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Horror, Fantasy & Science Fiction

2026

#1 Vincent Prize for Best Horror Novel

Andreas Gruber
Owl Gate

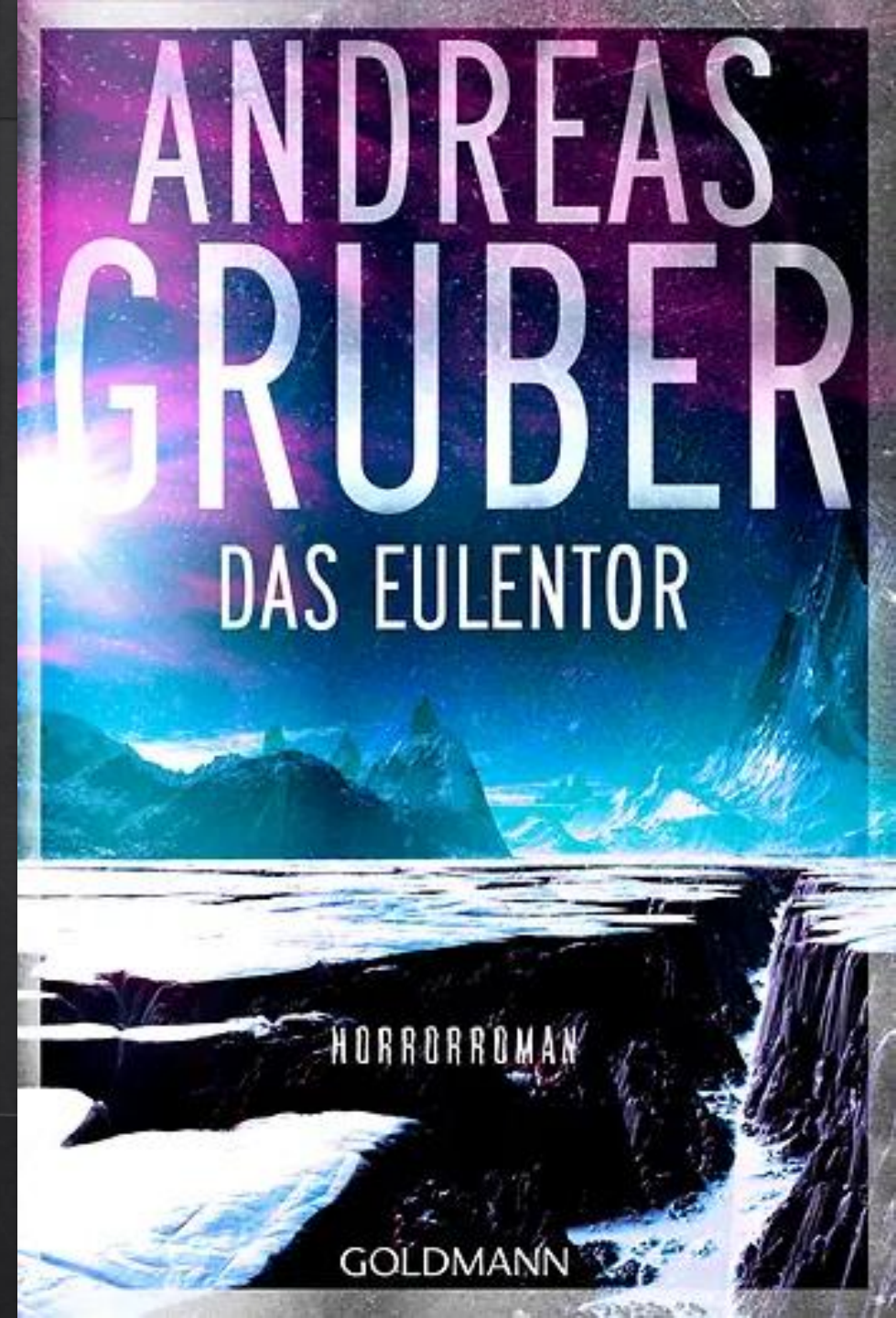
A Haunting Descent into the Arctic Abyss

“Owl Gate” is a chilling exploration of horror set against the stark, unforgiving backdrop of the Arctic. The narrative weaves together two timelines, blending historical adventure with contemporary horror, and invites readers into a world where the frozen landscape conceals dark secrets.

The story unfolds in the present day at the enigmatic Sibirion Station in the Hornsund Fjord of Spitsbergen. Neele Tujunen, a determined young Finn, infiltrates the isolated research facility to uncover its grim mysteries. Upon arrival, chaos erupts as the station's scientists descend into madness, culminating in violence and paranoia. A lone survivor warns Neele of a terrifying entity awakened from the eternal ice, urging her not to leave before he destroys all communication devices and takes his own life. As she barricades herself in a remote section of the station, she discovers a bizarre exhibition room filled with grotesque owl-like creatures and the journals of a past expedition leader, Alexander Berger.

Interspersed with Neele's harrowing present is the historical timeline of 1911, where Berger and his team embark on a perilous journey to map the Arctic coastline amidst fierce competition from Scott and Amundsen. The members of this ill-fated expedition encounter not only the harsh elements but also a strange, deformed snow owl that seems to haunt their every move. As they delve deeper into the frozen wilderness, they stumble upon a mysterious shaft that defies the laws of physics, leading them to unearth horrors that extend far beyond their understanding.

for fans of Jules Verne's adventure novels, historical travelogues
John Carpenter's „The Thing“ & season 4 of “True Detective: Night Country”



#1 German Fantasy Prize - Best Debut Novel
#3 German Fantasy Prize - Best German-language novel

Andreas Gruber
The Judas Shrine

Set in the remote Austrian village of Grein am Gebirge, “The Judas Shrine” opens amidst relentless rain that threatens to flood the region. The story begins with the discovery of the mutilated body of 14-year-old Sabine Krajnik, which sends shockwaves through the small community. The protagonist, Kommissar Alex Körner, is reluctantly drawn back to his childhood home—a place he despises and has avoided since the tragic loss of his parents. As Körner and his team delve into the investigation, they uncover a web of secrets that point to a long history of sinister events in the village, where isolation breeds paranoia and fear.

At its core, Gruber's novel delves into several key themes: being locked up, the instinct to flee, the supernatural, parasitism, and the looming threat of natural disaster. The incessant rain serves as a metaphor for the emotional turmoil of the characters and the oppressive atmosphere of the village. Körner's return to a place that holds painful memories adds a layer of psychological complexity, as he grapples with his past while trying to solve the present mystery. The supernatural element emerges through the discovery of a horrifying creature that feeds off the villagers, a representation of the parasitic nature of their secrets and guilt. This creature symbolizes the struggle to escape one's demons—both literal and metaphorical.

for fans of H. P. Lovecraft and Stephen King's Richard Bachman novels



Andreas Gruber
Enora Time's Final Trip

August 2578: When star ship Enora Time sets off on its final journey, little does the crew suspect that they're headed for a destination which transcends the very powers of the imagination – just like these unforgettable stories by the bestselling author. As space ships disappear without a trace, humans blend with computers, a mysterious motorway motel defies all logic, a homeless man at a snack stand prophesies the future of humanity, and a strange company from 1939 Berlin offers to take passengers back in time – but there'll be no refunds...

Eleven fascinating sci-fi tales in a handsome new edition



The author

Andreas Gruber, born in Vienna in 1968, is a freelance author who lives with his family in Grillenberg in Lower Austria. His multi-award-winning novels, some of which have been made into films, are regularly on the bestseller list.

www.agruber.com



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Boris Koch's *The Dragon Whisperer Saga* has sold over 195,000 copies

Boris Koch
The Ship of The Lost Children

Whenever a grown-up is particularly mean to a child, a magic door leads the child to a ghostly ship sailing across a dark, ghostly ocean: the ship of lost children. Here, there are no grown-ups – but there are other monsters creeping along its corridors. For Leo and his brother, a terrifying journey begins. But they also find new friends and allies, and together they manage to stand up to the darkness in their lives.

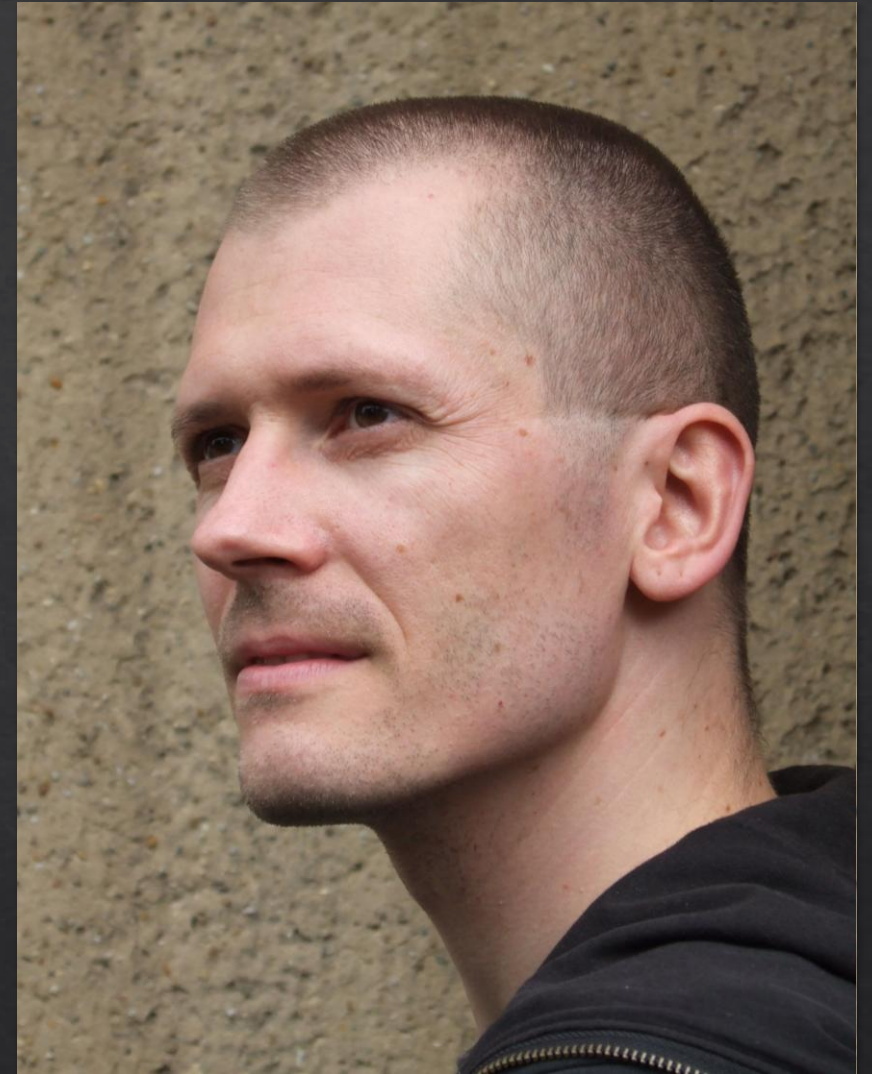
for fans of Susanna Clarke's "Piranesi", Matt Haig's "The Midnight Library", Neil Gaiman "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" and Christina Henry "Good Girls Don't Die"

November 2025, Heyne Hardcover, 544 pages



The author

Boris Koch, born in 1973, studied Ancient History and Modern German Literature in Munich. After 15 years in Berlin, he now lives as a freelance author in Leipzig. His published works include the "Dragon Whisperers" saga, the humorous adventure story "The Rabbit Race," and the award-winning youth thriller "Fire in the Blood," which received the Hansjörg Martin Prize. His novel "Four Bags of Ash" was recognized as Youth Book of the Month for April 2013 by the German Academy for Children's and Young Adult Literature.

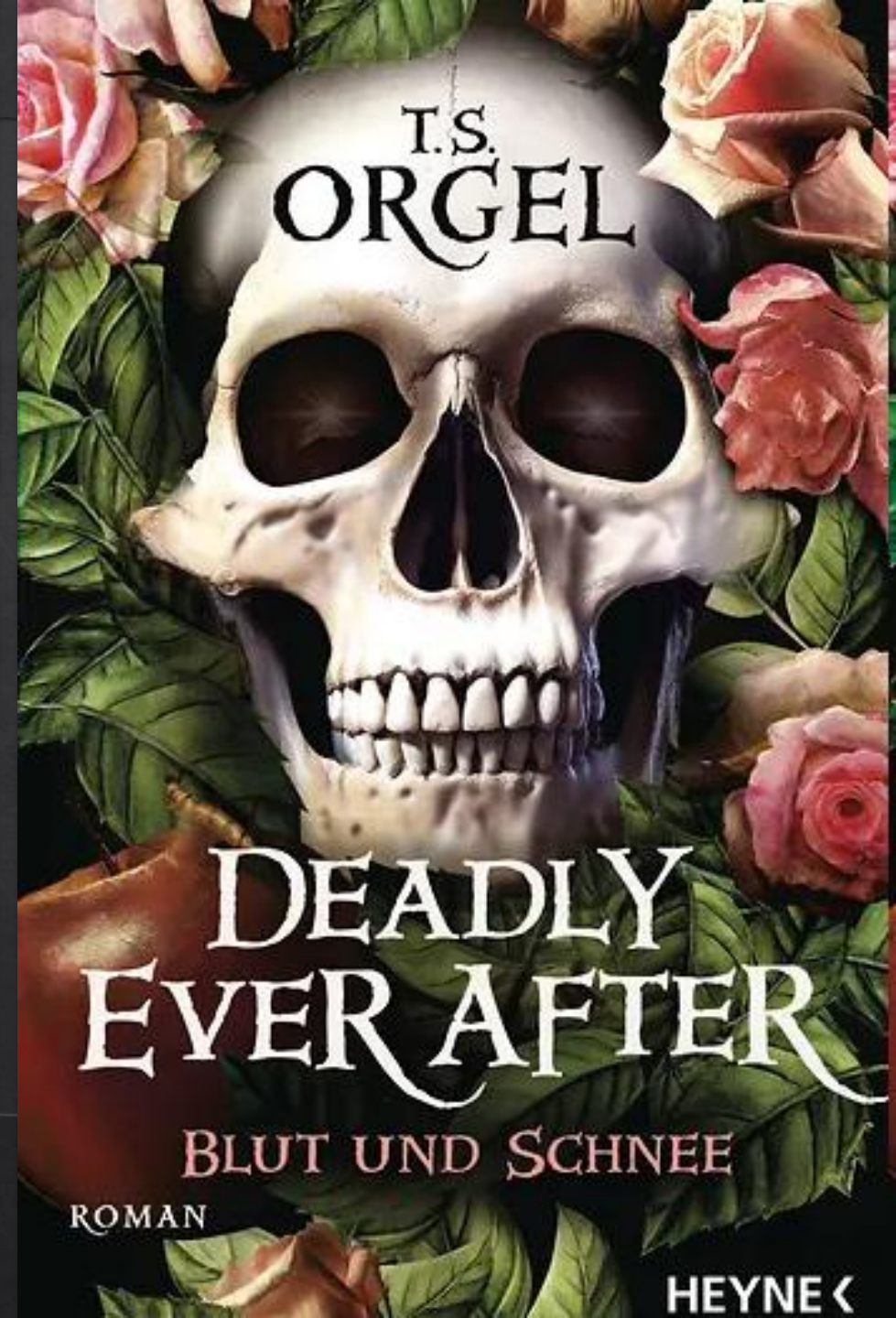


Authors were awarded the Deutsche Phantastik Preis for their debut novel "Orcs vs Dwarves"

T.S. Orgel
Deadly Ever After: Blood And Snow

In a world filled with fairy-tale characters, 'happy ever after' is only the beginning. Snow White, now the White Empress, has seized the throne and is waging war across the country, set on taking everyone's magic powers away. Only brave tailor Streich and his band of rebels are willing to stand up to her. But their attempt ends in failure. The only one to survive is Streich's nephew. Bereft and without his powers, he must now find allies who will help him avenge his uncle's death, and put an end to Snow White's brutal reign...

for fans of Christina Henry "Near the Bone"



The authors

Behind the pseudonym T. S. Orgel are the two brothers Tom and Stephan Orgel. In another life, they work as a graphic designer, copywriter and publisher respectively, but when they both take up their pens, they head for fantastic worlds. Their first joint novel 'Orcs vs. Dwarves' was honoured with the Deutschen Phantastik Preis (German Fantasy Award) for the best German-language debut novel.

www.ts-orgel.de/tso/



Birgit Mühleder

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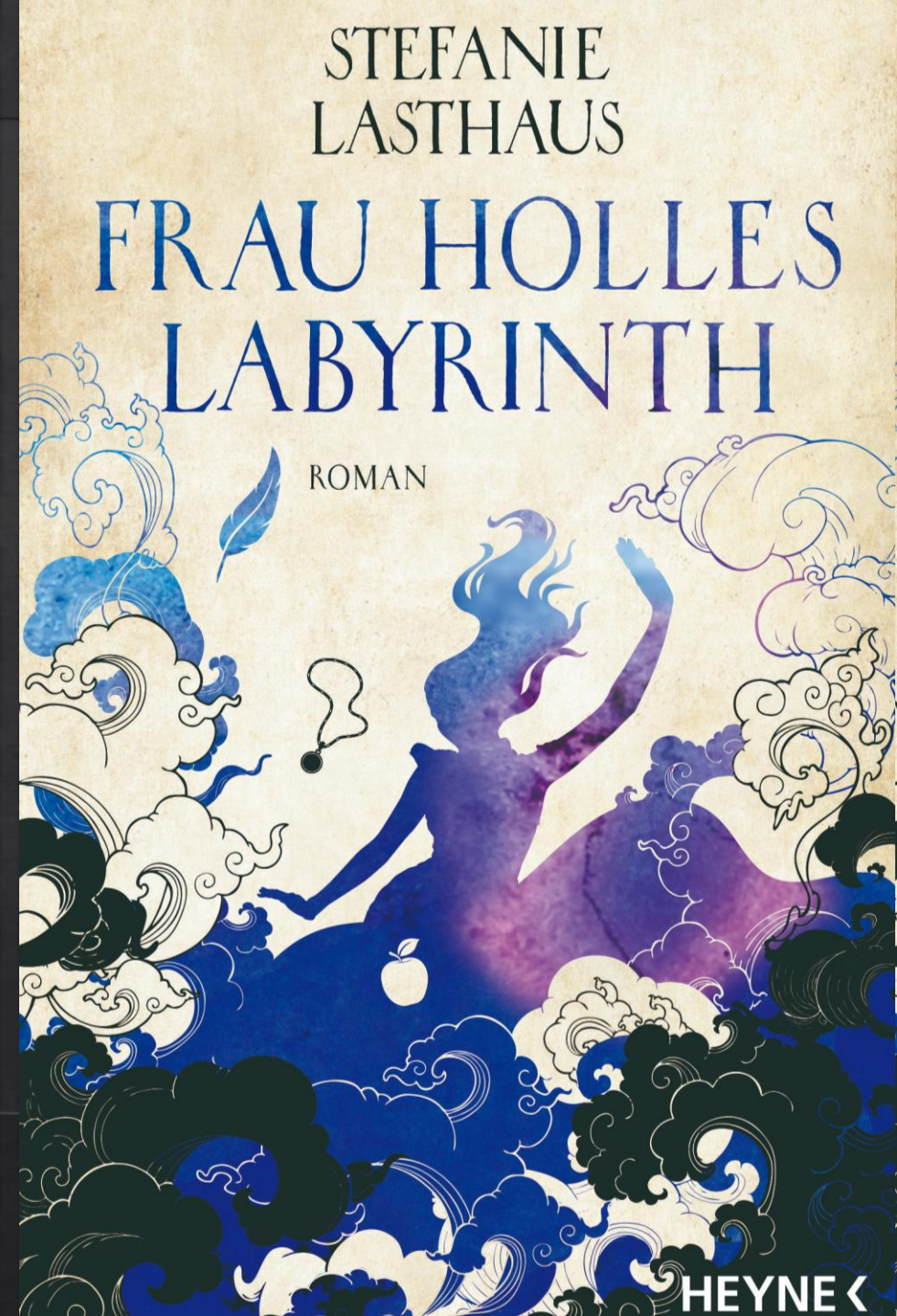
A darkly modern reinterpretation of classic fairy tales

Stefanie Lasthaus
Mother Holle's Labyrinth

Phila, 23, is less than happy to have to return to the countryside for her younger sister Millie's twenty-first birthday. After their parents' death, the sisters were taken in by their strict aunt, who always favoured Millie.

When their aunt gives Millie a necklace that once belonged to their mother, Phila is deeply hurt. The sisters get into an argument, and the necklace ends up in the well in their aunt's garden. Phila has no choice but to climb down to retrieve it. But when she arrives at the bottom, she is no longer in her own world, but in Mother Holle's maze – a grim, merciless realm, which makes you forget everything you once held dear.

for fans of Holly Black „A Novel of Elfhame“, Christina Henry „The chronicles of Alice“, Serena Valentino, C. E. Bernard



The author

Stefanie Lasthaus grew up in the Ruhr area. After graduating, she travelled through Australia, the UK and Switzerland. Back in Germany, she first worked on documentaries before devoting herself to writing full time. She now writes novels and also for newspapers, magazines, online games and PR campaigns. Because she can no longer be constantly on the road, she uses her books to travel to fascinating places. She also writes books under the pseudonym of Hannah Luis.

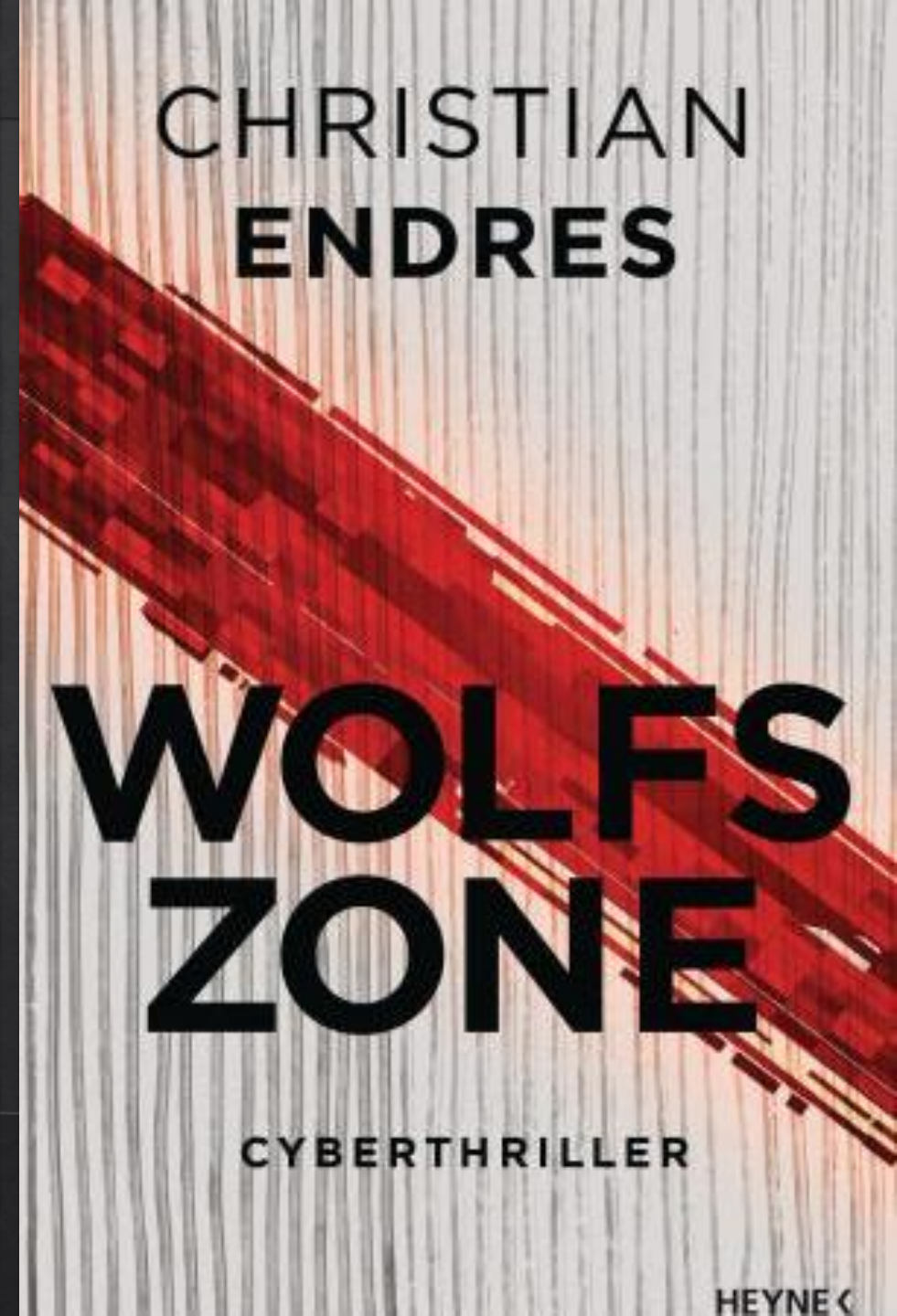


Nominated for the Seraph Literary Award for Fantasy 2025 as best novel

Christian Endres
Wolf Zone

Germany, in a few years' time. Average temperatures have topped 40°C, and the country is paralysed. Detective Joe Denzinger is tasked with searching for a wealthy heiress last seen in Brandenburg's half-dead forest – that is, precisely where the German Army has just deployed its troops and artillery, ready to battle a pack of AI-infected wolves. These mutant beasts seem unstoppable, and war is imminent. Among these soldiers, monsters and pro-wolf demonstrators, Joe has to find a girl. And so a hunt begins, and its outcome is anything but certain...

for fans of Marc Elsberg, Andreas Eschbach, Zoe Beck und Frank Schätzing



The author

Christian Endres is a freelance writer. He writes novels, short stories, essays, reviews, graphic novels and op-eds, and his stories appear regularly in the IT magazine c't, as well as in Spektrum der Wissenschaft, phantastisch! and Exodus. As a journalist, he has contributed to Tagesspiegel, Tip Berlin, Das Science Fiction Jahr, Geek!, diezukunft.de and many others for years. He is a winner of the German Fantasy Prize and the Kurd Laßwitz Prize.

<https://christianendres.de/>



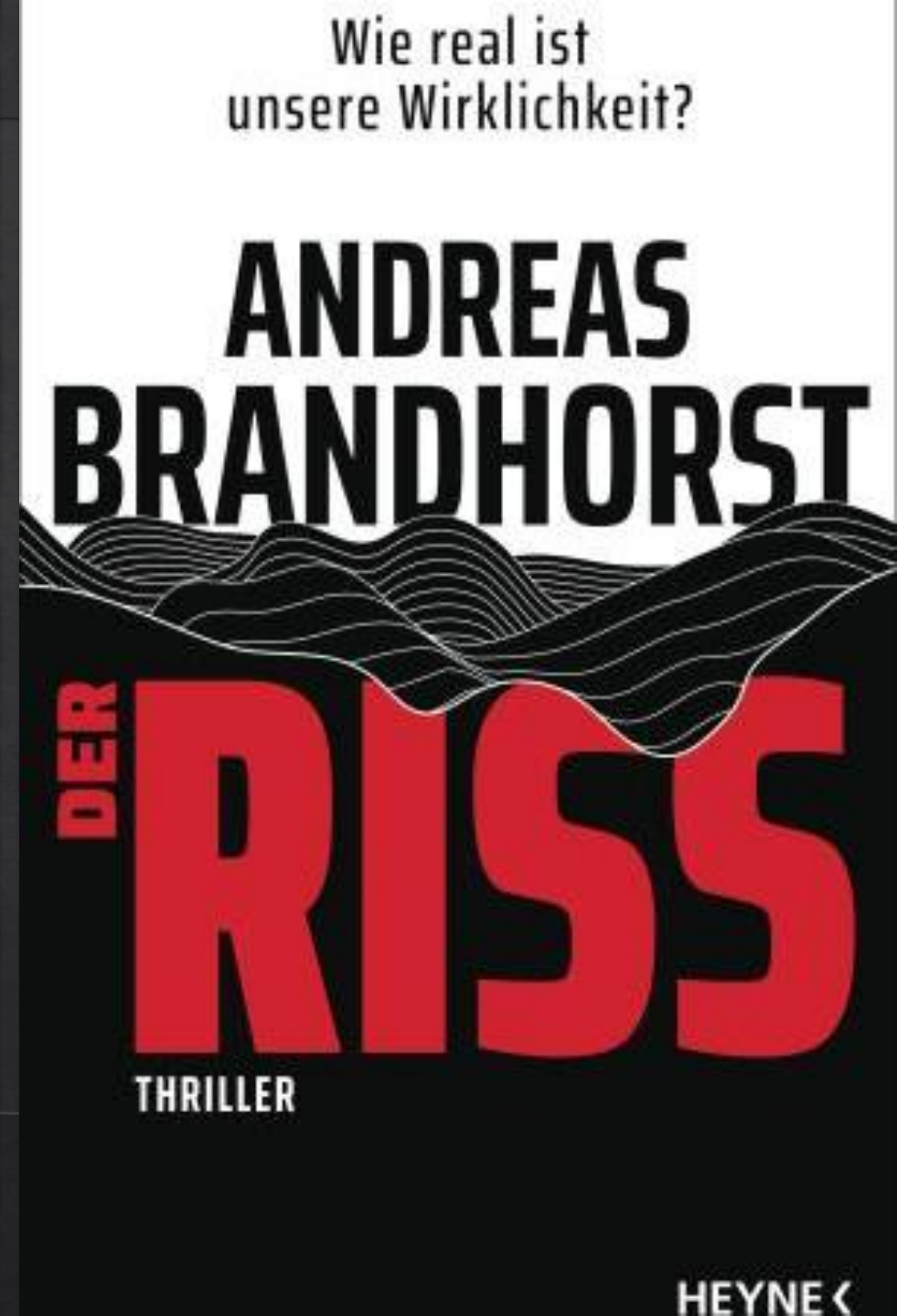
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Multiple winner of the German Science Fiction Award

Andreas Brandhorst
The Rip

Flynn Darkster, probably the world's best hacker, has been arrested for hacking into the Pentagon's IT system. He's given a stark choice: go to prison, or join the Horatio Group, a mysterious government programme. Flynn quickly discovers what the group is really after: proof that reality is actually a powerful computer simulation. But if that's the case, who created it? And can Flynn help set humanity free? Thus begins a breathless hunt for powerful enemies – enemies who seem to be hiding on the edge of reality itself.

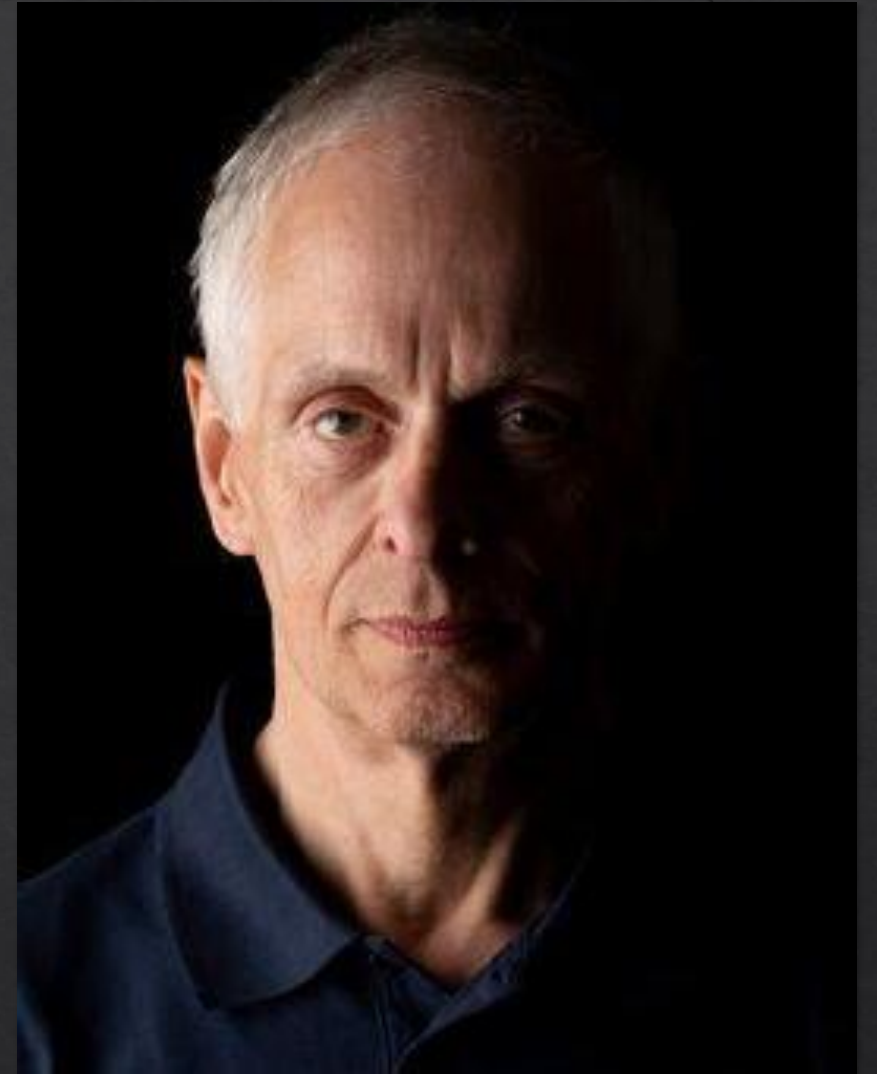
for fans of Andreas Eschbach, Marc Elsberg and Tom Hillenbrand



The author

Andreas Brandhorst, born in 1956, is a sci-fi author whose work has had a huge influence on the genre in Germany. Spectacular visions of the future combined with a thrilling plot are his trademark, and countless of his books have won awards and become bestsellers. Having lived in Italy for many years, he has now returned home to northern Germany.

www.andreasbrandhorst.de



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