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**Fiction  
Autumn 2024**

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## A village in Germany – a Dalmatian family – a troubled childhood and rebellious youth: the multi-award-winning author's tale of a young woman fighting for independence



English sample translation available



Marica Bodrožić

**Blade of Hearts**

[Das Herzflorett]

Novel

Luchterhand HC  
288 pages  
September 2024

**Marica Bodrožić** was born in Croatia in 1973 and has lived in Germany since 1983. She has published poems, stories, novels and essays, which have been translated into more than sixteen languages. For her writing she has been honoured with many prizes and scholarships, including an award from the Walter Hasenclever Literature Prize, the Manès-Sperber-Prize for her entire body of work, and the Irmtraud Morgner Prize.

Pepsi loves life, and the searing summer heat on her grandfather's remote farm in Dalmatia. Her parents are working in Germany, and only visit once a year, during the summer holidays. Occasionally, she stays with other relatives, but wherever she is, she never feels at home. Nature is her only friend, and she spends her days barefoot in the grass, fascinated by the language of the birds. When Pepsi's parents finally take her to Germany, to live with them and her siblings in a tiny flat, she immediately wants to leave. Her mother's hands are rough from her cleaning job, and incapable of being gentle; and her father begins each day with a glass of schnapps. At the same time, Pepsi is enchanted by some of the things her new life has in store for her: the world of books and writing, the German language – with which she falls in love as quickly and passionately as with Aleksandar... But when Pepsi tells her parents she wants to keep going to school until she's eighteen, and then to university, they say no. After all, she isn't a boy! It's a stab in the heart, a departure – and a new beginning.

- Selected by *New Books in German*

### Press (selection):

"A style that captivates every one of our senses." *Bayern 2, Diwan – Das Büchermagazin*

"Bodrožić brings together sensuous descriptions of nature with insightful, sometimes witty commentary on cultural differences in this tale of a young woman fighting for independence."

*New Books in German*

## A riveting novel about a wild young poet during the Thirty Years' War who speaks to us as if she were alive today



English sample translation available

**Stefan Cordes**, born in Brussels in 1969, studied journalism, history of art and philosophy and spent many years working as a TV format developer, creative director and producer. "Billie" is his debut novel, and he wrote it in part for his two daughters, whose freedoms must never be infringed.



### Stefan Cordes Billie: To Heaven on Wild Horses

[BILLIE »Ich fliege Himmel an mit ungezähmten Pferden«]  
Novel

C. Bertelsmann  
384 pages  
August 2024

*I felt it all: fear, rage, the irresistible urge to fight. Not with swords and pistols, but with my voice, which I had learnt to use like a sword, and like a heart that never froze during the winter of war...*

Pomerania is at war. Wallenstein's men have made themselves comfortable in mayor Schwarz's house in Greifswald. Nothing is safe from them, least of all his three adolescent daughters. Billie, the youngest, protests that she wants a proper education just like her brothers. Billie is wild, a rebel: she fights with the pen, writes poems to counter the hate directed towards her as a woman, but also beautiful sonnets about her love for another woman. Poetry is her way of standing up to the terror of the Thirty Years' War, the horrors of the witch hunts, and the oppression of women.

For fans of Lauren Groff's "Matrix", Daniel Kehlmann's "Tyll", Rivka Galchen's "Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch" and Maggie O'Farrell's "The Marriage Portrait".

- Selected by *New Books in German*

#### Press:

"By turns witty and poignant, intellectual and tender, *Billie* is a captivating exploration of love, poetry and a little-known legacy. Thoroughly researched yet never less than accessible, Cordes's debut showcases an exciting talent, brings to life a dark era and draws illuminating parallels with the present day."

*New Books in German*

## A fresh look at white privilege, and a touching tale of friendship



Luca Kieser  
**Pink Elephant**  
[Pink Elephant]  
Novel

Blessing  
304 pages  
August 2024

English sample translation available

**Luca Kieser**, born in 1992, studied philosophy and creative writing in Heidelberg, Leipzig and Vienna, where he now lives. He has won several awards, including the Wortmeldungen grant, the Lyrik Lichtungen stipend and the FM4 Wortlaut prize. His debut novel, "Weil da war etwas im Wasser" ('Because there was something in the water') hit the Austrian bestseller lists three times and was longlisted for the German Book Prize in 2023.

It all started with a headbutt. It's summer 2006, and Germany's dreaming of winning the World Cup. Meanwhile, 14-year-old Vincent gets beaten up, and makes friends with the kids who did it. He smokes shisha with them, hangs around on street corners with them – but always returns to his parents' house at night. When things get serious, Vincent realises that it was all just a game... at least for him. While he covers his face in self-tan, Ali has jumped out of a window and is lying in a coma, Tarek is nowhere to be found – and reality arrives with a bang, to bring Vincent face to face with the sorts of problems he never knew existed.

A fast-paced, gripping novel about friendship and belonging.

- **Luca Kieser's previous book was longlisted for the 2023 German Book Prize**
- **Over 7,500 copies sold**

**Press:**

"'Pink Elephant' becomes a story about friendship, belonging and the often invisible boundaries that pervade our society - with characters who shine in their youthfulness and their simultaneous power of reflection." *Galore*

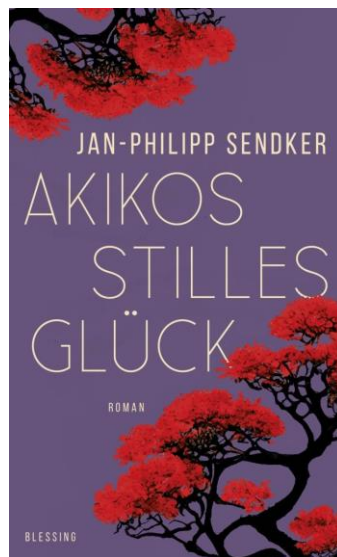
"Kieser is hugely talented." *Franzobel*

## Where does your own personal story begin?

SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR

Rights sold to:  
Israel (Armchair/Modan), Italy  
(Neri Pozza), Norway (Cappelen  
Damm), Sweden (Modernista),  
US/World English (Other Press)

**Jan-Philipp Sendker** spent many years working as US and Asia correspondent for *Stern* magazine. After a further spell in the US, he returned to Germany, and has published several books, among them the international bestselling novel "Das Herzhören" ('The Art of Hearing Heartbeats'), "Herzenstimmen" ('A Well-Tempered Heart') and "Die Rebellin und der Dieb" ('The Rebel and the Thief').



Jan-Philipp Sendker  
**Akiko's Quiet Happiness**  
[Akikos stilles Glück]  
Novel

Blessing  
384 pages  
September 2024

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 3.5 million copies worldwide**

### Praise from Japanese readers:

"'Akikos stilles Glück' is 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. Akiko's journey will bring unexpected surprises, delight, and awareness to even those readers in Japan and/or who have no interest in Japan." *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*

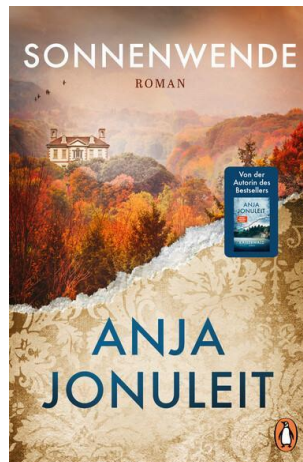
Contemporary Fiction  
Thriller & Crime

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**

English outline of Vol. 1 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".

**"A breathtaking thriller that is so intense, complex and suspenseful that you can hardly put it down." *Kieler Nachrichten***



Anja Jonuleit

**Solstice**

[Sonnenwende]

The Kaiserwald Duology (Vol. 2)  
Novel

Penguin Verlag  
336 pages  
October 2024

Twenty-five years after the disappearance of Rebecca Maywald in Riga, her daughter receives an anonymous letter that points the finger at the Prokhoff diplomat family, whose Drei Linden foundation is financing dubious eco villages around Europe. Rebecca's daughter wasn't supposed to fall in love with their son – and she must keep her identity secret from him, no matter what. Clearly, he too has a secret, or why else does he keep having nightmares? And who is the 'J' mentioned in his calendar? The trail eventually leads to Latvia, where she pretends to want to check out the Tris Liepas eco village, while actually planning to find out exactly what happened to her mother all those years ago. Meanwhile, the Prokhoffs are doing everything in their power to keep their dark secret...

A tragic family, a passionate love affair – and a journey into the dark heart of contemporary Germany.

- **Over 24,000 copies of Vol. 1 sold**

**The previous title from the series:**

**Kaiserwald  
(Vol. 1)**

February  
2024  
400 pp



Penguin  
Random House  
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit [www.randomhouse.de](http://www.randomhouse.de)

**A sleep researcher who can't sleep.  
Dreams that spill over into reality. An  
old man struggling to make amends.**

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**



Melanie Raabe  
**The Longest Sleep**  
[Der längste Schlaf]  
Novel

btb  
352 pages  
September 2024

[English video pitch](#) by the 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, "The Shadow" in 2018, and "The Woods" in 2019. Her novel "Die Kunst des Verschwindens" ('The art of disappearing', 2022) was her first thriller.

In young scientist Mara Lux's life, practically everything revolves around sleep. She lives in London, and is a leading scholar in the field – but has herself been tortured by insomnia for years. She's scared of her dreams, because they have an uncanny habit of blurring with reality. Which is particularly tough for Mara, because she's nothing if not rational, and likes to be in control.

Mara's parents died a long time ago, and she hardly ever visits Germany, so she's surprised when she learns from a notary that someone wants to give her a big, old villa as a gift – anonymously. Mara thinks it must be a case of mistaken identity. Still, she's curious, and decides to check it out. When she arrives in the small town she's never heard of, she discovers that the place has somehow been in her dreams all along...

For fans of Lauren Groff, Mariana Leky, Alex Schulman and Ewald Arenz.

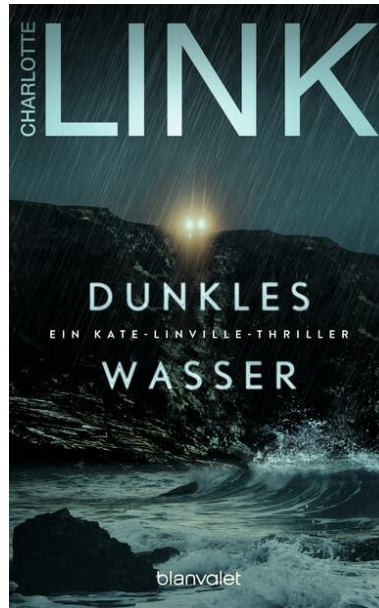
- **Melanie Raabe's have been translated into 22 languages so far, and many have been adapted for the screen**
- **More than 13,000 copies sold**

## Kate Linville and Caleb Hale stumble across a new lead in a 15-year-old cold case

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**

**Rights sold to:**  
Italy (Corbaccio), Hungary  
(General Press), Poland (Sonia  
Draga), Latvia (Zvaigzne), The  
Netherlands (Xander)

**Charlotte Link**, born in Frankfurt am Main, is the most successful contemporary German author. Her crime novels are international bestsellers. Her latest books "Without Guilt" and "Lonesome Night" once again conquered the *Spiegel* bestselling list. In Germany alone, more than 33,3 million copies of her books have been sold so far. Her novels have been translated into numerous languages.



Charlotte Link  
**Dark Waters**  
[Dunkles Wasser]  
The Kate Linville series (Vol. 5)  
Crime Novel

Blanvalet  
576 pages  
August 2024

On a stormy night on the coast of western Scotland, two families camping in a secluded bay are attacked by a gang of masked youths. The violence escalates, and only one of the campers survives: Iris, the oldest daughter of one of the families, who managed to hide from the assailants. The Kilbride killings have remained unsolved all these years. One day, Iris notices someone stalking her. Shortly after, her friend disappears during a holiday trip. Has she been killed? Was Iris the real target? When Iris bumps into ex-DCI Caleb Hale and tells him her story, Hale joins forces with Kate Linville to reopen the cold case. Slowly, he enters a nightmare – both professionally and personally...

- **# 1 Spiegel bestseller: 196,000 copies sold**
- **Over 30 million copies of Link's books sold in Germany**

### Press (selection):

"Link is the master of deception." *SWR*

"Link is unbelievably good at tackling sensitive issues without sacrificing literary quality." *Krimi – Das Magazin*

"Our Queen of Crime [...] once again writes so excitingly that the pages turn as if by themselves." *Grazia*

## Love, intrigue and the most desirable jewellery in the world – the first instalment in a dilogy about the Cartier family’s glamorous life

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**

[English video pitch by the author available](#)

[English sample translation available](#)

**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. After "Madame Exupéry und die Sterne des Himmels" ('Madame Exupéry and the starry skies') and "Mademoiselle Eiffel und der Turm der Liebe" ('Mademoiselle Eiffel and the tower of love'), she has now turned to writing an exciting saga about the Cartiers.



Sophie Villard  
**Cartier: Diamond Dreams**

[Cartier. Der Traum von Diamanten]

The Cartier saga (Vol. 1)  
Novel

Penguin Verlag  
512 pages  
November 2024

Paris, 1910. Now that her engagement to an aristocrat has been called off, Jeanne Toussaint tries to make ends meet as a seamstress in unsavoury Montmartre. One night, she meets jeweller Louis Cartier in a nightclub. He and his brothers have shops in Paris, London and New York where anyone who's anyone buys their jewellery. Louis immediately recognises that Jeanne has a sure sense of style and is immensely talented. But it's more than that: he can't deny his attraction to this charming, vivacious young woman. But storm clouds are gathering on Europe's horizon, and the Cartier family are in danger of losing everything.

- **Over 35,000 copies of Villard's books sold in Germany**
- **Villard's books have been translated into several languages**

### Upcoming:

**Cartier: The Splendor of Gold**  
(Vol. 2)

July 2025  
c. 512 pp



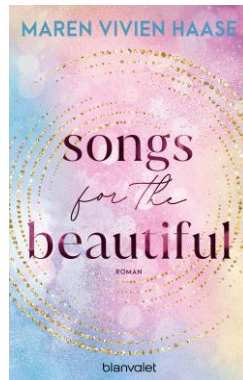
New Adult

## Welcome to the glamorous world of pop – where one song can change your whole life...



Rights sold prior to publication  
to:  
Russia (Eksmo)

**Maren Vivien Haase** was born in Freiburg in Breisgau in 1992 and graduated with a degree in German studies. Even as a child, she just had to get all those stories whizzing about in her head down on paper. She loves hip-hop dancing as much as spending hours watching TV series and films. Her NA novels have been instant bestsellers – the Belladaire Academy trilogy even got to no. 1 – and her countless readers love her. She has 50k followers on Instagram, where she provides daily insights into everyday life as a writer.



Maren Vivien Haase  
**Songs for the Beautiful**  
[Songs for the Beautiful]  
The Rise-and-Fall Duet (Vol. 1)  
Novel

Blanvalet TB  
432 pages  
October 2024

Ever since she can remember, Suki has loved singing. But she's never found the courage to pursue her passion outside her own four walls. When someone secretly records a video of her singing and it goes viral, she's offered a recording contract. Her dream of a pop career seems to be within reach. In the studio, she is introduced to her new songwriter, River – and all she wants it to drop the whole thing: because she and River have a shared past, and if he goes public, her rising star could be extinguished before it's even had a chance to shine... The music business and all its dangers from a female perspective. Includes a playlist.

- **By one of Germany's most popular New Adult authors: her #1 Spiegel bestselling "Belladaire Sports Academy of Athletes" trilogy has sold over 128,000 copies in Germany**
- **Tropes: Brother's Best Friend, Enemies-to-Lovers und Forced Proximity**
- **Topics: Toxic relationship, music business, exploitation of (female) artists, cancel culture, social media**
- **For all fans of Taylor Swift and readers of Ayla Dade**

"Pop star vibes, sizzling romance and incomparable humour - not only Swifties will get their money's worth!" *Ayla Dade*

### Upcoming:

**Songs for the Broken  
(Vol. 2)**

March 2025  
c. 480 pp

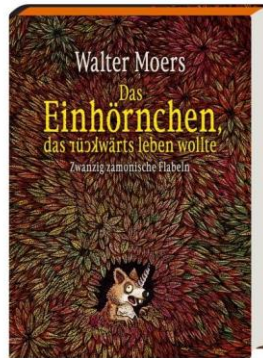


Penguin  
Random House  
Verlagsgruppe

For more information please visit [www.randomhouse.de](http://www.randomhouse.de)

## A smorgasbord of funny stories by the bestselling author

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**



Walter Moers

### The Squirrel That Wanted to Live Backwards

[Das Einhörnchen, das rückwärts  
leben wollte]

Twenty Zamonian fables

Penguin Verlag  
176 pages  
45 b/w illustrations  
September 2024

The wyvern **Hildegunst von Mythenmetz** is the most famous author in Zamonia. He attained fame with his 25-volume autobiography "Travels of a Sentimental Dinosaur", a literary memoir of his adventures all over Zamonia, especially in the bookish town of Wye-on-Wye.

**Walter Moers** has written himself into the hearts of readers and critics far beyond the borders of the German-speaking world. All his novels, such as "The 13 ½ Lives of Captain Bluebear", "The City of Dreaming Books" and most recently "The Island of a Thousand Lighthouses", were bestsellers. Apart from the continent of Zamonia, Walter Moers has also created such popular characters as Captain Bluebear, Optimus Yarnspinner and the cartoon character Adolf.

A squirrel that wants to live backwards; a werewolf that wants to be a waswolf; a meat-eating plant that wants to be vegetarian; two vampire-vulture brothers who can't stand carrion – lots of Zamonia's inhabitants struggle with their identity, and life can be tough. But whether they're a dumbwolf or cleverfox, cuddlerabbit or aprilfly, frogling or bookling, they all eventually find their path in a world where imagination and humour run riot.

A collection of twenty Zamonian fables\* about the diverse rules of the game that is Zamonian existence, from the pen of bestselling author Hildegunst von Mythenmetz, congenially translated, illustrated and equipped with an afterword (on why humour is a serious business) by a man called Walter Moers.

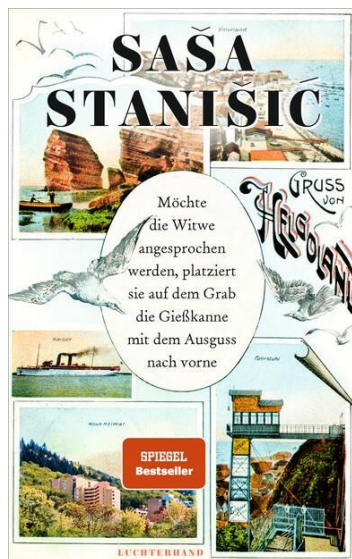
\*Fable (n.): a humorous, anarchic Zamonian short story which, unlike the classical Aesopian fable, has no moral whatsoever.

- **#2 Spiegel Bestseller: More than 66,000 copies sold upon publication**
- **Over 2.6 million copies of Moers' books sold in Germany**

#### Press (selection):

"The twenty short stories are entertaining and a quick read. As soon as you put the book down, your fingers start itching to turn the pages again. And in the end, there are still a few life lessons to be learnt from the Zamonian fables." *Passauer Neue Presse*

## From our backlist:



Luchterhand HC  
256 pages  
May 2024

**Rights sold to:**  
Poland (Klimaty), Slovenia  
(Mladinska), Turkey (Illetisim)

English sample translation by  
much-awarded translator Damion  
Searls available



Saša Stanišić

### [When the Widow Wants Someone To Talk to Her, She Puts 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]

**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?**

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...

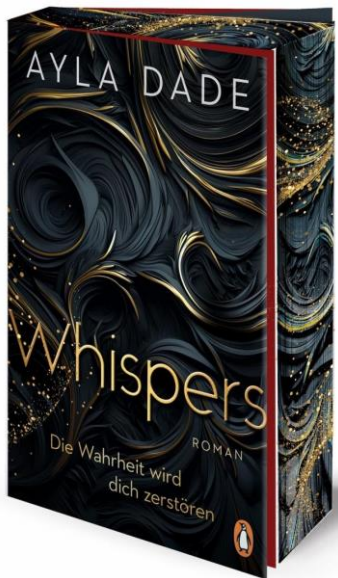
- Awarded the Wilhelm-Raabe-Literaturpreis 2024
- # 2 *Spiegel* Bestseller: over 94,000 copies sold
- Selected by *New Books in German*
- Please see [here](#) the list of publishers of the author's previous book (sold to 30 territories and the winner of the German Book Prize 2019).

#### Press (selection):

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

"The tone he has brought to contemporary German literature is unique, completely unaffected, but highly artistic, playful and sad, tender and gripping." *NDR Kultur*

"Filled with sharp observations, offbeat humour and a playful engagement with German poetic tradition, *When the Widow wants Someone To Talk to Her* is an inventive study of everyday lives on the fringes of society." *New Books in German*



Penguin Verlag  
528 pages  
June 2024

English sample translation  
available

**SPIEGEL**  
**BESTSELLING**  
**AUTHOR**

Ayla Dade

## Whispers - The Truth Will Destroy You

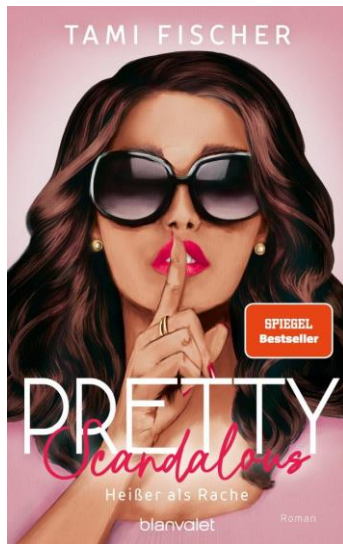
[WHISPERS. Die Wahrheit wird dich zerstören]

**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**

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 621,000 copies in Germany and will be published in Hungary, Italy, Russia, Ukraine and US/World English**
- **More than 71,000 copies sold**
- **Tropes: Good Girl x Bad Boy, Nerd x Football Quarterback, Rebel Girl x Good Guy, Social Media x Real Life**
- **Topics: peer group pressure, social media, blackmailing, murder**



Blanvalet TB  
608 pages  
March 2024

English sample translation  
available

SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR

Tami Fischer

## Pretty Scandalous - Hotter than Revenge

[Pretty Scandalous - Heißer als Rache]

The Manhattan Elite trilogy (Vol. 1)

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

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!
- # 1 *Spiegel* Bestseller: over 100,000 copies of Fischer's books sold in Germany
- Trope: Enemies-to-lovers
- Topics: identity swap, alcohol consumption, drug abuse, violence, bullying, racism, sexual violence
- "Breathtaking New York, electrifying suspense and a labyrinth of intrigue and secrets on every page. A gripping page-turner - heartthrob guaranteed." *Ayla Dade*

Further titles from the series:

**Pretty Savage –  
Sweeter than  
Betrayal  
(vol. 2)**

June 2024  
576 pp



**Pretty Shameless –  
More Dangerous  
than Love (vol. 3)**

Decemeber 2024  
512 pp



## Upcoming Highlights:



Penguin Verlag  
208 pages  
February 2025

English sample translation  
available

**Katharina Köller** was born in Eisenstadt, Austria, in 1984. After studying philosophy and acting, she's worked as a freelance author, actor, and theatre maker since 2011. Her debut novel "Was ich im Wasser sah" ('What I Saw in the Water') was published in 2020 and won the City of Wetzlar's Fantasy Prize.

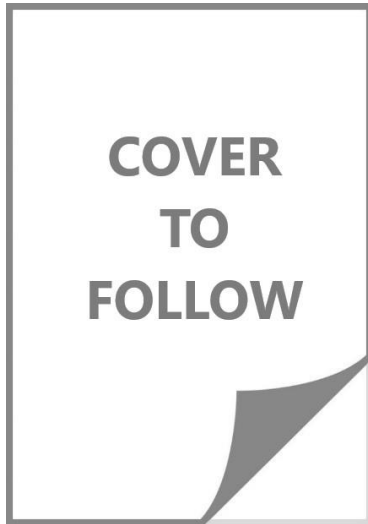
Katharina Köller  
**Sprawling Wildly**  
[Wild wuchern]  
Novel

**"Back where I had been planted, I was like a dainty flower in a pot. Now I'm here, and I'm growing."**

They couldn't be more different: Marie, the sharp-tongued Viennese lady, a creature of luxury, simultaneously pampered and despised by her husband Peter. And Johanna, the "wild animal in a human body." Johanna has stopped speaking in adolescence and left humanity behind, leading a hermit life on a remote mountain pasture for years. The cousins have not seen each other since she moved there. But now Marie is hurrying up the mountain to Johanna's hut, panicked, covered in blood. She is on the run from her violent husband and a world in which many things have gone awry, unnoticed by her.

In her poetical and political novel – fairy tale, parable and pulsating critique of civilisation all in one – Katharina Köller celebrates two women who empower each other and make each other believe in change.

- **The loner Johanna, the glamorous Marie – two very different women whose unusual pact changes everything**



Penguin Verlag  
ca. 260 pages  
Expected publication date: July 2025

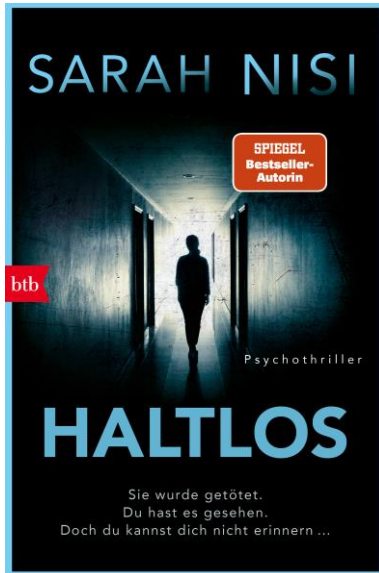
English sample translation  
available

**Maya Rosa**, born in 1987, was born and raised in Moscow. She has worked as a translator and is a graduate of the German Literature Institute in Leipzig. "Moscow Mule" is her debut novel. Maya Rosa lives with her family in Berlin.

Maya Rosa  
**Moscow Mule**  
[Moscow Mule]  
Novel

Karina and Tonya share everything. Their studies at a Moscow university, drunken men, empty wallets, but above all: the ambitious goal of emigrating to Europe. Shortly after 2000, in Moscow, people no longer pile money to spend in the canteen, but in clubs, sushi bars, and luxury stores. Karina and Tonya would have killed for all this, but they don't allow themselves to be blinded by false values. As long as corruption flourishes, TV channels close, and the parliament consists of a single party - what comes next?

What initially appears to be a simple plan to escape to a European university, requires the perseverance of a frog in a milk jug when you are left without money and a visa. Sent to boarding school at the age of fourteen by her cold-hearted mother, Karina has learned to handle all situations with wit and madness. But will her friendship with Tonya, who is looking for a place of refuge rather than an escape route, last?



btb Verlag  
352 pages  
January 2025

English sample translation  
available

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**

**Sarah Nisi** has lived in London since 2012. She was born in Hildesheim, and worked as a corporate lawyer in Düsseldorf for several years before moving to London to study creative writing. Since then the German–British author has dedicated most of her time to writing. London’s particular atmosphere and social diversity are key ingredients of her thrillers.

Sarah Nisi  
**Untenable**  
[Haltlos]  
Novel

**Your best friend has been murdered. You saw it happen. But you can’t remember anything...**

Emily has been feeling like an outsider for months now. The Londoner can’t cope with everyday life any more, and has to give up her studies. Three months ago, her friend Liv fell onto the Tube tracks and died – Emily was standing right next to her, but can’t recall anything about the incident. The police thinks it was an accident, but Emily suspects there’s more to it. She must find a way to remember. But why is everyone she tries to talk to about it being so evasive? And what if she discovers a terrible truth about herself in the process? Little does Emily know that her life is already in serious danger...

A brilliantly constructed psychological thriller about unreliable memories, and a perilous hunt for the truth.

- For fans of Sarah Pearse, Claire Douglas, and of Paula Hawkins’s "The Girl on the Train"
- Her debut "Ich will dir nah sein" ('I want to be close to you') was a bestseller in Germany (over 28,000 copies sold), and shortlisted for prestigious prizes including the Glauser, the Viktor Crime Award and the Crime Cologne Award.

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