

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

Best of
Penguin Random House
Verlagsgruppe

Fiction
Spring 2024

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

Paula Ben-Gurion wanted to marry a man, but what she got was a state: a novel about an unusual and courageous woman



Stephan Abarbanell
**Paula, or: The Seven
Shades of Loneliness**

[Paula oder Die sieben Farben
der Einsamkeit]
Novel

Blessing
240 pages
March 2024

English sample translation
available

Stephan Abarbanell was born in Brunswick in 1957 and grew up in Hamburg. He studied theology and general rhetoric in Hamburg, Tübingen and Berkeley. Abarbanell is now in charge of cultural affairs at rbb Broadcasting.

Paula grew up in Minsk, was sent to New York when she was young, dreamt of studying medicine and was a committed anarchist. But then she met her future husband, the founder of the state of Israel, David Ben-Gurion – and at the end of her life, she finds herself in a kibbutz in the Negev Desert. Her husband is expecting the arrival of his friend, Konrad Adenauer, who has just resigned as German Chancellor. Once again, it is down to Paula to organise the visit and arrange everything. Poverty, war, motherhood, and – again and again – loneliness: this novel is a memorial to a strong, courageous woman, who had to make many compromises in life, and became the First Lady of a country in which she did not believe. And who, even in old age, never stops doubting, searching and hoping.

For readers of Zeruya Shalev "The Remains of Love" and Annie Ernaux "The Years".

Press:

"Paula Ben-Gurion, the woman behind the founder of Israel, has almost been forgotten from the pages of history. Paula is an inspiring, fascinating figure. Stephan Abarbanell's book does her justice and gives her finally the attention she deserves." *Yariv Mozer, filmmaker, "Ben-Gurion, Epilogue"*

A sculptor in 1920s New York and a writer in 2020s Liguria connect over the great question of what makes true art



English sample translation available

The Swiss-Romanian writer **Dana Grigorcea** was born in Bucharest in 1979 and has a degree in German and Dutch studies. She has won worldwide acclaim for her novels and short stories, including "An Instinctive Feeling of Innocence" and "The Lady with the Maghrebi Dog". Her novel "Those Who Never Die" won the 2022 Swiss Book Prize and was longlisted for the 2021 German Book Prize. Dana Grigorcea is also the winner of the prestigious 2015 Ingeborg Bachmann/3sat Award. Her books have been translated into numerous languages.



Dana Grigorcea
The Weight of a Bird in Flight

[Das Gewicht eines Vogels beim Fliegen]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
224 pages
February 2024

In 1926, full of hope and longing, the ambitious young sculptor Constantin Avis moves to New York. A famous gallery owner wants to take him under his wing and facilitate his great breakthrough in this city of dreams. Constantin floats through his new life buoyed by an exciting new love affair, and the prospect of success – but threatens to lose touch with reality. How far can his art really take him?

A whole century later, this is the question that Dora sets out to answer. It is early springtime on the Ligurian coast, and she is working on a novel about Constantin. She has moved here together with her son and a nanny, to find the peace that usually eludes her in her everyday life as an artist and mother. But the deeper she dives, the more her own story becomes intertwined with Constantin's. Eventually, she realises that she can answer the sculptor's questions only with her own life.

An exceptionally charming tale of the unbreakable bond between art and life – as light as a feather, and yet so powerful that its thoughts will linger with you for a long time.

- **Selected by *New Books in German***

"With a vivid and evocative sense of place, this is an accessible and engaging treatment of an ambitious subject that will appeal to readers of Ali Smith and Julian Barnes."

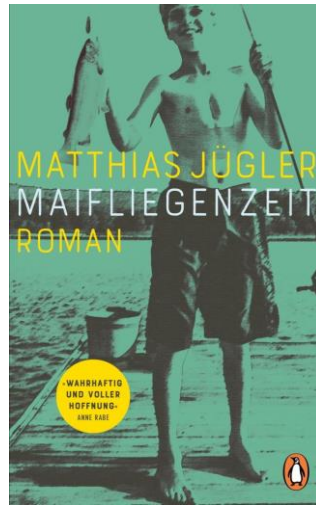


English sample translation available

World English rights under negotiation

Matthias Jügler, born in 1984, has a degree in Scandinavian studies and history of art in Greifswald and Oslo and in creative writing from the Institute of Literature in Leipzig. His novels "Raubfischen" ("Predatory fishing", 2015) and "Die Verlassenen" ("The forsaken", 2021) have been awarded numerous prizes. In 2022, he won the Klopstock Book Prize, and in 2023 was appointed Halle's writer-in-residence. He lives in Leipzig with his family, and is also a freelance editor.

A traumatic loss and the strength that comes with new beginnings – a family caught up in a dark chapter of East Germany's history



Matthias Jügler
Mayfly Season
[Maifliegenzeit]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
160 pages
March 2024

For Katrin and Hans, every parent's nightmare has come true: they have lost their firstborn son shortly after his birth. And then they lose each other. Katrin is tortured by doubts about the doctors' version of events, doubts that Hans wants nothing to do with. When she dies years later, it turns out that she may have been right all along. Hans starts looking into the past and is drawn deep into East Germany's history, where he encounters inconsistencies and a wall of silence. He knows that some questions he has about his son's death will remain unanswered, but the thought of having failed at a decisive moment won't let him go.

One day, the phone rings, and his son is at the other end of the line. The boy was adopted by another family, and his idea of the past differs fundamentally from what Hans tells him. Will these two men be able to bridge the chasm created by forty years of separation and life in an unjust state?

- **Selected by *New Books in German***

"The tense narrative is interspersed with fishing tales that give a sense of the turning of the seasons and lighten the mood while maintaining the suspense. Jügler's clear and unemotional style is reminiscent of the sparse stories of Clare Keegan."

Press:

"Jügler gives an entire generation a voice, and finds words for the horrors of East Germany about which many families have remained silent for decades." *NDR Kultur*

**"More radical than Annie Ernaux [...] a smart, unideological novel about emancipation – a classic in the making."
*Der Freitag***



Longlisted for the 2022 German Book Prize

Winner of the 2023 BücherFrauen/Women in Publishing Book Prize

Winner of the 2023 Schubart Best Newcomer award



Slatka Roschal

153 Ways of Not Being

[153 Formen des Nichtseins]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
176 pages
January 2024

Slatka Roschal, born in St Petersburg in 1992, is a writer and academic. She has a PhD in Slavonic Studies from LMU Munich, and has won several prizes and grants for her writing – including the 2023 BücherFrauen/Women in Publishing Book Prize and the 2023 Schubart Best Newcomer award for her acclaimed debut novel "153 Ways of Not Being", as well as the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Book Prize and a scholarship from the state of Bavaria. She is also the author of two poetry collections: "Wir verzichten auf das gelobte Land" ("We don't want the Promised Land", 2019) and "Wir tauschen Ansichten und Ängste wie weiche warme Tiere aus" ("We exchange views and fears like soft warm animals", 2021).

Ksenia is Russian, German, Jewish, an ex-Jehova's Witness, a young woman, mother, writer and scholar, 'this, that and several kinds of intersectional' – and also none of the above. As Ksenia explores her own plural identity, she collects eBay listings containing the word 'Russian', takes notes as she eavesdrops on her colleagues' conversations, watches Russian mothers in town and Israeli relatives on Facebook, acts as interpreter for refugees attending psychotherapy sessions, recalls again and again the traumatic childhood feeling of being lost and manipulated, prods her body suspiciously and wonders who she is and what makes life worth living.

Slatka Roschal's original and caustically witty debut novel is a collage of 153 observations from the everyday life of a young woman.

For readers of Aglaya Veteranyi.

Press (selection):

"A brilliant instance of accessible modern storytelling that is at the same time a sophisticated and complex literary discourse."
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

"An impressive account of a woman's growing self-awareness and struggle for empowerment."
Süddeutsche Zeitung

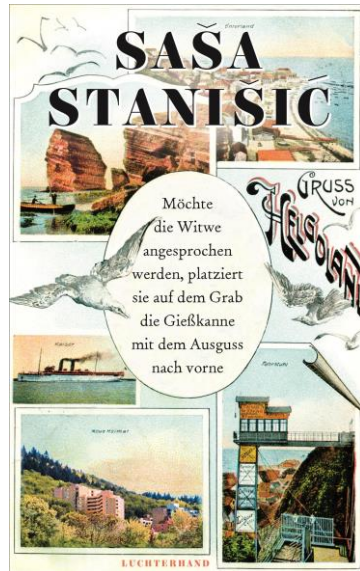
What if I'd decided differently? What if I'd done that, instead of this? What if I had defied expectations? Wouldn't it be nice if you could give life a trial run first, before living it for real?



Please see [here](#) the list of publishers of the author's previous book (sold to 30 territories and the winner of the German Book Prize 2019).

English sample translation available soon

Saša Stanišić, born in Višegrad in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1978, has lived in Germany since 1992. His novels and stories have been translated into more than 30 languages, and have won numerous awards, including the 2019 German Book Prize (for "Where You Come From") and the 2014 Leipzig Book Fair Prize (for "Before the Feast"), as well as the Eichendorff Book Prize, Schiller Prize and Hans Fallada Prize. He lives in Hamburg.



Saša Stanišić

When the Widow Is Happy to Talk, She Places the Watering Can on the Grave With the Spout Facing Forward

[Möchte die Witwe angesprochen werden, platziert sie auf dem Grab die Gießkanne mit dem Ausguss nach vorne]
Stories

Luchterhand HC
368 pages
May 2024

We sometimes worry that we've been a coward, hesitated too long – and missed out on something that would have made us a better, happier person, with better-looking and more fun pets and partners. This is what Stanišić's new stories are about: the constant, gnawing feeling that maybe you should have taken the road less travelled, made the less obvious choice, told a lie for once. Like the cleaner, for instance, who, holding a goat's-hair brush in their hands, finally decides to take the matter of life into their own hands too. Or like the author who travels to Heligoland for the first time, only to discover that he's actually been there before. Or like the father who's prepared to cheat, if that's what it takes to finally beat his eight-year-old son at Memory...

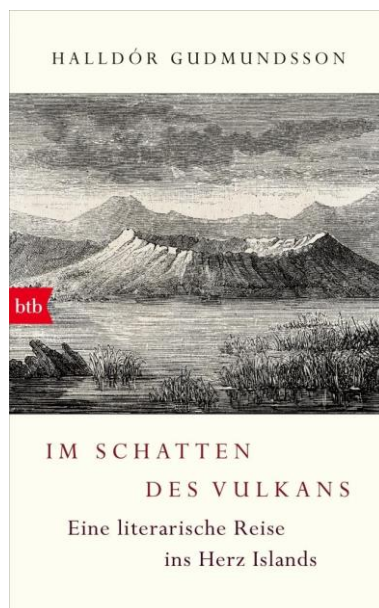
Press (selection):

"Wonderfully inventive and impressive." *Guardian*

"Stanišić is a poet and revolutionary who has found his true home in language." *Rolling Stone*

"Offensively gifted... Some kind of freak genius." *Irish Examiner*

A journey through Iceland's literary history – and an encounter with the people who live in this wild and beautiful arctic landscape



Halldór Guðmundsson In the Shadow of the Volcano

[Im Schatten des Vulkans]

A literary journey into the heart of Iceland

btb
512 pages
March 2024

All rights available except Icelandic

English sample translation available

Halldór Guðmundsson, born in Reykjavík in 1956, spent part of his childhood in Germany and attended university in Denmark. He is a well-known publisher, author and cultural events manager, and spent many years running Mál og menning, at the time Iceland's biggest publisher, before heading up the publisher Edda (1984–2003). He joined the board of Forlagið in 2007, and was appointed its chair in 2019. Guðmundsson has been director of the internationally renowned concert venue and conference centre Harpa in Reykjavík, is involved in various cultural advisory boards, among others the Iceland Literature Festival (since 1987), and is chair of the National Theatre of Iceland.

Iceland, the land of geysers and volcanos, has a rich history and is home to a unique literary tradition. "In the Shadow of the Volcano" takes us on a fascinating voyage of discovery around its literary world, which has always also reflected life on this remote and legendary island. Starting with the ancient Poetic Edda and the sagas, which form the basis of the Icelanders' national identity, it reaches all the way into the vibrant present day.

This brilliantly written book by Halldór Guðmundsson – author, publisher and organiser of Iceland and Norway's appearances at the Frankfurt Book Fair – shows how this small, remote country has produced a remarkable diversity of voices and stories. Filled with anecdotes, "In the Shadow of the Volcano" not only explores Iceland's literary history, but the human souls who live here, in the wild beauty of the northern landscape. A must for every culture lover.

- **Guðmundsson has written several books, including a biography of the Nobel Prize winner Halldór Laxness, for which he won the Icelandic Book Prize, and which has been translated into five languages**

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

Contemporary Fiction
Thriller & Crime

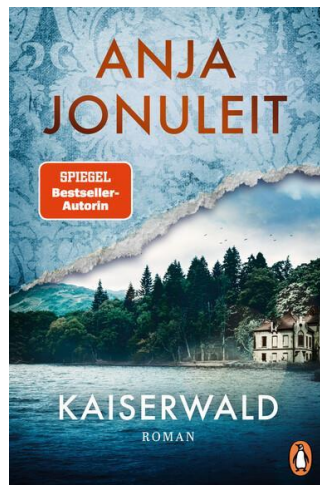
**SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR**

English outline available

Anja Jonuleit, born in 1965, grew up on Lake Constance and spent a few years working for the German Embassy in Rome. After a secondment at the Embassy in Damascus, she studied Italian and English at the SDI in Munich. Back on Lake Constance, she worked as a freelance translator and court interpreter before becoming a full-time writer in 2007. Her books are immensely popular and regular bestsellers. She tackles the big topics of our time with great sensitivity and insight, telling stories of dysfunctional families and relationships, toxic social structures, and threats against which it's hard to protect ourselves and those around us. Following "Herbstvergessene", "Der Apfelsammler", "Rabenfrauen", "Das letzte Bild" and other novels, she has now written a panoramic two-book family drama "Kaiserwald".

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

A gripping novel about a young woman's search for the truth behind her mother's death that leads her deep into the sinister circles of right-wing nationalists



Anja Jonuleit

Kaiserwald

[Kaiserwald]

The Kaiserwald duology (Vol. 1)

Penguin Verlag
400 pages
February 2024

'Your mother has disappeared.' That's all he said, while a series of emotions crossed his face: disbelief, shock, and finally that fear. That's what I remember most: the fear, which now haunted the world like a genie released from its bottle.

St John's Eve, 1997: 15-year-old Alise is found unconscious on the shores of Lake Kisezers in Riga.

Easter 1998: Rebecca Maywald, a teacher at the German School in Riga, disappears without a trace. She leaves behind an 8-year-old daughter, who is convinced she'll find her mother again some day. The years that follow are years of uncertainty – and then an anonymous letter changes everything.

Berlin, 2023: Ex-mountain trooper Mathilda intentionally crashes her car in order to meet Falk von Prokhoff, scion of a distinguished diplomatic family. Mathilda desperately wants to break into their inner circle – but her motives are as yet unclear. Little does she suspect that she'll end up falling in love with Falk... and so begins a dangerous game of false identities, unsolved crimes and nefarious far-right political schemes...

For readers of Donna Tartt, Alena Schröder and Trude Teige.

- **Over 12.000 copies sold upon publication**
- **Vol. 2 "Solstice" will be out in October 2024**

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

The women of the famous oatmeal dynasty have been fighting for more than half a century – for their lives, and for happiness



Elke Becker

The Family Kölln - Golden Age

[Das Haus Kölln. Glänzende Zeiten]

The Family Kölln trilogy (Vol. 1)
Novel

Heyne Taschenbuch

432 pages

January 2024

Elke Becker yearned for the sea and adventure, and travelled all over the world before settling down on Mallorca in 2005. The idea to write about the real-life Kölln family came to her over breakfast one day, as she was eating a bowl of the famous Kölln oatmeal; so she set off on a research trip to northern Germany, a beautiful place which has always been dear to her heart.

North Germany, 1886: The life of Charlotte Kölln's husband is tragically cut short by an accident at work. There is no time for Charlotte to grieve, though, because the gristmill has to keep grinding, otherwise her family will face ruin. As a woman, Charlotte can neither get credit nor officially run the business, but she doesn't let that stop her. When her eldest son announces that he plans to marry one of the workers, Bertha, Charlotte isn't pleased. She is worried about her family's status, which she wants to preserve at all costs. The two headstrong women must find a way to get along – and in the process realise that they can do anything, so long as they stick together.

For readers of Miriam Georg, Lisa Graf and Fenja Lüders.

- **Just published: 35,000 copies sold**
- **Press (selection):**

"This saga is an ode to courageous women." *Mallorca Magazin*

Upcoming:

High Hopes (Vol. 2)

April 2024
400 pp



True Happiness (Vol. 3)

July 2024
400 pp



A body is found in London's most expensive neighbourhood. Spies are at work in postwar Vienna. And a famous film shoot is used as a cover.

All rights available except English

English sample translation available soon

Karina Urbach is a history professor and author. She has taught at universities in Germany and Britain, and conducted research at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study. Urbach has worked on numerous BBC and ZDF documentaries, and her non-fiction books include "Go-Betweens for Hitler", "Queen Victoria" and "Alice's Book: How the Nazis stole my grandmother's cookbook", which has been translated into several languages and turned into an award-winning ARTE documentary. Her novel "Cambridge 5: Zeit der Verräter" ("The Cambridge Five: a time of treason") won the 2018 Crime Cologne Award.



Dr. Karina Urbach
The House on Gordon Place

[Das Haus am Gordon Place]
Crime

Limes
384 pages
March 2024

Vienna, 1948. MI6 agent Daphne Parson is working in a surveillance tunnel under the divided city. To get to the Soviet sector without being noticed, she infiltrates a film crew. It's a mission that'll have deadly consequences.

London, 2024. The historian Professor Hunt lives in Daphne Parson's old flat on Gordon Place. When a dead body is found, he embarks on a disturbing journey into the past.

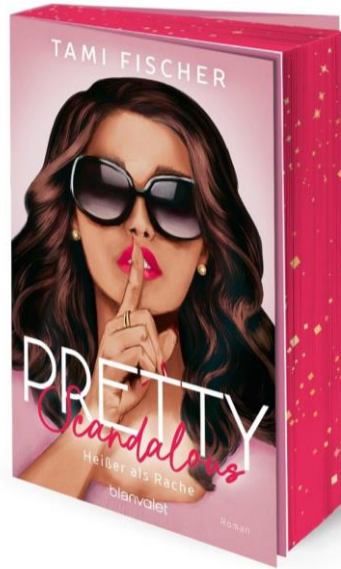
- **The new novel by the author of the international bestseller "Alice's Book. How the Nazis stole my grandmother's cookbook"**

Nothing is hotter than revenge – other than perhaps Manhattan’s richest bad boy...

**SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR**

English sample translation available

Tami Fischer, born in 1996, lives in the state of Hesse with her family and two idle (but cute) cats. A bookseller by training, she has written several bestselling novels, and also narrates audiobooks. In her spare time, she loves travelling, long books, good food and binge-watching box sets. She enjoys chatting to her many followers on Instagram and TikTok, and giving them insights into her creative process.



Tami Fischer Pretty Scandalous - Hotter than Revenge

[Pretty Scandalous - Heißer als Rache]

The Manhattan Elite trilogy
(Vol. 1)
Novel

Blanvalet TB
608 pages
March 2024

When Sarah’s twin sister returns after a year of radio silence covered in bruises, Sarah’s world falls apart. Payton had always dreamt of studying architecture, but her wealthy new friends at Columbia University have broken her.irate, Sarah decides to pretend to be Payton and take revenge on those spoilt high-society kids. But the moment she arrives in New York, scandals and secrets start piling up. And then Sarah runs into handsome Monroe – whose smile threatens more than her plans for revenge...

- **Pretty scandalous -- "Gossip Girl" meets "Revenge" in New York's high society!**
- **Over 140,000 copies of the author's books sold in Germany**
- **"Breathtaking New York, electrifying suspense and a labyrinth of intrigue and secrets on every page. A gripping page-turner - heartthrob guaranteed." Ayla Dade**

Upcoming:

Pretty Savage - Sweeter than Betrayal (vol. 2)

June 2024
576 pp



Pretty Shameless – Riskier than love (vol. 3)

September 2024
ca. 512 pp



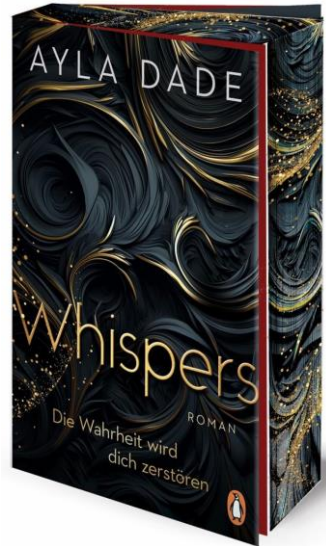
New Adult

Four elite students, four deadly secrets and a dangerous game: they can trust no one – but will they get too close to each other for their own good? – Spicy thrills and high-society vibes from this bestselling author

**SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR**

English sample translation available soon

Ayla Dade spends every spare minute she has writing stories. The popular book blogger fills the pages of her New Adult novels with deep emotions and magical settings. Her Winter Dreams series was a phenomenal success, with each instalment spending weeks in the bestseller lists, and the first book in her eagerly anticipated new Blackwell Palace series – which takes readers to the luxurious palace hotel in snowy St Moritz, a place of glamour, intrigue and a firework display of emotions – went straight to no. 3. Her latest novel, "Whispers", not only spices things up, but there's more at stake – with risky online dares and plenty of intrigue at an elite college, as she takes her readers on a thrilling, pulse-quickenning ride.



Ayla Dade
Whispers - The Truth Will Destroy You

[WHISPERS. Die Wahrheit wird dich zerstören]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
528 pages
June 2024

Harvard University: instead of being conscientious, hard-working students, members of the elite fraternity Alpha Phi Omega have wild parties and set each other high-risk dares. Everyone wants to be part of the hype, and film their challenge live for the Whispers app: Noktura. But what starts as a game spins out of control when Willow, Benedict, Deepika and Jacob find Henry's body during a team challenge at Langdell Hall. They are shocked – but relieved too: all four have a guilty secret that's somehow linked to Henry.

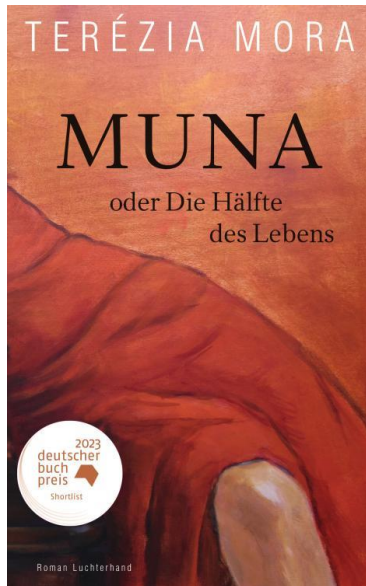
Meanwhile, mysterious Noktura has her eyes and ears everywhere, and sends them an anonymous message saying that she knows that one of them is Henry's killer. If they want her to keep quiet about their secrets they'll have to be good kids and keep playing this pitch-black game. The four students have no other choice. As the challenges get more and more dangerous, they are driven to the brink of madness – and into each other's arms. Are their all-consuming feelings for each other real, or just a vile attempt to discover their secrets?

- **By one of Germany's most successful New Adult authors: her *Spiegel* bestselling series "Blackwell Palace" (#1) and "Winter Dreams" (#2) have sold over 530,000 copies in Germany and will be published in Hungary, Russia, Ukraine and US/World English**

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

From our backlist:



Luchterhand
448 pages
August 2023

Rights sold to:
Denmark (Palomar),
Hungary (Jelenkor),
Italy (Feltrinelli/Gramma)

English sample translation
available



Terézia Mora

Muna, or Half a Life

[Muna oder Die Hälfte des Lebens]

"Anyone who reads this novel will never be rid of it, will never be rid of her: the first-person narrator Muna."

rbb Kultur

"I know what you want," he says. "You won't get it." Muna is about to graduate from high school when she meets Magnus, a French teacher and photographer. She spends the night with him. When the Berlin Wall comes down, he disappears. Seven years later, they meet again – and become a couple. Muna thinks she has found the love of her life. But as soon as they take their first trip together, cracks start showing in their relationship. Over the years the coldness, unpredictability and violence get worse. But Muna isn't willing to give up.

For readers of Siri Hustvedt, Rachel Cusk and Meg Wolitzer.

- Shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2023
- Shortlisted for the Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize 2023
- Longlisted for the 20 best books of the year by NDR Kultur (Northern German Broadcast)
- Over 37,000 copies sold in Germany

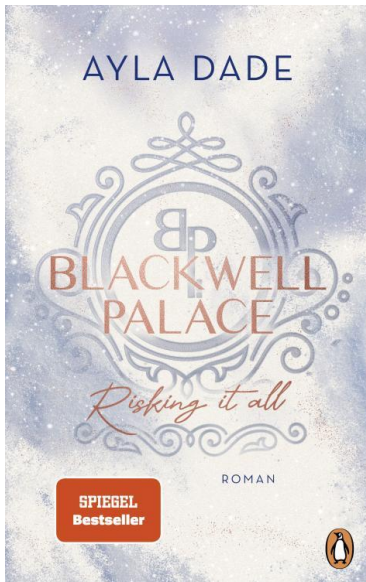
Press (selection):

"One of the best, most original and bravest voices in German literature." *FAZ*

"A book as harrowing as it is necessary." *Buchkultur*

"Like a multiple-cut crystal that refracts light differently by angle of incidence, Mora's novel offers no insights, only ever-changing, dazzling reflections like unpredictable refractions." *Die Zeit*

"Measured prose, short and to the point, without false sympathies or cheap accusations. And therein lies the gigantic pull of this story [...]" *SWR2*



Penguin
512 pages
October 2023

Rights sold to:
Hungary (Central), US/World
English (Sourcebooks)

English sample translation
available

**SPiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR**



Ayla Dade **Blackwell Palace - Risking It All**

[Blackwell Palace. Risking it all]
The Blackwell Palace Series (Vol. 1)

"If you're looking for an intriguing story and a compelling setting, you must read 'Blackwell Palace!'" Anna Todd

As Paola gazes up at the façade of the imposing Blackwell Palace with its snow-topped turrets and steep roofs, she can hardly believe that she'll be living and working here. This luxury hotel in St. Moritz is as famous as its owners, Charles and Edward, the heirs to the Blackwell hotel dynasty. When Paola meets them, she's instantly intrigued: the powerful brothers are ridiculously handsome, but also troubled by a mysterious sadness that makes them unpredictable. Despite all warnings, Paola wants to get close to them, whatever the risks. In fact, she has no choice: she has made a secret promise, and is driven by a desperate wish. Paola knows Charles and Edward have the power to destroy her – but if she plays her cards right, she could just as easily destroy them...

- **By one of Germany's most successful New Adult authors: her *Spiegel* bestselling series "Blackwell Palace" (#1) and "Winter Dreams" (#2) have sold over 530,000 copies in Germany and will be published in Hungary, Russia, Ukraine and US/World English**
- **For all fans of New Adult fiction, page-turning romance and gripping series like Netflix's *Elite***

Further titles from the series:

**Wanting it all
(vol. 2)**

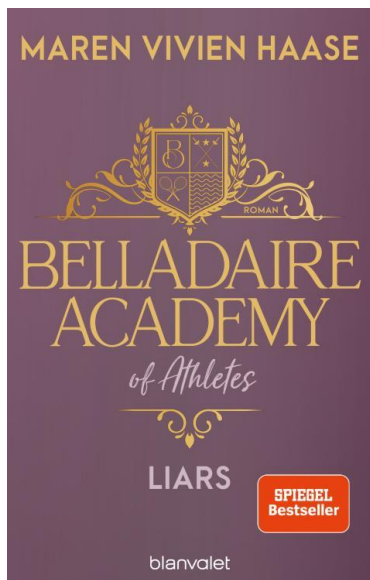
November 2023
544 pp



**Feeling it all
(vol. 3)**

February 2024
592 pp





Blanvalet
480 pages
September 2023

English sample translation
available



Maren Vivien Haase

Belladaire Sports Academy of Athletes – Liars

[Belladaire Academy of Athletes - Liars]

The Belladaire trilogy (Vol. 1)

An elite sports academy on the Côte d'Azur: Deep feelings meet serious subject-matter, including bullying, the pressure to succeed, competitiveness and doping

Nika Blum has won a place at the prestigious Belladaire Academy in Monaco. At last, she'll have the chance to realise her dream of becoming a champion fencer. She wants to be popular, no matter what it takes – so why not lie a little, if it makes her more interesting?

Swimmer Ambrose Kennedy has always lived in his brother Aaron's shadow. So when he discovers Nika's secret, he offers her a deal: if she gets Aaron to fall for her and makes sure that his performance suffers, he'll help her become more popular. Nika agrees – but soon wonders how far she's prepared to go to cover up a lie...

- **By one of Germany's most popular New Adult authors: the first two instalments of her *Spiegel* bestselling "Belladaire Sports Academy of Athletes" series (#1) have sold over 93,000 copies in Germany**
- **For all fans of "Westwell" by Lena Kiefer and "Dunbridge Academy" by Sarah Sprinz**
- **Each book can be read as a standalone**

Further titles from the series:



Rivals (vol. 2)

January 2024
480 pp



Misfits (vol. 3)

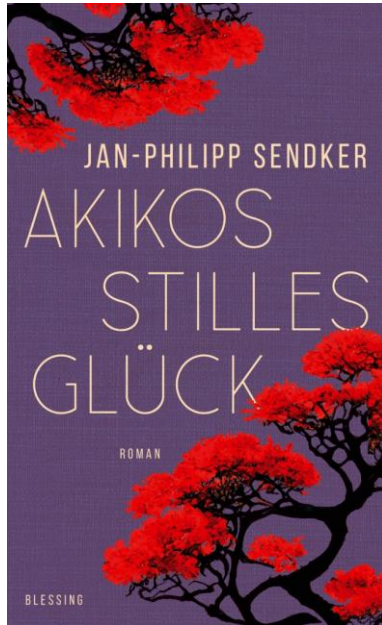
April 2024
448 pp



Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

Upcoming Highlight:



Blessing Verlag
ca. 315 pages
September 2024

SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

Jan-Philipp Sendker **Akiko's Quiet Happiness**

[Akikos stilles Glück]
The Japan trilogy (Vol. 1)

Where does your own personal story begin? A young woman searching for the truth about herself – a profoundly human and heartwarming story

Ever since her mother's death, 29-year-old Akiko has led a modest and reclusive life in Tokyo. Her monotonous job as a bookkeeper offers little excitement, and she has no real friends or family. Then, one evening, she runs into an old face from her schooldays: Kento is an outsider, just like her, and even back then she always felt drawn to him. As if that wasn't enough, Akiko is shocked to discover that the man she thought of as her dad was in fact only a hired actor, paid by her single mother to play a part. Akiko begins to wonder: is everything a lie? And, more profoundly: who is she, really?

And so Akiko embarks on a journey into her own history – a physical and emotional journey she never thought herself capable of...

- **The major new novel by one of the most successful German-language authors: his previous books have been translated into more than 35 languages, and have sold more than 3 million copies worldwide**
- **A touching Japan-based tale in a stunning, atmospheric setting**
- **Praise from Japanese readers:**

"*Akikos stilles Glück*, a tenderly nurtured and meticulously polished pearl-like novel about a Japanese woman who is so earnest, so delicate, so modest, yet... (the answer is in the book); thus, so real." *Dr. Sayaka Funada Classen*

"This book brought me back to my home country, Japan. It was redolent of many familiar places, such as the streets, the sea and the people. Full of longing, I immersed myself in this beautiful labyrinth and enjoyed my time with Akiko and Kento." *Sae Esashi*

Penguin
Random House
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

Contact

Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe GmbH

Foreign Rights Department

Neumarkter Str. 28

81673 München

Germany

Fax: +49 (89) 4136-3733

www.penguinrandomhouse.de

Gesche Wendebourg

Foreign Rights Director

Phone: +49 (89) 4136-3313

Gesche.Wendebourg@penguinrandomhouse.de

English speaking countries; French speaking countries; The Netherlands/Belgium; Greece; Hungary; Israel; Arabic countries

Eva-Maria Kunze

Senior Foreign Rights Manager

Phone: +49 (89) 4136-3716

Eva-Maria.Kunze@penguinrandomhouse.de

Italy; Portuguese speaking countries; Spanish speaking countries; Czech Republic; Slovakia; Korea; Japan

Kerstin Schuster / Stephanie Gerdeissen (on maternity leave)

Foreign Rights Manager

Phone: +49 (89) 4136-3297

KerstinBettina.Schuster@penguinrandomhouse.de

Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary) and the Balkans; Scandinavia; China; Taiwan; Turkey

FOREIGN RIGHTS on

