

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

Best of
Penguin Random House
Verlagsgruppe

Fiction
Autumn 2022

A gripping tale, by turns tragicomic and mythical



Konrad Bogusław Bach

The Bison

[Der Wisent]
Novel

Blessing
432 pages
August 2022

English sample translation
available

Konrad Bogusław Bach

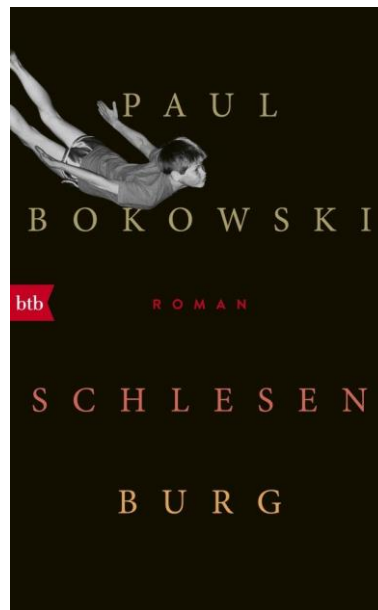
was born in Nakło nad Notecią, Poland, in 1984, and grew up in Hanover. He studied theatre and Catholic theology, classical philosophy and screenwriting in Berlin, Krakow and Rome. In 2020, he completed his PhD on "Laughter on Stage", and now teaches at a secondary school in Frankfurt an der Oder. He has received a grant from the city of Nuremberg for his writing, and taken part in the Munich Screenwriting Workshop as well as the Jürgen Ponto Foundation's creative writing workshop. His 2015 short film "Magdalenas Akte" has won several prizes. "The Bison" is his first novel.

Heniek and Andrzej live in a small town in Poland. One is a mechanic, the other a carpenter, and both are about to retire. They have never had the urge to see the world, but one day they leave their home town of Gajerudki and head west down the A2, the "Motorway to Freedom".

They're trying to track down Beatka, who has left Heniek after 36 years of marriage to start a new life in the Netherlands. They've taken the Mercedes they were meant to fix for a customer, and when they don't have enough money to fill it with proper fuel, they use cooking oil instead. After an accident involving a herd of deer, the two friends continue their journey on foot. Along the way, they find out things they never knew about each other, including some dark secrets – and when they encounter a European bison, they face a reckoning with their past.

- **Nominated for the Klaus-Michael Kühne Prize for Best Debut Novel of 2022**

The autobiographical debut novel by Paul Bokowski – authentic, kind- hearted and darkly funny



Paul Bokowski
Silesia Towers
[Schlesenburg]
Novel

btb
320 pages
September 2022

English sample translation
available

Paul Bokowski, born in 1982, is an author, reader and storyteller. 2012 saw the publication of his unexpected bestseller "*Hauptsache nichts mit Menschen*" ("The Main Thing is It's Got Nothing to Do with People"), which was followed by "*Alleine ist man weniger zusammen*" ("Alone You're Less Together") and "*Bitte nehmen Sie meine Hand da weg*" ("Please Take My Hand Away"). "*Silesia Towers*" is his debut novel. He lives in Berlin.

"*Silesia Towers*" tells the story of refugees and natives, homelessness and finding a new home. A warm-hearted and bittersweet novel about the dream of fitting in and leading a good life – and about whether you can belong anywhere, if you don't know where you've come from.

"'Silesia Towers' is what they called it, our community on the edge of the city, where the Galówkas' flat burnt down in the summer of '89. Sixty families lived there, nearly all from Poland. And then, suddenly, we were worried: what if Romanians or Russian Germans move in? Half the estate looked down its nose at the building where they housed asylum seekers. They were so proud of themselves for having left it behind. That was the year the new girl moved into the estate, Darius disappeared and Mother read nothing but Heinz Konsalik novels, the year I realised – too late – that Father had his own plans for the burnt-out flat..."

- For readers of Saša Stanišić

Praise

"The way Bokowski entices us to come out and play, to venture into the dreams and miseries of childhood, makes this a wonderful read." *Bov Bjerg*

“... a stroke of luck for German literature.” *FAZ*

SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

Rights sold prior publication to:
Italy (Fazi), The Netherlands
(HarperCollins)

English sample translation
available

Dörte Hansen, born in 1964, has a degree in linguistics. She has been an editor at NDR and written for both radio and print. Her debut novel *"This House Is Mine"* was voted the German Independent Booksellers' Book of the Year in 2015, and was the Spiegel's 2015 bestseller of the year. Her second novel, *"Mittagsstunde"* ("Midday Hour") appeared in 2018, was also the Spiegel's bestseller of the year, and won both the Rheingau Literature Prize and the Grimmshausen Literature Prize. Both novels have been translated into numerous languages.



Dörte Hansen
To the Sea
[Zur See]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
256 pages
September 2022

The ferry takes an hour for the crossing from the mainland to the little North Sea island – sometimes longer, depending on how rough the sea is. The Sander family has lived there for nearly 300 years. Hanne has raised three children, while her husband has given up both his family and his seafaring life. Now her oldest son has lost his captain's licence, is plagued by premonitions, and is waiting for the storm to end all storms. Her daughter Eske looks after veteran sailors at the old people's home. She fears the influx of tourists more than the sea, because they are turning the island's culture into mere folklore. Only Henrik, Hanne's youngest son, is at peace with himself. He is the first man in the family never to have dreamt of going to sea, and spends his time collecting flotsam on the beach. Over the course of one year, the Sander family's life is irrevocably changed – by an almost unnoticeable breeze that eventually grows into a full-blown storm.

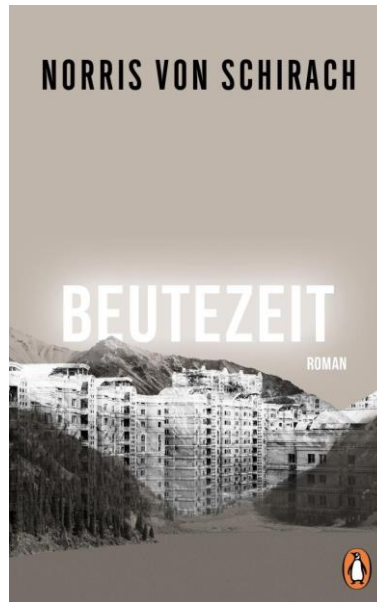
Press:

"Dörte Hansen knows how to write in such a way that thematic ambition and literary accessibility go hand in hand. This is a stroke of luck for German literature." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

"If you want to understand today's Russia, read Norris von Schirach." *Viktor Yerofeyev*

English sample translation available

Norris von Schirach, born in 1963, studied business, and has worked in London and New York. He lived in Moscow from 1993 to 2003, where he experienced all the euphoria and frustration of the Yeltsin years, when the line between organised crime and state institutions became blurred, even as large parts of the population sank into poverty. Norris von Schirach has one son, and, after spells in Kazakhstan and Australia, now lives in Romania. His first novel, "*Blasse Helden*" ("Pale Heroes"), was published in 2018.



Norris von Schirach
Looting Time
[Beutezeit]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
352 pages
September 2022

When Vladimir Putin becomes President in January 2000, Anton, a German who has made his money trading in raw materials, flees Moscow. Behind him lie eight whirlwind years of post-Soviet predatory capitalism – before him lies nothing but the boredom of living the high life in New York. But even at the age of forty, Anton is still an incorrigible romantic, always looking for the next high. Then a head-hunter makes him a tempting offer: someone wants Anton to set up a steel corporation in resource-rich Kazakhstan with money from an anonymous source. He agrees, but as he embarks on this new adventure he discovers to his own cost just how far local clans and insatiable elites will go, to defend the loot they amassed after the fall of the USSR. But then Anton finds new allies and makes a pact that will have far-reaching consequences.

"*Looting Time*" is an impressively topical novel about a post-Soviet society disappearing into a maelstrom of corruption and terror. Von Schirach explores the ruthlessness with which the global conflict between Russia, China and the West over natural resources, power and influence is being fought out in this stunning Central Asian country – and how anyone who isn't willing to adapt to the new era's commercial code risks being destroyed.

"A moving, important, intelligent novel about loneliness, family and the power of language." *Benedikt Wells*



English sample translation available

Przemek Zykowski
The Pink Wedding Album
[Das pinke Hochzeitsbuch]
Novel

Luchterhand
224 pages
September 2022

Przemek Zykowski, born in Łódź, Poland, in 1976, moved to Germany in 1985. He is a practising medic, an assistant director who has worked at several theatres (including the Berliner Ensemble and the Hamburg Schauspielhaus), a playwright whose work has been performed on various German stages, and the winner of Austria's Floriana Book Prize.

This empathetic and wildly imaginative debut novel tells the story of a lonely boy, a lonely country, and the attempt to put together the pieces of your past.

The narrator thinks he has left the past far behind – but it all catches up with him again when his grandmother dies. In 1984, shortly after martial law is lifted in Poland, his parents secretly fled to Germany with his little sister, leaving their eight-year-old son behind with his grandmother to fool the authorities. What follows is a time of both unprecedented freedom and panic: the boy is interrogated by the secret police, who threaten to send him to an orphanage, and it takes a year before he – thanks to his assertive grandmother – receives the necessary papers that will enable him to board a plane to Frankfurt. At his grandmother's funeral, he is finally reunited with his parents. But is it too late for a reconciliation?

Praise

"Zykowski steps into his memories as if into a foreign country. Carefully, almost sceptically, he wanders through the places of his childhood, and thus finds the right words to tell a story that's hard to put into words. A moving, important, intelligent novel about loneliness, family and the power of language. Anyone who can talk about their past in this way has truly overcome it." *Benedict Wells*

Do you think that a single encounter can change someone's life?

SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

English sample translation
available

Melanie Raabe was born in 1981. After her studies she worked as a journalist during the day and secretly wrote books at night. *"The Trap"* was published in 2015, followed by *"The Truth"* in 2016 and *"The Shadow"* in 2018. Melanie Raabe's novels are published in over 20 countries and several movie adaptations are underway. She also co-hosts a weekly podcast on the topic of creativity, "Raabe & Kampf". With *"The Art of Disappearing"* she has written something different from her usual thrillers, taking us into a world where anything's possible, and where you can take nothing for granted.



Melanie Raabe

The Art of Disappearing

[Die Kunst des Verschwindens]
Novel

btb
400 pages
October 2022

Is there such a thing as finding your soulmate at first sight? Why is it sometimes easier to talk to strangers, than to people you've known and loved for a long time? One night just after Christmas, young photographer Nico bumps into the actor Ellen Kirsch in Berlin's snowy streets. Almost immediately, Nico senses that there's an inexplicable bond between them.

But what could they possibly have in common – a world-famous Hollywood star, and this young photographer, hungry for acclaim? What does Ellen see in her that she doesn't see herself? Most of all, though: why does Nico care when Ellen one day simply disappears again, as suddenly as she arrived? When Nico finally discovers why she can't let go of her, she goes in search of Ellen, her own mother, and the truth about her life.

Press

"Melanie Raabe is Germany's most brilliant bestselling author."
Elmar Krekeler, Die Welt

Stuertz's dizzyingly funny new novel about finding a "family" – whatever that might be

English sample translation and outline available

Sebastian Stuertz, born in 1974, is a media artist, music producer and podcaster. He also animates graphics for film and TV and works as a lecturer in Motion Design. His 2020 debut novel, *"The Iron Heart of Charlie Berg"* was awarded the Hamburg Prize for Literature and was a finalist for the Klaus-Michael Kühne Prize. In 2021, his audio miniseries "Ruslan aus Marzahn" was published and shortlisted for the German Audiobook Award.



Sebastian Stuertz
[Where Your Brain Should Be](#)
[Da wo sonst das Gehirn ist]
Novel

btb
352 pages
August 2022

Sebastian Stuertz takes us on a rollercoaster ride into adulthood, examining friendship, love, and the greatest freedom of all: the freedom to make a fresh start.

Hamburg, summer 2019. Alina has only just joined her new school, but is already seen as the "cool geek" for creating her own app, a miniature social network exclusively for final-year pupils. It could have been the perfect start to the year, if only her mother hadn't ended up in bed with Mr Carstensen – father of Corvin, the class prefect – right after the first parents' evening. What's worse, not long after that Alina and her mother, who's a professional clown, are kicked out of their flatshare. Dad can't take them in, because he has three other children and can't be bothered to look after Alina as well. So she and Mum have to move in with the Carstensens. Which is ridiculous, because Corvin collects spiders, his sister Nina is a famous blogger, and their dad Urs has a dark secret that ends up causing huge problems for everyone...

Praise:

"No one is better than Sebastian Stuertz at combining humor and a deep, dark sadness. This novel is like April showers, you've just dried your eyes – and not twelve lines later, you're falling off the sofa laughing." *Dana von Suffrin*

True love and scandals in nineteenth-century Munich...



Hannah Conrad An Almost Perfect Debutante

[Eine fast perfekte Debütantin]
The Lily Palace saga (vol. 1)
Novel

Heyne Paperback
352 pages
November 2022

Hannah Conrad has already published many popular novels across various genres. She studied German and cultural journalism, and has won several awards, including the DeLiA Book Prize, the Selfpublisher prize and a short-story prize. She uses her extensive travels to research her novels, and is at home in several German cities.

Munich, 1827. Johanna von Seybach has moved from Königsberg to the magnificent Lily Palace, her uncle's family seat – where an exciting season awaits her! Even before her official debut, it looks like a proposal from the eligible bachelor Friedrich Veidt is all but certain. But then Johanna has an unguarded moment of passion, and her reputation is suddenly in tatters. Friedrich drops her, and she's left broken-hearted. Will anyone want to marry her, after such a scandal? Then she meets Alexander von Reuss at a glittering masked ball. That same evening, they grow closer than they should, experiencing a sensuous moment of surrender. But Johanna's scandalous past is making such waves that even true love may not be enough to save her.

Upcoming:

A Count On The Loose
(vol. 2)

February 2023, ca. 352 pp

Turmoil About the Comtesse (vol. 3)

May 2023, ca. 352 pp

A Lady with Secrets
(vol. 4)

August 2023, ca. 352 pp



Set in early twentieth-century Berlin, this is the story of the two families behind the glamorous KaDeWe department store



Marie Lacrosse KaDeWe: The House of Dreams

[KaDeWe. Haus der Träume]
The KaDeWe Saga (vol. 1)
Novel

Goldmann
720 pages
October 2022

Marie Lacrosse has a PhD in psychology, and worked as a self-employed psychologist for many years. She became a popular author of historical fiction under her real name Marita Spang. Today she focuses almost exclusively on her writing. Her "Vineyard" trilogy was a huge *Spiegel* bestseller, just like her "Coffee House" saga.

At the start of the twentieth century, Berlin's KaDeWe department store is a glamorous citadel of luxury. It's a world that Judith Bergmann, the daughter of KaDeWe's in-house lawyer, knows all too well – and she's about to marry Harry Jandorf, the founder's only son and heir.

Meanwhile, the new sales assistant Rieke Krause, who comes from a modest background, is bowled over by the glittering department store, and soon falls in love with her colleague Hermann. Judith and Rieke's plans are thrown into turmoil by the Great War and the post-war years.

And KaDeWe and its owner Adolf Jandorf, too, are facing seemingly insurmountable challenges...

Volume 2 to be published in June 2023:



KaDeWe: The House of Desires

Goldmann, ca. 464 pp, June 2023

Margot Frei wants to fly high – as an air hostess for the new Lufthansa airline



Svea Lenz

The Flight Attendants: Freedom is in the Air

[Die Stewardessen. Eine neue Freiheit]

The Flight Attendants (vol. 1)
Novel

Goldmann Paperback
480 pages
September 2022

Svea Lenz is the pseudonym of the popular author **Nicole C. Vosseler**, who loves taking her readers into foreign lands and into the past. She studied literature and psychology, and now lives on Lake Constance. When she isn't busy writing novels, she loves travelling the world with her camera.

Hamburg, 1954. In post-war Germany, Margot Frei dreams of travelling the world and escaping the confines of her middle-class family. One day, she spots an advert from the new Lufthansa airline. They're looking for air hostesses!

Margot decides to seize the day and applies for the job, alongside hundreds of other young women. She can't believe it when she is offered a place on Lufthansa's first ever training course. Soon, Margot and her new friends – as well as her bitter rivals – are flying high. And the young pilot Claus Sturm is always by her side...

Volume 2 to be published in November 2022:



The Flight Attendants: Into the Blue Horizon

Goldmann, 512 pp, November 2022

Thriller & Crime

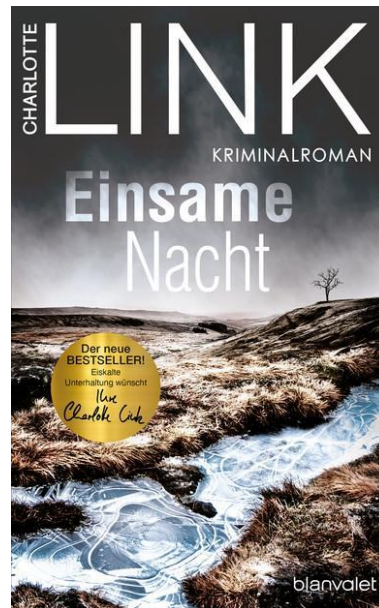
Not even snow can cover all the tracks...

**SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR**

Rights sold prior publication to:

Hungary (General Press), Italy (Garzanti), Latvia (Zvaigzne), The Netherlands (Xander), Poland (Sonia Draga)

Charlotte Link, born in Frankfurt am Main, is the most successful contemporary German author. Her crime novels are international bestsellers. Her latest books "*The Search*" and "*Without Guilt*" once again conquered the *Spiegel* bestselling list. In Germany alone, more than 30 million copies of her books have been sold so far. Her novels have been translated into numerous languages.



Charlotte Link
Lonesome Night

[Einsame Nacht]

The Kate Linville series (vol. 4)
Crime novel

Blanvalet
592 pages
September 2022

On a cold December night, a young woman is driving alone through the desolate Yorkshire Dales. The next morning, she's found dead in her car, which is parked on a bridleway and almost completely covered in snow. A witness claims to have seen a man get into the woman's car. Was it her boyfriend? Or was he a stranger? Was he the murderer?

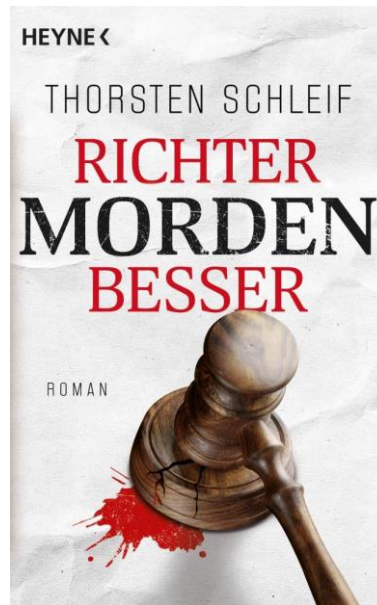
Kate Linville takes on the case, and soon picks up a trail that leads into the past – to a cold case that Caleb Hale once investigated, but never managed to solve...

- Previous volumes of the "Kate Linville" series have been sold to Croatia (Znanje), Czech Republic (Euromedia), France (Presses de la Cité), Hungary (General Press), Italy (Corbaccio), Japan (Tokyo Sogensha), Korea (Balgunesang), Latvia (Zvaigzne), Lithuania (Alma Littera), The Netherlands (Xander), Poland (Sonia Draga), Russia (Eksmo), Spain (PRH/Debolsillo), Turkey (Agapi)

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www.foreignrights.penguinrandomhouse.de

The judge – your executioner



Thorsten Schleif
Judges Make Good Murderers
[Richter morden besser]
Novel

Heyne Paperback
304 pages
July 2022

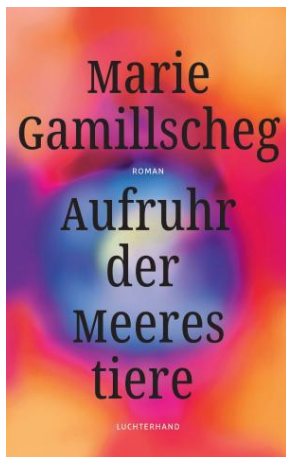
English reader report
available

Thorsten Schleif, born in 1980, studied law in Bonn. In 2007, he was appointed a state judge of North Rhine-Westphalia, and he is currently the presiding judge of the lower criminal court and a youth court judge. In 2019 and 2020, he published two non-fiction books, followed by two audiobooks in 2021. *"Judges Make Good Murderers"* is his first novel. He has also been a keynote speaker since 2016.

As a young law student, Siggie Buckmann wanted nothing more than to make the world a little fairer. Today, he is an experienced judge who does as he's told. The judicial system is steeped in bureaucracy, and Siggie's rulings keep being reviewed and overthrown. Then the death of a homeless junkie reawakens his old passion for the law, and when no one's interested in bringing those responsible to justice, he decides to take matters into his own hands. After all, he knows the system inside out, and knows how to exploit its weaknesses. Will he get away with murder?

- **For readers of Karsten Dusse**
- **More than 22.000 copies sold**

From our backlist:



Luchterhand, 304 pages
March 2022

English sample translation
available



Marie Gamillscheg:

[An Uprising of Sea Creatures](#)

On fathers and daughters – the tale of an impossible relationship

Luise is intelligent, Luise is independent, Luise is an island. She has also gained a reputation as an excellent marine biologist. Her specialty is the sea walnut, a ghostly illuminated jellyfish living in the dark waters of the oceans. When Luise is asked to go to Graz for a project with a famous zoo, she says yes right away. But Graz is the town she grew up in and the town where her estranged father, who is ill, still lives – and where the silence between them began, long ago...

Marie Gamillscheg writes compellingly and vividly about the process of freeing ourselves from our childhood, our body, and the rules that we believe to be our own – but which others have determined for us. At the same time, this novel is an attempt to describe the inherent impossibility of father-daughter relationships.

- Longlisted for the German Book Prize 2022
- Selected by [New Books in German](#)

Press (selection):

„One of the most exciting young voices of German-speaking literature.“
Spiegel online

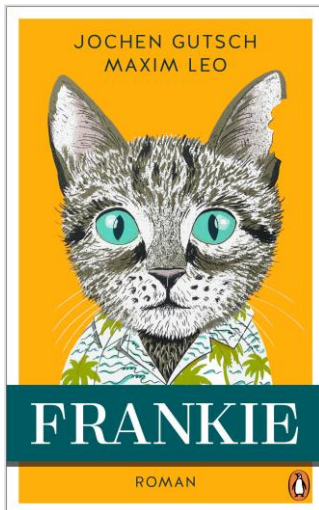
"Marie Gamillscheg's novel shakes up our one-sided view of our place in the world." *Zeit Online*

"Gamillscheg has written a sad and utterly lyrical novel that plays beautifully, yet melancholically, with the motifs of flowing, drifting and surging – simultaneously musical, floaty, light-footed and despairing." *Der Standard*

„Marie Gamillscheg has written a very artful second novel that takes you into the depths of the oceans and into the shallows of family relationships.“
Deutschlandfunk Kultur

"A fascinating book about the impossibility of relationships – not only between humans and animals." *WDR 5*

Upcoming highlight:



Penguin, 192 pages
Contemporary Fiction
March 2023

English sample translation
available

Joachim Gutsch & Maxim Leo: *Frankie*

A cat explains the world to us: a soulful and funny novel with depth and little philosophical lessons about life

Imagine you're looking for the meaning of life – and end up concussing a cat with a pepper mill instead...

Richard Gold has planned everything down to the last detail. Nothing will go wrong. Today's the day he'll take his own life. Or so he thinks. Because what Gold hasn't counted on is that, instead of killing himself, he'll acquire a new flatmate called Frankie. Frankie contributes nothing to the rent, keeps him up all night, wakes him in the morning, and otherwise ruthlessly exploits his hospitality. Nevertheless, they slowly become friends, at a time when Gold needs a friend more than anything...

- Penguin lead title Spring 2023
- *Spiegel* bestselling authors
- For readers of Matt Haig and Fredrik Backman

Jochen Gutsch is a reporter at *Spiegel* magazine and a columnist at the *Berliner Zeitung*, and has won the Theodor Wolff Prize and the Henri Nannen Prize.

Maxim Leo is a columnist at the *Berliner Zeitung*, and has also won the Theodor Wolff Prize, as well as the European Book Prize. His book "*Red Love*" has been translated into numerous languages.

Together, they have conquered the bestseller lists with their hugely popular books "*Es ist nur eine Phase, Hase*" ("It's just a phase, honey"), and "*Du bleibst mein Sieger, Tiger*" ("You'll always be my winner, darling"), and their joint stage shows regularly sell out.

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