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Spring 2025**

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A portrait of summer 1945 – as you've never seen it before: while an old world collapses, a new age dawns

**SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR**

**Rights sold prior publication to:
Denmark (Kristeligt Dagblad),
The Netherlands (Spectrum),
USA/English (Other Press)**

**English sample translation
available**

Oliver Hilmes, born in 1971, has a PhD in modern history and is curator at the Berlin Philharmonic foundation. He is the author of bestselling books about contradictory and fascinating women ("*Witwe im Wahn*", about Alma Mahler, 2004; and "*Herrin des Hügels*", about Cosima Wagner, 2007), as well as "*Liszt: Musician, Celebrity, Superstar*" (2011), "*Ludwig II*" (2013) and "*Berlin 1936*" (2016), the last of which was translated into many languages and became a highly acclaimed bestseller.



Dr. Oliver Hilmes

An Ending and a Beginning

[Ein Ende und ein Anfang]

How the summer of 1945 changed the world

Siedler
288 pages
26 b/w illustrations or colour illustrations
March 2025

That summer, everything changes: in the four months from May to September 1945, the old world order collapses and a new one emerges. The criminal Third Reich is at an end, and a time of freedom, as well as new conflicts, has begun.

What was this summer like, for the victors as well as the conquered, for victims and perpetrators, for celebrities and ordinary people?

While at the Potsdam Conference the 'big three' determine the course of history, Berlin housewife Else Tietze fears for her son's life, US soldier Klaus Mann (the eldest son of the famous writer Thomas Mann) hunts down Nazi criminals, Billy Wilder is in Berlin planning a comedy about life among the ruins, cafés and restaurants are opening their doors, and German children beg Red Army soldier Vasily Petrovich for bread. With this kaleidoscope of stories and scenes that takes us from Berlin to Tokyo, from Munich to Paris and from Bayreuth to Moscow, Hilmes captures the unique atmosphere of this time of extremes: the joy and hope of the liberated, the fears of the conquered, the misery and grief, and the new freedoms that emerged.

The story of a love that must not die

Rights sold prior publication to:
Italy (Giunti), Russia (Eksmo),
Spain (PRH/Plaza)

English sample translation
available

Darcy Lee is originally from Georgia in the US. She is a Peace Corps volunteer and is currently deployed in Ecuador, having previously worked with refugees in Senegal, Italy, Colombia and the US. As the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, she is keen to tell the story of her grandparents, and to help others whose lives have been similarly uprooted.



Darcy Lee

The Heart of Auschwitz

[Das Herz von Auschwitz]

A true story of love and survival

Goldmann
320 pages
With 55 b/w images
April 2025

As a young girl, Darcy Lee stumbles across a mysterious chest while playing hide-and-seek with her mother. When she opens it, her heart starts pounding: inside are photos, letters, and a heart made from the sole of a shoe. Together, they tell the life story of her Holocaust survivor grandparents, Genie and Feliks.

In "The Heart of Auschwitz", Darcy Lee now recounts their tale: how her grandmother Genie, deeply in love with her fiancé Feliks, is terrified when she and Feliks are forced to leave Kraków on different trains, bound for an uncertain future; the horrors she witnesses in Auschwitz; and how, even in this dark place, she unexpectedly found friendship. Feliks, meanwhile, is sent to Dachau, and not a single day goes by that he doesn't miss his beloved Genie. As a symbol of his unbroken love, he fashions a heart for her from the sole of his shoe, and risks everything to make sure it finds its way to her.

80 years after the end of the war, antisemitism, racism and populism are growing at an alarming rate – Genie and Feliks's moving story serves as an urgent reminder: Never again.

- For readers of "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" and "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas"

An eye-opening and entertaining voyage to the origins of our food and drink



English sample translation available

Markus Bennemann couldn't decide whether to major in literature or biology. In the end, he chose literature, and now writes books about... well, biology. His most recent book is the bestselling "*Böse Bäume*" ('Bad trees').

Markus Bennemann
The Birth of Delicious
[Der Anfang aller Köstlichkeit]
How nature cooked up our favourite dishes, drinks and poisons

Goldmann
400 pages
With 15 b/w images
March 2025

It is only right that we should ask where our food comes from, and whether it's been produced according to ethical practices: are these potatoes organic? Was the smallholder paid a fair price for that cup of coffee? Then, too, we are curious about the historical origins of what we eat and drink: when did we start to grow coffee? Who cultivated the first apple tree? What did Neanderthals eat, and how did they acquire their food? Yet our fascination also reaches beyond modern farming methods and their history, to the natural science itself: did apples exist before they were cultivated, and if so, who ate them? Why do trees bear fruit? What makes flowers supply bees with the nectar they need to produce honey? How did nature come to 'invent' alcohol, tobacco and other, harder drugs?

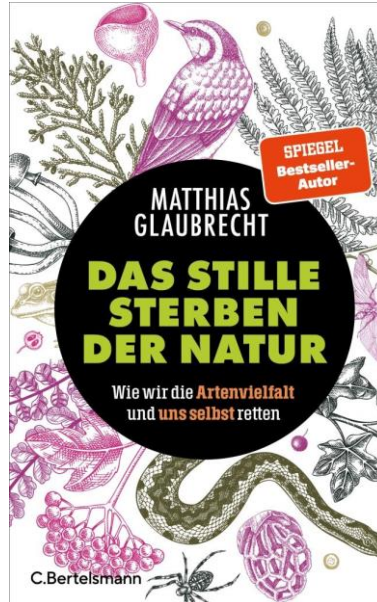
"The Birth of Delicious" reveals the natural history of our favourite dishes, drinks and poisons, which can often be traced back a long, long time before we humans ever made use of them. A multifaceted and highly entertaining trip back in time, to where it all began.

Ignorance is deadly: we're facing a global mass extinction event, but political and social changes have proved ineffective – what we must do to save our natural habitat

SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

English sample translation
available soon

Evolutionary biologist and biosystems expert **Matthias Glaubrecht**, is professor of biodiversity at the University of Hamburg, and scientific project lead for Hamburg's new natural history museum, at the Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change. He was previously founding director of the Natural History Centre at the University of Hamburg, and research department head at the Natural History Museum in Berlin. He is a regular contributor to print media including Die Zeit, Die Welt and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, has worked on TV productions and has published several books. In 1996, he was awarded the Werner and Inge Grüter Prize for Science Communication. In 2023 he won the prestigious Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific writing.



Matthias Glaubrecht
Nature's Quiet Death
[Das stille Sterben der Natur]
How to preserve the diversity
of species – and save ourselves

C. Bertelsmann
224 pages
April 2025

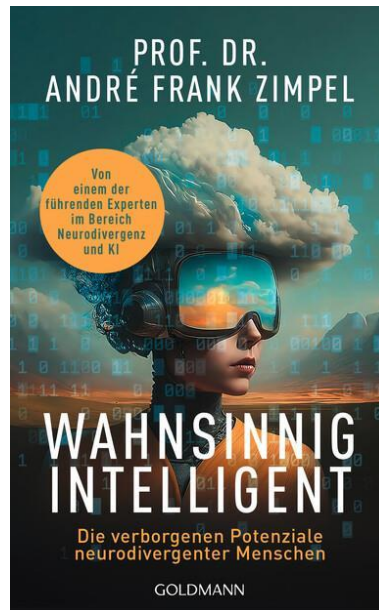
Despite all those tear-jerking nature documentaries and well-intentioned campaigns, more and more animals, plants and other organisms are disappearing from our planet. Glaubrecht is an internationally renowned evolutionary biologist, and has been teaching us about the importance of biodiversity and the catastrophic consequences of mass extinctions for many years. In "Nature's Quiet Death", he explains why we are failing to understand, and take seriously enough, an issue that affects us all: we are too focused on climate change, he says, and while conservation efforts are failing, misguided scientific policies are preventing useful research. Glaubrecht argues that we must act now, even if it goes against our traditional interests – and shows the measures we must urgently take to preserve Earth's biodiversity.

- For readers of Sunil Amrith, "*The Burning Earth*", Elizabeth Kolbert, "*The Sixth Extinction*", David Wallace-Wells, "*The Uninhabitable Earth*", Edward O. Wilson, "*Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*"

Neurodivergence and AI: a perfect symbiosis?

English sample translation
available

André Frank Zimpel is a psychologist and professor for learning and development at the University of Hamburg. He is also scientific lead of the Centre for Neurodiversity Research, a psychotherapist, a special needs maths and art teacher, and head of the Centre for Attention Divergences.



Professor Dr. André Frank Zimpel

Mad Genius

[Wahnsinnig intelligent]

The hidden potential of neurodivergence – by a leading expert on neurodivergence and AI

Goldmann
288 pages
With 10 b/w images
April 2025

What can people with an atypical ability to focus offer society? Albert Einstein, Virginia Woolf and Greta Thunberg, three people who have significantly shaped our world, are distinguished by an extraordinary capacity for concentration, falling somewhere within the neurodivergence spectrum. And while most people feel stressed out by climate change, pandemics and war in Ukraine, and do their best to distract themselves from them, people with ADHD find that such stress factors can actually increase their capacity for attentiveness: the more hyperactive their environment, the better they can focus.

Experienced neuropsychologist Zimpel has found that many a supposed behavioural or learning 'difficulty' can actually be an advantage. So while AI tools such as ChatGPT make many internet users wonder whether, for example, they are talking to a human or an algorithm, neurodivergent people are much better able to understand what is really going on in our ever more opaque world.

Some of the world's most prominent corporations are now actively seeking to create a neurodiverse workforce – and it looks as if this might only be the start of a whole new development.

The oceans as seen from a unique new perspective

English sample translation available soon

Fabian Ritter, born in 1967, studied biology in Bremen and afterwards turned his love of whales and dolphins into a profession. In 1998 he co-founded the NGO MEER, which he still heads up as chair and scientific lead. He is a member of the scientific committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and ten years ago became marine conservation consultant at Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), the world's leading organisation for the protection of whales and dolphins. He champions marine conservation via his roles of campaign manager and advisor to political and other committees, and runs public educational programmes. He is also a sought-after speaker and runs workshops and seminars.



Fabian Ritter

We, the Whales

[Wir Wale]

The world of whales, seen through their eyes: how they live, love and learn

Penguin Verlag

350 pages

With numerous photos

May 2025

Despite spending their whole lives in the sea, whales and dolphins are mammals – and as such are much closer to humans than most of us realise. In *“We, the Whales”*, cetacean expert and marine conservation consultant Fabian Ritter gives us a whole new perspective on these fascinating sea mammals. Never before have we got so close to them: we learn how whales and dolphins perceive their environment, the importance of light and sound waves, how they communicate, play, have sex, and show joy and sadness. We also find out about their brains, and how they share knowledge, develop culture and respond to humans. A deep dive into a world of riches – which is, thanks to us, an endangered world.

Includes the life story of a bowhead whale that was born in 1799 and is still alive today: how it grew up, how it lives, and what has changed in its and our world in the course of those 200 years.

- **With numerous photos by the author**



From our backlist:



btb
288 pages
October 2024

SPIEGEL
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

Tobias Haberl

Among Heathens

[Unter Heiden]

Why I remain a Christian – despite everything

"Tobias Haberl speaks so purely about his uncertainties and his paths towards God that you will look up to the sky in completely different way." Florian Illies

"In my childhood, being Catholic was nothing unusual. Today I have to justify it: How can you still believe in God in the 21st century? How can you still belong to the Church after all that has come to light? In my neighbourhood (gentrified), my field (media), and my workplace (left-liberal newspaper), I am surrounded by people who mostly see only the abuses and cover-ups. Critical of something they have never learned about, they don't see what is basic: support, comfort, and hope. What can the 21st century in fact learn from people of faith? Which supposedly outmoded rituals might be able to rescue late-modern society from its gasping for breath? One thing is obvious: people who have left God will not find what they are searching for. The freedom they find comes with new restrictions, new anxieties, mere diversions in place of consolation, and then more disorientation. This book is about how faith beautifies and deepens my life, how I combine a 'contemporary life' with a supposedly 'anachronistic faith', and how wonderful freedom is, if we have some idea what it's for."

- **Spiegel bestseller: more than 30,000 copies sold**
- **Tobias Haberl was awarded the German Journalism Prize in 2023 for his highly acclaimed essay "Unter Heiden" ("Among Heathens") in the Süddeutsche Zeitung magazine, on which this book is based**

Press:

"A drifter discovers the sacred. And writes about it in a very unpretentious way. This makes Haberl's successful book an unusual, stimulating read that should also appeal to atheists in the urban milieu." *DER SPIEGEL*



Penguin Verlag
416 pages
25 b/w images
February 2024

Rights sold to:
China (Guomai Culture), Japan
(Chikuma), Poland (Otwarte),
Romania (Bookzone), Russia
(Eksmo/Bombora)

English sample translation available

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



Leonie Schöler

Stolen Fame

[Beklaute Frauen]

Philosophers, Scholars, Pioneers: History's Invisible Heroines

How women made history – and men took the credit

Muse, secretary, wife: these are some of the labels used to describe the women whose influence on history has been erased. Their achievements have brought honour and fame to the men close to them – such as Karl Marx, Bertolt Brecht and Albert Einstein, who couldn't have done what they did without their female friends, daughters or lovers – but they themselves remain largely unknown. The list includes scientists like Rosalind Franklin and Lise Meitner, who, unlike their male colleagues, were never celebrated for their discoveries; and authors and artists like Marie Hirsch, Lou Andreas-Salomé and Hedwig Thun, who hid behind male pseudonyms all their lives in order to be taken seriously. In "Stolen Fame", Schöler tells their stories, introducing us to the women who changed human history and showing that there are still issues around participation and visibility. Behind every successful man is a system that empowers him – and that system stands in every woman's way.

For fans of "Invisible Women" by Caroline Criado Perez, "Unlearn Patriarchy" by Lisa Jaspers et al., "The Patriarchy of Things" by Rebekka Endler and "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly.

- **Spiegel bestseller: more than 115,000 copies sold**

Press (selection):

"An extremely interesting book that makes you wonder why some of the wrong decisions of the past have not been corrected long ago." *NDR Kultur*

"How do you write the sort of history that Gen Z will enjoy? This young historian shows us how." *tagesanzeiger.ch*

"A great achievement. A compendium that invites further debate." *nd.DerTag*

"Important and enlightening. A must-read for anyone interested in the history of science and the situation of women in the world today." *Wild Magazin*

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Ludwig
352 pages
15 b/w illustrations
December 2024

Rights sold to:
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China (Guomai Culture & Media),
Denmark (Brilleuglen), France (Les
Arènes), Italy (Garzanti), Korea
(Eco-Livres), The Netherlands
(Bruna), Spain (Obelisco), Taiwan
(Eagle)

SPiegel
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

Peter Wohlleben

Beech Life

[Buchenleben]

A tree tells its remarkable story

The life story of a beech tree: from tiny seed to giant of the forest

It is over 200 years old and is now nearing the end of its life: an old beech tree at whose feet its seedlings are growing up, cared for and protected. But everything will change when the beech dies. How can it prepare the little trees for a future in which they are left to their own devices and in which only those who understand the laws of nature will survive? So it begins to tell the story of its captivating life full of joie de vivre and curiosity, danger and loss ...

In this unique novel – the first of its kind – Peter Wohlleben tells the exciting and touching story of a beech tree that will change our view of nature forever.

Press:

"Germany's most famous forester lets a 250-year-old beech tree tell us about its family life - and we learn unbelievable things!" *Gute Woche*

"If there is anyone who pleads for more compassion for the forest, it is Peter Wohlleben. In his latest work, the forester even lets a tree itself have its say ..." *der Freitag*

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