouraged by the unwavering trust of the sympathetic hospital director Dr. Conradi, Hanna gets through this difficult time – but just when Waldfriede feels like her new home, her past once again puts her to the test. And the hospital doesn't seem to be under a good star either: Again and again, sinister intrigues and strokes of fate put the hopeful future of the house in danger ...

Based on true events: Inspired by the chronicle of a nurse, successful author Corina Bomann tells of the birth of the Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin.

From fisherman's daughter to queen of a tea emporium – an epic, sensual and colourful story

Spiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR



Elisabeth Herrmann
The Tea Palace
[Der Teepalast]
Novel

Goldmann
656 pages
September 2021

Elisabeth Herrmann, born in 1959, worked as a journalist for *RBB* television before her breakthrough with her novel *The Nanny*. Almost all her books have been or are being filmed. Elisabeth Herrmann was awarded the Radio Bremen Crime Book Prize and the German Crime Literature Prize in 2012.

A small village in East Frisia, 1834. Lene Vosskamp is the daughter of a fisherman who has grown up in poverty. Fate has dealt her an unkind hand – but then a stranger gives her a mysterious coin, which allows her to trade tea with China. All she wants is to escape her desperate circumstances and be the first woman to found a tea empire.

Lene embarks on an odyssey fraught with danger, which takes her across the seven seas and into distant lands – and leads her to the great love once prophesied to her by a fortune-teller ...

Is it possible to fall in love with someone's words? A concealed notebook sparks off a major love story!

Spiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

English reader report available soon

Anne Sanders has been a journalist, writing among other things for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and is now a full-time writer. Her first novel, *Summer in St Ives* became an overnight bestseller, and more books followed. Sanders has travelled much across her beloved British Isles, where her new novel *For Ever and a Word* is set – a story of a very special, tragic love.



Anne Sanders
For Ever and A Word
[Für immer und ein Wort]
Novel

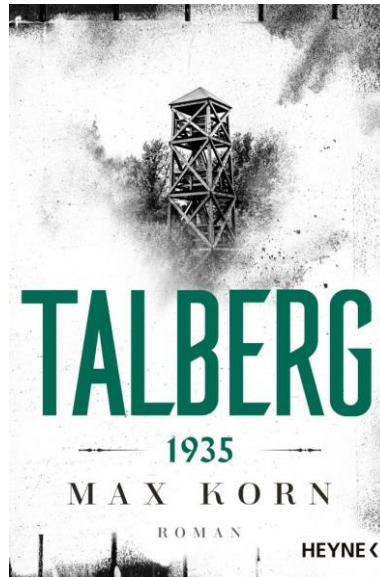
Blanvalet
464 pages
August 2021

Bookworm Annie's world has always been shaped by words. But her dream of writing a novel is long forgotten, and the man with whom she was supposed to spend the rest of her life has said 'I do' to someone else.

She is devastated, and her friend persuades her to spend a few days in a hotel on Dartmoor to forget those painful events. One day, Annie stumbles across something very special: a notebook hidden in a red letterbox. Annie is deeply touched by what she reads in it, and when two pages that have been stuck together reveal the author's address, she decides to track him down.

Little does she suspect that her search will lead her to taciturn Jack, who is nothing like what she'd imagined the notebook's author to be – but who nevertheless gets under her skin ...

Talberg. A gloomy place in no man's land. One century. Three Crimes.



Max Korn
Talberg 1935
[Talberg 1935]
Novel

Heyne Paperback
400 pages
November 2021

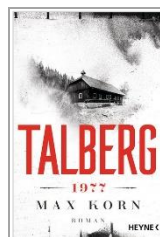
English sample translation available

Max Korn is the pen name of a German author whose novels regularly feature among the *Spiegel's* top 20 bestsellers. He spent part of his youth in the little town of Thalberg in the Bavarian Woods, whose stories and legends have inspired him to write a brilliant and thrilling new trilogy.

The teacher Steiner has built himself a tower – supposedly so that he can survey the surroundings. But the story making the rounds at the inn is that he's planning to throw his wife from the parapet. But then he himself is found dead at the foot of the tower, with a crushed skull and empty eyes.

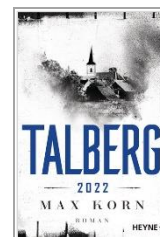
Who exploited Steiner's nefarious plan for their own ends? And who will inherit the estate, which the teacher never wanted in the first place? His wife – or the brother he so disliked, and whose name was once prematurely engraved on a war memorial? But as it turned out he survived the war after all. Instead of his life, he only lost an arm on the battlefield – and all trace of humanity.

Upcoming:



Talberg
1977

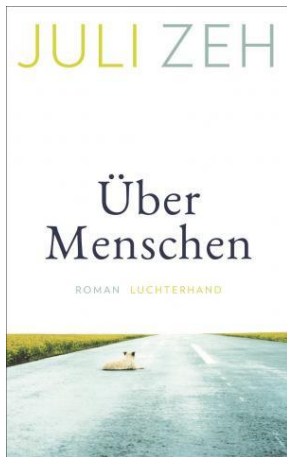
Heyne, ca. 400 pp,
February 2022



Talberg
2022

Heyne, ca. 400 pp,
May 2022

From our backlist:



Luchterhand, 416 pages
March 2021

Spiegel
BESTSELLER

Juli Zeh:

On Humans

Do we dare to be truly human?

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.

- **Rights sold to:** Greece (Metaixmio), Korea (Eunhahengnanmu), The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Norway (Gyldendal), Poland (Sonia Draga)
- **#1 Spiegel bestseller: more than 425.000 copies sold**

Praise

"A conciliatory novel that does not conceal evil, but demonstrates that the world, viewed less ideologically, could be a little more humane."

Deutschlandfunk Kultur

"I would love to recommend this to everyone to read, to break down all these walls that somehow exist between the different groups in society." *rbb Kultur*

"Juli Zeh is a master of satire, and her dialogues are always on fire, sparking and glowing fiercely, keeping the reader alert at all times. And yet Zeh also creates vivid and fascinating portraits of the characters that inhabit the novel. The way the relationship between Dora and Gote ends is just heartbreaking, and at the same time it shows how skillfully Zeh balances the thin line between comedy and grief. [...] I cannot imagine a more important and timely message but the one that is delivered in this novel, and we are absolutely thrilled to publish it in Norway." *Anne Louise Morseth-Nordbryhn / Gyldendal Norsk*

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