



# Foreign Rights Catalogue

**Fall-Winter 2016**

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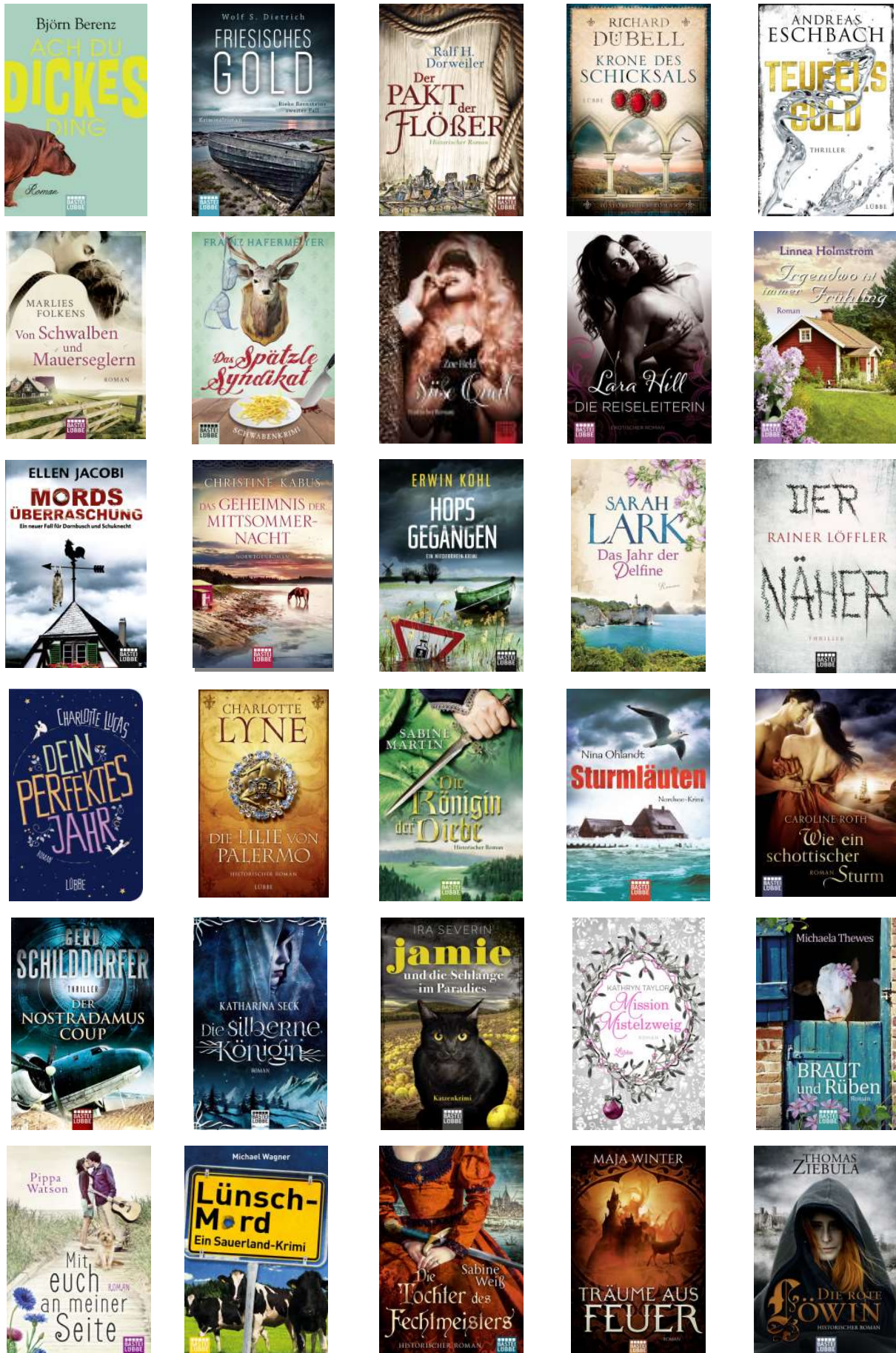
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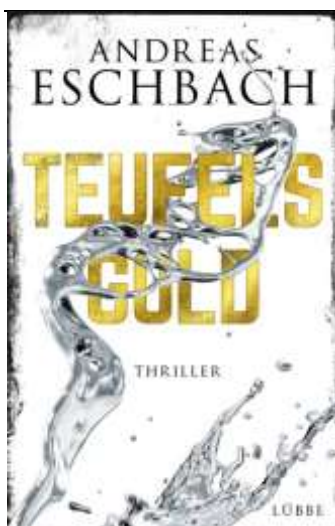
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## **Andreas Eschbach: THE DEVIL'S GOLD**

Thriller

511 pages

978-3-7857-2568-9

Hardcover

September 2016

For readers of Michael Crichton and Dan Brown

### **A white-knuckle thriller about the stone of the philosophers**

Andreas Eschbach is a writer extraordinaire, who first achieved prominence with his thriller THE JESUS VIDEO, which was followed by a spectacular sequel, THE JESUS DEAL, in 2014. With novels like ONE BILLION DOLLARS he established himself as one of Germany's top-selling authors. Now, his latest novel will be released, a brilliant thriller with a fast-paced storyline and superbly developed characters that takes place on two time levels.

It makes its first appearance in the Middle Ages, after the end of the Crusades: The Philosopher's Stone that allows man to make gold – dangerous gold, as it is radioactive gold. The stone appears when an alchemist curses God and it leaves a trail of devastation through Europe. The knights of the Teutonic Order make it their secret task to find it and keep it safe. For all eternity.

But in our time, two brothers, who couldn't be more different, find out about the true secret of the stone: it is the key to another form of existence, to a world of perfection, an ecstasy that is beyond imagination. Or so they say. The story starts in a quite innocent manner: A young man, who works for an investment company, flees from the rain and takes shelter in an antiquarian bookshop where he finds a little book. It tells the story of an alchemist, who came to Franconia in 1295 and seemed to have been in possession of the Philosopher's Stone. However, the stone is described in a completely different manner than usually is the case. He is so intrigued by the book that he steals it – an act that has a variety of consequences to his fate.

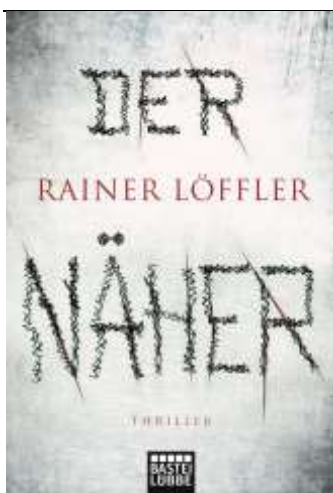
For he continues to do research into the background of the story. There are more and more indications that the Philosopher's Stone really exists. Then he makes the acquaintance of the owner of a castle who dabbles in alchemy and becomes his mentor – though his motives are obscure and he seems to hide something. And time and again, the clues lead to the Teutonic Knights who seem to be chasing after the secret for centuries. And what is the true secret of the stone? That it is capable of turning base metals into gold? This is just a partial aspect of the myth. Is it the key to another form of existence, to a better world? Or is it a tool of the Devil and opens the Gates to Hell?

**Also available (a.o.)** LORD OF ALL THINGS / ONE TRILLION DOLLARS / BURNT OUT/ THE ANGEL OF DEATH/ THE JESUS VIDEO/ THE JESUS DEAL

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**Andreas Eschbach**, born in 1959, studied aviation and space engineering and worked as a software developer. Since his amazing success of the science fiction thriller THE JESUS VIDEO he is one of Germany's bestselling authors. Andreas Eschbach lives with his wife on the French Atlantic coast.

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**Rainer Löffler: THE STITCHER**

Thriller

462 pages

978-3-404-17454-6

Paperback

April 2017

**Forthcoming lead title****English sample translation  
available****A thriller like a stab through the heart**

THE STITCHER is an abysmal and slick thriller, which doesn't have to shy away from comparisons with the works of the most popular international thriller authors such as Cody McFadyen, Chris Carter and Jean-Christoph Grangé's early works, such as "Flights of the Storks" or "Blood-Red Rivers".

With ever-changing twists and turns, the author manages to keep a continuous arc of suspense. The author's strength is the extremely haunting description of the perpetrator's psyche, which leads the reader deep into the darkness of the human soul. This sets Rainer Löffler apart from other writers in this genre. Instead of focusing on explicitly violent scenes, Löffler makes the reader's blood freeze just through his portrayal of the perpetrator's mind. The point of view, from which the story is told, changes from chapter to chapter between victim, perpetrator and investigator and thereby increases the oppressive feeling in the reader to be a part of the horrid case.

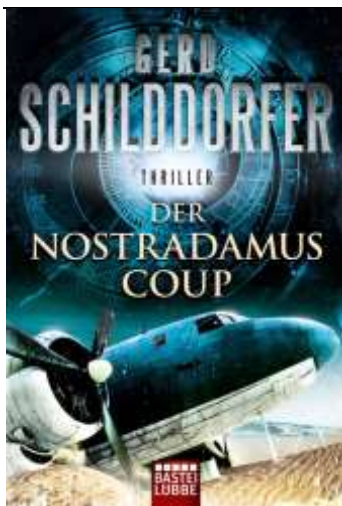
In the outskirts of Cologne, two pregnant women go missing at the same time. Martin Abel, case analyst with the Stuttgart-based State Office of Criminal Investigations, LKA, is sent to the crime scene to support the local authorities. Shortly after his arrival, they discover the bodies of a woman and her child in a subterranean cavern. The woman went missing years earlier. But not only did her killer murder her, he also placed something inside her body.

Then one of the two women who recently went missing reappears, half-dead and brutally tortured. She is able to provide the investigators with first clues about the perpetrator and Martin Abel is forced to try to understand a world of destructive fantasies, in which horror has its home and the search for inner peace sows death.

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**Rainer Löffler**, born in 1961, whose „regular job“ is that of a technical salesman, lives with his wife and three children in the vicinity of Stuttgart.

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**Gerd Schilddorfer: THE NOSTRADAMUS COUP**

Thriller

798 pages

978-3-404-17425-6

Paperback

October 2016

For readers of Lincoln Child, Douglas  
Preston, Dan Brown, and Clive Cussler

**An explosive blend of an adventure novel and a conspiracy thriller**

In his extremely suspenseful thriller, Gerd Schilddorfer takes his readers on an action-filled chase through Europe and Africa. Exciting locations and a logical story that combines the past with the present and is filled with many twists and turns – if you like gripping adventure stories, you should not miss out on this fast-paced thriller.

In 1781, when Joseph II, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, travels to the Flemish Monastery of Cambron, he learns about a century-old secret: Rumor has it that after the dissolution of the Order of the Templars, the former abbot, Yves de Lessines, wrote down the “prophecies” for which the physician and astrologist Nostradamus became famous two hundred years later.

In Lugano, a Picasso painting is stolen from the penthouse of a collector and replaced with a forgery. Two years earlier, the painting had been stolen from the Museum for Modern Art in Paris. And this is where it returns now. An international art thief, a phantom by the name of “Rebus”, stole the painting back at the behest of the museum.

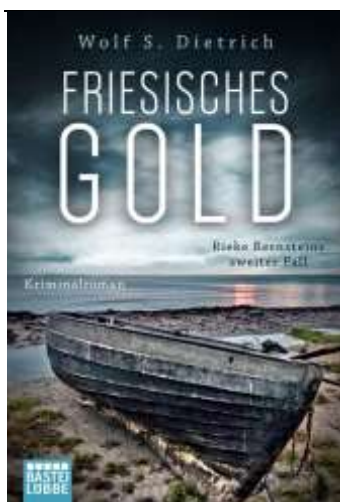
At the same time, John Finch, a rough pilot, flies his latest purchase, an old DC 3, from an airport in the Libyan Desert towards Tunis. Also on board are two undesirable passengers: Khamis Al-Gaddafi, the son of Muammar Al-Gaddafi, and Lieutenant Umar, an executive member of the Secret Service. He carries a thick pocketbook around with a strange painting of Nicolas Poussin that keeps preying on Finch’s mind.

These three initially unrelated events are the kick-start to a breath-taking chase after one of the most spectacular revelations of the last century. Ghad and Tunis, Alexandria and Cairo, Paris and Rome, and Austria and Northern Italy are the locations where the story of this suspenseful and action-filled thriller unfolds. And time seems to catch up with the team around John Finch and Major Llewellyn and Secret Service Boss Peter Compton – relentlessly and without any mercy.

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**Gerd Schilddorfer** was born in Vienna in 1953. As a journalist, he worked for the „Austria Press Agency“ and later he was the chief reporter for various TV documentary series. Gerd Schilddorfer lives and works in Vienna and in Stralsund or he is traveling to do research for a new book.

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### **Wolf S. Dietrich: FRIESIAN GOLD**

Crime Novel  
approx. 320 pages  
978-3-404-17490-4  
Paperback  
March 2017

#### **Volume two in the East Friesian crime series with Detective Rieke Bernstein**

It could not have happened at a worse time: Tourist season has just begun when an obscure death rattles Norderney's early summer idyll. On the beach they find the body of the owner of a long-established pharmacy. He seems to have drowned even though the pharmacist was known to be an excellent swimmer. But the autopsy results show that the man might have died a violent death. Local police are under pressure to quickly solve the case and – preferably - rule out murder. They have to make sure that tourism does not suffer because their guests are afraid of a murderer. So they turn to Rieke Bernstein for support.

When Rieke Bernstein arrives in the island, a lot of gossip and speculations are going around. One of the rumors is that, two hundred years ago, the family of the pharmacist came into the possession of a legendary fortune that secured their survival in turbulent times. With the help of a journalist, the detective uncovers clues indicating that the family of the late pharmacist and the members of a hotel dynasty are in a feud that has been going on for generations. And in almost every generation there were unexplained deaths – despite or maybe because of the fact that there were ties between the families. They dive deep into the history of the Island of Norderney. But the closer Rieke Bernstein gets to solving the case, the bigger becomes the chance of another homicide.

#### **Also available:**



### **FRIESIAN REVENGE**

Crime Novel  
397 pages  
978-3-404-17152-1  
Paperback  
March 2015

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**Wolf S. Dietrich** studied German philology and theology. He worked as a teacher, as a research assistant at the University of Göttingen, and as the pedagogical director of a comprehensive school. Today he lives and works as a freelance author in Göttingen and on the North Sea coast. Wolf S. Dietrich is a member of *Syndikat*, an organization of writers of German crime novels.

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## **Franz Hafermeyer: THE SPÄTZLE SYNDICATE**

Crime Novel

approx. 360 pages

978-3-404-17463-8

Paperback

January 2017

### **Of criminals and lingerie – written by a real detective**

THE SPÄTZLE SYNDICATE is case number two for detective Elsa Dorn. Franz Hafermeyer's mysteries are for fans of humorous regional crime novels that also recount suspenseful cases.

Elsa Dorn is frustrated. She would finally like to put all of her investigative intuition to use in hunting down killers, but her archenemy, Jansenbrink, has made sure she has to continue wasting her time on vice cases. Meanwhile the yellow press in Augsburg is having a field day with her current case: One woman after the other is losing her most exquisite lingerie to a thief. And the "underwear guy," as everybody calls him, is so skillful that his activities are slowly threatening to become a political issue. The security and virtue of Augsburg's citizens are at stake here.

And then there's a murder. The city's notorious playboy, Bruno Schattenkirchner, is found dead in his apartment surrounded by a trophy collection of tasteful underwear. The murder weapon was a lace bra. Did Schattenkirchner surprise the underwear guy in his apartment? Has the latter perhaps gone from thief to killer? Much to Jansenbrink's displeasure, the investigating officers bring in Elsa as an advisor. With much enthusiasm, she throws herself into the case and decides to investigate on her own, beginning at the "Nefertiti" swinger club where Schattenkirchner was a regular. Assisting her is private investigator Sven Schäfer. First his ex-wife was burglarized, and now he's afraid that his 17-year-old daughter, Hannah, has become a target for the underwear guy. And, in fact, the swinger club does provide very clear clues about the identity of the underwear guy. Fittingly, he has just lost his life, apparently during an autoerotic experiment. Naturally, things are never as simple as they look, and before Elsa and Schäfer can apprehend the real offender they find themselves in mortal danger.

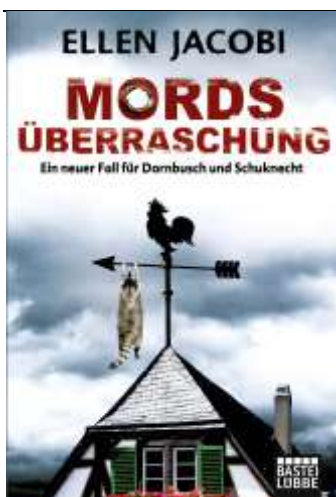
### **Also available:**

THE DEAD DON'T SMILE

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**Franz Hafermeyer** isn't named Franz Hafermeyer in real life. The author himself holds a full-time job hunting down the bad boys, and they are not supposed to know the profoundly dark side of the friendly detective sitting across from them. What is absolutely true, however, is that he and his family live in the Bavarian part of Swabia very close to Augsburg.

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**Ellen Jacobi: A SURPRISING MURDER**

Crime Novel

256 pages

978-3-404-17393-8

Paperback

September 2016

**With lethal regards from the country side**

Suspenseful, humorous, written in an easy-going style, and chock-full of quirky characters, A SURPRISING MURDER) is the second case for Veronika Dornbusch-Bommelbeck and senior prosecutor (retired), Lothar E. Schuknecht. The author adeptly weaves misleading cues into the novel and seduces her readers into puzzling over them.

Veronika Dornbusch-Bommelbeck, adventurous owner of a small convenience store in Biblinghausen, is worried. After a brief surge of tourism following a series of murders she solved, interest in her idyllic village in Bergisches Land is gradually drying up. On top of that, Veronika has had to close her private investigation agency due to lack of business—no matter how hard she tried to find cases. But then she receives a blackmail letter that comes as a complete surprise. A short time later, she herself is suspected of murder. The victim? Her ex-husband who has been missing for years.

**Also available:****MURDEROUS ANNIVERSARY**

Crime Novel

256 pages

978-3-404-17205-4

Paperback

August 2015

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**Ellen Jacobi** was born in 1960 on the Lower Rhine. As the daughter of a librarian and collector of fairytale books, she discovered her love of books and storytelling at an early age. After pursuing studies in Anglistics and general literature, she worked as a tour guide and teacher in England. In Germany, she was an editor for magazines and daily newspapers. She lives in Cologne with her daughter.

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## **Erwin Kohl: GONE MISSING AND EVENTUALLY DEAD**

Crime Novel

approx. 304 pages

978-3-404-17440-9

Paperback

February 2017

### **The second case for private investigator Lukas Born**

The mystery series begins at a campground where former detective Lukas Born lives after being suspended. Life at this petty bourgeois place, with its diverse array of characters, gives the stories a humorous touch. Lukas Born is a likable protagonist, and in spite of the suspense readers repeatedly come across scenes that make them smile.

When Lukas returns home from a walk with his dog, Manolo, he finds journalist Natascha Feldbusch waiting for him at his door. She claims she would like Born's help with an investigation. Although she doesn't want to reveal any details, a €500 cash advance persuades Lukas- who finds himself hard up once again - to agree even without them. In the middle of the night, Lukas receives a text message inviting him to a meeting. When he arrives at the agreed place shortly afterwards, he finds Natascha Feldbusch's lifeless body lying on the ground. At that moment, he is knocked unconscious. When he wakes up, he realizes he is alone. A few hours later, a motorhome on one of the RV sites goes up in flames. The owner of the vehicle? Natascha Feldbusch. Lukas receives a text from an unknown number asking him to meet the sender at the crime site. There, in the semidarkness of the old ruins, Natascha Feldbusch is suddenly standing before him. Explaining that her life is in extreme danger, she claims she was contacted by a doctor who revealed that for years he had been receiving high commissions for prescribing medications of a certain importer. Several patients had died, and he wanted to get out. The large-scale raid that follows exposes one of the largest medical scandals in postwar history; 12 employees are arrested. Lukas Born would be able to sit back and relax, if it weren't for several gnawing questions. Why was he knocked unconscious but not killed? Why was he not put under pressure and allowed instead to take his time and gather evidence? Apparently, Natascha Feldbusch is playing a double game.

**Also available: DEAD FOR A DAMN LONG TIME**

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**Erwin Kohl** was born in Alpen, on the Lower Rhine, in 1961. Before he began writing in 2001, he worked in many different fields: as a taxi driver, an innkeeper, an ice cream vendor, a cinema operator, matchmaker, insurance agent, disc jockey, and cemetery gardener. In his mysteries, he particularly enjoys outlining the diverse characters he came to know during his occupational career. He lives in Wesel, on the Lower Rhine.

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**Nina Ohlandt: SOUNDING THE ALARM**

Crime Novel

approx. 512 pages

978-3-404-17472-0

Paperback

February 2017

**Detective Bentheim's most personal case. High suspense, straight**

SOUNDING THE ALARM is Nina Ohlandt's fourth mystery novel revolving around inspector John Benthien from the Flensburg criminal investigation unit. Nina Ohlandt entertains her readers with unusual murders, a large cast of suspects, and a likable investigator team. In spite of the outrageous crimes and dubious machinations, she still makes a vacation on the coast seem attractive—a wish she creates above all by repeatedly describing the countryside and its inhabitants. This gives rise to an atmosphere that is difficult for readers to resist. In addition, almost until the end it is impossible to guess who committed the crime. While constantly presenting new clues and motives that come across as likely, she keeps readers in the dark for a long time.

On the Holnis Peninsula, the body of an unknown female is found in a garden in a hollow tree trunk. John Benthien and his team begin to investigate. It will turn out to be his most personal case because, of all the stupid things, the tree with the corpse is in the garden of his (almost) ex-father-in-law, Frieder Fahrenhost. The wintry garden seems to attract calamity. Just a few days after the body is found, Karin, Benthien's ex, from whom he separated several months earlier, is beaten to death with a bottle at the same location—shortly after having a tremendous row with him. There is no doubt in his mind that the two murders are connected, but how? Are Karin's parents involved?

For police colleague Smythe-Fluege, everything points to John Benthien. His fingerprints are on the bottle, a piece of evidence is found in his house, and he is suspected of obstruction of justice in office. Benthien is suspended, and shortly afterwards Smythe-Fluege obtains a warrant for his arrest. Is this dislikeable new colleague playing a vicious game? Detective Benthien knows two things for sure: first, he is innocent, and second, he will find the real killer.

**Also available:**

MURDERS ON THE COAST

DEATH IN THE FOG

THE CRY OF THE SEAGULL

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**Nina Ohlandt** was born in Wuppertal and grew up in Karlsruhe. She trained as a language teacher in Paris while writing her first children's book on the side. Later, she worked as a translator, language instructor, and market researcher before finding her true calling of writing crime novels in the land of her forebears, the so-called land between the seas.

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## **Ira Severin: JAMIE & THE SNAKE IN PARADISE**

Crime Novel

approx. 320 pages

978-3-404-17445-4

Paperback

December 2016

JAMIE & THE SNAKE IN PARADISE is a charming feel-good novel and perfect entertainment for female readers who love food and/or cats.

Rebekka Frey is a cookbook author and food journalist. She writes a regular column and blog posts about regional recipes for the highly successful *Countryside* magazine. She repeatedly travels for weeks to conduct research. This time her destination is the small village of Bradehusen. As soon as she arrives, Rebekka's usual investigative instincts come into play and she begins asking around among the villagers to find the most authentic recipes possible. When a cat repeatedly crosses her path, Rebekka ultimately realizes that its favorite places to prowl are where the very best food is being prepared. Not surprisingly, it soon develops a weakness for her as its Mom, a role that Rebekka is at first only very reluctant to play. During one of her visits in the village, Rebekka makes a shocking discovery. She finds the still-warm body of old Fedder Alert and believes that as she came in she also heard a door slam shut. The police initially play down the matter but when it becomes clear that Alert was poisoned during his last meal, and that it involved a typical regional specialty, Rebekka and her cookbook project wind up in the sights of the detective in charge. The next night, someone breaks into her vacation cottage.

This leaves her no choice but to begin investigating on her own - with energetic support from the cat. Yet neither the police nor Rebekka's snooping can prevent the next murder: once again, the victim is an old man. Rebekka is certain that the motive for the series of murders lies in the past. Before she can pursue her suspicion, the cat disappears without a trace. During its rescue from the hands of the killer, there is a dramatic showdown which both she and the cat barely survive.

At any rate, after all that the fronts are clear: Rebekka has a new housemate who immediately responds to the name of "Jamie," for Jamie Oliver, and naturally also becomes her traveling companion.

**For fans of Rita Mae Brown and Jean Bagnol**

**Also available:**

GINGERBREAD KISSES

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**Ira Severin** is a true book person. Not only does she really love to read, especially Jane Austen and Truman Capote, but she also loves - even more - to write herself. After studying English and German philology and after various experiences with "down-to-earth" jobs, she finally decided to turn her passion into her profession. She lives with her husband and her dog in a small town in Lower Saxony.

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**Michael Wagner: MURDER IN LÜNSCHE**

Crime Novel

288 pages

978-3-404-17426-3

Paperback

October 2016

MURDER IN LÜNSCHE is the kickoff to a new series of humorous crime novels featuring a quirky retired couple as investigators.

„Lünsche“, as the city of Lüdenscheid in the Sauerland region is affectionately called by its sons, in the year 1972: In an old apartment building not far from downtown, Ernst Rott, a retiree, is found dead in his flat. Just another old person who had no one in his life to take care of him and died lonely... that's what everybody thinks. But the autopsy reveals that the 82-year-old was murdered. It appears to be a murder without motive, as the grumpy old man lived a very secluded life and barely had any contact with other people. This is the ultimate horror scenario for early-retired Theo Kettling, who resides on the same floor as the victim and is the embodiment of despondency and trepidation. Is it possible that this was the work of some crazy serial killer, who plans on killing all the residents in the building?

Theo Kettling doesn't want to be the next victim and so he sets out to search for the killer. In doing so he has the active support of Lieselotte Larisch, a feisty retired school rector. At first, the rather bizarre detective duo that couldn't be more different if they tried attracts attention with their aimlessness and simple-mindedness while being worlds away from solving the case. But giving up is not an option for Lieselotte Larisch. Finally, a random discovery during a Sunday stroll leads them into the right direction: the key to solving the murder is hidden in an unsolved missing-person case that happened over half a century ago.

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**Michael Wagner**, born in 1968, graduated in production engineering and is a trained journalist. Today he works as a public relations expert for a big industrial corporation and lives in the vicinity of Marburg. His crime novel debut with the retired couple Theo Kettling and Lieselotte Larisch is a declaration of love to the region where he was born, the Märkische Sauerland.

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**Björn Berenz: WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN YOUR WIFE REINCARNATES AS  
A HIPPO**

Novel  
352 pages  
978-3-404-17486-7  
Paperback  
February 2017

**Funny, quirky, wacky. A road trip with undreamed-of obstacles**

Björn Berenz's new novel is the perfect entertainment for readers with a warped sense of humor.

Is it possible for someone to be so desperately in love that they think a deceased loved one has returned in the form of an animal? When Simon, a bank officer, visits the Cologne zoo one day and meets a hippopotamus named Daisy, he is suddenly utterly convinced that the soul of his beloved wife, Sandra, who departed far too soon, has reincarnated in the animal. Simon is not a nutcase but a man who reasons analytically and actually knows better. Yet the evidence - as outlined in the Buddhist brochure he turns to for advice - is overwhelming.

Just about as overwhelming as the death sentence the zoo director has pronounced for the adipose, impotent, and slightly aggressive hippo, and would like to see as the main attraction of the animal's next public feeding. But not with Simon around. He aims to accomplish what he was prevented from doing once before: this time he will save his wife's soul from death by liberating Daisy from the zoo. But where do you go with a three-ton hippo? Sandra's greatest wish was to see Katavi National Park in Tanzania once in her life. And if it didn't work out in her first lifetime, then it will in her second. And so Simon and Daisy set off on a journey together.

This is the beginning of a quirky road trip across Europe, where the obstacles to be overcome include, among others, the police, the mafia, and a violent group of thieves. On the journey to Africa (which they never reach) Simon, with his tons of emotional baggage, finds his way back to life—and a woman finds a direct route to his heart.

**For fans of David Safier and films such as Little Miss Sunshine**

**Also available:**

NUDISM AT THE PETTING ZOO  
SAINTHOOD OVERNIGHT

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**Björn Berenz** was born in 1977 and works in marketing and advertising. Prior to that, this native of Koblenz was the long-standing managing editor of children's and juvenile periodicals at publisher Pabel-Moewig-Verlag, where his final position was multimedia editor for the *Perry Rhodan* novel series. Björn Berenz lives in the Eifel region with his wife and two daughters.

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## **Marlies Folkens: ABOUT SWALLOWS AND COMMON SWIFTS**

Women's Novel

623 pages

978-3-404-17396-9

Paperback

September 2016

### **A novel without kitsch and frills – and therefore incredibly moving**

ABOUT SWALLOWS AND COMMON SWIFTS is Marlies Folkens' debut novel and was inspired by her mother's stories about the war and postwar years. An impressive novel about the everyday life in the countryside, a young love, and the fascination of music.

Wesermarsch, Lower Saxony, Germany, fall of 1944: 15-year-old Elli Bruns finds a completely exhausted soldier in the hayloft of her parents' farm. Georg Weber, barely older than she is, deserted his unit during a bombing raid. Elli hides him and from now on, Georg lives and works on the farm in the constant fear of being discovered. The only thing that makes the withdrawn young man come out of his shell is music and so he breathes new life into the old piano of the Bruns family. Elli is always by his side and gradually a tender romantic relationship is developing between them. Martin, a farm hand who used to work as a musician before the war, recognizes Georg's potential and starts giving him singing lessons. Only a short time later, Georg receives a letter from his mother and decides to travel with Martin to Cologne to be with her.

Elli is very disappointed. Instead of announcing her engagement to Georg at the wedding reception of her best friend, she is forced to dance with her former classmate, Richard, and eventually, they find themselves making love in the hay. Elli is being haunted by terrible guilt and so is Georg, who, in his next letter, apologizes to her for his sudden and hasty departure. Elli is hoping in vain for more letters from Cologne. But then she receives an envelope from Georg's mother - with a card announcing his death.

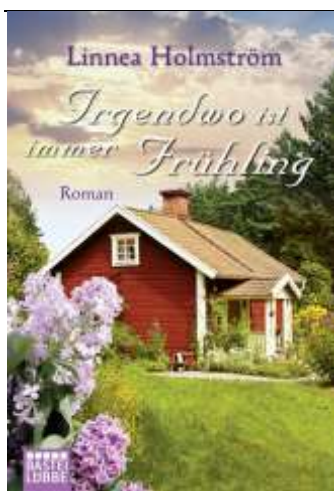
Elli falls into a deep hole of depression. The reason is not only her grief for Georg but also the realization that she is pregnant, probably from Richard. She hides her pregnancy and in January of 1949, she secretly gives birth to a son. Her intention is to kill the newborn but then she sees his face. The little boy is clearly Georg's child.

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**Marlies Folkens** was born in 1961 in Stollhamm-Ahndeich, a small village on the North Sea coast. She is the youngest of four children and grew up on a farm. After graduating from high school, she moved to Oldenburg to study history and political science. She still lives and works there.

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## **Linnea Holmström: SOMEWHERE IT'S ALWAYS SPRINGTIME**

Women's Novel

approx. 320 pages

978-3-404-17482-9

Paperback

March 2017

### **Warmhearted and true to life. Feelings of springtime in our hearts**

Linnea Holmström writes humorously and from the heart about the lives, loves, and emotional torment of the Swedes. Following her success with novels set in the winter (CHRISTMAS ON LAKE SILJAN), the summer (JOYFUL SUMMER TRAVELS), and the fall (IN HEAVEN FALL IS LIKE SUMMER), she has now set (her latest novel in the spring. It is a touching novel about friendship and fulfilling life's dreams.

Twenty-eight year old Annika Dahlström leads a fairly lonely life. In her free time she lives in her own virtual world and loves to dream about faraway places. Her only companion is Magnus, a parrot who flew into her life a year before. One of the things Annika enjoys most is following a blog by Milla Åkerblom, a young woman who is her complete opposite. Unconventional, fun-loving, and outgoing, Milla usually writes about her fashion label and her trips to distant countries. But one day she asks a very serious question: "What would you do if you had only very little time left?"

Annika contacts Milla, and the two women develop an online friendship. When Annika discovers that Milla has cancer, she overcomes her shyness and visits her in the hospital. Together they create a list of things Milla still wants to experience. In spite of her illness, she is still full of drive. Through her more or less crazy adventures with Milla—from singing loudly in a streetcar to a rehearsal of lying in a cemetery—Annika finds her way back into life.

Ultimately, the list takes the two friends to the Island of Torsö, where Milla wants to make peace with her family and kiss Jonas, the love of her youth, one last time. On Torsö, Annika literally blossoms. Meeting Milla's brother, an attractive veterinarian named Kjell, plays an important role.

#### **Also available:**

ELKS IN THE APPLE TREE

CHRISTMAS ON LAKE SILJAN

JOYFUL SUMMER TRAVELS

IN HEAVEN FALL IS LIKE SUMMER

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**Linnea Holmström** is thrilled by the expanses and diversity of Sweden, a country high in the North that has a special charm in every season. She loves to travel the country and record her experiences in novels that tell of the life, love, and emotional torment of the Swedes.

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**Christine Kabus: THE SECRET OF THE MIDSUMMER NIGHT**

Women's Novel

655 pages

978-3-404-17403-4

Paperback

September 2016

**Two families, a mysterious love-hate relationship, and a dark secret set against the impressive backdrop of Norway**

The leading characteristic of Christine Kabus' novels is that her stories are about dark family secrets that unfold on different time levels and are set in a beautifully described landscape. The very detailed depictions of landscapes and nature make Norway so vivid for the readers that they can easily dream their way into the country while reading the book. In addition, the historical background is well researched and makes the reader acquainted with the rich past of this fascinating country.

Røros, at the end of the 19th century. When Clara, a German woman, moves to the small mining town in the eastern part of Norway, she has no idea what to expect. Her Norwegian in-laws, who Clara has never met before, treat her with overt hostility. Obviously, they don't know that their son got married. Olaf had severed all ties with his family years earlier. But this is not the only surprise: Olaf's parents lured their son under false pretenses to Norway. He was supposed to save the formerly wealthy family from financial ruin by marrying the oldest daughter of the mine owner. But this is out of the question now so that the family's financial demise is inevitable. Too much depends now on the concessions of Ivar Svartstein, the influential mine owner, who used to be the biggest rival of Olaf's father. For decades, there has been a simmering, unresolved conflict between the two families, whose roots reach far into the past.

When both families are devastated by a tragic death, the relationships of the people in Røros are put to a harsh test and Clara has to find her own way to finally leave the burden of the past behind and make peace with her new homeland.

A book for Norway aficionados and female readers who love to get whisked away to unknown cultures and into family secrets and who enjoy joining the female protagonists on their journey to their inner self.

**Also available:**

IN THE LAND OF THE WIDE FJORDS

DAUGHTERS OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

ISLAND OF THE BLUE GLACIERS

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**Christine Kabus** was born in Würzburg in 1964. After attending university, she worked as a dramaturg and script editor for various motion picture and theater productions before going freelance as a screenwriter. She loves Scandinavia, especially the mythical and natural landscape of Norway.

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## **Sarah Lark: THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHINS**

Women's Novel

463 pages

978-3-431-03967-2

Hardcover

December 2016

**Total print-run of Sarah Lark's books:  
4 million copies**

**Translation rights of Sarah Lark's  
previous books have already been  
sold to over 20 countries**

### **A woman between two worlds: a wonderful novel about love and lifelong dreams set against a breathtaking backdrop**

With a print-run of more than 4 million copies worldwide, Sarah Lark is one of Germany's most successful writers. Her books were translated in over 20 languages. *THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHINS* is not only a treat for fans of New Zealand but also for all female readers of landscape novels and big love stories.

Laura is in her mid-thirties, married, and mother to two teenagers. When she is offered the opportunity to go to New Zealand for a few months and work as a tour guide to gain some practical experience in the field of whale and dolphin observation, she grabs the chance. A lifelong dream comes true when Laura leaves Germany. Her children look forward to their "Daddy Year" and are thrilled by the prospect of visiting their mom in New Zealand. As she is preparing for her trip, Laura realizes that she will miss her children greatly but she doubts that she will miss her husband, Tobias. In New Zealand, she finds a completely new attitude towards life: to work and have colleagues and deal all day long with issues that have nothing to do with family and household needs.

There she is courted by Ralph, an adventurer, and by Steve, an animal rights activist, while Laura is actually attracted to Ben, a rather private person. But something stands between them: a dark secret – and Laura's family.

### **A wonderful novel about love, family, and lifelong dreams**

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**Sarah Lark**, born in 1958, has always been intrigued by places that evoke feelings of longing and awe. Her gripping novels about New Zealand and the Caribbean have all become bestsellers and they are also very successful with international readers. After her brilliant emigrant sagas, she now presents her readers with gripping novels about dramatic family secrets in today's New Zealand. Sarah Lark is the pen name of a successful German writer. Under the alias of Ricarda Jordan, the *SPIEGEL* best selling author whisks her readers away into the colorful world of the Middle Ages.

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## Charlotte Lucas: YOUR PERFECT YEAR

Women's Novel

576 pages

978-3-431-03961-0

Paperback

September 2016

### Lead title

**Rights already sold to:**  
Czech Republic, France, Italy,  
Korea, Latvia, Lithuania,  
Netherlands, Poland, Russia,  
Slovak Republic, Spain

### A bittersweet story about second chances in life

Wiebke Lorenz alias Charlotte Lucas writes like no other author about finding the love of a lifetime: in a true-to-life and heartwarming style. YOUR PERFECT YEAR offers such a fantastic, yet sensitive blend of pain and hope that every minute of reading is an ode to life itself. YOUR PERFECT YEAR is a moving novel about loss, pain, and the hope that keeps us alive.

Jonathan Grief is 42 and a wealthy man. He owns a thriving publishing house, whose smooth operation is in the hands of extremely capable executives. His only role in the company is to act as a 'breakfast director' because even though he was born with the love for books so to speak, he cannot quite muster enthusiasm for the content of his inheritance.

Right in time, on January 1, after returning from his daily jogging routine, he finds a bag hanging from the handlebar of his bicycle that contains a Filofax for the year that has just begun. His search for any contact information is in vain, but on the cover page it says, "Your Perfect Year", and there are entries for almost every day, appointments like 'Eating cake at the Petit Café' or just an address and the time. When he also finds a sizeable amount of cash in the back pocket, Jonathan realizes that he cannot just leave the Filofax and the bag on the nearest park bench but that he has the responsibility to turn both items over to their rightful owner. And what could be easier than that? All he needs to do is go to the address that is given as the meeting point for tomorrow night at 7:00 pm. And so it starts: Jonathan's "perfect year". He has no idea that the Filofax is the last gift to a dead man...

Two months earlier. Hannah Marx's relationship with her loving boyfriend, Simon, could not be better than it already is. The only things that are still missing to make Hannah's happiness complete are his proposal and a plan when they want to start a family. Still, Hannah would never have expected that bombshell of news: Simon takes her out for a posh dinner – but instead of the anticipated proposal, he passionately declares his love for her and then he asks her to break up with him. For Simon is ill, terminally ill, as the doctors imply. Under no circumstances he wants to pose a burden on his girlfriend. But Hannah, eternally optimistic and happy-go-lucky, is unable to accept the diagnosis and fills a Filofax with all the wishes and dreams for the next year – it is supposed to become extra special, well, a "perfect year", filled with happiness. But as it turns out, the doctors are right, and so it happens that Simon makes the spontaneous decision to find a new godparent for the Filofax – and come New Year's morning, he leaves it in a bag on the handlebar of a stranger's bicycle...

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**Charlotte Lucas** is the pen name of Wiebke Lorenz. Born in Düsseldorf, she studied German philology, Anglistics, and communication science in Trier, and today she lives in Hamburg. In IN YOUR PERFECT YEAR she sets out on a search for answers to the big and small questions of life.

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**Caroline Roth: LIKE A SCOTTISH STORM**

Women's Novel

398 pages

978-3-404-17407-2

Paperback

September 2016

Caroline Roth's novels are the perfect combination of thoroughly researched history and sensual eroticism. In her new novel, a Scottish Highlander and a gripping story about smuggling, secrets, and an indecent proposal make sure that the storm does not only rage over the French coast but also in the hearts of the protagonists.

After the death of his wife, Kincaid McLane, a Scottish black marketeer, is disgusted with life. As a result, he takes too many unnecessary risks and his family orders him to relocate to France. As they intend to further expand the trade with smuggled tin that is needed to produce tin-glazed earthenware, also known as faience, he is supposed to buy a faience manufacture. But this turns out to be more difficult than Kincaid had imagined: Dominique Devilliers, the owner of the manufacture, on which he has set his sights, loves her company more than anything. She inherited it from her father, has been running it by herself since her husband's passing, and she doesn't want to sell, not for anything in the world, even though she is struggling not to go bankrupt. During a soiree, Kincaid follows the advice of a friend and behaves like a genteel French nobleman trying to sweet-talk the seemingly frosty Dominique with gallant compliments. But Dominique gives him the cold shoulder and rebuffs him. She does not care for the chivalrous behavior of noblemen. It reminds her of her husband and the ugly secrets behind the pretty façade, which she only found out about after his death.

During the time that follows, Dominique's business is increasingly under pressure: The French government prohibits the import of English tin, an important raw material for her manufacture. As Dominique tries to procure the tin on the black market, she visits a shady harbor pub and finds herself in the middle of danger. Kincaid, who just happens to be there, saves her and both of them discover a whole new side of the other person. They are both daredevils, tempted by risky behavior and the forbidden, so Kincaid cannot resist and makes her an indecent proposal. He will get her the tin if Dominique spends a night with him.

**Weitere Titel:**

IN THE ARMS OF THE WIND

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**Caroline Roth** was born in 1967 and lives in the vicinity of Zurich. She studied business economics and worked for many years as the chief financial officer of an international corporation. In 2008, she started her own business in order to have, finally, more time to write.

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**Kathryn Taylor: MISSION MISTLETOE**

Women's Novel

205 pages

978-3-7857-2569-6

Hardcover

September 2017

**Witty and charming entertainment by best-selling author Kathryn Taylor**

With her best-selling series COLOURS OF LOVE and her trilogy DARINGHAM HALL, Kathryn Taylor has already given proof of her literary talent and her versatility as an author. Her new novel is the perfect gift for a close girlfriend or an ideal choice for a relaxing read during the hectic Christmas rush: MISSION MISTLETOE is a heartwarmingly romantic story about everyone's favorite holiday, which allows the reader to immerse themselves into the world of the protagonists right from the start and enjoy the book like an entertaining movie.

Shortly before Christmas and her 30th birthday, marketing expert Lilly Holmes is dumped by her fiancé, Phil Stockton, who is also her boss, which means that she loses her job, too, a fact that messes up the plans she had for her life. This is the reason why she throws herself eagerly into the task of organizing a Christmas Market in the German tradition in the little village of Barnbarrow in England's Lake District. Over a glass of mulled wine too many, she and her friend Emma come up with a special highlight for the festivities: a contest to determine the "sexiest Santa Clause alive".

All the bachelors from the village are allowed to participate, a rule that causes a lot of pre-Christmas excitement – not least in Lilly's personal life. For Tom, the cool musician, is not only a hot contender for the title, but also his kisses under the mistletoe are utterly seductive. However, Tom is the opposite of what Lilly is searching for in a man – or at least she thinks so. The chaos is complete when, shortly before Christmas Eve, a pregnant woman and three men who traveled from afar show up in the village and Lilly has to make a decision. Does she have a future with her yummy Santa Clause?

**Total circulation of books by Kathryn Taylor: 800.000 copies**

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**Kathryn Taylor** began writing as a child, publishing her first story at the young age of eleven. From then on, she knew that she would someday support herself as a writer. After making several career detours and experiencing a happy end in her personal life, her dream has now come true.

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**Michaela Thewes: HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY**

Women's Novel

approx. 320 pages

978-3-404-17456-0

Paperback

January 2017

Michaela Thewes writes entertaining comedies about relationships, in which her female readers can immerse themselves and forget the daily grind. Her latest novel, HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY, is a tumultuous and charmingly written feel-good novel about the twisting paths to happiness.

What a nightmare! Or was it rather a sign? Lizzie's fiancé leaves her at the altar: As the only physician in the village, Alexander has to administer first aid to the victim of an accident. The driver of a Porsche crashed his car into a cowshed - deliberately, it seems, as there are no skid marks.

But the alleged suicide attempt failed. Daniel, the driver, suffered only minor injuries and after the accident, he rents a room in Lizzie's guesthouse. Much to the chagrin of Lizzie's mother and her fiancé who would rather waste no time and get rid of the snotty city boy.

While Lizzie is doing everything she can to stop Daniel from doing something stupid again, he manages to not only win the heart of her little son. But then Lizzie finds out that Daniel is not interested in her but in her guesthouse. For Daniel is the owner of several wellness hotels and plans to open another one in the beautiful Eifel region, which means that he wants to turn Lizzie's Sun Inn into a wellness hotel. Were all the nice words he said nothing but cold calculation to wrap Lizzie around his little finger and coax her into selling?

Don't worry: There will, of course, be a happy ending! After the usual trials and tribulations, Lizzie will not only find Mr. Right to spend her life with but also a wonderful father for her son. And so the sun will keep shining over the Sun Inn.

**For readers of Susan Elizabeth Phillips and Shari Low**

**Also available:**

TORRENTIAL RAINS ON CLOUD NINE

MEN IN LOOSE HOUSING

RISING SIGN KNUCKLEHEAD

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**Michaela Thewes**, born in 1972, lives with her husband and her two sons in the vicinity of Düsseldorf. After working in various jobs in the publishing and advertising sector, the trained bookseller has been self-employed for the past few years. She works as a freelance ad writer and author.

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## **Pippa Watson: WITH YOU BY MY SIDE**

Women's Novel

approx. 352 pages

978-3-404-17451-5

Paperback

January 2017

### **Riveting, stirring, sensitive. A story about friendship, second chances, and love**

A withdrawn young man, a traumatized dog, and a woman who is able to open both of their hearts. WITH YOU BY MY SIDE is a warmhearted, true-to-life novel based on a romantic love story.

London. Tobey, a successful musician, has suffered from a serious anxiety neurosis ever since he witnessed firsthand how his fellow band member Patric lost his life in a stampede. One evening he is surprised by paparazzi in his regular club. A wild car chase ensues during which one of the paparazzi knocks down a dog with his motorcycle. Tobey finds Milly, the injured dog, and takes her in, but it quickly becomes clear that she has suffered a deep-seated trauma. It is not easy to deal with her.

As he searches for help, Tobey meets Lin, a dog trainer who runs a farm and dog training center in Glastonbury. Since she works with Milly every day, she also spends a lot of time with Tobey and quickly realizes that he and the dog have something in common. They cannot or will not allow anyone to get close to them. Tobey and Lin work together closely, which causes frequent arguments. Yet it is only then that he opens up to her, and she understands for the first time that her initial impression was wrong: he is not an affected rock star who has been spoiled by success.

The next day, Angelina is suddenly standing in front of the door. She was Patric's girlfriend when he died, and Tobey was having an affair with her at the time. He has reproached himself horribly ever since and feels guilt-ridden about Patric's death. Angelina wants Tobey back, and his sense of responsibility makes him unable to turn her away. Lin is completely crushed. After a number of twists and turns, however, the two, Lin and Tobey, realize that they have fallen in love with one another.

Yet there is one last obstacle the couple must overcome. Milly's previous owner shows up and insists that they return the dog. In the end, though, the three of them look forward to a future together.





## **Ralf H. Dorweiler: THE PACT OF THE RAFTSMEN**

Historical Novel

approx. 480 pages

978-3-404-17446-1

Paperback

February 2017

### **A raft of gigantic dimensions, a young love, and a diabolical intrigue**

THE PACT OF THE RAFTSMEN is a riveting historical novel about a turbulent journey down the Rhine by raft from the Black Forest to Amsterdam. Based on meticulous research, Ralf H. Dorweiler tells the highly emotional and exciting story of a family in the 17th century.

Wolfach in the Black Forest, 1698. When Georg Baltrecht, a wholesale trader from Amsterdam, places a huge order for oak timber to build a fleet of ships, great excitement arises in Wolfach. Yet at the same time the wood is ordered in the Black Forest, a village in the Vogese Mountains is also commissioned for the job. Whoever delivers first will receive double the price, and the competition will be left empty-handed. At blinding speed, they cut great amounts of timber, transport it to the Rhine, and begin to build a 400m long timber raft.

After months of work, the journey down the Rhine finally begins. In addition to the raftsmen and the woodcutters, a party of Dutchmen is on board, and traveling among them the beautiful Isabella. Jacob, the son of the raft owner, falls in love with the young woman but learns that her father has promised her to trader Georg Baltrecht.

In Cologne, a further passenger embarks; a priest from Amsterdam named Anselm van der Kuijpers. From him, the raftsmen learn that they have been swindled. The purchaser, Georg Baltrecht, is deep in debt and will not be able to pay the contracted amount unless he marries Isabella and thereby acquires the fortune of her deceased father. The young woman suspects there is something rotten about this story and asks Jacob to take her to Amsterdam via the quickest route.

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**Ralf H. Dorweiler** was born in 1973 near Frankfurt am Main and studied theater, film, and television science at the University of Cologne. In keeping with his broad range of interests and talents, he then pursued many different activities, from acting to managing call centers. In the meantime, Ralf H. Dorweiler lives in the southern Black Forest where he holds an editorial position at a major regional newspaper. He is married to an opera singer and has a son.

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**Richard Dübells: THE CROWN OF FATE**

Historical Novel

558 pages

978-3-7857-2570-2

Hardcover

October 2016

**A well-written, gripping story, filled with twist and turns**

With more than one million copies of his books in print, Richard Dübells ranks among the most successful and most popular German-speaking authors of historical novels.

In *THE CROWN OF FATE*, the author presents the most exciting aspects of the Middle Ages: mistaken identities and intrigues, secret orders, powerful noble families, quick-witted women, and fateful love affairs are the ingredients of this captivating adventure novel. And the protagonist is one of the most famous poets of the Middle Ages: Walther von der Vogelweide.

Southern Germany, 1208: During a wedding celebration, King Philipp of Swabia shows his closest confidant, Walther von der Vogelweide, a legendary gemstone. The jewel whose colors are reminiscent of snow and blood, is so unique that it is known by the name of "The Orphan" (from the Latin word orphanus). According to legend, it once belonged to Mary, the Mother of God, and formed itself from her blood and the tears she cried for the death of her son Jesus. Now the gem is supposed to serve as a symbol of divine legitimization and become part of the imperial crown.

But the celebration ends in disaster: An assassin murders the King and the jewel vanishes. Walther and his companions whisk the heavily pregnant Queen to safety by taking her to Hohenstaufen Castle. The Queen dies in childbirth but the baby survives. At the very same time, Anna, Walther's former mistress, gives birth in the neighboring castle. In an attempt to hide her infidelity from her husband, Anna exchanges the infants without Walther's knowledge. However, a disguised group of men attacks Hohenstaufen Castle and the assailants kidnap Anna and her alleged daughter. Walther saves the Queen's alleged son and secretly hands him over into the care of a foster family.

1227: Emperor Friedrich II wants to cancel the planned crusade to recapture Jerusalem. He is aware, though, that in doing so he would incur the resentment of the Church so that he needs a higher legitimization. In this context, the recovery of the orphanus gem could be very helpful. But where is "the Orphan"? Reluctantly and under the pressure of the Emperor, Walther sets out to search for the Orphan. He has no idea that the young man who, by now, lives with him, is his son, nor does he know that the gemstone is closer than he ever would have thought.

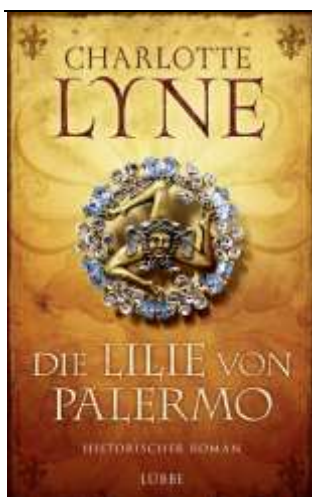
**Also available:**

THE LAST PALADIN / THE PORTALS OF ETERNITY / THE DEVIL'S BIBLE / THE WRATH OF HEAVEN

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**Richard Dübells** was born in 1962 and lives near Landshut with his wife and two sons. Ever since his trilogy surrounding the *THE DEVIL'S BIBLE* and *THE PORTALS OF ETERNITY* he numbers among the most renowned authors in the genre of historical novels.

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**Charlotte Lyne: THE LILY OF PALERMO**

Historical Novel

493 pages

978-3-431-03965-8

Hardcover

September 2016

**A brilliantly researched historical novel about the Sicilian Vespers**

On March 30, 1282, a rebellion broke out in Palermo in the island of Sicily against the government under French-born king Charles I that soon spread to the entire island and resulted in the overthrow of the rule of the house of Anjou. This event that has become known in history as “the Sicilian Vespers” is the historical setting of Charlotte Lyne’s new novel. The author interweaves the historical events with a multifaceted fictional plot and creates a gripping story that, at the same time, paints a very credible picture of the era. THE LILY OF PALERMO is a moving novel set against the hauntingly beautiful backdrop of Sicily, the threshold between Orient and Occident.

The Kingdom of Sicily at the end of the 13th century. In Palermo, unrest with the French rule of the House of Anjou is seething and starts spreading to the entire kingdom of Sicily. Charles of Anjou, who wants to build an empire, imposes heavy taxes that drive entire classes of the population into poverty and, simultaneously, the freedom-loving Sicilians into a rebellion. They hope to get help from Peter III, the King of Aragon, who has a personal interest in Lower Italy. As the kings are arguing over the attractive bone of contention named Sicily, the people fight for their right to a little happiness in life: Aita, the spoiled daughter, is searching for “a higher purpose”. Even though society is still based on the rigid order of the Middle Ages and nobody dares to break with it, the impulses of history have an impact on Aita. The two pillars of the medieval society – the imperial rule and the papacy – have begun to totter and also the young woman longs for renewal.

When she falls in love with the intelligent and rebellious ornamental blacksmith Emidio, who has already broken away from the order he had been predestined to follow and was willing to accept the consequences that are ostracism and the loss of his inheritance, she believes to have found this higher purpose. She marries him against the wishes of her family. Emidio loves Aita but deep inside he is a severely wounded man who is finding it hard to open up to his passionate wife. Out of spite and loneliness, Aita starts an affair with Thierry, a French official, and in doing so she triggers events that will lead on Easter Monday of 1282 when the vesper bell rings to a massacre of unprecedented proportions.

**Also available (a.o):**

CHILDREN OF THE SEA / HEIRS OF CAIN / GLENCOE / FIRE OVER BRANDENBURG

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**Charlotte Lyne**, born in Berlin in 1965, studied German, Latin, and English and Italian literature in Berlin, Naples, and London. Before moving to London with her husband and their three children, she lived for some time in Glencoe, the Scottish hometown of her in-laws. Charlotte Lyne works as a writer, translator, and editor.

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## Sabine Martin: QUEEN OF THIEVES

Historical Novel

511 pages

978-3-404-17402-7

Paperback

September 2016

### From kidnapped bride to queen of thieves

Sabine Martin's novels bring the High Middle Ages to life again. The author portrays well thought-out characters with human strengths and weaknesses, and sets them against an excellently researched historical background. Of additional interest to readers are the historical locations that Sabine Martin repeatedly weaves into her books, making the plots come alive geographically. On top of that, a storyline laced with intrigue and surprising twists keeps readers on tenterhooks.

Bavaria, 1324. The day before her wedding, Marijana, the count's daughter, falls into the hands of the feared outlaw knight Robert Megling. Since the ransom he demands never arrives, Marijana is forced to remain among the outlaws who want to exploit her knowledge of how to make black powder. When an intrigue causes Robert to fall into disfavor with the king, he does not return from a mission. Now it is up to Marijana, Queen of Thieves, to solve the mysteries of the past and save herself as well as Robert, her great love.

**Total German print run for Sabine Martin is 180,000 copies.**

### Also available:



THE RELIC HUNTER  
WOMAN



THE TEARS OF THE  
HANGWOMAN



THE HANGWOMAN

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Hiding behind the name **Sabine Martin** is a skilled and experienced writers' duo. Martin Conrath has already published several thrillers. Sabine Klewe wrote several crime novels, some of them historical, and she works as a translator and lecturer. Both authors live and write in Dusseldorf.

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## **Sabine Weiß: THE FENCING MASTER'S DAUGHTER**

Historical Novel

approx. 640 pages

978-3-404-17481-2

Paperback

December 2016

### **The secrets of a brotherhood and a young woman's lonely struggle**

THE FENCING MASTER'S DAUGHTER is the new, meticulously researched historical novel by Sabine Weiß. It recounts the exciting adventures of a young woman who proves herself in the male world of fencing guilds. Sabine Weiß not only offers her readers interesting insights into daily life during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but also sheds light on the political and social events of the times. Underlying the novel is the suspenseful history of the barely known, secretive fencing fraternities that formed in the German Empire beginning in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Rostock, 1608. For 19-year-old Clarissa, a dream comes true when she is allowed to accompany her father, Fritjoff, a fencing master in Rostock, to a fall trade fair in Frankfurt. Clarissa is fascinated. After all, she has been trained from childhood and knows the challenges of the art of swordsmanship. The competing fencing guilds of St. Marx and the brotherhood of the Federfechter are enemies, resulting in constant duels.

On their return to Rostock, Clarissa and her father are attacked. When she regains consciousness, she learns that her father is dead. When she herself is suspected of murdering him, she disguises herself as a man and together with Leander, a young robber, sets out in search of the true killers.

Returning home, she finds a letter among her father's belongings. It reveals a conspiracy that could throw the entire empire into chaos. Catholics and Protestants are fighting for supremacy, militant Spaniards are forcing their way into the realm from the Netherlands, and another war against the Turks threatens to break out. Now, Clarissa learns from the letter that the Emperor is to be assassinated - by a fencer, of all people. Could her father have lost his life because he knew who the assassin would be?

Clarissa travels to Prague and takes a job under a false name as a lady-in-waiting. She and Leander work at rounding up the hostile fencing brotherhoods; only if they unite will they be able to prevent the carnage. And, indeed, they succeed in protecting the Emperor. In Prague Clarissa crosses paths with her uncle Carl who was believed to be dead. In the end, he informs her that her father isn't dead after all but has been thrown into prison.

### **Also available (a.o.):**

ENEMIES OF THE DAUGHTER OF THE LEAGUE

THE SECRET OF STRALSUND

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**Sabine Weiß** was born in 1968 in Hamburg. She studied German literature and history and worked as a journalist.

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### **Thomas Ziebula: THE RED LIONESS**

Historical Novel  
approx. 368 pages  
978-3-404-17476-8  
Paperback  
January 2017

#### **Fast-paced historical adventure novel with an unusual protagonist**

Thomas Ziebula's new novel is historical entertainment at its best in the tradition of Ken Follett and Bernard Cornwell. The sublime saga takes place in Germany – highly emotional, gripping, and captivating.

Saxony, anno domini 1207. Olga is the daughter of a Saxon margrave's stable master. She is nineteen years old, has deep red hair, white skin, freckles, and green eyes. Her father met her mother during a crusade. Olga was born in the Orient, and she and her mother were sold into slavery. Ever since, her skin is branded with the red sign of a lion. Her father freed her and her mother.

Back in Saxony, he gave her two gifts for her tenth birthday, two weapons that he had taken from her Oriental slaveholder: a curved dagger and a crossbow. He taught her to use them – "So that you'll never lose your freedom again." Olga has a younger brother, Waldemar, a pretty and sensitive boy, who means the world to her. She would give her life for him and she would kill for him – a fact that Laurenz, the Cathedral's power-hungry and vicious provost, knows to use in his favor.

When the castle is attacked and Olga's parents lose their lives, the children flee to Magdeburg. Laurenz sees Olga and recognizes the potential that presents itself, as Olga bears an amazing resemblance to the late wife of his strongest opponent, Pirmin. He wants to send Olga after his rival in order to get him out of his way, once and for all. So he forces her to join the "Order of the Enforcers" where she is trained to become an assassin and takes revenge on the men who murdered her parents. By a strange twist of fate, the paths of Olga and Pirmin cross and they fall in love. When Olga receives the order to assassinate Pirmin, she refuses to obey. Laurenz is seething with anger and tortures her brother. Olga has no other choice but to kill the man she loves – or is there a way out?

#### **Also available: THE WHORE AND THE MINSTREL**

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**Thomas Ziebula** worked as a deacon and as a social worker up until the mid 1990s and wrote predominantly satires, short stories, and children's books. Ever since, he has been working as a freelance author and writes historical novels as well as fantasy, suspense, and science fiction stories that have been published as hardcovers, paperbacks, and pulp magazines. In 2001, he was awarded the *Deutscher Phantastik-Preis*.

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**Katharina Seck: THE SILVER QUEEN**

Fantasy  
366 pages  
978-3-404-20862-3  
Paperback  
October 2016

**Emotional and visually stunning – an extraordinary story that is like a fairytale**

In THE SILVER QUEEN Katharina Seck creates a winter world that will melt readers' hearts. Magnificent, moving descriptions follow highly emotional scenes. Running through the novel as a motif is the deceptive beauty of winter. Nothing is ever only beautiful or only evil. Here is a perfect combination of romance and suspense for all fans of romantic fantasy stories.

Silvergloss is a placid town in a world of winter. Yet the beauty of the sparkling snow-covered landscape is deceptive. The land has been imprisoned in eternal winter for decades; the summer is no more than a fairytale told by the aged. Emma is 24 years old and a citizen of Silvergloss. Her destiny seems to take a turn when she finds employment in Madame Dreamy's chocolaterie. The aroma of hot chocolate and the seductive sight of the finest pralines- ever since she was a child the chocolaterie has been a place of unreachable dreams.

It soon becomes clear, however, that Madame Dreamy has her own very special reasons for taking Emma under her wing. She begins to tell the young woman a fairytale, the story of the Silver Queen. And as the icy breath of the winter winds freezes the world outside the windows of the chocolaterie, Emma becomes caught in the clutches of the strange story. Hidden in the legend lies the truth about Silvergloss and herself, a truth that carries death within it. Only Emma can break the curse of the eternal winter- that is, if she can find her very own way of continuing the fairytale and soften the heart of Silvergloss's cruel king.

THE SILVER QUEEN features a special narrative structure. As the book progresses, Emma's story and the fairytale of the Silver Queen become increasingly interwoven. The reader is drawn into the puzzle and experiences suspense on two levels.

**For all fans of "Frozen," the most successful animated film of all times**

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**Katharina Seck** was born in Rhineland-Palatinate in 1987. She grew up in the Westerwald in a small medieval town crowned by a castle, attending a secondary school that is housed in an almost 800-year-old Cistercian monastery. The fairytale-like atmosphere of the place found its way into the description of the picturesque town of Silvergloss in her fantasy novel THE SILVER QUEEN. In addition to her activity as an author, Katharina Seck works for the town administration and edits the local gazette.

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### **Maja Winter: DREAMS OF DUST**

Fantasy  
approx. 464 pages  
978-3-404-20865-4  
Paperback  
December 2016

Maja Winter succeeded in creating a modern heroic epic with a rich fantasy world and characters that are far more complex than good and evil.

The story is set in a medieval world that is governed by magic and the belief in gods. The one side of this world is the Great Kingdom of Le-Wajun where the practice of magic is officially opposed. The neighboring country, though, the Empire of Kanchar, has brought the dark side of magic to perfection. There they

have an entire staff of magicians whose main task it is to imbue life into cast iron animals by incarcerating the souls of prisoners in the figurines. Kanchar uses them to build an unbeatable army. And at this point, no one in Le-Wajun has the slightest idea that this is happening.

When Tizarun, the Great King of Le-Wajun, is murdered by a Kancharian assassin, everybody is shocked including the alleged killer. He has no idea that his personal page, Karim, is a member of the much-feared guild of the Desert Lions and that he had been hired by the Great King's sister-in-law. Prince Wihaji is thrown into the dungeon while Karim manages to flee.

After her husband's assassination, the Great Queen, Tenira, refuses to vacate the throne for the next sun couple even though it is the law. Instead, she vows bloody revenge, and Princess Anyana, the daughter of the woman who commissioned the assassination, has to watch helplessly as her perfect little world goes up in flames.



### **Maja Winter: DREAMS OF FIRE**

Fantasy  
approx. 464 pages  
978-3-404-20864-7  
Paperback  
March 2017

In the Great Kingdom of Le-Wajun, a civil war has broken out over the succession to the throne. While Great Queen Tenira, who has fallen into madness, continues to reign, an illegitimate son of the assassinated king intends to appoint himself as king. And a new front has opened: Her thirst for revenge has driven Great Queen Tenira to wage a pointless war against the neighboring country of Kanchar that used dark magic to build an army out of cast iron animals.

By now, Prince Wihaji has been exiled to the legendary Empire of Kato. He has been sent there to find out whether the murdered Great King, Tizarun, has arrived in paradise and lives with the gods.

**Simultaneous release of volumes 1 and 2, volumes 3 and 4 will be released in the spring/summer of 2017**

**For fans of George R.R. Martin, Peter V. Brett, and Richard Schwartz**

**Maja Winter**, born in Moscow in 1971, grew up in Germany. In Bielefeld, she studied literary science, English, and philosophy. The author lives with her husband and her two children in rural Westphalia.


**Zoe Held: SWEET AGONY**

Erotica

319 pages

978-3-404-17411-9

Paperback

September 2016

From a very early age, Norina has learned what is right – and sex with a collar and a whip are not, of that she is sure. Still, her sexual fantasies keep haunting her. One night with dominant Lord Fergus is supposed to be the remedy. But will his harsh hand really put a stop to her secret desires?


**Lara Hill: THE TOURIST GUIDE**

Erotica

286 pages

978-3-404-17493-5

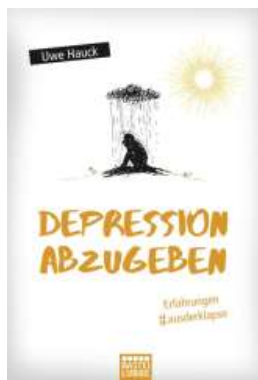
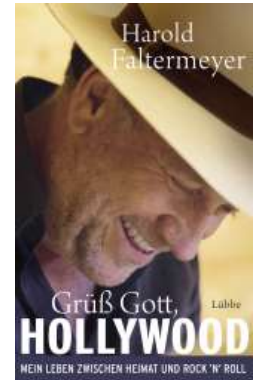
Paperback

October 2016

**Cool Sweden meets fiery salsa dance**

Lena has long given up to search for the man of her dreams. After another disappointment in her newly adopted homeland of Sweden, she decides to enjoy her life as a single woman and have fun. The person who helps her in her pursuit is Dag, the sexy salsa dancer. He introduces her to completely new dimensions of lust – and yet, there is another man, constantly on her mind...









## **Dr. Gralla: HAPPY DOWN BELOW**

### **A urological Handbook**

Guidebook

approx. 192 pages

978-3-404-60918-5

Paperback

September 2016

## **A casual, informative; and entertaining look at the weal and woe of a man's crown jewels**

While women are used from an early age to having their bodies and sexuality cared for by female health specialists, men often shy away from seeing a doctor – from adolescence to old age - when their crown jewels are concerned. According to the mantra: It came by itself, so it will leave by itself – even if it hurts. And instead of seeking help, they tend to take do-it-yourself actions – which can lead to extremely bizarre and sometimes painful situations.

Dr. Oliver Gralla is a specialist in urology and andrology and for years, he has been treating men and their sometimes more, sometimes less serious ailments. With the intent to fight ignorance, prevent self-healing experiments and finally break inhibitions, he offers with his book HAPPY DOWN BELOW access to medical issues like the unfulfilled wish to conceive, erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation, low testosterone levels; and other urological problems, which can place a burden on a relationship. The humorous book of wisdom by the personable urologist Dr. Gralla is a MUST for every man.

In addition to medical advice, the book offers a huge dose of humor, as the author incorporates a variety of ludicrous anecdotes about the everyday experiences in consultations with men. Not only men can learn a lot from this book. Also female readers will gain countless new insights into the male physique, which is not that simple after all.

## **Since the international success of „Gut: The Inside Story of Our Body's Most Underrated Organ“ by Gulia Enders, books with medical topics have enjoyed increasing interest**

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**Dr. Oliver Gralla**, born in 1972, successfully graduated from medical school, which included a research term at Harvard University, and has been practicing as a urologist since 1999. Until 2007, he worked as a physician with the specialty “reproductive medicine” at the Berlin Charité – his nickname: The Stork from the Mitte District. Then he moved to the cathedral city of Cologne where he went into private practice with a colleague and friend and opened a urological practice for couples. He tries to remedy the trite statement of men “I've never been to a urologist” with aggressive work in the social networks, which lowered the average age in his urological practice by a whopping fifty per cent.

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**Jenke von Wilmsdorff: SAY WHAT YOU WANT**  
**How Openness Brings Us Together**

Guidebook  
 224 pages  
 978-3-7857-2575-7  
 Hardcover  
 October 2016

Jenke von Wilmsdorff's advice book *NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED* stayed on the bestseller list for almost 30 weeks. In contrast to other books that often read like psychotherapy manuals, von Wilmsdorff sees his books as impulse or idea generators. And that makes them particularly suitable for people who need just that: stimulating approaches to changing their lives. In his new book, the author presents a fresh perspective on interpersonal communications.

Whether in our careers, personal relationships, or family lives, appropriate communication is crucial for success. And communicating properly isn't something we simply know how to do. It pays to reflect on it, recognize habitual patterns, and practice a different way of communicating. The first step is taken long before we speak with someone, because it all starts with listening to our own inner voice. What is important to us? What is on our mind? What would we like to change? How many love relationships fail because couples talk with one another but fail to address what really matters! Similar conditions arise when we deal with friends and family members. Our unending desire for harmony makes us prefer to give in rather than standing up our view of things and our needs. Or, instead of formulating everything in clear terms, we simply assume that the other person already knows what we mean and what we want. In our careers as well, we have not learned to stick up for what makes us happy. We prefer to wait for something to happen by itself, without making a contribution of our own.

Over the long run, people who don't say what they want lose themselves and become increasingly dissatisfied, unhappy, insecure, and hesitant.

Analyzing communication is a topic that has occupied Jenke von Wilmsdorff for many years. His awareness that far too many unspoken subjects and misunderstandings make the rounds in interpersonal relations led him to study this enormously important topic intensively. Drawing on experiences from his own life, he breaks down the complex topic of communication and provides helpful, practical tips for all.

**Also available:** *NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED*

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**Jenke von Wilmsdorff** is a journalist, actor, and author. He has been in front of the camera since 2001, taking highly unusual roles and pushing the limits in his investigative reporting. In 2012 he was nominated for an International Emmy for accompanying North African refugees on their voyage to the Island of Lampedusa.

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**Mark Benecke: MUMMIEN IN PALERMO**

**A Criminal Biologist Travels to the Darkest Corners of the Earth**

True Story

304 pages

978-3-7857-2572-6

Paperback

October 2016

*"No other writer explains as entertainingly and at the same time as explicitly why beetle damage, blow fly larvae, and a maggot infestation are important for securing forensic evidence. . ." (Süddeutsche Zeitung)*

Writing true crime nonfiction from a popular scientific perspective has made Mark Benecke the most renowned forensic scientist and criminal biologist in the literary world. The author's entertaining and enjoyable style enables him to present criminal cases in terms that are understandable and interesting for lay readers, while at the same time providing fascinating insights into the field of forensic research.

In his new book, Benecke compiles his most exciting cases from a wide range of countries across the world. Called in to uncover the dark secrets of brutal killings and unsolved homicides, he encountered corrupt police officials and faced unscrupulous murderers. The author combed through government archives, searched the jungle of the Mafia, and gained access to secret places. He traveled to Mexico to examine an entire mountain of 300 female corpses, and to Peru to investigate a dramatic case of witchcraft.

In Italy, a very peculiar case awaited him. Deep beneath a Capuchin monastery in Palermo lies the largest collection of mummies in the world. They stand in rows of niches, and although they died hundreds of years ago, their features are in part still recognizable today. At first, only monks were entombed in the catacombs. It was only gradually, over the years, that other citizens of Palermo - men, women, and children - found their final resting place here.

Until he arrived, the catacombs and their mummies had not been subjected to in-depth scientific research. Using his special knowledge and methods, Mark Benecke examined the mummies and now provides insight into their origins, the causes of their deaths, and a burial ritual that is difficult to comprehend today.

**Also available (a.o):**

TRACKING DOWN THE MURDERER

TRACES OF MURDER

MURDEROUS METHODS

FRO THE DARKROOM OF EVIL

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**Mark Benecke**, born in 1970, holds a doctorate in forensic medicine and biology and is in high demand as an expert in the fields of forensic biology and forensic entomology (the study of insects in the service of forensic medicine). His work repeatedly attracts attention. Benecke was an adviser to the exhibition *Body Worlds*, he is the author of numerous works of science and popular science, a media star, and was awarded the Investigation Medal of Honour by the *Association of German Detectives*. Mark Benecke lives and works in Cologne. See also the author's website at [www.benecke.com](http://www.benecke.com).

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## **Harold Faltermeyer: GOOD DAY, HOLLYWOOD**

Autobiography

approx. 288 pages

978-3-7857-2573-3

Hardcover

September 2016

### **The story of a youth who wrote music history and lived through the wild 70s and 80s in Hollywood**

Harold Faltermeyer is a living music legend. Not many artists influenced and shaped the synthesizer era of the 1970s and 1980s like Faltermeyer did, who dropped out of school but was blessed with perfect pitch, which landed him a dream career in Hollywood.

He is still a young musician, fresh from the conservatory, when he makes the acquaintance of producer Giorgio Moroder. Together, they turn Donna Summer into a global super star, and Faltermeyer is the co-writer of her hit song „Hot Stuff“. Next stop: the United States where the Bavarian quickly ranks among the most successful musicians in his genre. He composes international hits like „The Heat is on“ for Glenn Frey and in 1987, Bob Seger's only number one hit, „Shakedown“ to name just a few. With „Axel F.“, the theme from „Beverly Hills Cop“, Faltermeyer gains worldwide fame and the anthem from „Top Gun“ wins him multiple accolades including two Grammy Awards.

He owes it to the connection he feels with his home that he never lost touch with reality between sex, drugs, and Rock 'n' Roll. His family, nature, working with his hands - Harold Faltermeyer knows what a fulfilled life feels like and that you can achieve anything as long as you know where you belong.

And also Harold Faltermeyer's music continues to be successful: He composed the music to „Oktoberfest – The Musical“, which premiered in Los Angeles in the summer of 2016.

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**Harold Faltermeyer**, born in Munich in 1952, was 13 years old when he founded his first band and 16 when he dropped out of school to start an apprenticeship with Deutsche Grammophon to become a sound engineer. At the same time, he attended the Munich Conservatory. He was 26 years old when Giorgio Moroder invited him to come to Hollywood. Later on, the nature-loving and down-to-earth artist returned to his roots and today, he lives in his homeland of Bavaria.

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### **Freya Hoffmeister: CAPE HORN HAS ITS PRICE!**

**Alone in a Kayak, Halfway Around the World**

320 pages

978-3-431-03960-3

Hardcover

September 2016

The “Adventurer of the Year 2015”  
(National Geographic) recounts her  
dramatic journey

### **The first person to kayak around South America – a woman pushes her limits**

Water, waves, and lots of wind: Welcome to the element of Freya Hoffmeister. For many years, the competitive canoeist has been one of the most successful extreme athletes in the world. After winning numerous sea kayaking competitions, she tackled a project in 2011 that no one had ever managed to accomplish: the circumnavigation of South America in a kayak. The trip took her four years - a journey that she describes in this book: gripping adventures, breathtaking observations of nature, and bizarre encounters with animals, but also life-and-death struggles with the merciless elements.

She started the 15,000-mile circumnavigation of South America in Buenos Aires on August 30, 2011. The first leg of her journey took her to Valparaiso in Chile where she arrived on May 5, 2012, rounding Cape Horn on New Year's Eve 2011. The second leg took her 228 days and ended at the Colombian-Venezuelan border. The third leg started in the middle of August 2013 and ended on April 27, 2014 in Sao Luis, Brazil. On the northeastern shore of South America, she had to battle adverse weather conditions in form of tropical tides. Other challenges that threatened the success of the entire project included exhausting climatic conditions, pathogens and parasites, mud flats, as well as a mangrove coastline with little infrastructure, continuous headwind, and dangerously high surge. In her autobiographical account of the trip, Freya Hoffmeister tells the story of this accomplishment of a lifetime, which is a unique example of courage and strengths.

**The readers of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC named Freya Hoffmeister the “Adventurer of the Year 2015”**

### **A fascinating travel diary with lots of photos**

**Freya Hoffmeister**, born in 1964 in Heikendorf, Schleswig-Holstein, completed an education for the higher levels of civil service before going into business for herself at the age of 22 by opening an ice cream parlor in Husum. The former contestant of the Miss Germany pageant expanded the shop into a chain of seven ice cream cafes and one salad bistro; in 2012, she ran two ice cream cafes as well as a huge Christmas store. Two managers and approximately 40 employees take care of the business operations.

For many years, Freya Hoffmeister competed as an artistic gymnast, as a bodybuilder, and as a skydiver. She completed over 1.500 jumps, 500 of them tandem jumps with a passenger parachutist. One of the highlights was a tandem jump from an Ilyushin onto the North Pole. In 1996, when Hoffmeister became pregnant, she switched to kayaking. In 1997, she started paddling the waters around Husum– with her little son in the luggage hatch. When she is not traveling, Freya Hoffmeister lives in Husum.





**Mesut Özil, Kai Psotta: THE MAGIC OF THE GAME**  
**And what you need to make your dreams become a reality**  
 Autobiography  
 Hardcover  
 March 2017

**A guide for young people  
 who want to make something  
 of their lives**

### **A role model for millions**

Mesut Özil is a world champion, a national champion, and a cup winner, and for a long time he was the most expensive German soccer player ever transferred. Since September 2013, he has been playing for Arsenal FC and in 2014, he won the world championship with the German national team in Brazil. Like virtually no other player, he has a gift for taking over and deciding a match with one ingenious pass. No one could ever have predicted that the lank boy, whose family comes from Turkey, would become a key player and a popular figure, actually, a global super star with an incredibly huge fan base. Furthermore, Mesut Özil is an ambassador for an open and modern Islam, which makes him a role model for many adolescents in the Muslim world who he mainly reaches through social networks. Fans as well as supporters of the national team soccer player were so delighted by a photo that was posted on Facebook showing Özil in a white robe in front of the Kaaba - the central shrine of Islam in Mecca - that the picture received millions of likes and comments within a few hours.

In THE MAGIC OF THE GAME, Mesut Özil writes with unusual candor about how he became who he is and which character traits are needed to make it all the way to the top – and how important it is to turn dreams into goals and work passionately towards reaching them.

**Mesut Özil explains how to become one of the most valuable German soccer players ever - against all odds**

**Unusual insights into the personal life of the global super star**

**Mesut Özil has a ginormous fan base: 30 million followers on Facebook, 10 million on Twitter**

**With previously unpublished photos**

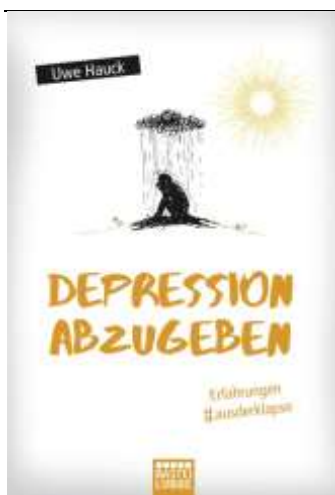
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**Mesut Özil** is a member of the German national team and a star midfielder for Arsenal London. Born in 1988 as the son of Turkish parents in Gelsenkirchen, he started his career with FC Schalke 04. In 2013, after spells with Werder Bremen and Real Madrid, he moved to England and joined Arsenal to play for the Gunners. One year later, he played a decisive part in Germany's national team winning the world championship in Brazil. He lives in London.

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Mesut Özil writes his book in collaboration with **Kai Psotta**, editor for BILD and author of several books.

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## **Uwe Hauck: CLINICAL DEPRESSION LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME**

### **My experiences in the loony bin**

True Story

approx. 256 pages

978-3-404-60922-2

Paperback

December 2016

### **A man tweets from the psychiatric ward to help others get over their fear of depression**

In 2015, Uwe Hauck was suffering from severe depression and committed himself to a psychiatric hospital. While many people still consider depression a taboo subject they don't like to bring up, Hauck dealt openly with it by tweeting with the hashtag #fromtheloonybin about his everyday life in the hospital. His tweets are a mixture of the observations he made on the psychiatric ward and thoughts about his illness.

*„Actually most of the patients in the loony bin are normal people, who can no longer cope with the craziness of the outside world.“* This is the realization that Uwe Hauck tweeted on the third day of his stay in the mental hospital, in the beginning of this year. At first, he refused to believe that he was suffering from depression, like so many people do. After all, he has a wife who he loves and three children he adores. But a simple performance appraisal interview resulted in him swallowing pills and slashing his wrists. They found him in time and he was committed to a hospital.

Uwe Hauck decided to deal openly with his illness and help put an end to the stigmatization of mental diseases. With his book, he wants to inform about the taboo issue of depression, help alleviate the fear of people who are affected by it, and provide a look at what people can expect from a stay in a psychiatric hospital. Openly and with brutal honesty, he allows his readers to participate in his therapy. He manages to describe other patients in an entertaining, yet affectionate manner and is generous in sharing his humorous views of therapeutic approaches like painting, basket-weaving, and expressive dance.

With his book, the author manages to raise other people's awareness for the issue and to take away the fear of mental institutions because, ultimately, a psychiatric hospital is nothing but a hospital for broken souls.

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**Uwe Hauck** works as a software developer for an IT service provider. He has a blog called "Living the Future" and he published two books about the future of our society. Uwe Hauck is the father of three children and owns a house in Swabia where he lives with his family. Besides his work as an author and as a blogger, he loves to ride his bicycle and is active in his support to increase people's understanding of mental illnesses, particularly depression.

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## **Amelie Sander: AS IF HEAVEN HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME**

**Neglected and abused in her parents' home**

True Story

Paperback

978-3-404-60925-3

January 2017

### **A childhood marked by coldness**

Amelie Sander is four-and-a-half years old when her ordeal begins: After her mother's suicide, she moves in with her father and his new wife. Lurking behind her stepmother's friendly façade is inconceivable sadism towards the other woman's child, which is perfectly hidden from the outside world.

As Amelie's stepmother systematically isolates the child from the outside world while terrorizing her with physical and psychological violence, the girl lives a completely dependent existence in a constant fear for her life and withers away. Right in the middle of an upper-middle-class neighborhood, Amelie is held captive in her parents' home for years, has to endure humiliation, is forced to neglect herself, and has to work like a slave cleaning. She is not allowed to brush her teeth and she is only allowed to wash herself when it is absolutely necessary. One glass of water a day has to suffice and the food that Amelie is given, is just enough for her not to starve.

She is 21 years old when she finally manages to escape from her tormentors' home with the help of a social worker. She is taken to a convent where she has to learn from scratch with the help of her mentor, a nun by the name of Sister Irmhild, how to live life in the "real" world. And a miracle happens: Within just a few months, the frightened ugly duckling turns into a swan – the real Amelie – a young woman bursting with curiosity and a zest for life who learns with eagerness and incredible courage to take her life into her own hands – and who, in the end, finds the love of her life. Today, Amelie Sander wants to tell her story.

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**Amelie Sander** was born in a medium-sized town in Germany at the end of the 1960s. After her escape from her parents' home she had to learn from zero to hero how to deal with everyday life and stand on her own two feet. When she met her husband, her biggest wish came true: to find someone to love and trust wholeheartedly.

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## **Doris Schröder: TORN APART**

True Story  
approx. 256 pages  
978-3-7857-2578-8  
Hardcover  
December 2016

### **The fine line between a caring government and an intrusion of privacy**

TORN APART is a thrilling personal-experience book with stories from the professional life of family lawyer Doris Schröder. In her book, the attorney offers an exclusive look into the courtroom and describes how court rulings decide over the personal lives of people. By ruling, for instance, who is given custody of the beloved child after a divorce. Or who is in charge of deciding the fate of the brain-dead father who is in a persistent vegetative state. And time and again: When is the government allowed to and when is it imperative for the government to step in and enforce decisions even against the will of the people affected by these rulings?

In her work with her clients, Doris Schröder has experienced many a time that people are pushed over the edge when they try everything in their power to hold their lives together. She tells the story of a father who kidnaps his child and takes him abroad for a life-saving surgery. Another story is about a disabled young man who wants to rid himself of the overbearing care of his parents – a decision with tragic consequences – and yet another one is about a young woman who wants a divorce from her violent husband despite the pressure from her family to stay married. At the core of these cases are broken trust, hurt feelings, and torn-apart family ties. Often, the government can help to alleviate injustice and restore order. Sometimes, however, the government can make things even worse by misjudging situations leaving people feeling horribly powerless.

Doris Schröder is very close to her stories, as she is a confidante for her clients and often the first person they open up to. She leads the reader into the abysses of human interaction and back by using clear words to analyze the legal aspect of the individual cases.

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**Doris Schröder** has been working for many years as a family lawyer in Monheim und Dusseldorf. Over time, she learned to distance herself from her work, which is very important in her field, as her clients do not only seek her legal advice but also personal and psychological support. However, a family lawyer is not a family therapist. She has never been properly trained to solve problems within a family, so the focus is always on the legal aspect of the conflict. But is it always possible to distance yourself from your work?

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**Sonja Vukovic: OVER AND DONE**  
**Beauty knows no pain, says the pain**

True Story  
288 pages  
978-3-7857-2577-1  
Paperback  
September 2016

**The explosive issue of addiction that affects an ever-increasing number of people in our performance-addicted society**

Worldwide, girls and boys start developing eating disorders at a younger age. One of them was Sonja Vukovic, who had been suffering from anorexia and bulimia for thirteen years. By telling her personal story, the now 31-year-old offers a relentless look at the horrors of an eating disorder that almost cost the author her life. Always on the edge between frenzy and illness, Vukovic leads us deep into a misery each and every one of us could fall into – and shows us how she found her way into a healthy and happy life.

At first, the renowned addiction expert Sonja Vukovic helped her patient, Christiane F., (We Children from Bahnhof Zoo) with her look at her second life – then she had to admit to herself how sick she was. A gripping and dramatic story about abuse and eating disorders.

Sonja Vukovic's writing is so compelling that the reader gets almost addicted to finding out how her story will continue. Between failure and longing, despair and expectation, Vukovic breaks taboos, gives hope to fellow sufferers and deals with a very painful subject: a society that indulges in frenzy but despises addicts.

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**Sonja Vukovic** worked as a journalist with an emphasis on biographies, social criticism, and social policies for venues like „Die Welt“, „stern.de“, and „Spiegel“. She was awarded the „Grimme Online Award“ as well as the „Axel-Springer-Preis“. In 2013, she published her international bestseller „Christiane F. – My Second Life“. After setting up the „F. Foundation“ for addiction prevention and addiction education, she is now working on new books. Today, Sonja Vukovic lives in Berlin and is mother of a daughter.

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**Nina Ziegler: THE PROBLEM CHILD**

True Story

approx. 256 pages

978-3-404-60919-2

Paperback

December 2016

**The moving story of a girl who climbs out of the spiral of abuse and builds a new life for herself**

The little girl's years-long ordeal begins, when Nina's mother marries a new husband. Her stepfather humiliates her emotionally and physically. When he orders her to go looking for something and she cannot find it right away, he starts beating her with his hand, with a wooden spoon, with a belt – always on her bare skin. Sometimes she is not allowed to eat or drink for hours and has to wait in her bed until he comes to beat her up. Eventually, he begins to abuse her sexually. But Nina doesn't dare to talk about it to other people. Because – and this is the inconceivable part – all these humiliations take place under the eyes of her own mother.

She is already nine years old and visiting her biological father for the weekend, when he notices the black and blue welts on his daughter's body. He gets child protective services involved and one year later, Nina is finally allowed to live with him. But this is not the end of her suffering. The terrible experiences of her childhood keep haunting her. She cannot sleep, develops an eating disorder, and displays aggressive behavior. At school, she is labeled as rebellious and disobedient, and she cannot hold a job. She rushes into a marriage – with a man who beats her, too.

Finally, in 2010, she manages to put it all behind her. The crimes of her mother and her stepfather are past the statutes of limitations but she presses charges against her husband who is convicted of sexual assault. Furthermore, she starts a long-term therapy and is allowed to have a PTSD service dog. With her Labrador, Bullet, she is finally able to live a halfway normal life. The animal keeps strangers at bay, calms her down when she suffers a panic attack, and gives her the safety and security that had been missing in her life for so many years. Now she wants to catch up on her education – and she says, "Never again will I allow a man to beat me!"

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**Nina Ziegler** is 39 years old, has two children, and lives in the vicinity of Frankfurt/Main. Nina Ziegler is an alias.

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# **Marc Krüger: THE DRIVER MISSED THE TRAIN**

Odd railway announcements

Humor

150 pages

Paperback

978-3-404-60932-1

November 2016

Railway announcements? For frequent travelers, who are on their way to their „en-route stops“, they are a constant well of joy. The more so, as railway talk like “Delayed Provision”, “Emergency Response on the Track”, or “Also, please pay attention to the announcements at the station” walks the fine line between tragedy and unintentional hilarity. But even funnier is when railway employees dabble in poetry. Things like “Just imagine how penguins would feel and the broken air conditioning is not so bad” or “Please don’t leave garbage and husbands behind when you disembark” give us an idea of a train conductor’s potential. “I would love to tell you why we are standing here. But no one tells me anything either.”

Marc Krüger is a journalist and for many years, he has been compiling what he and thousands of his fellow travelers get to hear in railway cars and stations on a daily basis. His “Railway Announcement” accounts on Twitter and Facebook are very popular, in particular – of course – with railway employees. For one thing is certain: An employee that receives the honor of “Railway Announcement of the Month” has what it takes to make it on any comedy stage. Unless the train is delayed.

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**Marc Krüger**, born in 1981, works as a journalist. For many years, he has been using his free time to compile weird, absurd, and oftentimes extremely funny railway announcements.

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**Anke Müller: C'MON, MOM, CHILL**

**When your child reaches puberty and 51 other family disasters**

Humor

approx. 256 pages

978-3-404-60927-7

Paperback

January 2017

## 52 episodes from a chaotic family life

C'MON MOM, CHILL is a book for all parents who haven't lost their sense of humor – just yet – over the task of raising children and prefer to laugh than to tear their hair out. Written in short episodes, it describes with tons of humor the adventures of a totally normal family while providing at the same time some sound advice about how to avoid mistakes and how to elegantly sail around menacing shoals. The superb dialogues with the children make this book a particularly enjoyable read.

The protagonists of this book are, on the one hand, the mother, who acts as a first-person narrator, and on the other hand, the two children: Puberticle, in short Pubi, is a vivacious middle school student and then there is his little sister, whose fluttery behavior is often reminiscent of a headless chicken so that she answers to the name of "Poultry". Also involved in some of the stories: the extremely busy father.

The 52 loosely interconnected stories that have the weekly rhythm of an early-evening television series, deal with the tasks of everyday life: Pubi dares the common cold virus ("You want to go swimming outside? It's only 10 degrees." Who cares, the sun is shining.") or uses the microwave to heat up his Spaghetti Bolognese ("There's been a little mishap.") Poultry, too, is fluent in speaking bluntly, for instance at the lunch table ("What little animals are in meat?") Together they are absolutely unbeatable ("Mom, do you actually like gray hair or why do you have so much of it?")

How Anke Müller manages to keep her cool in light of the daily drama in her family and why little monsters are best tamed with humor, that's what she tells you in this book.

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**Anke Müller** was born in the Thuringian town of Gera in 1972. She works for a Munich advertising agency and a motion picture production company in Düsseldorf. Today she lives with her husband, two children, fish, and guinea pig Eddy in Mülheim an der Ruhr.

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## **Victoria Seconda: NOTHING IS SHITTIER THAN COMING IN SECOND**

### **The biggest losers in history**

Humor

approx. 240 pages

978-3-404-60933-8

Paperback

February 2017

### **How to live a happy life without having to be the best**

This book delivers entertaining and sarcastically acerbic stories about people who always almost made it. With a combination of wit and expertise, Victoria Seconda portrays all those who were ignored by historians, conveniently or unfortunately forgotten.

One of these unlucky individuals is Camilla Parker-Bowls who never made it out of the shadow of her predecessor. Then there was Willy, who was never fast enough for Maya the Bee, and there was Antonio Meucci, who invented the telephone but didn't have enough money left to file for a patent.

The reasons why a person comes in second are manifold and it can happen in a variety of areas. And it is this colorful mixture that turns this book into an interesting read for an hour of spare time. It entertains, informs, and comforts each and every one of us, who never made it to the top in school, in their jobs, or in their families.

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**Victoria Seconda**, born in 1976, lives in Hamburg, the second largest city in Germany. She is the second-born daughter of a family that loves to share bizarre stories. She feels very comfortable among the second-place finishers in world history even though, once, she finished first – at the 1984 read aloud competition. But that just happened because she was the only competitor.

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**Peter Vollmer: IF YOU WANT TO OVERCOME YOUR INERTIA, KICK UP YOUR HEELS**

Humor  
approx. 256 pages  
978-3-404-60923-9  
Paperback  
January 2017

**The perfect book for hesitant self-optimizers and highly motivated couch potatoes.**

Who wouldn't want to be healthier, happier, and more aware? Self-optimization is hugely popular. Using an array of resources, more and more people are making an effort to work their way toward more perfect versions of themselves. Peter Vollmer tried out the trend. His book provides a humorous experience report about a life that includes personal trainers, image consultants, and sustainable consumption.

Much like many other people, Peter Vollmer had the impression that career success, good looks, and a fulfilling life were always things that only other people had. But he reasoned that it didn't have to stay that way and took charge of his own happiness. The first thing he did was to buy new running pants, take them out for a jog, and catch the admiring glances of his neighbors. Encouraged by this first small success, he threw himself into the cosmos of self-optimization. He hired a personal trainer and visited a men's grooming salon, started doing yoga and sought the advice of a handwriting coach. But those were only a few of the items on a long list stretching from A for attentiveness to Z for zumba fitness.

What Peter Vollmer experiences during his self-optimization campaign is always extremely funny and occasionally unsettling, but at the same time the author also succeeds in transferring his own motivation to his readers. Even though the world he enters seems unfamiliar and quirky to him, he is very serious about one thing: he would like to be perfect and makes an all-out effort to conquer his inertia.

If you want to overcome your tendency to do nothing, the best way is to really let loose.

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**Peter Vollmer** was born in 1962 and has been a professional entertainer since 1986. From 1995 to 2005 he worked as a writer for WDR broadcasting. The author is married, has two sons, and lives in Cologne.

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### **Michael Winter: WE ARE FAMILY**

Gift Book  
80 pages  
978-3-431-03963-4  
Hardcover  
October 2016

#### **The perfect gift to hold onto memories of any kind**

After selling more than 50,000 copies of *THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE*, here comes *WE ARE FAMILY*, a memory album that will appeal to teenagers and adults alike, as it allows you to record everything that is special about your family.

Every family is unique and has their own traditions, whims, and experiences. Be it the weekly dinner at the favorite Italian restaurant, the traditional camping trip over Pentecost, or Grandma's secret recipe for the Christmas roast, these personal things cannot be found in other families and make your family what it is. And this album will make sure that these things won't be forgotten.

#### **Also available:**



### **THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE**

224 pages  
978-3-431-03885-9  
Hardcover  
May 2014

- **A memory album for brand new Parents**
- **With tipped-in envelopes and a tie to keep the book closed**
- **Lavishly designed and two-color throughout**

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**Maike Saupe** and **Michael Winter** live with their families in the High North. Before making this region their home, their path had often led them to faraway places. In spite of unique experiences and awesome friendships that were made far away from home, they realized time and again that one thing was missing: The family! May the family be with us!

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## Tanja Brandt: HEAD OVER BEAKS IN LOVE

Ingo and Poldi – The story of a friendship

Gift Book

160 pages

978-3-431-03969-6

Hardcover

November 2016

English sample  
translation available

A most charming, true story about a very unusual friendship between a German shepherd (Ingo) and a little owl (Poldi). HEAD OVER BEAKS IN LOVE does not only contain many facts on birds of prey absolutely worth knowing, but also presents unique and extremely emotional close-up views of one of the most wonderful and extraordinary friendships between animals.

Romeo and Juliet and Bonny and Clyde can pack up and go home: The new dream team are “Ingo and Poldi”. The dog and the owl are soulmates – and, most notably, incredibly cute. Ingo, the German shepherd, and Napoleon, the little owl, whose nickname is “Poldi”, are the ultimate dream couple even though they do not even belong to the same species. Poldi is tiny, has feathers, wings, and ears that are barely visible. Ingo is big, unable to fly, but makes up for it, so to speak, with his huge ears. In this book, photographer and falconer Tanja Brandt tells the most adorable story of a friendship, as these two are simply inseparable. When did they meet for the first time and how did this meeting result in such a close friendship? And how does the German shepherd react to the mood swings of the audacious little owl?

The author describes with humor and wit how she experiences everyday life with the two friends but she also shares a lot of things about her animal charges that are worth knowing. For instance, most people believe owls to be intelligent creatures, but they are definitely not. Tanja Brandt says, “Uschi, my snowy owl, is the dumbest animal on the face of the earth. She is unbelievably lazy. Everything she learns today, she’ll have forgotten by tomorrow.”



According to photographer and falconer **Tanja Brandt**, animals are her true passion. For a long time, she has been sharing her life with her German shepherds; today, she also has two Harris's hawks, one snowy owl, and Poldi, the little owl. She used to run a trucking company and there were times when she drove a big rig through the nation before she decided to move to Remscheid and into the falconry Bergisch Land to dedicate herself to her passions: falconry and animal photography.



**Rita Berman: MY FALL WALK  
COLOR IN AND RELAX**

Gift Book  
80 pages  
978-3-431-03963-4  
Paperback  
August 2016

With her books, Rita Berman takes all hobby painters on a walk through enchanting forest, mountain, and meadow landscapes. Her readers can paint their way through the seasons – spring, summer, fall, and winter. There is a coloring book for every season tempting the reader with unique pictures. The simple and trendy activity helps to unwind from the stress of daily life while bringing out creative talent, even in non-artists.

Mandalas, miracles of nature, geometric patterns, animals and magical worlds – they can all be colored in with crayons, felt pens, and other markers. And it works: the quiet and repetitive activity requires the perfect amount of focus to keep the mind from racing and has, indeed, a relaxing effect! Furthermore, the results are impressive as the initially uniform black-and-white drawings turn into vibrant and surprisingly good-looking pictures that evoke feelings of deep satisfaction.

And there are not just rhythmic patterns and drawings with meticulous attention to detail, there is a lot more to discover and develop. Relaxing by coloring with a hint of fresh air!

**Also available:**



**MY WINTER WALK**

80 pages  
Paperback  
September 2016



**MY SPRING WALK**

80 pages  
Paperback  
February 2017



**MY SOMMER WALK**

80 pages  
Paperback  
April 2017

**Rita Berman**, born in Moldova in 1971, was enthusiastic about graphic art and design from an early age. She worked as an architect before moving to Germany where she started working as a graphic designer. She lives with her family in Frankfurt/Main.