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**PLEASE CONTACT:**
Inka Ihmels
ihmels@aufbau-verlag.de
Foreign Rights Manager
When does your own story begin?

Alisa is two years old when she leaves the Ukraine with her parents and moves to Germany. But happiness is not what they find there: Alisa’s beautiful mother is still unsatisfied, wanting more than her much-older husband can offer. She has brought a dark secret with her from the Ukraine, but shares it with no one. Certainly not with her daughter. She wants and wanted nothing more than to forget, and to begin a new life …

Her daughter, despite making great efforts to win her affection, nonetheless remains a stranger to her. Fifteen years later Alisa is a lonely young woman struggling with bulimia and binge eating. Mia, as she calls her disorder, is a constant and increasingly dominant companion. For a long time she battles with her own body, trying to lead a reasonably normal life, before realising she needs help and allowing herself to be admitted to a clinic. Alisa realises she needs to confront her mother with the truth if she wants to be free.

Writing with great intensity and perception, Lana Lux explores the relationship between mother and daughter, who – as different as they are – are both trapped in the nightmare of a common history.

Lana Lux, born in Dnepropetrovsk / Ukraine in 1986, came to Germany with her parents at the age of ten as a refugee. She began a degree in nutritional science before training as an actor at the Michael Tschechow Studio in Berlin. She now lives, writes and acts in the city. In 2017 her debut novel Kukolka was published, attracting a lot of attention, and was translated into several languages.

»Her writing is what Germany so urgently needs now.« ANNA PRIZKAU
A human state of emergency, told with poetic concision and great clarity

One grey December afternoon, Martin Simons loses control of his body in the middle of the street. Instead of spending Christmas with his young family, he finds himself in the hospital’s intensive-care unit. At any moment the bloody finger on his off-switch could end his life, as one doctor puts it. While the doctors hunt for the cause of the cerebral haemorrhage, the narrator’s internal tectonic plates begin to shift and he starts to transform.

I was free. This, I thought, was the front line of reality, where I was discovering a truth that was as plain as it was paradoxical: I loved my wife, my child and, for the most part, life itself. But I did not seem to be clinging desperately to any of this. I knew what I had always known, only not in this simple, clear, strangely beautiful way. There was no certainty; there had never been. There was only the knowledge that at any moment it could be over – until it was over. In my eyes there was nothing so outrageous about that. Perhaps the terror would come. But at that moment I was serene. Ahead of me lay uncharted territory, where a final thrilling adventure lay in store.

»Existential material, set forth with impressive reserve. Gripping.« Paul Nizon

»Martin Simons has written an account of a year that begins with a brain-bleed and finishes with a mended heart. In between? Almost an entire life.« Dirk von Lowtzow

»Simons condenses, composes and reflects lived experience. The book is intense and merciless, a novel about humanity in the face of death. What remains is the positive and the realisation of what’s important in life.« ZDF

»In its sober poeticism, one of the most beautiful and moving books of the year.« Neues Deutschland
A tender, uncompromising look at the loss of a great childhood friendship

Us in the Window paints vivid pictures of a harsh childhood in post-Wall Berlin, telling the story of two once-inseparable friends and the betrayal that changed everything.

As Linn watches two girls on the underground, it all comes rushing back to her: suddenly, her childhood friend Laila is back, and she’s getting harder and harder to ignore as she insists on her place in Linn’s life. Like back in the 90s, when they were still braving life in central Berlin: a city full of contradictions, a place where beauty and ugliness exist side by side. When Laila moves in with Linn’s family for a while, their friendship – dominated by childlike love, jealousy and blossoming sexuality – slowly becomes fractured until something unforgivable happens and Laila completely disappears in the peak summer heat without saying goodbye. As the place they used to know disintegrates, Linn grapples with self-doubt and feels her way back, asking for answers.

Lene Albrecht was born in Berlin in 1986 and studied Cultural Sciences at Frankfurt (Oder) and Literary Writing in Leipzig. She has received various literary scholarships, including funding from the Künstlerdorf Schöppingen Foundation and scholarships for the 20th Klagenfurter Literature Course and the Jürgen-Ponto Workshop. She lives in Berlin and works for the radio art editorial team at Deutschlandfunk Kultur, a culture-oriented radio station.

»In her novel, Lene Albrecht weaves together the most varied genres with literary finesse. Her debut is many different things in one: a tale of the big city, a crime novel and above all a coming-of-age story.« Vogue

»Lene Albrecht manages to get very close to her main characters. She describes friendship with impressive intensity in this coming-of-age novel. Above all, however, this is a wise book about memory – a window into the past, which still only shows a fraction of the whole. Most of it remains hidden.« Deutschlandfunk Kultur

»Lene Albrecht’s debut is a tender monolith – it will remain. She depicts her characters brilliantly. She varies the tempo, varies the distance, writing in strong, visually rich language that is simultaneously so tender, so unerring.« Der Freitag

Lene Albrecht
Wir, im Fenster
Us in the Window
Novel. 223 pp.
Aufbau. Hardcover
2019, September

English sample translation available
Night after night, the young female security guard watches the feed from the CCTV camera. Nothing stirs – the packaging plant’s days are numbered, and most of its employees have already left. But when evidence of a wolf is found on the site, cracks begin to appear in the apparent tedium. Does the wolf really exist? How dangerous is it? The more intently the security guard tracks the wolf, the more she finds herself mired in uncertainty. What is the connection to the man who fell out of a plane near the factory? What about the young bank robber whose mugshot looks so much like the security guard herself?

In language precise and powerful, Gianna Molinari takes the measure of our worlds and of the borders we draw around ourselves.

Great literature told at close quarters, focusing on the most important questions of our age. What is identity, what is safety? And what happens when we venture off the beaten track? Thoughtful, powerful, shot through with subtle humour, this is a novel that teaches us to take a closer look.

Gianna Molinari was born in Basel in 1988 and lives in Zurich. She studied Literary Writing at the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel, then Modern German Literature at the University of Lausanne. Since 2015 she has been working as a programming assistant at the Solothurn Literary Forum. In 2017 she won the 3sat Prize in Klagenfurt for an extract from her debut novel.

Prizes Clemens-Brentano-Prize 2019, Robert Walser Award 2018, Longlist German Book Prize 2018, Shortlist Swiss Book Prize 2018

Selected for New Books in German and 12 Swiss Books

»Some books are like islands. Readers enter them only briefly, but long enough that they never want to do without their puzzling beauty, their linguistic vegetation, their inhabitants ever again. Everything is still possible here is just such a book.« SAŠA STANIŠIĆ

»The novel could be described as postmodern literature of the working world. A refugee appears – staged as part of the falling man iconography – it’s about borders and crossing borders, about security and a sense of looming threat. And the wolf, which is occasionally glimpsed (or maybe not) through the narrator’s eyes, has vanished by the end.« DER FREITAG
When Lois has to wait a week for the results of a blood test after a one night stand, the life she has built, which no longer seems sustainable, spins out of control: she breaks up with her boyfriend, quits her job and begins to re-explore her difficult relationship with her mother – they don’t talk about her father, who committed suicide when Lois was a child. She quickly realises that it’s her relationship with herself, however, which is increasingly becoming an incomprehensible burden in the face of her grief. And as self-reflective as Lois seems to be, her actions soon slip out of her control. A journey with her mother sets things in motion, but Lois realises that growing up means not repressing the issues of childhood.

Sensitive and stylistically unfussy, Paulina Czienskowski’s novel tells the story of a woman seeking with uncertain steps and profound delicacy her own path through life. She explores the moment of departure from childhood, a vague period full of horrors and miracles.

**The soundtrack to the book:** featuring music by Miss Platnum, Yassin and Lary released for the publication date on Spotify

Paulina Czienskowski, is a freelance journalist and author in Berlin, where she was born and bred. She has lived in the USA and Paris, and studied in a small town in Germany before returning home for a traineeship with a journalism school. *The Life of a Dove* is her first novel.
A NOVEL OF SOMNAMBULISTIC BEAUTY AND FAIRY-TALE CRUELTY

The child is suddenly just sitting there one day, her hair glowing a fiery red in the green pine forest. She belongs to nobody. Skalde takes her home, although she knows the others in the isolated area won’t accept her decision.

Skalde and her mother, Edith, have never really been part of the community. Twenty years earlier, Edith was found dripping wet on the banks of the river, which the others had hoped would protect them from a world falling into chaos. Mother and daughter only love one another because they have no choice: they’ve got to stick together against the others. Especially now, when it’s increasingly clear that the child’s life – and their own – are in danger …

Helene Bukowski has written a breath-taking debut novel at once timeless and controversially modern, an account of a brutal world that lies in wait for us somewhere.

»Helene Bukowski has written a modern-day fairy-tale. Warm-hearted yet not sentimental. Familiar and yet mysterious. For a few days I lived there, in that old house by the forest with Skalde, Edith and Meisis, and when it was over I had to be wrenched out of the door by force. Rarely have characters taken such hold of my heart.« PHILIPP WINKLER

Helene Bukowski, born in Berlin in 1993, is studying creative writing and cultural journalism in Hildesheim. She is the co-author of the documentary film Zehn Wochen Sommer, which won a Grimme Special Cultural Award in 2015. Her writing has appeared in various journals and anthologies, and she was the co-editor of BELLA triste.
In love and war –
Leonhard Frank’s most famous novella

It’s the First World War. Carl, having escaped from a Russian prisoner-of-war camp, pretends to be his fellow prisoner, Richard, and knocks on his friend’s wife’s door. Richard talked about Anna endlessly, conjuring up a vivid image. Anna knows the man suddenly standing in her kitchen can’t be Richard. But the stranger knows all the stories from her past, and slowly he frees her from her isolation. Gradually she comes to trust him, gets involved with him, and becomes pregnant. By the time Richard returns, Anna has long since fallen in love with the stranger.

In Leonhard Frank’s tale of homecoming, Carl and Anna, it is love that wins out over the horrors of war and keeps alive the hope of a new, better world. The novella was a huge international success and was adapted by the author for the stage.

Leonhard Frank, (1882 – 1961) trained as a locksmith, and worked as a chauffeur and house painter. Talented but penniless, he began studying art in 1904 in Munich. In 1910 he moved to Berlin, discovered his gift for storytelling, and drafted his first novel, The Band of Robbers, followed by numerous stories and novels which were translated all over the world. In 1933, he was forced to leave Germany for seventeen years, moving between Switzerland, England, France, Portugal, and finally Hollywood. In 1952, two years after his return from the US, he published his autobiographical novel Left Where the Heart Is.

»In this adventure of the soul, love is the great conclusion. Imagination is the path to reach it.«
Heinrich Mann

»Frank’s sensitive, understated prose supports the reader as he follows along, sharing unreservedly in its emotional world.«
Erich Kästner
An amour fou in an extraordinary age

Paris, circa 1938. Lucie, a painter, and her former fellow student Henri meet on the banks of the Seine. The young man, disguised as an angler, has given up art and is fighting the fascists as part of the Resistance. Lucie, from a good family, lives only for painting and independence. She offers him shelter for the night in her atelier. High above the roofs of Paris they discuss art and politics, feeling at once attracted to each other and misunderstood. When they part the next morning by the Seine, opposite Notre Dame, both of them have changed.

The rediscovery of the great dramatist and writer’s famous novella, based on the author’s experiences while exiled in Paris. Featuring an afterword by Lion Feuchtwanger, who wrote of his contemporary: “A great love flows through everything Friedrich Wolf created, through his plays and through his novels, which at base are plays in narration.”

Friedrich Wolf (1888–1953) studied medicine beginning in 1908 and specialised in psychiatry. During the First World War he was a battalion doctor on the Western Front, then from 1920 a town doctor in Remscheid and Stuttgart. In 1933 he emigrated first to the Soviet Union then to France, where in 1939 he was put into an internment camp. In 1941 he returned to Moscow, where he was a co-founder of the “Free Germany” national committee. In 1945 he returned to Berlin. In 1950 he became a member of the Academy of Arts, and a board member of the German Society of Authors. In 1950–51 he was the GDR’s first ambassador to Poland. From 1951 he lived in Lehnitz near Berlin. A major dramatist, writer, journalist, author of screenplays, radio plays and poems, he left behind a substantial, multifaceted body of work.

»Few readers will be able to resist feeling drawn to the benevolent courage of this book.«
DER SPIEGEL
Courageous Women caught between Art and Love – the bestselling Series

Michelle Marly
Mademoiselle Coco und der Duft der Liebe
Mademoiselle Coco and the Scent of Love

Michelle Marly
Die Diva
The Diva

Caroline Bernard
Die Muse von Wien
The Muse of Vienna

Caroline Bernard
Frida Kahlo und die Farben des Lebens
Frida Kahlo and the Colours of Life

Sophie Benedict
Grace und die Anmut der Liebe
The Grace of Love

MORE THAN 180,000 COPIES SOLD
MORE THAN 160,000 COPIES SOLD
CALLAS – la Divina, the divine, the eternal voice of love

The epitome of glamour and charismatic beauty, and an artist who was gifted beyond all measure. At a young age, Maria finds her destiny – singing. With her unique voice, which spans three octaves, and her powerfully expressive performances, she redefines the role of the operatic diva. The world acclaims the passionate, glamorous soprano simply as Callas. Yet her voice is unable to withstand the strain of her career for long, and the size of her mythology leaves too little room for the real woman behind it. Then Maria meets Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, the love of her life. He introduces her to the shimmering jet-set lifestyle of the sixties – until he meets another icon, Jackie Kennedy. Michelle Marly’s third novel about the glamorous Maria Callas has everything her readers could wish for – a gorgeous and elegant female icon, the jet-set atmosphere of the European swinging sixties, and a tragic love story.

Michelle Marly is the pseudonym of a bestselling German author who grew up in the world of cinema and music. For many years she lived in Paris, but today she lives with her husband and dog in Berlin and Munich. Rights to her bestselling novel Mademoiselle Coco and the Scent of Love were sold to thirteen countries. The novel spent months on the bestseller list, selling more than 180,000 copies.
Strong-willed and tenacious, fragile and racked with pain: A symbol of female autonomy and a woman madly in love

Mexico, 1925: Seventeen-year-old Frida wants to become a doctor, until a terrible bus accident shatters her dream. Then she falls in love with Diego Rivera, a painter of genius, and finds herself immersed in the world of art. He encourages her artistic ambitions – and he betrays her. Frida is deeply hurt, but – knowing that happiness is merely hidden, not gone – she embraces life with open arms. Eventually she has the Parisian Surrealists at her feet, as well as Picasso and Trotsky. Frida always forges her own path, whether she’s celebrating artistic successes or experiencing the trauma of a miscarriage – until one day she’s presented with a choice that calls into question everything she once believed.

Caroline Bernard is the pseudonym of Tania Schlie, a literary scholar who has worked as a freelance author and editor for twenty years. She has previously published eleven novels and about as many non-fiction books on cultural-historical topics. She loves coming up with stories about strong women. Her latest novel within the series, »The Muse of Vienna«, sold 40,000 copies and rights to four countries.

»A love letter to art, to femininity, to freedom and the courage to seize it anew every single day – a wonderfully delicate yet powerful book about the human heart.«

Nina George

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:

Caroline Bernard
Die Muse von Wien
The Muse of Vienna
Novel. 496 pp
atb. Quality Paperback
2018, May

RIGHTS SOLD:
Bulgaria (EMAS)
Czech Republic (Moba)
Hungary (Kossuth)
Italy (Newton Compton)

UPMARKET COMMERCIAL FICTION

Caroline Bernard
Frida Kahlo und die Farben des Lebens
Frida Kahlo and the Colours of Life
Fiction. 400 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2019, September

RIGHTS SOLD:
Netherlands (Brandt / pre-empt)
Hungary (Kossuth)
Brazil (Tordesilhas)
Italy (Tre60), Turkey (Koridor)
Bulgaria (Emas), Serbia (Laguna)
Slovenia (Ucila), Spain (Planeta)
Sweden (Nona)
Grace Kelly is an icon: muse, star and a woman of unconditional love

1950. Against her parents' wishes, Grace moves to New York to become an actress. She is soon immersed in the glittering life of the city's artistic and cultural bohemians, but as a woman in a man's world she has repeated brushes with its dark side. Yet she manages to hold her own. Indeed, her life is characterised by an unwavering desire for emancipation: from her parents, from Hollywood's powerful elite, and from social expectations. Grace manages to remain true to herself even as she achieves the fame she's always dreamed of. At the apex of her career she meets her greatest love. And she is faced with a decision: is her love strong enough for her to sacrifice everything and bid farewell to the film business forever?

Sophie Benedict is the pseudonym of the bestselling author Steffi von Wolff. Wolff, a journalist born near Frankfurt in 1966, worked as a radio host and editor for many years. In The Grace of Love she shadows her favourite actress, Grace Kelly, through her most successful years.

»Grace Kelly's apparent frigidity was like a mountain covered with snow, but the mountain was a volcano.« Alfred Hitchcock

To the world, Grace Kelly was a star – but then love demanded a high price.
Erika Mann Embraces Life

New York, 1936. Erika is hoping to win over the Americans in the battle against Hitler with her political satire. Where could she be better placed to succeed than among the exiled European artists who have gathered in Manhattan? Then Erika meets a man who means more to her than she ever thought possible – doctor and poet Martin Gumpert, who is fascinated by her strength and independence. Soon Erika is faced with a choice: will she seize the chance to establish herself as a fighter for peace and freedom, or will she prioritise her personal happiness?

The unknown story of the great Erika Mann in love – the tale of a woman trying to hold her own in an age of darkness.

Heidi Rehn, born in 1966, grew up in the Middle Rhine Valley in western Germany and studied German and history in Munich. For many years she has focused on writing full-time. In 2014 she was awarded the “Golden Homer” for the best historical novel dealing with society and relationships.

»A multi-layered book about the most dazzling of Thomas Mann’s daughters.«
Brigitte Glaser
The woman who fashioned love from words

Paris, 1831: A young woman, clad in trousers and lace-up boots, enters the editorial offices of the renowned newspaper Le Figaro. Having left her aristocratic background and unhappy marriage to a much older man behind her, she’s ready for a fresh start. Words are her passion. From now on she will dedicate her life to writing – and to love. All day long she works as a journalist, while at night she writes novels like a woman possessed, and they rapidly start to cause a stir.

George Sand breaks taboos, both in her books – where she champions passionate love and rails vehemently against its restriction through the institution of marriage – and in her private life: at a time when women could still be punished for adultery, she made no secret of her love affairs. Her artistic salons drew such intellectual giants as Balzac, Dumas, Delacroix and Liszt, as well as de Musset and Chopin, who both numbered among her lovers.

Beate Rygiert was born in Tübingen and grew up in the Northern Black Forest. At the age of twelve she wrote in her diary: »Actually I’d like to be a writer!« She made this dream a reality after finishing her studies in music, theatre and Italian literature in Munich and Florence, and after a few years as an opera dramaturg on various German stages. Today she lives with her husband in the Black Forest, Andalusia and often in France.
England, 1932: the Savoy Hotel is London's premier address, home to Europe's artistic and intellectual avant-garde. For thirty years, it has been run by the Wilders. When the family patriarch has a stroke, his son Henry believes his moment has come, but his father has altogether different plans: he entrusts Violet, his illegitimate granddaughter, with the management of the hotel. Violet is torn. On the one hand, her dream of making a career as one of the first women in radio seems to be coming true; on the other, she's waited her whole life for the chance to be accepted by her family …

Maxim Wahl is the pseudonym of a bestselling German author who has also garnered international attention with his many novels. Wahl likes to draw on the grandest stages of European history in his work. He lives in Berlin and London, and – whenever he can – at the Savoy Hotel.

The first book in the great 1930s trilogy about the most famous hotel in the world
The third book in the Silk Saga by bestselling author Ulrike Renk. A dramatic family chronicle based on true events, set in Krefeld, London and Chicago.

1940: At last! Ruth has obtained the visa she so desperately wanted, and she’s permitted to go and stay with her relatives in America. Yet she’s in for a rough start. Chicago is much bigger than Ruth expected, and she doesn’t find it easy to adapt to her new routine, which is so different from what she’s used to. Then, however, she meets Eddie and falls head over heels in love, despite her better judgment: Eddie is an American soldier, and the war doesn’t seem to be ending any time soon. When he’s sent to the Front, Ruth’s world collapses: will Eddie come back from the war unscathed? And will their love survive?

Ulrike Renk, born in 1967, studied English, Literature and Media Studies in the USA and Germany. Today she lives in the Lower Rhine region with her four children, dog and cat. Her highly successful Australian Saga and her bestselling East Prussia Saga have already been published by Aufbau.

»Once I delve into a world with my characters, I can't let go that quickly.« Ulrike Renk

Ulrike Renk
Tage des Lichts
Days of Light
Silk Saga, Book 3
Fiction. 576 pp.
atb. Paperback
2020, January

RIGHTS SOLD:
Italy (Tre60)

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:

Jahre aus Seide
Years of Silk – Book 1
Fiction. 576 pp.
atb. Paperback
2018, December
Rights Sold: Italy (Tre60)

Tage des Lichts
Days of Light – Book 2
Fiction. 560 pp.
atb. Paperback
2019, July
Rights Sold: Italy (Tre60)
The fate of a chocolate dynasty – an age of decisions

Hamburg, 1925. Frieda couldn’t be happier. She’s about to get married, and the chocolate company is going from strength to strength. At long last she seems to have found her place in the family enterprise. The one thing she wants to do before the wedding is go on a trip with her parents, who are planning to visit her relatives in America. Yet when they arrive in the USA there’s a surprise in store for the Hannemanns: they meet their grandfather’s unmarried half-sister, who nobody in the family knew even existed. This encounter with the older, self-assured lady leaves a deep impression on Frieda – will she be able to look back on her life one day with the same satisfaction and sense of peace? Back in Hamburg, she has a wedding to plan – until suddenly, unexpectedly, the love of her life shows up.

Frieda has some tough decisions ahead of her in the years to come. Not only must she fight for happiness in her personal life but she’s also faced with an increasingly difficult task: to stand by her Jewish friend Clara during one of the darkest periods in German history.

Lena Johannson, born in Reinbeck, near Hamburg, in 1967, was a bookseller before becoming a freelance author. The Speicherstadt and its old trading offices have fascinated her ever since she was a little girl. Her passions include writing – and chocolate, of course.
The Midwives’ Saga: Three young women emerge into a new age

Berlin, 1917: Edith, Margot and Luise could not be more different when they meet during training at the newly opened Midwifery School in the area of Neukölln. What connects them, however, is their desire for independence and freedom – whether they’re fleeing from a domineering father, a large and impoverished family, or the shadows of the past. In an age when the world is descending into the chaos of war, their longing for peace is as desperate as the misery with which the three young women are confronted every day. Yet they never give up, because they know that every day offers the chance to give the gift of life.

Historically grounded, atmospheric and full of amiable characters.

Linda Winterberg is the pseudonym of Nicole Steyer, a successful author of historical novels. She lives with her husband and their two daughters in Taunus, near Frankfurt, and began writing her first stories as a child. This is her sixth novel published with Aufbau.

»Linda Winterberg’s stories are a gripping and insightful lesson in history.«

Hessischer Rundfunk

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS:

Linda Winterberg
Jahre der Veränderung
Years of Change
Fiction. 386 pp.
2020, January

Linda Winterberg
Schicksalhafte Zeiten
Fateful Times
Fiction. 386 pp.
2020, August
»Happiness is the secret to all beauty.« Christian Dior

France, 1947. Fleeing the confines of life as a housewife in the provinces, Célestine arrives in Paris, where she meets the reclusive designer Christian Dior. The young woman inspires the couturier with her natural femininity, becoming his private secretary and muse. Everyone is struggling in the aftermath of the war, but the world is on the brink of change and people are longing for beauty: Dior’s feminine New Look rapidly becomes an international sensation. In this new life of opulence and haute couture, Célestine almost loses herself, but then she finds it – love …

A young woman searching for happiness in post-war Paris meets the fashion designer whose New Look is on the verge of extraordinary success.

Agnès Gabriel is a German author and journalist. She writes historical novels and novels for women under various pseudonyms. Her books have been translated into several languages. The author lives with her family on Lüneburg Heath in northern Germany.

An epic family saga set in Cold War Germany

Leipzig, 1954. The Schauburg Cinema was the Lindemann family’s passion and purpose in life until it was taken from them. Now Ursula only reluctantly plays the films dictated by the new authorities, while her husband Gerhard tries to accept the fact that he can no longer show the films he loves. Their daughter Sigrid chooses an entirely new path, but her brother Stefan can’t say goodbye to his life’s dream of making films. He decides to go to the West, and finds a new home on television between Bonanza and popular TV-shows. Separated by the Iron Curtain, the family members increasingly drift apart. And while his relatives in Leipzig still cling to the old ideals, for Stefan films and TV soon become just another way of earning money. Then the Berlin Wall comes down – but can the family be reunited?

Authentic and highly emotional: an epic family saga set in Cold War Germany.

Ines Thorn was born in Leipzig in 1964. After training as a bookseller, she studied German, Slavic and cultural philosophy. She lives and works in Frankfurt am Main. With Aufbau she has published titles including the following: The Whaler, The Beachcomber and The Horizon of Freedom.

»Ines Thorn lays out German-German history before us like a huge, thrilling piece of cinema.«
Kati Naumann
The deadly perils of a fresh start

May 1945. The Second World War has been over for a few hours when Inspector Druwe is called to the naval base in Flensburg in northern Germany. He is asked to help set up a new police unit. Then he receives some strange news – from Werner Grell, a secret service agent who has gone underground. Grell tells him about explosive material he got from the former head of military intelligence, Wilhelm Canaris, on major figures in the Nazi party as well as leading industrialists. Hesitantly, Druwe confides in the British military. They appear extremely interested, but the first secret meeting between Grell and a captain in the British military ends in disaster when both are found dead in a warehouse. It looks like they shot each other – but Druwe has his doubts.

In the second novel in this crime series, Inspector Druwe investigates a double murder – and ends up once more caught in the middle.

Michael Jensen was born in northern Schleswig-Holstein in 1966. He lives with his family in Hamburg and Flensburg. His main job is as a doctor and therapist. He has gathered together his professional experiences into two non-fiction books. He is particularly interested in the psychological long-term consequences of the Second World War, especially in the descendants of the victims and perpetrators.

»The strength of this book is the intensity with which the author forces himself and the reader to confront the issue of guilt.« BAYERISCHER RUNDFUNK

Michael Jensen
Totenwelt
The World of the Dead
atb. Quality Paperback
2020, June

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:

Michael Jensen
Totenland
Ein Mord in Deutschlands Stunde Null
Land of the Dead
Murder at Zero Hour
atb. Paperback
2019, July
The final score

A strange man hands an envelope to Estrella, a young cellist, making her promise to tell no one. Inside she finds an old autograph sketch written by Joseph Haydn – a sensation! Yet soon the score is stolen from her under puzzling circumstances. When she tries to get back in contact with the man who gave it to her, she discovers he was murdered in his flat in Mexico, leaving a pentagram drawn in blood. Who is trying to get hold of the score? Suddenly Estrella finds herself in danger too – for she is the only person who knows what it contains.

A breakneck hunt for Haydn’s legacy begins. The powerful debut novel by a young Austrian author.

Anria Reicher was born in Vienna in 1987. She studied history, linguistics, German and cultural anthropology in Vienna, Dublin and California. Her love of music was instilled from the cradle onwards, including by her father, who is the director of the International Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt. She experienced the world of music from her earliest childhood, both in the audience and backstage. Anria Reicher is married and lives with her two children in the Austrian city of Eisenstadt.

Magnificently researched by a true Haydn expert
Untouched coastline and lonely bays – welcome to the murderous Alentejo

Sines, Portugal. When a migrant from Cape Verde is found murdered, Inspector Nuno Cabral declines to take on the case. He’s quit his job at the Polícia Judiciária, wishing only to sort out his father’s estate in Sines, his home town, before he leaves the small port town as quickly as possible. But when he learns that his arch-enemy Inspector Bernardes has been tasked with solving the murder, Cabral decides to do some investigating of his own. In doing so he meets the journalist Joana Meireles, who wrote about the murder victim and is clearly withholding important information from the police.

Claudia Santana was born in Hamburg and today lives in nearby Norderstedt. Love took her to Portugal for the first time in 2009. She was soon fascinated by the tranquility and friendliness of the people in the port town of Sines, where her husband’s family lives. For her, the country is a treasure trove of old stories, morbid and secretive.

The first in a new crime series set against the magnificent backdrop of Portugal
At last: how to navigate the thicket of medical half-truths

Too little time for patients? Always the same antibiotics? Traditional medicine doesn’t have a great reputation. Acupuncture, osteopathy and the like, however, are increasingly trendy. They are considered gentle and natural. Yet what’s natural is not always good, and not every alternative therapy is effective. Natalie Grams, a doctor, has written the ultimate compass for navigating the world of medicine.

She explains what procedures work and why – and how a holistic form of medicine grounded in science can win back patients’ trust. A case for alternative medicine that actually works.

Natalie Grams, born in Munich in 1978, is a doctor, author and well-known figure on various platforms and on social media. In 2019 she won the Golden Blogger Award for the best twitter account in Germany. That same year she received a cease-and-desist letter from the homeopathy company Hevert, which created a furore.

»Natalie Grams succeeds in conveying information and knowledge so that everyone can make better decisions about effective treatment. My favourite sentence: ‘The bedrock of fact may not be very glittery, but it does offer a solid place to stand.’ This is humanistic medicine with a sense of humour.« Dr Eckart v. Hirschhausen

»Anybody who doubts traditional medicine has to read this book.« Mai Thi Nguyen-Kim
Can we really talk to animals?

Is it possible to realise the age-old human dream of communicating with animals? Karsten Brensing has the answer. We know that certain birds talk in sentences, that dolphins are able to use complex grammar, and that some species have a vocabulary of more than 300 words, so almost anything seems possible. All forms of communication are context-dependent. If I bump into a wild boar in the forest, I’ll communicate differently with it than I would with a cat on my lap, while people in India communicate differently with a sacred cow than a European milk farmer would with the cows in his stall. This book explores a broad spectrum of human interaction with animals.

Brensing examines numerous examples of animal as well as human communication, showing that the anthropomorphisation of animals can be an important tool. After reading this book you’ll understand animals better, and if you communicate properly then they’ll understand you better, too.

Karsten Brensing is a marine biologist with a doctorate in behavioural research. He was the scientific head of the German office of the international whale and dolphin protective organisation WDC. In 2017 his bestselling The Mystery of Animals was published to great acclaim. He also set up the Individual Rights Initiative to advocate for civil rights and better protection for animals.

»Brensing’s examples are a powerful demonstration that there is no reason to believe animals don’t possess an inner life of pain, fear, sadness and joy.« GEO on THE MYSTERY OF ANIMALS
A city at fever pitch – the fateful years between 1930 and 1933

Berlin in 1930 is the glittering metropolis of the new Europe, faster and freer than the continent’s other capitals. Nowhere else do wastefulness and misery live in such close proximity. While Communists and Nazis fight their bloody brawls and Dorothy Thompson interviews Hitler, the Jewish clairvoyant Erik Jan Hanussen invites the leadership of the Berlin SA onto his luxury yacht, the “Ursel IV”, for a weekend trip. Maud von Ossietzky, worried about her husband Carl, increasingly turns to alcohol for comfort, and Ernst Thälmann, chair of the Communist party, finds solace in his lovers. Heinrich Brüning, still chancellor of the German Reich, plays a board game with his goddaughter on the evening of his dismissal. In the end, it all comes down to one question: will there be a “Third Reich”?

Featuring trenchant, powerful portraits of figures such as Heinrich Brüning, Erik Jan Hanussen, Maud von Ossietzky, Ernst Thälmann and Dorothy Thompson.

Peter Walther, born in Berlin in 1965, studied German and art history and gained a doctorate in 1995. He worked as a curator for numerous literary exhibitions and co-founded the website literaturport with Ulrich Janetzki. Today he and Hendrik Röder head the Brandenburg Literary Office in Potsdam. In 2017 he published the bestselling Hans Falada: The Biography.

»Walther’s writing is convincing, without dramatic tricks and kitschy emotionalism.«
SÜddeutsche Zeitung
A World on the Brink of Disaster

August 1939. Simmering heat in Central Europe. The corn is being harvested. Holiday season is in full swing. The stage seems set for a carefree summer, but something unsettling is in the air, as these are also days of intimidation and military marches. Some say another war is coming; others are certain that peace will endure.

Hauke Friederichs tells the story of the summer before everything changes – at 5:45 on the morning of 1 September. Sparks fly, triggering a global inferno. *Flying Sparks* delves into diaries, notes and newly discovered records to retell history from the perspectives of those who lived through the events and observed them first-hand. People like Winston Churchill, the 19-year-old John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Stalin’s ambassador in London, Ivan Maisky, and Katia Mann, the wife of Nobel Prize winner Thomas Mann.

Hauke Friederichs was born in Hamburg in 1980 and holds a PhD in Social and Economic History from Hamburg University. He works as a journalist and an author, and he writes for various German-language publications, including the weekly paper Zeit and SpiegelGeschichte magazine. His most recent book is entitled *Gravediggers: the Last Winter before the Weimar Republic*.

> «Structured like a diary, the book reads like a suspenseful countdown to the war. The reader can’t help hoping that the unavoidable will be avoided after all.»
> **Der Spiegel**

> «Knowing about the firestorm that started on 1 September, you read this book with goose pimples.»
> **P.M. History**
The first biography of Leonhard Frank

Leonhard Frank was one of the most important authors of the Weimar Republic. Born into impoverished circumstances, he fought his way to the top without any higher education. His desire to become a painter led him to Munich, where he started his life as a bohemian in Schwabing, a district in the north of the city. Frank, the author of *Man Is Good*, was never afraid to flout the prevailing norms and stand up for peace and humane living conditions – not even when it meant putting everything at stake. He was one of the only German writers to be exiled twice: once during the First World War and again in the age of Nazism.

Featuring material made available for the first time, drawn from over fifty archives worldwide.

Katharina Rudolph, born in Hamburg in 1984, studied German, history and art history in Frankfurt. Today she is a freelance journalist, writing for publications including the features section of the FAZ and the magazine Frankfurter Allgemeine Quarterly, as well as publishing work on literature, non-fiction, architecture and art. She did her doctoral research on the life of Leonhard Frank.

»His life was that of a campaigning German novelist … From boyhood on, he cared about things that didn't concern him, and believed that people who didn't must inevitably lose their self-respect.« Leonhard Frank, *Left Where The Heart Is*
A road trip through a nation undergoing radical change

Donald Trump is reaching the end of his first term in office. Whether he’s re-elected or not, one thing is clear: his politics has changed this powerful nation. Cultural battles over immigration, abortion and discrimination have reached a peak, and the Democrats’ attempts to get back into the White House are picking up speed. Daniel C. Schmidt shows us a nation repositioning itself amid this crisis.

He travels to Mexican border towns, meets illegal immigrants, visits students fighting for stricter gun laws, and interviews victims of the dramatic opioid crisis, rebellious dirt bikers who are making the streets of Baltimore unsafe, and traumatised war veterans who have found a new sense of self in the wrestling ring. A book like a road movie. Daniel C. Schmidt offers us a glimpse into a polarised society – and makes it possible to take a clear-sighted view of the era after Trump.

Daniel C. Schmidt, born in 1984, studied in Manchester and London. Since early 2016 he has been living in the USA, where he works as a freelance reporter for publications including FAZ, ZEIT Online, NZZ and SPIEGEL, writing about politics, society, and popular culture. He lives in Washington DC and has visited thirty-eight states so far.

“At dusk, oil refineries spit fire into the Texan evening sky. If a cattle lorry full of cyberpunks with steel hubcabs slashed open the car door at 120 kilometres per hour, it wouldn’t surprise me in the Mad Max America.” DANIEL C. SCHMIDT
What is fashion? What do we say about ourselves when we dress? And where does this desire to present and express ourselves come from? In these personal essays, Katja Eichinger writes about handbags, Hermès and Habermas. She muses on fast fashion and sustainability, on the dreams and hopes that are bound up with our external appearance, on our longing for self-esteem and uniqueness in the digital age, and on fashion as a political gesture. A radically enjoyable book, written with an alert eye and a profound instinct for the language of fashion today.

**Katja Eichinger** (author), studied at the British Film Institute and worked as a journalist in London for publications including *Vogue, Dazed & Confused* and *the Financial Times*. Following her bestseller, BE, a biography of her deceased husband Bernd Eichinger, *Fashion and Other Neuroses* is her new non-fiction book. In addition to her work as an author, Eichinger produces music, presents exhibitions and takes photographs.

»Beauty is a highly fragile, very individual quality. These days people are always trying to eradicate their identity and replace it with meaningless perfection. This is a form of terrorism. Katja Eichinger's book explores the reasons behind it, and what it does to us.« PETER LINDBERGH

»Katja Eichinger has this quality of je ne sais quoi, which has become rare these days. Not just in terms of her own very distinctive fashion style – her writing, too, is unmistakeably unique. Great cinema for the mind.« CHRISTIANE ARP, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *VOGUE*

**Christian Werner** (photographer), born in 1977, works for national and international publications including *ZEIT-Magazin*, 032c, SSENSE and *Numéro*. He has published several books and lives in Berlin.
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