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**Non-Fiction  
Autumn 2021**

## "Old-school alpinism is the art of survival in a place not fit for humans"

Reinhold Messner

English sample translation available



### Reinhold Messner Meeting the Challenge or Meeting One's End

[Zwischen Durchkommen und Umkommen]

The irresistible lure of Alpinism

Ludwig  
304 pages  
With numerous 4c photographs  
October 2021

**Reinhold Messner**, born in 1944, is the most famous mountaineer and adventurer of our time. He was the first person to reach the top of all fourteen eight-thousanders, as well as the first to climb Everest solo and, together with Peter Habeler, the first to do so without supplemental oxygen. He has also crossed the Antarctic, Greenland and the Gobi desert on foot. He gives talks all over the world, is a documentary filmmaker, contributes to major international magazines, and has published countless books which have been translated into numerous languages.

Old-school mountaineers confront the unknown with courage and self-sufficiency. They go where no one else dares to go, and take unbelievable risks. Ever since man first stood on top of Mont Blanc in 1786, they have continuously pushed the boundaries of the supposedly impossible.

Reinhold Messner's new book is a memorial to those pioneers, a history of traditional mountaineering told through the stories of its most celebrated heroes, often in their own words. Messner's incisive essays reveal the mental and physical qualities needed to achieve what they did: qualities such as courage and passion, self-reliance in the face of danger, and the ability to focus on important things – and the refusal to use technically sophisticated gear.

In *Survive or Perish*, Messner pays tribute to the human thirst for adventure and exploration, intimate encounters with nature, and climbing mountains without a safety net or 'false bottoms' – and calls on us to keep the legacy alive.

- A lavishly designed illustrated book with breathtaking photographs and captivating original documents

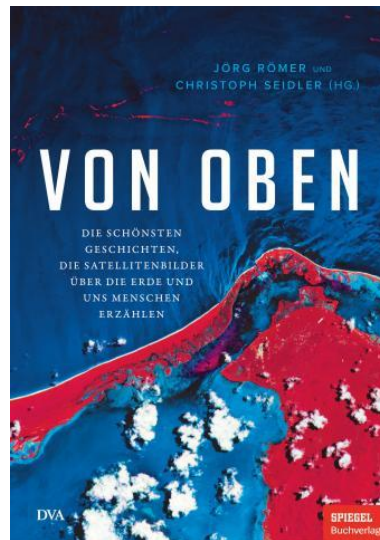


## Spectacular photos from space – and what they tell us about our world

English sample translation soon available

**Jörg Römer**, born in 1974, studied Mesoamerican Studies, Latin American Studies, and Pre- and Protohistory at Hamburg University. He was appointed editor-at-large for sports and careers at the *Spiegel* in 2012, and became *Spiegel online's* business and health editor in 2015.

**Christoph Seidler**, born in 1979, trained at *Spiegel online*, studied international relations afterwards and worked for MDR radio and the United Nations. Since 2020 he is an editor at *Spiegel* and successful author of numerous books.



Jörg Römer /  
Christoph Seidler (Eds.)

From Above

[Von oben]

The most beautiful stories about our planet and us, told by satellite pictures

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt  
288 pages  
With numerous 4c images  
September 2021

There is a whole fleet of satellites keeping an almost constant eye on every nook and cranny on earth. These observers from space not only produce fascinating images of volcanos, deserts, atolls and big cities, but also reveal our planet's remarkable geography and the traces history has left behind.

Jörg Römer and Christoph Seidler regularly show stunning pictures 'from above' in their *Spiegel.de* column 'Satellite Image of the Week' and tell the riveting stories behind them. In the process, they show us familiar things from an entirely new perspective, as well as places we've never seen before, from tempest-torn islands on the edge of civilisation, to mysterious lava lakes and hidden rocket plants – and reveal the degree to which many of our planet's most beautiful places are already under threat.



## Special moments, amazing encounters, fascinating animal facts

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLER**

[Video trailer](#) available

English sample translation soon available

German stone lifting champion, renowned environmentalist and animal expert – **Wolfgang Schreil**'s CV contains many surprises. Yet his extraordinary connection to animals and woodlands has always been a constant in his life. His wisdom and contagious enthusiasm for forests and their inhabitants have inspired and delighted people everywhere; and he is as famous for his stunning close-up photographs of woodland animals as for his trademark green felt hat and hiking stick.



### Wolfgang Schreil The Woodland Animal Whisperer

[Der mit den Waldtieren spricht]  
Exploring the secrets of our woods and discovering the power of nature

Ludwig  
208 pages  
With 75 colour illustrations  
August 2021

No one is as at home among wild woodland animals as Wolfgang Schreil: he gets up close and personal with red deer and lynxes, photographs a hunting stoat at ten paces, gets within touching distance of poisonous snakes, and stands among roe deer grazing peacefully by his side. How does he manage to get so unbelievably close to them, to share moments of connectedness that count among the happiest times of his life?

For Wolfgang 'Woid Woife' Schreil, the woods represent a safe haven and place where we can be truly free. His gripping stories, his priceless knowledge of the animal world and his close-up animal photographs have made him a very special woodland ambassador. His immense passion for life and animals, his faith in the power of love, and his belief that nature's greatest gifts are revealed to us if we are only patient, are an inspiration for each and every one of us who yearn to be mindful of what really matters.





## Trees can easily survive without humans, but we can't live without trees

#2 SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLER

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**Peter Wohlleben**, born in 1964, studied forestry and spent over twenty years as a civil servant in the forestry commission. He gave up his job because he wanted to put his ideas of ecology into practice, and he now runs an environmentally friendly private piece of woodland. He holds lectures and seminars and has written books on subjects pertaining to woodlands and nature protection. His books *The Hidden Life of Trees*, *The Inner Life of Animals*, *The Secret Network of Nature* and *The Secret Bond between Humankind and Nature* have been translated into more than 45 languages and are bestsellers in numerous countries. And he won the 2019 Bavarian Nature Conservation Medal.



### Peter Wohlleben The Tenacity of Trees

[Der lange Atem der Bäume]  
How trees learn to deal with climate change – and why forests will save us, if we let them

Ludwig  
256 pages  
July 2021

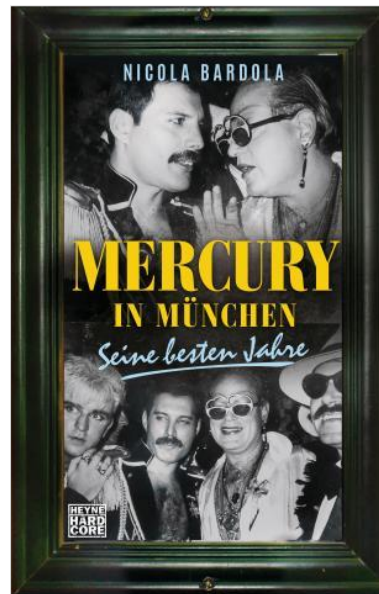
Even if man-made climate change ends up devastating our planet, our trees will keep coming back – as they do, always and everywhere, even after catastrophic fires, destructive storms and large-scale deforestation. It would just be nice if we could be around to see it.

*The Tenacity of Trees* is Peter Wohlleben's follow-up to *The Hidden Life of Trees*, which sold millions of copies worldwide. His new book is as fascinating and eye-opening as it is trenchant in its critique: on the one hand, he describes astonishing discoveries about the life of trees and their ability to survive climate change; on the other, he is unsparing in his criticism of the ignorance of those who wield economic and political power – who plant trees exclusively for the sake of logging and virtue-signalling, even as they ruthlessly exploit nature. Yet it'll take more than an intensive cultivation of spruce plantations to stop our planet from overheating.

This book is a love letter to trees, and a passionate argument for protecting nature's boundless diversity, whose intricate relationships we have yet to fully understand – for our own sake, if nothing else.

- *Spiegel* bestseller – more than 64,000 copies sold
- The sequel to the world bestseller *The Hidden Life of Trees*

## A comprehensive, sensitive, unadorned and intimate portrait of Freddy Mercury's years in Munich



Nicola Bardola  
**Mercury in Munich**  
[Mercury in München]  
The best years of his life

Heyne  
432 pages  
With 94 b/w illustrations  
September 2021

[English video pitch](#) available

[English exposé](#) available

**Nicola Bardola**, born in Zurich in 1959, has a degree in German and has lived in and around Munich for forty years. He is a literary and music critic, and has published much-lauded biographies about Yoko Ono, John Lennon and Ringo Starr, among others.

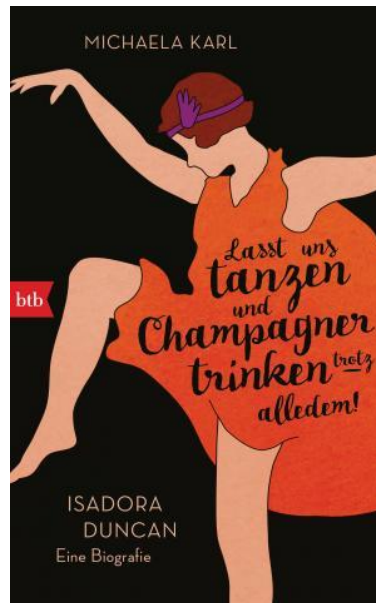
Eccentric and shy, extravagant yet modest, Freddie Mercury was one of rock history's most glittering figures. More has been written about Queen's front man than about any other rock star, but little is known about the time he spent in Munich between 1979 and 1985.

Now, finally, this book gives us a month-by-month, and occasionally day-by-day, account of Freddy's life of pleasure in the Bavarian metropolis – turning the spotlight on his friends and lovers, the city's world-famous club scene and its drug-fuelled parties, as well as giving us an insight into Mercury's musical aspirations.



## Gifted, uncompromising, radical: the first female superstar of the twentieth century

**SPIEGEL**  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR



Michaela Karl  
**Let's Dance and Drink  
Champagne – No  
Matter What Comes!**

[Lasst uns tanzen und  
Champagner trinken, trotz  
alledem]

Isadora Duncan:  
A biography

Goldmann  
288 pages  
With 8-page b/w image insert  
September 2021

**Michaela Karl**, born in 1971, obtained her PhD from the Free University of Berlin with a thesis on the sociologist and activist Rudi Dutschke. She is the author of bestselling, hugely popular and critically acclaimed biographies of Dorothy Parker, Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, Unity Mitford, and Bonnie and Clyde.

She was the twentieth century's first female superstar – uncompromising and radical. The dancer Isadora Duncan (1877–1927) was a champagne-drinking rebel with a penchant for high drama and the wrong kind of man. Ever a step ahead of her time, she enjoyed a greater freedom than women before her could ever have envisaged, and thrilled everyone with her art. Auguste Rodin thought her the most impressive woman he ever met, and people said that you couldn't die before you'd seen Isadora Duncan dance. But despite her stardom, Isadora was also the Queen of failure and resurrection, surviving various catastrophes and tragedies by facing life's cruelties with an unquenchable passion for life and unwavering sense of humour.

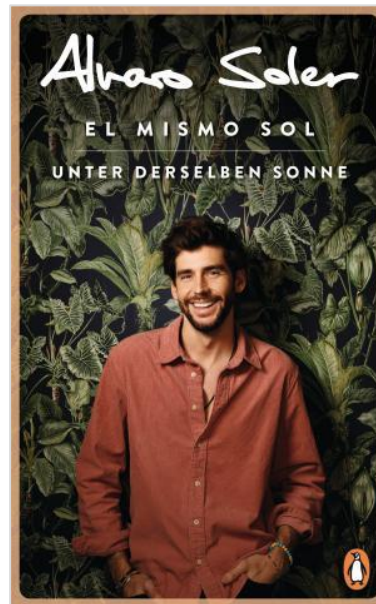
With this book, Michaela Karl has turned a life worthy of a Hollywood movie into a compelling, detailed and up-to-date biography. A joy to read!

## The international popstar about what moves him

INTERNATIONAL  
No.1 POP STAR

English sample translation  
available

Rights sold to:  
Spain (Planeta)



Álvaro Soler  
**El Mismo Sol –**  
**Under the Same Sun**  
[Unter derselben Sonne]

Penguin Verlag  
256 pages  
With 43 colour illustrations  
September 2021

**Álvaro Soler** was born in Barcelona in 1991 to a Spanish-Belgian mother and a German father. Music played a central role in his life from an early age. He began his solo career as a singer in Berlin in 2015 and made it to the top of the international charts with his first single "*El mismo sol*". Thus begun an impressive global career. In 2016, he sat on the jury in the Italian edition of the casting show *The X Factor*. In 2021, he can be seen in Germany as a coach on *The Voice Kids*. He speaks seven languages, raises awareness of child poverty as ambassador for World Vision and is committed to environmental awareness and sustainability.

[alvarosoler.com](http://alvarosoler.com)

Álvaro Soler is a global star with No. 1 records all around the world, his music brims with lust for life. Born in Barcelona and raised in Japan, the popstar now lives in Berlin, speaks seven languages and is at home in the world. He learned early on how music connects people and cultures, how it can overcome borders. His international fan base is huge, and his new record will be released in September 2021.

In his biography, Álvaro Soler shares with his fans what is most important to him: thoughts, experiences, encounters – and the responsibility we carry for our planet. He tries to live as sustainable as possible and actively promotes environmental awareness and is dedicated to help children in need.

Álvaro Soler is the musical voice of a generation that takes responsibility and celebrates life in the process.

- International No. 1 records like **El mismo sol**, **La Cintura** or **Sofia**
- On European tour in Spring 2022 (Paris, Padova, Milano, Bruxelles, Tilburg, Warszawa, Kraków, Praha, Bratislava)
- Huge international fanbase: more than 80 gold and platinum awards worldwide, two million albums sold, a total of more than 2.5 billion audio streams and 1.5 billion streams for his videos.

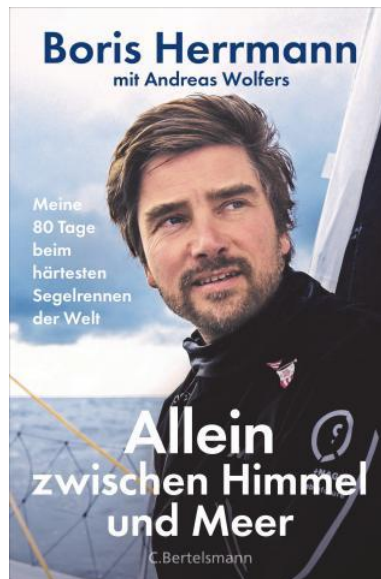


## Boris Herrmann on participating in the Vendée Globe, fighting nature and himself

English sample translation soon available

**Boris Herrmann**, born in 1981, is currently the best German ocean yachtsman. In 2020, the professional sailor was the first German ever to participate in the Vendée Globe, the hardest regatta for single-handed sailors leading around the world in about 80 days. In August 2019, he caught worldwide attention for sailing Greta Thunberg on his yacht to the UN Climate Summit in New York.

**Andreas Wolfers**, born in 1958, worked as a reporter for *GEO* magazine for 13 years, was head of copy at *Stern* and headed the Henri Nannen School of Journalism. Wolfers has been sailing since childhood and has also crossed the Atlantic.



Boris Herrmann / Andreas Wolfers

**Between Sky and Sea**

[Allein zwischen Himmel und Meer]

My 80 days at the world's hardest regatta

C. Bertelsmann

320 pages

With numerous 4c illustrations

September 2021

Boris Herrmann, who sailed Greta Thunberg across the Atlantic Ocean back in 2019, was the first German to participate in the Vendée Globe, the world's most famous and hardest regatta. Following a fantastic race he came in a hardly dreamt of fifth place.

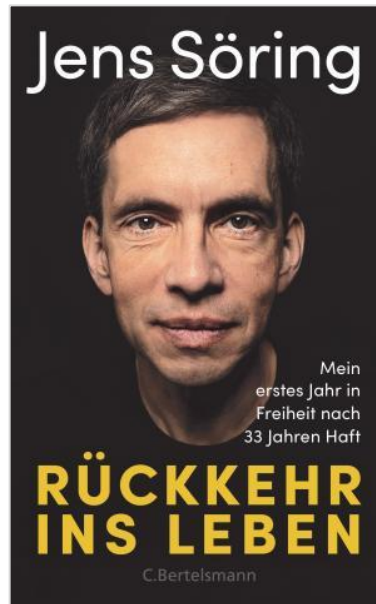
In this book, he writes about what he experienced, his emotions, the ups and downs during his 80-day spell alone at sea. He talks of the most beautiful and the most dangerous moments, of the enormous mental challenges. He describes the oceans that he sailed across, most of the time being farther from the mainland than the astronauts on the ISS. And he explains why protecting the world seas is so crucially important. For years now, Herrmann has been involved in climate and environmental protection.

It is a book not only for sailors but for everyone who dreams of the wealth of the oceans and of adventures at sea.



## Jens Söring on his struggle to return to normal life – after 33 years in a US prison

English sample translation available



Jens Söring  
Return to Life  
[Rückkehr ins Leben]

C. Bertelsmann  
304 pages  
September 2021

**Jens Söring**, born in 1966, was incarcerated in 1986 for the double murder of his former girlfriend's parents and convicted in 1990 to two life sentences in the USA. To this day he maintains his innocence. In December 2019 he was let go on parole and deported to Germany.

For three decades, Jens Söring was imprisoned in the USA under the most severe conditions, convicted for the murder of his girlfriend's parents. To this day doubts concerning his guilt persist. He was 19 when he went to prison, living behind barred doors for almost all of his adult life. The things he witnessed and survived there shaped him forever. After being released on parole on December 17th 2019, he returned to Germany as a 53-year-old.

In his book, Söring vividly describes his first year back in freedom, where he discovers everyday, seemingly obvious experiences for the first time. Yet his memories of prison won't leave him alone. How is a person to cope with all this?

The harrowing tale of a man who has to live with his past to build a future.

**"As shocking as Jens' case is, it doesn't shock me anymore, as it happens all the time here. There are thousands of innocent people in prison. [Now] he got the most important things: He is free, he is out of a terrible prison system. He has hopefully many good years left."** *John Grisham*

## Upcoming highlight:



Heyne, ca. 224 pages, Memoir  
February 2022

**English sample translation  
available**

### Mihrigul Tursun/Andrea Claudia Hoffmann: ***Place of No Return***

**"The world not only needs to know about it, it needs to know what it feels like to be locked up in a camp like this."**

Human rights organisations and governments speak of a crime against humanity, a "cultural genocide". Mihrigul Tursun has repeatedly been a victim of Chinese efforts to totally assimilate the Uyghur minority. She experienced the so-called "re-education camps" in their indescribable cruelty, the physical and psychological violence, first hand. In a way that remains unexplained to this day, her young son died while she was imprisoned.

Today, despite the threat that has not disappeared even in exile, she has the courage to speak openly about what she experienced and to describe from her own experience what the Uyghur minority in China has to endure.

A significant eyewitness account that brings the reader closer to the people behind the news from China.

- **A shocking report from a survivor of the Chinese concentration camps**

**Uyghur Mihrigul Tursun**, born in 1989, was imprisoned several times in the Chinese "re-education camps" of Xinjiang. During her detention, one of her sons died in Chinese custody under unexplained circumstances. On 28 November 2018, Mihrigul Tursun gave her harrowing testimony before the US Congress (Congressional-Executive Commission on China). She described the inhumane conditions and torture methods in the camps. In December 2018, Tursun was awarded the Citizen Power Award.

**Andrea C. Hoffmann** works in the political editorial department of the news magazine *FOCUS* and teaches at various German universities. Her books have been translated into 17 languages worldwide.

## From our backlist:



Heyne, 288 pages  
April 2021  
With 12 b/w illustrations

English sample translation  
available

Benjamin von Brackel

### *Nature on the Run*

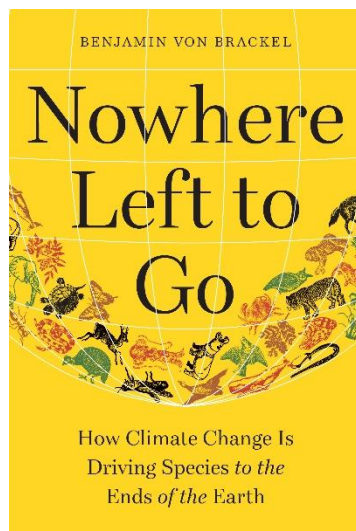
*Why our forests are disappearing and the brown bear is meeting the polar bear  
– How climate change is moving plants and animals*

#### **Nature as climate refugee – The largest global migration of species since the ice age**

There is something afoot in the world of animals and plants, something which has so far caught too little attention. Wherever they can, animals and plants are moving towards the earth's poles to flee from rising temperatures and drought in their natural habitats. Tropical zones lose their inhabitants, beavers are settling in Alaska, gigantic shoals of fish disappear just to reappear in front of foreign coastlines. Sea creatures move an average of 72 kilometres a year, land creatures an average of 17 kilometres.

In this exciting and vivid book, Benjamin von Brackel describes a phenomenon which demonstrates nature's impressive adaptability as well as the dramatic consequences of climate change – not the least for humankind, for the migration of species won't leave us unaffected.

- **Rights sold to:** Korea (Tin Drum), USA/ World English (The Experiment)



English translation to be published by The Experiment, USA



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