

AUFBAU

FICTION RIGHTS GUIDE SPRING 2022

- aufbau
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- rütten & loening
- **B** Blumenbar

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»A novel about a young woman who goes her own way – quirky, dark and so good.« Laura Karasek

Nelli came to Germany from Russia with her Mennonite family when she was a little girl. She speaks Plautdietsch, eats tweebak and nightshade berries and is trying to settle into the province and her new life. But the she can't shake her past. When her beloved grandmother dies, things start to blur for Nelli. Her husband Kornelius tells her that he is leaving her for someone else. And the next morning, Nelli isn't sure if she accidentally killed him... And then suddenly there's something in the freezer that doesn't belong there.

In *Nightberries*, Elina Penner narrates with comedy and dark humour the story of a community who hold on to each other because they have nothing else. In the middle is a young woman who breaks down under the pressure to live up to the expectations of her family and her faith – and who is searching for her own path.

Elina Penner was born in 1987 as a Mennonite German in the former Soviet Union and came to Germany in 1991. Plautdietsch is her mother tongue. After years in Berlin and the U.S., she lives with her family in East Westphalia and is a very successful blogger. *Nightberries* is her debut novel.



Elina Penner Nightberries Fiction. 248 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2022, March

English sample translation available

»Always funny and dangerous at the same time. Elina Penner keeps us in constant suspense about what will happen next, always between shock, laughter and deep emotion. A bittersweet debut.« Christian Dittloff

»Elina Penner tells the most exciting family story I've read in a long time in an incredibly funny and clever way. I am impatiently waiting for the film adaptation. A book that I would like to give to every friend.« NINIA LAGRANDE BINIAS



The dark heart of hypermodernism

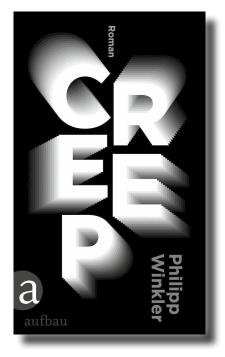
Fanni works for the leading provider of smart surveillance technology. She is still in the office when everyone else has long left, because that's when she can finally tap the cameras of the Naumann family. Their home is the only place where Fanni feels something close to belonging and warmth.

It seems as though Junya never leaves his bedroom. But at night he sneaks out of the apartment and onto the streets of Tokyo. He's looking for that one moment where he can completely forget who he is. But he chooses the awful method of violence – and the recognition he receives for it in the darknet forums where he shares the videos of his forays.

Fanni and Junya live among us, but we don't see them. They belong to the first generation to grow up with the Internet. Both seek in the life of strangers the things that they have otherwise given up hope on: control, belonging, liberation. In doing so, they cross boundaries that have long ceased to apply to them. It is the story of all of us – whether we like it or not.

Creep is a novel about how digital hypermodernism distorts us and what we are prepared to do to escape the darkness – the darkness within us.

Philipp Winkler, born in 1986, studied literary writing in Hildesheim. He has lived in Kosovo and Japan. For his debut novel *HOOL* he received the ZDF aspekte Literature Prize for the best German-language debut, was on the shortlist of the German Book Prize and was invited to the Festival Neue Literatur in New York. The novel was a Spiegel bestseller, has been translated into numerous languages and adapted for theatre. A film version is in the works.

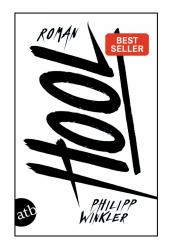


Philipp Winkler Creep Fiction. 352 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2022, January

English sample translation available

RIGHTS SOLD: Spanish World (Alianza)

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:



Philipp Winkler HOOL Fiction. 310 pp. 2016, September

Full English translation available

RIGHTS SOLD:

Czech Republic (Host), Denmark (People's Press), France (Fleuve/pre-empt), Italy (66th and 2nd), Netherlands (Lebowski/pre-empt), Spain / Spanish World (Alianza/AdN), US / English World (Arcade/Skyhorse Publishing), Belarus (Knigazbor), China / Simplified Characters (Hainan Press)

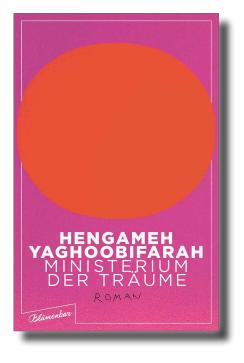


THE MERCILESS AND TOUCHING STORY OF A FAMILY

When the police come knocking on her door, Nas' world falls apart: her sister Nushin is dead. A car accident, the officers say. Nas is convinced it was suicide. They had overcome everything together: migration to Germany, the loss of their father, the emotional absence of their mother, Nushin's unplanned motherhood. Nas takes in her niece, despite not having room for a child in her life. Even when she discovers that Nushin was keeping secrets, Nas swallows the betrayal and does everything she can to reconstruct her sister's story – and realises that Nushin would never have abandoned her.

Ministry of Dreams is a novel about the family you choose and the family you're stuck with, a debut about the unconditional loyalty between siblings that also penetrates the dark corners of present-day Germany.

Hengameh Yaghoobifarah (they/them), born in 1991 in Kiel, studied Media and Cultural Studies and Scandinavian Studies in Freiburg and Linköping. After a while living in Vienna, they moved to Berlin in 2014, where they have been working as an editor for Missy Magazine ever since. Hengameh Yaghoobifarah is also a freelance writer for German media outlets, for example the *Habibitus* column for the taz newspaper. In 2019, they joined forces with Fatma Aydemir to publish the widely acclaimed anthology *Your Homeland is our nightmare*.





Hengameh Yaghoobifarah Ministry of Dreams Fiction. 380 pp.

Fiction. 380 pp.
Blumenbar. Hardcover 2021, February

RIGHTS SOLD:

Netherlands (De Geus)

English sample translation available English report available

»Hengameh Yaghoobifarah fills your head with so many images and your heart with so many emotions that it's almost unbearable. It's a much used comparison, but here it truly is appropriate: this story is as thrilling, frightening, funny and evocative as a rollercoaster ride.« ALICE HASTERS

»In >Ministry of Dreams«, Yaghoobifarah's words are once again a gentle weapon – both delicate and brutal. It's a story that will make you scream and cry, a story packed with impressive imagery and poetic beauty.« GIULIA BECKER

Ghosts from the past and an unexpected love – the story of a summer that changes everything

After ten years in exile Leopold Perlstein, once a famous writer in Vienna, has not yet found his footing in his new home in Palestine. His income working for an insurance company is modest, his writer's block unsurmountable. His agent Alma invites him to spend a long summer in her country house in Sharon, Connecticut, to finally finish a new book.

But when Leo gets off the train, exhausted from a long journey, he is met by a young boy who explains that Alma's house has burnt down the night before. For now, he will have to make do with the Roxy, the guesthouse opposite the train station. The house is a disaster. Not to mention Dora, the landlady! If Leo only knew what else the Roxy holds in store for him, he might have turned around. But it is a good thing that he doesn't, because this summer – and Dora – will change his life forever.

Agnes Krup studied in Hamburg and Tübingen and has worked as an editor, literary agent and publishing scout. Born in Hamburg, she now divides her time between Berlin and an old guesthouse near Sharon, Connecticut. Her debut novel With the Outgoing Tide was released in 2017 and was an instant success. After Summer Guests, Leo and Dora is her third novel.



Agnes Krup
Leo and Dora

Fiction. 285 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2022, March

English sample translation available

English Language rights: author

A romantic comedy between the Old and New World, witty and surprising

What would happen if we lost the world?

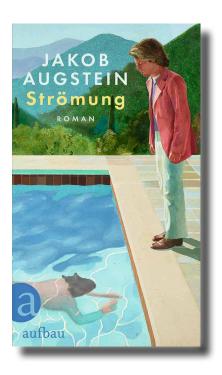
Autumn 2016: Franz Xaver Misslinger was once the rising star of German politics. Now his marriage to Selma is on the rocks, his daughter is slipping away from him and his position in the party is waning. Shortly before the all-important party conference, Misslinger travels to the USA with his daughter. Misslinger is met by an America that is in a crisis of its own, making it unsuitable as a source of new strength. The world is changing: Luise is strangely unimpressed by New York, as freedom means something different to her than to her father. They also receive ever more alarming news from Misslinger's party friends and supporters back in Germany.

When father and daughter set off for Long Island to visit Misslinger's childhood friend, his world is turned upside down. Strange things happen in the brightly coloured forests of the Indian summer. On an island that doesn't exist, Misslinger makes a puzzling encounter. And finally, at the very tip of Montauk, the boundaries blur not only between water, land and sky, but also between dream and reality.

Jakob Augstein, born in 1967, is a publisher and journalist. *The Current* is his first novel.

»Jakob Augstein has made a name for himself in the world of literature.« DIE ZEIT

"Augstein has incorporated so many wonderful aspects in this novel - it sways between the absurd and the dramatic, with such beautifully unique characters and breath-taking imagery of nature." NDR Kultur



Jakob Augstein
The Current
Fiction. 301 pp.
Aufbau. Hardcover
2022, January

In his magnificent literary debut, Jakob Augstein tells a vivid story about a man of our time, a time in which the boundaries between political upheavals, new ideas and old threats become increasingly difficult to distinguish.



A dramatic story about human abysses – and the immortal power of literature

In her apartment in Leipzig, Christa Wolf, a student, types the words into her type-writer: Dear Comrade Becher! For her thesis, she asks poet and government official Johannes R. Becher about the autobiographical features of Fallada's work – and receives only an evasive response from the very man who selflessly took care of the alcoholic and morphine-addicted author and got him back to writing. What taboos had her question touched upon?

Michael Töteberg provides a literary response to this question and tells the story of Fallada's zero hour between two women, of old demons and new beginnings and the incomparable power of literature. A heart-breaking story of universal validity about the human abyss — and a love that fights against it. Hans Fallada's final years in Berlin — a literary showpiece and a fascinating new perspective.

Michael Töteberg, born in 1951, headed the Agency for Media Rights at Rowohlt Verlag for many years, where he was responsible for film adaptations such as *Babylon Berlin* and *Tschick*. He is the author of various articles and editor of numerous works, including *Hans Fallada: Forever on the Slide. Correspondence with Rowohlt Verlag.* His work on Fallada has led him on exciting new paths for decades, and since 2019, he has also been chairman of the Hans Fallada Society.

»And there was this young woman, now undoubtedly a widow, twenty-three years old, and she had polished fingernails and painted her lips purple to mourn.« HANS FALLADA



Michael Töteberg Fallada's Last Love Fiction. 338 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2021, November

»Never before have we seen the last months of this weak but gifted author described in such detail, so impressively and so touchingly as here.« SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

»Michael Töteberg's novel is a profound, honest view of a genius who could see and describe the world like no other. But this can't save him – Hans Fallada died in 1947. He lives on forever in his books – and in this book.« NDR Kultur



»We need to carry on despite everything«

While listening to the radio, the narrator finds out about the violent death of the famous British war photographer Tim H. in Libya. Not long before, she was travelling with him as a journalist in civil-war-stricken Liberia. This is an opportunity to tell his story, about his life and his death, but also about her own experiences in every corner of the world – Afghanistan and the jungle of Papua New Guinea, Inner Mongolia and the Caucasus, the heights of the Himalayas and the journey to Liberia. Her narrative includes images and descriptions of the world that the international reporters deliver to the media houses in Hamburg and Manhattan – images that depict our global present. Her reporting in images and text is subject to aesthetic and economic constraints that attest to the state of the world and the crisis in western civilization.

In *In Dschungeln. In Wüsten. Im Krieg.*, Gabriele Riedle gives a woman a voice in a thoroughly male genre. She calls her book »A Kind of Adventure Novel« and thus playfully hints at a tradition that she is leaving behind.

Gabriele Riedle has more than 20 years of experience as a reporter herself. However, *In jungles. In deserts. In war* is original prose, and artistic literature far removed from journalistic realism. She combines the reflections of her first-person narrator and her personal experiences in a meandering stream of consciousness in sweeping lyrical sentences. And it wouldn't be a true Gabriele Riedle novel if the journeys through space and time didn't also guide us through an array of world literature, pervaded by Hegel's »world spirit«.



Gabriele Riedle
In Jungles. In Deserts. In War.
A Kind of Adventure Novel
Fiction. 280 pp.
Die Andere Bibliothek. Hardcover
2022, March

As a journalist, the narrator travelled to all continents of the world. Now she says goodbye to a world that was once her own.



»Don't you have any dreams – wild and gentle, while you sleep between two tough days?« Anna Seghers

It's hard to find a year in which Anna Seghers did not write a short story. She mastered so many tones of voice and used the short prose form more continuously than any of her contemporaries – a direct literary response to the changing circumstances in the world. The texts and themes range from the Weimar Republic, the global economic crisis and the Nazis' seizure of power, to flight and exile in the Second World War, her return to Germany, the emergence of two German nations, the Berlin Wall being built and far into the late GDR.

Today, her masterly stories are more relevant than ever and should not only encourage people to rediscover Seghers' delightful work, but should also carry on her message of the power of supposedly weak people.

Anna Seghers (1900-1983) was born Netty Reiling in Mainz, Germany, into a Jewish family. As Jew, a Communist and a revolutionary writer, she was blacklisted in Nazi Germany and left for France in 1933 with her family. After the Nazi invasion in 1940, she was forced to flee. She and her family travelled from Marseilles to New York. When they were denied immigration in the U. S. they continued their journey to Mexico. Seghers gained international recognition with her novels *Transit* (1944) and *The Seventh Cross* (1942), which became a bestseller and has been translated into more than thirty languages.

»Seghers was concerned with major questions, and she pursued those questions in her fiction relentlessly. What does fascism do to a person's soul? she asks again and again. . . . Seghers' stories are also moving and deeply intelligent. « KIRKUS REVIEWS



Anna Seghers

Don't You Have Any Dreams?

Stories. 336 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2022, April

A compilation of the most significant short stories in a single volumen

Full English translation available

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:



Anna Seghers
The Seventh Cross
Fiction. 440 pp.
First published in 1942

Full English translation available

RIGHTS SOLD:

English US (The New York Review of Books), English UK (Virago Modern Classics/Little Brown), France (Mètailié), Italy (Neri Pozza), Netherlands (Cossee), Croatia (Bodoni), Spanish/Mexico (La Cifra), Sweden (Nilsson), Japan (Iwanami Shoten), Turkey (Everest)



A heartfelt view of life in East Germany

»I will never forgive you for this«, Uli says to his sister Elisabeth. What she has done to him is only revealed later. It is 1960 and the border between East and West Germany has already been closed, with West Berlin the only loophole. For Elisabeth, the GDR still represents the chance to build a more just society – despite frustrations with the system. And it is home. For Uli, her beloved brother, there seems no room for manoeuvre: he wants to leave for the West.

Siblings is the story of a beautiful relationship and the forces that threaten it when human emotion and ideology collide. Thanks to the honesty and the energy of her prose and her way of life, Brigitte Reimann captured the mood of a generation and became a cult figure in an increasingly rigid culture in the GDR.

Brigitte Reimann (1933–1973) was among the most significant East German writers. Like her heroines, she was spirited and outspoken. She believed passionately in socialism, yet never joined the party; stayed with her second husband, yet pursued a series of affairs. Though she clashed with the system, it needed her talent and she was consistently published. Her final novel *Franziska Lefthand* is the most mature of her works. It was an immediate bestseller in both East and West Germany. But it was the last novel she wrote before dying of cancer at the age of thirty-nine.



Brigitte Reimann

Siblings

First published in 1962

English sample translation available

Forgotten Gem Recommended by New Books in German

RIGHTS SOLD:

English UK (Penguin Classics) English US (Transit Books) Turkey (Is Kültür)

»The prominent GDR writer struck the nerve of her time. Despite all of the hostility, she lived a wild, non-conformist life. She used her position as an author to illuminate social problems critically but with emotion; she didn't idealize or sugarcoat anything; her writing was neither fussy nor moralistic.« BRIGITTE



What a discovery: Fallada's lost court records from 1926 – with unpublished stories

It was the turning point before he became a best-selling author: Hans Fallada had turned himself into the police in September 1925 following repeated cases of embezzlement in Northern Germany. He was then taken into custody. As he was an alcoholic with a morphine habit, a court-appointed doctor was assigned to assess the extent to which Fallada could be made accountable. This report was thought to be lost and has only recently been rediscovered. It is an extraordinary find: Not only has it brought new biographical details to light, but also a literary sensation – unpublished stories by Hans Fallada that do not shy away from topics that were considered taboo at the time.

The title character Lilly is an untamed girl. She simply wants to »play« with a young man again, but ends up losing control of the situation and is raped. She manages to stop anyone from finding out and is even able to keep her pregnancy and abortion a secret. In the end, she is admitted to a sanatorium, where she engages in a »duale« with an author ...

Rudolf Ditzen, writing under the pseudonym Hans Fallada (1893–1947), was, among other things, a potato specialist and administrator on various manor estates before his fourth novel, *Little Man*, *What Now?* (1932), turned him into an overnight star. He spent the Nazi era in seclusion on his estate in Carwitz as an »undesirable«, merely tolerated author. In 2011, his final book, *Alone in Berlin* (1947), became a huge success, making him once again an international best-selling author around 65 years after his death.



Hans Fallada
Lilly and Her Slave
With Unpublished Stories

Edited by Johanna Preuß-Wössner and Peter Walther Stories. 240 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2021, April

Sample translation available

RIGHTS SOLD: English World (Scribe)

Johanna Preuß-Wössner, Doctor of Forensic Medicine, runs the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel.

Peter Walther, a German philologist, published the highly acclaimed biography *Hans Fallada* in 2016 and the narrative non-fiction book *Fever. Universe Berlin*, 1930 – 1933 in 2020.



One of the Greatest Love Stories of All Times

1929, Cadaqués: Gala accompanies her husband, the poet Paul Éluard, to Spain. Paul needs to get away from it all in order to be able to write again - and here, the spouses also hope to get closer to one another again. When Gala is introduced to Salvador Dalí, ten years her junior, she finds his clumsy manner irritating. But the more time they spend together, the more he opens up to her. Gala feels a certain lightness filter back into her life. However, the budding love between these two does not go unnoticed, and Paul asks Gala to decide. With a heavy heart, she returns to Paris with him. When Salvador travels to France for his exhibition, they meet again. And this time, Gala takes the dare, she chooses a life at Salvador's side - and she is determined to ensure that all the world gets to see his art.

The moving love story of Gala and Salvador Dalí. From the first fateful meeting to Salvador Dalí's break-through as an artist with what is probably his most famous painting, The Persistence of Memory.

Sylvia Frank is the pseudonym of a successful German author duo living on the island of Rügen. Sylvia Vandermeer, born in 1968, is a qualified businesswoman. She also studied Biology, Psychology and Fine Art. Today she works as a freelance author and painter. Frank Meierewert, born in 1967, has a PhD in Ethnology, and has worked as a freelance author since 2008. They are already working on the story of two other famous lovers: Leonhard Cohen and Marianne Ihlen, the woman who inspired him to write his best songs. So long, Marianne – Leonard Cohen and the Love of his Life is forthcoming for autumn 2022.



Sylvia Frank

Gala and Dalí

Gala and Dali

Fiction. 440 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2022, February

English sample translation available

RIGHTS SOLD:

Bulgaria (Emas) Hungary (Kossuth) Estonia (Varrak) Romania (Nemira) Czech Republic (Euromedia)

The first book of our new series called >Lovers between art and freedom < about couples, whose courage and devotion leave us amazed – in art as in life.

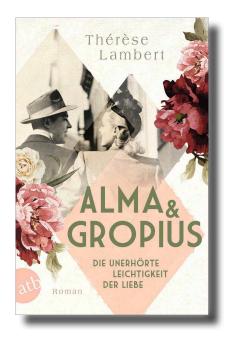


A unique, passionate love

Austria, 1910: Alma is married to Gustav Mahler, who forbids her from composing her own music and playing the piano. When she meets the young architect Walter Gropius during a stay at a sanatorium, it is love at first sight. When Mahler dies, there is no longer anything standing in their way. However, jealousy and exuberant passion prevent them from being together – until Gropius returns from the war, lighly injured and seriously traumatized. They get married, and Gropius values Alma as a brilliant muse and supporter as he develops into one of the greatest architects of the modern age; she hopes to finally find emotional security with him. But then Gropius has to go back to the front. Can their love withstand the cruel severity of war?

The moving love story between the greatest femme fatale of her time and the founder of the Bauhaus movement.

Thérèse Lambert is the pseudonym of author Ursula Hahnenberg, who grew up in Munich and now lives in Berlin with her family. Having four brothers and later studying forest science, she learnt from an early age to hold her own as a woman amongst men. Because of this in particular, she has a special passion for strong women like Alma Mahler or Lou Andreas-Salomé, who she wrote about in her novel *The Rebel* (2021, also Aufbau).



Thérèse Lambert
Alma and Gropius
The Unbearable Lightness of Love
Fiction. 400 pp.
Aufbau. Hardcover
2022, April

»I know that in the outside world, men have to puff their chests, while at home they want to relax. This is what women have to deal with.

But not me!«

»Every person can do anything, but they also have to be ready for anything.«



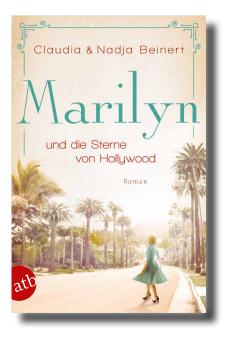


From an orphan to the greatest legend of our time - the highly emotional story of a world star

Los Angeles, 1942: Norma's childhood is lonely. Her haven is the cinema, where Hollywood actresses are so much more confident than she is. Her arranged marriage means that she is forced to give up her dream of becoming a star herself. Nevertheless, Jim becomes her first love and awakens her sensuality. Then a photographer wants to make her a famous model. Norma comes alive in front of the camera and any insecurities are forgotten. And suddenly she knows for sure that she belongs in the spotlight – that's the only thing that makes her happy. But first she has to emancipate herself from the prudish rules of her time in order to become who she is to this day: Marilyn Monroe, the greatest icon of our time.

This well-researched novel tells the moving story of how Norma Jeane Baker became Marilyn Monroe.

Nadja Beinert and Dr. Claudia Beinert are twin sisters who were born and raised in Staßfurt. Both studied international management. Before Claudia turned her passion for historical novels into a profession, she held a professorship in financial management. She lives and writes in Leipzig. Nadja Beinert's home is in Erfurt. The youngest of the twin sisters has been working in the film industry for several years.



Claudia and Nadja Beinert

Marilyn and the Stars of Hollywood

Fiction. 480 pp.

atb. Quality Paperback

2022, May

RIGHTS SOLD:

Italy (Giunti/pre-empt), Hungary (Kossuth) Netherlands (Brandt), Spain (PRH) Portugal (Planeta), Poland (ZNAK) Slovenia (Ucila), Estonia (Tänapäev) Bulgaria (Emas)

»I've never fooled anyone. I've let people fool themselves. They didn't bother to find out who and what I was.« MARILYN MONROE

She discovered a new world – Maria Sibylla Merian

1691: After divorcing her irascible husband, Maria Sibylla Merian moves to Amsterdam. She learnt the skill of copper engraving at an early age, and now she wants to lead an independent life as an artist and fulfil her dream – a trip to South America to explore the fascinating variety of caterpillars and butterflies in the tropical rainforest. She frantically makes contacts and looks for financiers. Travelling overseas is a big risk for a single woman, but Maria is used to asserting herself among men and crossing boundaries. And so she sets off on her journey to distant Suriname – and on the greatest adventure of her life.

The story of a daring woman in breathtaking scenery – Amsterdam in the heyday of the Golden Age and dazzling, colourful South America

Alexander Schwarz, born in Stuttgart in 1964, studied Modern German Literature, Medieval Studies, Linguistics and Political Science in Freiburg before moving to the Netherlands while he was still a student. He has lived there since 1990, with a six-year stay in Iceland. He worked as a publisher for twenty years. Today he is a freelance literary agent, photographer and has been writing books for more than twenty-five years.



Alexander Schwarz
The World Explorer
Maria Sibylla Merian – The Greatest
Naturalist of her Time
Fiction. 400 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2022, July

Maria Sibylla Merian – the greatest natural scientist of her time and her immeasurable longing for freedom



Art is her passion, Franz Marc the love of her life

Maria studies painting, but is still trying to find her own artistic path when she meets Franz Marc, who is four years her junior. Franz inspires her. He helps her rediscover herself – as a painter and as a lover. Together with other artists they found *The Blue Rider* (»Der Blaue Reiter«) in Munich. Then Franz is enlisted in the First World War and is killed. Maria's world comes crashing down. Full of grief, she believes she will never be able to paint again and devotes herself entirely to his estate. But then she remembers his true legacy: her confidence as an artist and as a woman, which he always encouraged. And so she takes a chance on a radical new beginning.

The story of a great painter and the famous group of artists known as *The Blue Rider*. With Wassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc, Gabriele Münter and many other representatives of Expressionism.

Heidi Rehn, born in 1966, studied German and History in Munich and has been writing full-time for many years. In Munich, she offers literary walks on the themes of her novels, in which she combines fictional events with history in an impressive manner. Her novel *The Magician's Daughter* about *Erika Mann* and her crime series about Emil Graf and Billa Löwenfeld have been published by Aufbau in paperback.



Heidi Rehn
The Woman Behind The Blue Rider
Maria Marc and the Colours of Love
Fiction. 382 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2022, August

Maria Marc dedicated her life to art: to her own and to Franz Marc's



Dora Maar and Pablo Picasso – a passionate love as special as their art

Paris, 1936: Dora is a successful photographer at the centre of the Surrealist world of André Breton and Man Ray. The eccentric young woman then meets Pablo Picasso – and a love both passionate and abysmal ignites between the two. Dora's dark sensuality shapes Picasso's paintings from then on and inspires his first political works – most notably *Guernica*. But he cannot accept another artist by his side, and Dora's creative development starts to stagnate. Their arguments become more and more intense. Until Picasso meets the younger Françoise Gilot – and Dora has to find her way back to art to bury her love ...

A gripping novel about Picasso's only love, who herself was an extraordinary photographer and painter, researched exceptionally by a renowned author.

Bettina Storks, born near Stuttgart in 1960, is an author with a PhD in Literature. She lives near Lake Constance. Her novels unite her enthusiasm for fascinating female figures, her high standards for thorough research and her love of France. She visited Dora Maar's house during a trip to Ménerbes, and began looking into her life and work. She discovered much more than just Picasso's *Weeping Woman* – she discovered a multifaceted artist who was emancipated, much sought-after and renowned for her artistic legacy.



Bettina Storks

Dora Maar and the Two Sides of Love Picasso is Her Life,

Art is Her Passion

Fiction. 414 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, June

Sample translation available

RIGHTS SOLD:

Poland (Marginesy), Serbia (Laguna) Estonia (Varrak), Lithuania (Alma Littera) Bulgaria (Emas)

A dark, heart-wrenching love between two great artists



»Which of all my important nothings shall I tell you first?« Jane Austen

Jane Austen is twenty years old, the educated daughter of a reverend and most enjoys spending her evenings at her bureau, putting to paper all the stories and characters that run through her mind day and night. But no matter how much her family supports her, no publisher wants to publish her texts. Wouldn't it be more sensible to look for a husband? However, she seems to be denied the same happiness enjoyed by her protagonists. Jane continues to fight for her dream of becoming a writer. Because who should be allowed to determine if she is truly happy – society or herself?

A great novel about the fascinating life of a unique woman, feminist and icon of English literature.

Catherine Bell is the alias used by author and journalist Kerstin Sgonina to delve into the lives of fascinating women. She has loved Jane Austen since she devoured her complete works during the early summer heat on a balcony in Berlin, not even noticing the muggy air, the rattling of the underground and the passing traffic. Today she lives just outside of Berlin in Brandenburg with her family and strives every year to turn the earth there into an English cottage garden – usually with modest success.



Cathrine Bell

Jane Austen and the Art of Words

Fiction. 384 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, December

English sample translation available

RIGHTS SOLD:

Hungary (Kossuth) Czech Reoublic (Dobrovsky) Poland (Marginesy) Brazil (Tordesilhas)

Astute, clever and well ahead of her time: Jane Austen's work has been inspiring people all over the world for generations

»I could do what I wanted, whether people liked it or not.« NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE

New York, 1947. Seventeen-year-old Niki de Saint Phalle is the enfant terrible of her family. When she is discovered by a photographer, she seems to have the world at her feet. She frees herself from her golden cage and runs away with Harry, the Navy soldier. However, the happiness of the young couple is spoiled all too quickly, because even when Niki moves to France with Harry and their daughter, she cannot escape the past. In her darkest hour she finds new courage in art. Provocative and full of destructive power, her work excites the world of art – but to be able to devote herself to it, she has to make a difficult decision...

With Swiss artist Jean Tinguely by her side, she finally becomes world famous: her colourful, larger-than-life 'Nanas' are the epitome of femininity and joie de vivre.

Pia Rosenberger was born near Osnabrück and studied art history, literary studies and education after training as a hand weaver in Stuttgart. She has lived with her family in the medieval city of Esslingen for over 20 years and works as an author, journalist, museum educator and city guide. When she is not writing historical novels or thrillers, she is occupied with her garden, nature, yoga and her flute.

The story of an artist who rebelled against all the rules – told knowledgeably and emotionally



Pia Rosenberger

The Women's Artist
Niki de Saint Phalle – She dreams of
freedom and conquers the world with
her Nanas

Fiction. 384 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2022, January

RIGHTS SOLD:

Italy (Neri Pozza)

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:



Pia Rosenberger

The Sculptress

Camille Claudel breaks new ground with Rodin, but their love is on the brink of failure

Fiction. 352 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, April

English material available

RIGHTS SOLD:

Italy (Neri Pozza / pre-empt) Hungary (Kossuth)



»I want everything from life.« SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

Paris, 1929: Simone de Beauvoir starts rebelling at a young age – she wants to be more than just the daughter of a good family. She wants to lead a free, independent life, and she wants to write. She then meets Jean-Paul Sartre, *enfant terrible*, genius and soon to be her lover. They make a pact to safeguard their love and sexual freedom. Together they shape the philosophy of existentialism and form the core of Bohemian Paris. But, for a long time, Simone is unable to achieve her dream of becoming a writer – no book publisher wants to read such astute texts written by a woman. And she also has to fight for her relationship with Sartre – free love comes at a high price.

Caroline Bernard narrates the life of daring thinker Simone de Beauvoir as one woman's thrilling journey of discovery and a unique and beautiful love story. A life full of love affairs at the centre of Bohemian Paris with Albert Camus, Lucian Freud, Ernest Hemingway and many more.

Caroline Bernard is the pseudonym of Tania Schlie, a literary scholar who has worked as a freelance author and editor for twenty years. She has previously published eleven novels and about as many non-fiction books on cultural-historical topics. She loves coming up with stories about strong women. Through Simone de Beauvoir, Caroline Bernard makes a very special connection: only after reading de Beauvoir's analysis of the woman's role in our world did she have the courage to question traditions and make uncomfortable decisions – and to begin writing.



Caroline Bernard
The Woman from Montparnasse
Simone de Beauvoir and the Search
for Love and Truth

Fiction. 444 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, February

RIGHTS SOLD:

Brazil (Tordesilhas) Netherlands (Orlando) Hungary (Kossuth) Bulgaria (Emas) Italy (Tre60) Estonia (Varrak)

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:



Caroline Bernard Frido Kahlo and the Colours of Life

Fiction. 400 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2019, September

RIGHTS SOLD:

Netherlands, Hungary, Brazil, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Portugal, Latvia, Denmark





Romy Schneider – the greatest actress of her time

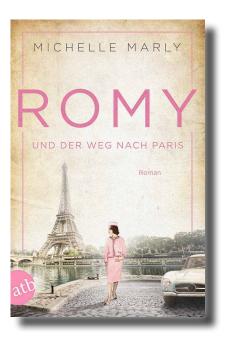
Paris, 1958. A young Romy Schneider starts to rebel: instead of allowing herself to be confined to her sweet *Sissi* image, she wants to develop her skills as an actress. She then falls in love with rebellious young actor Alain Delon – and follows him to France. While the German public is seething with anger, Romy makes the most of her freedom in Paris. Her career, however, comes to a halt – until Luchino Visconti makes her an offer she can't refuse. But will she be able to survive her first major role on the stage – in French? On Visconti's recommendation, she meets Coco Chanel, and an intense friendship soon develops. And thanks to Coco's advice, Romy transforms into that elegant style icon that shines under Visconti's direction and becomes the *grande dame* of French cinema. Meanwhile, her relationship with Alain enters a state of crisis . . .

A wonderful novel about a unique and fascinating woman and her search for her path as an artist, as a lover – and for herself.

Michelle Marly is the pseudonym of a bestselling German author who grew up in the world of cinema and music. For many years she lived in Paris, but today she lives with her husband and dog in Berlin and Munich. Rights to her bestselling novel *Mademoiselle Coco and the Scent of Love* were sold to 21 countries. The novel spent months on the best-seller list, selling more than 240,000 copies.

»I want to be very French in nature — in how I live, how I sleep and how I dress.«

»There are three people who have changed my life: Alain, Visconti and Coco Chanel.«



Michelle Marly
Romy and the Road to Paris

Fiction. 415 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, April

RIGHTS SOLD:

France (Fleuve)
Poland (Marginesy)
Hungary (Kossuth)
Bulgaria (Emas)
Italy (Giunti)

PREVIOUS PUBLICATION:



Michelle Marly
The Diva: Maria Callas - The
Greatest Singer of her Age
Fiction. 432 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback

RIGHTS SOLD:

2020, February

Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Serbia The Netherlands, France, Spain, Czech Republic, Denmark



Grace Kelly is an icon: muse, star and a woman of unconditional love

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

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

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

»A great novel about the iconic Grace Kelly: muse, star and unconditional lover.« Buch-Magazin



Sophie Benedict

The Grace of Love

Novel. 448 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2020, May

RIGHTS SOLD:

Spain (Planeta)
Italy (Giunti / pre-empt)
Hungary (Kossuth)
Serbia (Laguna)
Czech Republic (Albatros)
Portugal (Planeta)
Estonia (Tänapäev)
Slovenia (Ucila)

To the world, Grace Kelly was a star – but then love demanded a high price



A woman between Hollywood glamour and ingenious inventive talent

Vienna, 1937: The Jewish actress Hedwig manages to flee from her unconscionable husband with a spectacular escape. In America, she becomes an overnight star as Hedy Lamarr and, thanks to her beauty, also a Hollywood style icon. Men would do anything to be with her – but nobody cares what she has to say. Once filming is over, Hedy pursues her great passion: inventing. In order to contribute to the overthrow of Hitler, she develops a technology that will later lay the foundation for Bluetooth. But nobody takes the idea of such a beautiful woman seriously, and the patent remains unused. She then meets a British man named John, who becomes her great love...

A wonderful novel about the little-known story of the uniquely courageous and intelligent actress who was considered the 'most beautiful woman in Hollywood' and who at the same time invented a remote control for torpedoes patented in 1942, a technology that laid the foundation for the WLAN and Bluetooth we use today.

Charlotte Leonard is a pseudonym for Christiane Lind, who for years has been accumulating a small library on Hollywood's golden era and on the extraordinary lives of courageous women who are often misunderstood by their environment. In this novel, she was able to combine her two passions for the first time – Hedy Lamarr embodies the glamour of Hollywood like no other, as well as the conflicts with which a beautiful and intelligent woman had to struggle.



Charlotte Leonard

A Daring Woman

Hedy Lamarr – She shines in the glamour of Hollywood, and her invention changes the world

Novel. 400 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2022, January

RIGHTS SOLD:

Hungary (Kossuth)
Czech Republic (Dobrovsky)

Series about Hedy Lamarr on AppleTV+ in the works

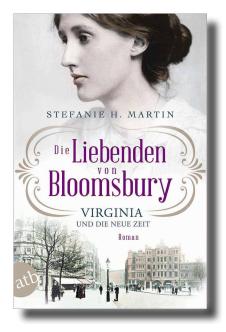
The first instalment of the great saga about the women of Bloomsbury

London, 1904: In order to escape the intrusiveness of their stepbrother, sisters Vanessa and Virginia start a flat share in Bloomsbury, which becomes a haven of intellectual freedom. The extraordinarily beautiful sisters and their sophisticated friends soon cast off the Victorian constraints. The highly intelligent Virginia, who repeatedly suffers from emotional crises, only wants one thing: to write. And she wants to do this in a way that is appropriate for the new era. But being a writer is next to impossible for women, and so she has to look for a husband, which she finds in Leonard Woolf. And as unromantic as their marriage begins, it offers Virginia not only a life dedicated to literature, but also to love...

Virginia has strived her entire life for happiness and to find her literary voice. Her brilliant wit and open view of the world make her one of the most important authors of the modern age. A novel that is as surprising as it is thrilling about an icon of literary modernism and the women's movement. Excellently researched, grippingly narrated.

Stefanie H. Martin is the pseudonym of Stefanie Hohn, who works as a lecturer in literary translation and creative writing and did her doctorate on Charlotte Brontë. Even as a student, she was fascinated by the >Bloomsberries<, with their dazzling influence on the transition to the modern age, but also as a group of young people who revolted against the narrow-minded moral views of their time. Her interest in the often conflicted lives of artists and writers ultimately led her to start writing herself.

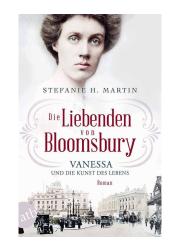
»He who robs us of our dreams robs us of our life.« Virginia Woolf



Stefanie H. Martin The Lovers of Bloomsbury Virginia and the New Age Fiction. 500 pp. Aufbau. Hardcover 2022, June

RIGHTS SOLD: Hungary (Kossuth)

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS:





Stefanie H. Martin Vanessa and the Art of Life 2022, December

Stefanie H. Martin Vita and the Garden of Love 2023, June



Käthe Kruse: Artist, Lover, Mother, Entrepreneur

Berlin, 1900: A young Käthe falls in love with artist Max Kruse, and they have a little daughter together. One day, Käthe sews a doll for her. She recognises that she has talent and throws herself into work, creating more and more beautiful dolls. When the Hermann Tietz department store wants to sell them, Käthe is proud – but she wants more. She receives a large order from America, and starts her own doll factory in a town in Lower Saxony. But her happiness is clouded because she feels that she and Max are growing further and further apart. Then the First World War breaks out and the future of Käthe's company is at stake.

Julie Peters depicts the most famous doll maker in the world with all her facets and discrepancies in an excellently researched novel. The second tome of this mini-series is planned for publication in November 2022 under the title *Käthe Kruse and the Children's Happiness*.

Julie Peters, born in 1979, worked as a bookseller and studied history before devoting herself entirely to writing. Aufbau has already published numerous successful novels of hers, most recently the mini-series *The Village Doctor – A New Beginning* and *The Village Doctor – Paths of Change*.



Julie Peters
Käthe Kruse and the Children's Dream
Fiction. 400 pp.
Aufbau. Quality Paperback
2022, June

The moving story of a fascinating woman who understood children's needs and took them seriously.



A tale of love and suffering – the story of two very different sisters

Northern Germany in the early 1930s. Sisters Emmi and Anni couldn't be more different – the older of the two is shy and thoughtful, and the younger of the two joyful and admired by everyone. Emmi is secretly in love with Emil, the factory owner's son from her village, but once he lays eyes on Anni, he falls in love with her almost immediately. The two get married, and suddenly Anni is the wealthy wife of a rich sugar manufacturer. But times are hard and business isn't doing so well. Anni soon falls pregnant, but then her home is hit by a sudden misfortune, and her sister Emmi feels that she has to do everything to save her sister, their child and her brother-in-law.

An opulent family saga about the women in a sugar factory who have to assert themselves in difficult times. Highly emotional and deeply authentic – based on the author's true family history

Sarah Lindberg is the pseudonym of successful young adult author Antje Szillat. In *The Factory Sisters*, she tells the story of her great aunt, who grew up near Hanover and worked her way up from a small family.



Sarah Lindberg

The Factory Owners – Sisterhood
Fiction. 408 pp.

Aufbau. Hardcover 2022, April



The destiny of a winemaker family on the Rhine

Wiesbaden, 1945: Henni is confronted by the ruins of her life. The winery specialising in sparkling wine set up by her grandfather was badly damaged during the war. Her husband is missing in Russia, and she is also tormented by fear for her youngest sister Bille. She was a nurse at the front, but there has been no sign of life from her for weeks. Henni's sister Lisbeth travels from Berlin, but their relationship is broken. Henni has to make a big sacrifice in order to save the winery. And, suddenly, Bille arrives unexpectedly, and it turns out that she's pregnant. When a fire breaks out in the winery, the future of the family business is at stake – this time for good.

The story of three courageous young women who are left to fend for themselves after the war and take their fate and the future of the family business into their own hands.

Linda Winterberg is the pseudonym of Nicole Steyer, a successful author of historical novels. She lives with her husband and their two daughters in the Taunus. Aufbau has already published numerous successful titles of hers, as well as the wonderful *Midwife Saga*.



Linda Winterberg
The Vineyard
A Sparkling New Era
Fiction. 400 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2022, January

RIGHTS SOLD:

Netherlands (HarperCollins) Hungary (Kossuth)

The first novel of the magnificent new saga by bestselling author
Linda Winterberg –
touching and authentic



The new family saga from number 1 bestselling author Ulrike Renk – based on a true story

Berlin, late 19th century. They call him 'Merlin' because he enchants everyone — the man her brother introduces to her as his friend. Paula Oppenheimer, who grew up in an openly Jewish household, immediately falls in love with Richard Dehmel, a young poet. And Richard also falls in love with this clever young woman, who becomes the best critic of his works and his muse. Her parents oppose the relationship; they find Richard too wild and unconventional. But Paula fights for her love, marries the poet against all warnings and soon falls pregnant. Richard has big plans — he socialises with many young writers and wants to live as an artist. He thinks little of loyalty and family. Paula begins to doubt whether Richard can make her happy in the long run — and she begins to write herself.

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

»I just had to tell Paula's story!« Ulrike Renk





Ulrike Renk
A Family in Berlin
Paula's Love. Volume 1
Fiction. 501 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2021, August

English material available

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS:





Ulrike Renk
A Family in Berlin
Ursula and the colours of hope
Fiction. 501 pp.
2022, February

Ulrike Renk A Family in Berlin Ulla and the Path of Love Fiction. 501 pp. 2022, August



Sweets, love and revolution – the beginning of a new saga

Cologne, 1838. Anna Sophia loves helping out her father in the pharmacy. She's also proud of her own creation: delicious cough drops. When she is courted by her father's assistant August, her future also seems secure. She will marry him and he will take over the pharmacy. But suddenly her father suffers from a mysterious illness. Does August want her father to die in order to take over the pharmacy sooner? Meanwhile, Franz Stollwerck, the grocer's son from the neighbouring street, returns from his hike through Europe to open up a bakery in Cologne. He has been in love with her since childhood, and now asks for her hand in marriage. Anna Sophia faces a difficult choice.

Inspired by a true story: the grand beginning of a colourful saga about the Stollwerck family from Cologne and the rise of their famous chocolate empire – excellently researched and richly narrated.

Rebekka Eder, born in Kassel in 1988, studied theatre and German studies in Berlin, Erlangen and Bern and published her first novels at the same time. After working as a copywriter and journalist, she eventually focused entirely on her passion. She lives and writes in Northern Hesse.

She loves sweets and came across the name Stollwerck while snacking – and when she began researching, she was captivated by these fascinating family stories. The second tome of *The Chocolate Factory Saga* is planned for publication in spring 2022 under the title *The Secret of the Inventress*.



Rebekka Eder
The Chocolate Factory
The Pharmacist's Daughter

Fiction. 614 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, September

RIGHTS SOLD:

Netherlands (Nieuw Amsterdam/pre-empt) Hungary (Central)

»A wonderful book full of linguistic poetry and tension that stayed with me for a long time after reading it. The stories of the characters are cleverly intertwined. Before you know what is happening, you are drawn into the dark, mysterious, seething Cologne of the 19th century.« MIRIAM GEORG, AUTHOR



The bestselling Nivea Saga – authentic and moving

The saga begins with pharmacist Oscar Troplowitz' return to Poznan where he worked in a pharmacy as a trainee before finishing school in his hometown Wroclaw. When he and Gerda, his former boss' daughter, meet again, it soon becomes clear that they make a great couple. Then a unique business opportunity arises and Oscar Troplowitz takes over the Beiersdorf laboratories. Within just a short period of time, he turns them into a large-scale industrial operation with its own factory premises. And, of course, he is not alone on his journey – Gerda follows him to Hamburg and marries him.

Lena Johannson embeds the fascinating true story of the Troplowitz couple in a gripping and moving plot told from the perspective of three very different women: fictitious worker Antonia, known as Toni, joins the company. Here she has to fight for her place in a world of business dominated by men. And painter Irma also plays an important role. She helps Gerda organise art salons where she exhibits her own paintings – shocking works whose creator the two women initially keep a secret.

Lena Johannson, born in Reinbek, near Hamburg, in 1967, was a bookseller before becoming a freelance author. She lives close to the Baltic Sea. The history of Hamburg and especially its warehouse district with its old trading offices have fascinated her ever since she was a little girl. Her passions include writing, travelling – and chocolate, of course. At Aufbau she also published her *Elbchaussee Saga* about the fate of a Hamburg based family of chocolate traders and manufacturers. It was a Spiegel bestseller and is currently translated to Spanish and Italian.





Lena Johannson
The Women of the Esplanade
Gerda's Decision

Fiction. 423 pp. atb. Quality Paperback 2021, January

English material available

RIGHTS SOLD:

Italy (Tre60/pre-empt)
Netherlands (A.W. Bruna/pre-empt)

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS:





Lena Johannson
The Women of the Esplanade
Antonia's Hope
2021, August

Lena Johannson The Women of the Esplanade Irma's Secret 2022, January



»This house is full of old stories.«

Frankfurt, 1984: While her mother is in hospital, Pia is left to take care of the guesthouse by the North Sea. Pia doesn't want anything to do with it – the relationship with her mother is too difficult, marked by years of silence. Eventually, she drives there and is met by a crowd of summer guests – and a puzzling collection of broken dolls. When Pia finds a portrait of an unknown woman, she knows that she has to start asking questions. What is she to make of her mother's habit of taking in everything that is damaged? Over the course of the summer, more details from her mother's past come to light. And Pia becomes certain that her mother's behaviour is marked by war traumas and the attempt to make painful experiences disappear through silence.

A touching story about a troubled mother-daughter relationship, narrated in a sensitive and convincing way.

Monika Held grew up in Hamburg and Cuxhaven. She is a journalist and author and has worked for various broadcasters and magazines. Her reports have been awarded numerous prizes. She lives in Hamburg and North Frisia. Her novel *This place holds no fear* (2014) was translated to many languages.



Monika Held

The Summer of Dolls

Fiction. 280 pp.

Aufbau. Quality Paperback

»I know of only few authors who develop such a feeling for their characters and write such beautiful sentences.« Petra Hartlieb

2022, May

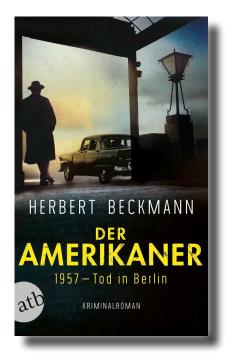


A young inspector during the Swinging '50s in Berlin

Inspector Jo Sturm actually has nothing to do with the homicide squad. His job is working on the less important missing persons cases. But when a well-known American architecture critic is murdered after the opening ceremony of the Congress Hall in Berlin, he is called in because he speaks English. Jo Sturm is tasked with keeping in touch with the American authorities in the city because the case is so volatile. The deceased person, who was born in Germany, attended the celebrations at the invitation of the German government, and they don't want news of the murder ending up in the press. Jo Sturm dives into the investigation immediately; he loves the American way of life, jazz, and American women like him too, which proves useful when doing research in bars and clubs.

But then his superior begins to constantly interfere with his work. And the CIA suddenly seems to take a keen interest in his investigations...

Herbert Beckmann, born in 1960, has published several books and radio programmes related to Berlin, where he has been living and working for 40 years. With the character >Jo Sturm<, this is first time he has written about the 1950s in Berlin.



Herbert Beckmann
The American
1957 - Death in Berlin
Crime Fiction. 416 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2022, March

A gripping crime novel set during the Cold War

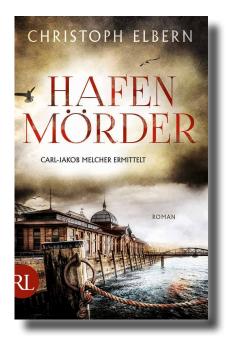


Hamburg, 1904: A bacteriologist investigates

In Hamburg, several men from high society are murdered in quick succession and marked with a symbol scratched on their foreheads. Because one of the victims was infected with cholera before he died, the young bacteriologist Carl-Jakob Melcher from the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg is called in to the investigation. The series of murders unsettles the city's residents.

The investigations take Carl-Jakob Melcher into Hamburg's underworld, which he has never experienced up-close before. He lives in the house of his uncle Heinrich Knudsen, a wealthy shipowner who is seriously ill and has only one last wish: he would like to have a new ship built for his shipping company. He wants to name it the >Marianne< after his daughter, who has passed away. Carl-Jakob tries to stand by his uncle as best he can, but he has to keep a secret. He has fallen head over heels in love with Clara, a maid in his uncle's house. He sneaks into her room almost every night. After his uncle's banker was also murdered, Carl-Jakob has a bad feeling. Could his uncle of all people be the next victim?

Christoph Elbern, born in 1960, studied German and English, worked for many years as a journalist and held managerial positions at various magazines. Since 2010, he has been running an agency specialising in corporate communications in Kassel. He has published many crime novels under the pseudonym Klaas Kroon. He lives in Hamburg.



Christoph Elbern
The Harbour Killer
Carl-Jakob Melcher Investigates
Crime Fiction. 430 pp.
Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback
2022, February

Early-20th-century Hamburg – dark, chaotic, murderous



A deadly idyll

Following an incident that turned his entire life upside down, thirty-four-year-old Erik Lange dares to start over again. He buys the bookshop on the market square of an idyllic small town. The residents give Erik a friendly welcome, and he settles in well. But then the daughter of one of his new friends disappears. Her parents are worried and call the police. Chief Inspector Judith Plattner, who doubts her criminal skills after a stroke of fate, takes over the investigation with her young colleague Pia Meyer. A large-scale search begins.

Erik also takes part in the search and helps the parents of the missing girl, and so do their befriended neighbours in Schönblick. At first, everyone is confident that they will find the child quickly, but the longer the search goes on, the more they lose hope. Instead, distrust grows when Judith and Pia find clues that someone close to the girl is responsible for her disappearance. The mood in Schönblick is becoming increasingly volatile. And then Erik becomes a suspect...

Petra Johann, born in 1971, grew up in the Ruhr region and now lives in Bavaria. She has a PhD in Mathematics and worked in the software industry for several years before finding her true vocation – killing people, even if only on paper. Reading her thriller *The Woman from the Beach* (2021) is like a swim in the pounding sea – cold shivers guaranteed.



Petra Johann

The Bookseller

Thriller. 430 pp.

Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback
2022, March

RIGHTS SOLD: Italy (Newton Compton)

A fast-paced thriller about a small town that threatens to be destroyed in a whirlpool of rumours, lies and violence

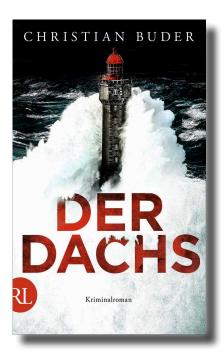


Brittany – Harsh and murderous

Two dead bodies are washed up on the coast of northern Brittany: refugees from the notorious camp in Calais known as 'The Jungle'. What initially looks like a routine case for Ronan Prat from the Maritime Gendarmerie turns into a political case when a missing sailing ship with more dead people is located underwater. Despite warnings from the secret service, Ronan Prat decides to dive to the ship to secure evidence. He barely escapes an attack underwater. But that's not all: during further investigations, Ronan discovers parts of his own story that he would have liked to forget.

A gripping thriller and social novel in times when organised crime takes place on the open stage of politics

Christian Buder was born in 1968 in Memmingen. He first studied Business, then Philosophy in Marburg, Paris and Chicago. He works as a freelance author and lives with his wife and daughter in Brittany. In addition to two crime novels, Aufbau has published his non-fiction book *Swimming Without Getting Wet. How to Be Happy with Philosophy*.



The Badger
Fiction. 448 pp.
Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback
2021, March

Authentic and full of real characters – Brittany like you've never experienced it before

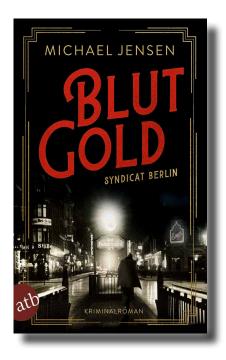
Christian Buder

Berlin Syndicate – The history of the legendary criminal gang »Sass«

Berlin after the First World War. Gambling, illegal betting, schnapps distilleries and a little cocaine – this is what the Sass brothers' business looks like. But on one of their night tours, brothers Max and Franz involuntarily witness a murder in the prestigious Hotel Adlon. They only just manage to hide in the adjoining room of the young Countess Romanowa. The perpetrator is obviously a communist. The man who was murdered was an officer of a right-wing paramilitary group. So it seems like an easy case for police commissioner Paul Konte from the headquarters at Alexanderplatz, Berlin. And the Sass brothers end up in a dangerous tangle of politics, betrayal and murder.

The investigation threatens to end in disaster for them – until their long-lost Aunt Antonia shows up and takes matters into her own hands. With her help, not only do the Sass brothers manage to escape trouble for the time being, but it is also the beginning of a unique and successful career in crime that not only attracts the attention of the police, but also powerful, envious people.

Michael Jensen was born in northern Germany in 1966. He lives with his family in Hamburg and Flensburg. His main job is as a doctor and therapist. He has compiled his professional experiences in two non-fiction books. He is particularly interested in the long-term psychological effects of the Second World War, especially in the descendants of the victims and perpetrators. He chose a pseudonym for his literary writing.



Michael Jensen

Blood Gold

Berlin Syndicate

Crime Fiction. 462 pp.
atb. Quality Paperback
2022, January

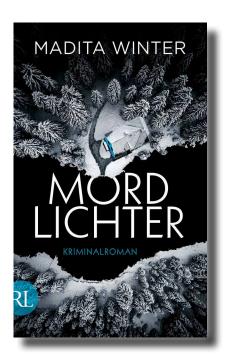
Gripping and based on true events – how the most famous criminals of the Weimar Republic era caused an uproar throughout Berlin

An investigator in the Arctic Circle

Anelie Andersson moved from Stockholm to a small police station in the north of Sweden's Arctic Circle for love. To do so, she gave up her career as head of the homicide squad. With the exception of a brief, intense summer, the people live here in ice and snow almost all year round, and it often takes hours just to travel a few kilometres. Secretly, she longs for a big case – otherwise her station is at risk of being closed down. When a mother contacts her because her seventeen-year-old son is missing, Anelie gets to work as she usually would. A little later, the boy's body is found – he has been run over under mysterious circumstances. He was clearly being held prisoner somewhere. However, he was able to free himself – barely dressed – and then got into a fatal accident while on the run.

With the help of her husband, who knows his way around the wilderness like no other, Anelie digs deeper and deeper into the case. She finds that there have been more unexplained cases of missing persons in the area in recent years – and all point towards a similar pattern. Then two German tourists disappear...

Madita Winter is the name behind the author couple Madita and Stefan Winter, who actually live in seclusion on a peninsula in the northern Swedish wilderness. Madita is a German journalist and author and moved to near Jokkmokk four years ago to be with her husband. It was there that the idea of using Lapland as a backdrop for a detective novel was born. The two used the long evenings to create and write *Murder Under the Northern Lights*. They are already working together on a second case.



Madita Winter

Murder Under the Northern Lights

Crime Fiction. 378 pp.

Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback
2021, November

An exciting plot with a unique setting: the far north of Sweden

Inka Ihmels

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