



# AUFBAU

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*Blumenbar*



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## The summer that belonged to me

For the first time, single mother Lisa spends a summer without her six-year-old son Paul. The days are suddenly endless and she struggles with her newfound freedom. What kind of woman is she if not a mother? Then Lisa rediscovers her grandfather's old violin, which she used to play often. But the instrument is in poor condition – much like how Lisa herself feels upon seeing her own body in the summer sun. In the violin maker's workshop, Lisa meets the fruit farmer Ute, who is on the verge of collapse due to the upcoming harvest and a serious illness. Amidst the lush splendor of her cherry orchard, the two women become unlikely friends. Lisa soon realizes that the question of who she is is closely linked to everything that her family has always kept silent about. And she experiences the irresistible magic of a summer between the abysses of the past, baskets full of ripe cherries, and a new, shimmering freedom.

A fluidly beautiful, profound novel by bestselling author Anne Stern.

**Anne Stern**, born in Berlin in 1982 holds a doctorate in German Studies and is a historian and bestselling author. She recently published the novels *Three Days in August* and *Lindy Girls* with Aufbau Verlag, and lives with her family in Berlin.



Anne Stern  
**When the Days Get Longer**  
 Fiction. 383 pages  
 Aufbau. Hardcover  
 2025, March

English sample translation available



Anne Stern  
**Three Days in August**  
 Fiction. 352 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, August

English sample translation available

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Netherlands, Jordan, Hungary

## The captivating debut from a young woman who holds her own between two worlds

“Lisolo” means to tell stories in Lingala. And Nadège Kusanika has many stories to tell: of her childhood in the Congo, of sweet potato leaves and mango with pilipili, of impenetrable fog and endless starry skies, of plastic sandals on eternally dusty earth. But she also has stories of hunger and poverty. And those of arriving in a foreign country, of adjusting to a different society: at the age of fifteen, she moves from the Democratic Republic of Congo to live with her father in Germany. By writing down her personal experiences and memories, Nadège Kusanika explores the depth to which these two worlds have influenced her life and the extent to which they have made her the person she is today.

With gentleness and humor, *Under the Same Sun* poses poignant questions about home and identity in the everyday experience of being a stranger. An evocative novel about family, growing up, and the search for oneself in our global world.

**Nadège Kusanika** was born in Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1988. Inspired by the book *Living, Writing, Breathing – An Invitation to Write* by Doris Dörrie, she began to write. She studied law in Würzburg and worked as a consultant in the field of data protection. She spends a lot of time cooking, travelling, being a mother – and writing. She lives with her family in Bonn.



Nadège Kusanika  
**Under the Same Sun**  
Fiction. 207 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2025, March

“What a brilliant debut! A tender, wild, sad, funny voyage to lands near and far – a true heroine’s journey!” DORIS DÖRRIE

“Catchy, simple, and beautiful prose that speaks of the essentials.” JULIA SCHOCH

“This is a story you can't make up” FRAU IM LEBEN

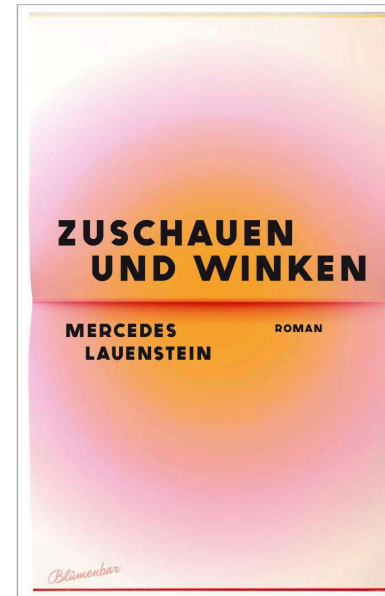


## Life, a temporary arrangement

The narrator is in love, but her partner is ill. Days of happiness are immediately followed by a crash – migraines, aching limbs, unclear symptoms, days in bed, all plans with friends called off. While her partner goes from doctor to doctor to find out what the matter is, the narrator tries to come to terms with the unclear, undefined, unknown, that characterizes her life. Her research diary on the cultural history of the moor becomes a journal of visits to the doctor and everyday oddities, a portrait of grief, happiness, and curiosity: how can you live if you can't plan?

Mercedes Lauenstein's new novel deals with chronic illness and the ways in which our society thinks about "healthy" bodies. With warmth and humor, she tells of the trials and tribulations faced by two young people who function differently than most. She writes about people's defense against unclear conditions and mysterious landscapes, about the eternal longing for simple explanations, and about what becomes possible if one only looks.

**Mercedes Lauenstein**, born in 1988, lives in Munich and Italy. In 2016 she was awarded the Bavarian Art Prize for her literary debut *Nights*. Her highly acclaimed novel *Blanca* followed in 2018. She was a writer in residence at Art Omi in New York, as well as a fellow of the Berlin Senate and the German Literature Fund. Together with Juri Gottschall, she runs *Splendido*. Her cookbooks of the same name have won numerous prizes.



Mercedes Lauenstein  
**Watching and Waving**  
 Fiction. 192 pages  
 Blumenbar. Hardcover  
 2025, February

"No other author has such a keen eye for the incredibly small and incredibly large things which make up our life." DANA VON SUFFRIN

"Mercedes Lauenstein defies powerlessness with beauty. A wise, inspiring, and comforting book." MICHELLE STEINBECK

"Even if it doesn't look like it at first, the infinitely sensitive narrator Mercedes Lauenstein has written a book about being together. A secret romance novel." DAVID WAGNER

"Mercedes Lauenstein observes small everyday curiosities and sheds a comical and heart-warming light on two people living together." COSMOPOLITAN

"A poetic book, a blessing in these noisy and rough times." TAGES-ANZEIGER

## A beautifully poignant mother-daughter story with poetic radiance

Upon the birth of her child, a young woman begins to look at the world differently. Words fade into the background, while love and fantasies of loss take hold of her. Only now does she realize how silent her mother and grandmother are in life. How they have neglected to tell their own stories. How questions about belonging and fractures constantly seep in. With a tactile precision she approaches these speechless riddles, sensually and unsparingly tracing their lives amidst the fog of their memories. After all, how can a child know where it is going if it does not know where it came from? Between reality and fantasy, the woman imagines her own life, remembers encounters full of omissions and discomfort, and speaks into a silence that roars. Everywhere she goes she encounters old wounds, a sense of duty and moving on, the question of belonging. In her new novel about three women, three mothers, and a new life, Paulina Czienskowski shows in cyclical gestures what it means to become an echo.

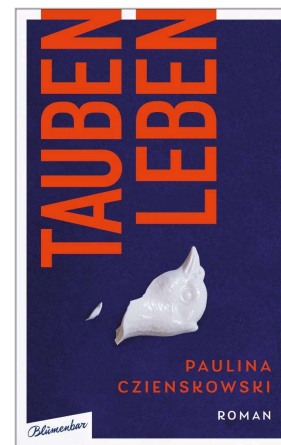
**Paulina Czienskowski** lives and works in Berlin, where she was born and raised. She publishes texts in *Die Zeit*, among others. In 2018, her collection of stories *Manifesto Against Emotional Stunting* was published by Korbini Verlag, followed by her debut novel *The Life of a Dove* published by Blumenbar, which was shortlisted for the EU Prize for Literature. This was followed by radio dramas for Deutschlandfunk Kultur and texts for the theatre. *The Moon Is Doing Well* is her second novel.

“Every child has a mother; every mother was once a child: Paulina Czienskowski turns these basic facts into tender, brutal, wide-awake poetry.” THERESIA ENZENSBERGER

“Thoughts, language like a newborn creature. Disarming, alluring, tactile. A different world, but one to which you feel connected down to your bones. Love of a text.” INGA MACHEL



Paulina Czienskowski  
**The Moon Is Doing Well**  
 Fiction. 192 pages  
 Blumenbar. Hardcover  
 2025, March

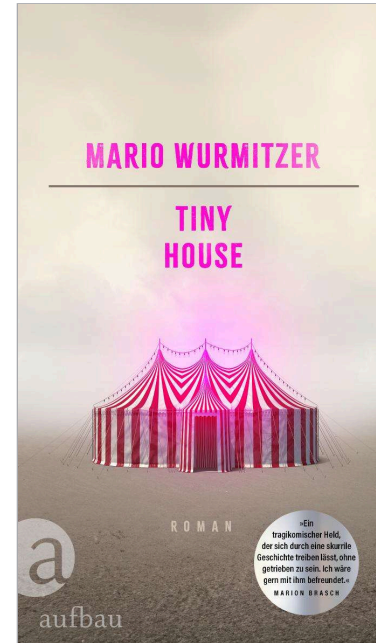


Paulina Czienskowski  
**The Life of a Dove**  
 Fiction. Ca. 224 pages  
 Blumenbar. Hardcover  
 2020, February

## The Truman Show goes Tiny House

Emil lives in a tiny house at the edge of a model housing estate. He gets paid to be filmed around the clock – the live stream is very popular. But when fires are started on the estate, the tiny house also goes up in flames. Emil is forced to reorient himself. Frenzied drinking experiences and economic scandals pave his way as he asks himself the big questions of being human: is (Austrian) coziness, which not infrequently results from considerable residual alcoholization, a breeding ground for opportunism and fascism? What promises of happiness does the property sector have in store for us? How does one escape law enforcement authorities? And what can and will we remember? Mario Wurmitzer tells this subversive story in a wonderfully biting and humorous manner. A modern adventure novel with a political punch.

**Mario Wurmitzer**, born in 1992 in Mistelbach (Lower Austria) writes theatre plays, novels, and short stories. His plays have premiered at the Schauspielhaus Vienna, Osnabrück Theatre, Kosmos Theatre Bregenz and Heilbronn Theatre, among others. He has received several awards and grants for his literary work, most recently the Floriana Literature Prize for *Tiny House* in 2024. He lives in Vienna.



Mario Wurmitzer  
**Tiny House**  
Fiction. 221 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2025, March

*“A tragicomic hero who lets himself drift through a bizarre story without being driven. I would like to have him as a friend.”* MARION BRASCH

*“An outstanding book. The absurdly realistic world of Mario Wurmitzer has hit potential!”*  
BARBI MARKOVIĆ

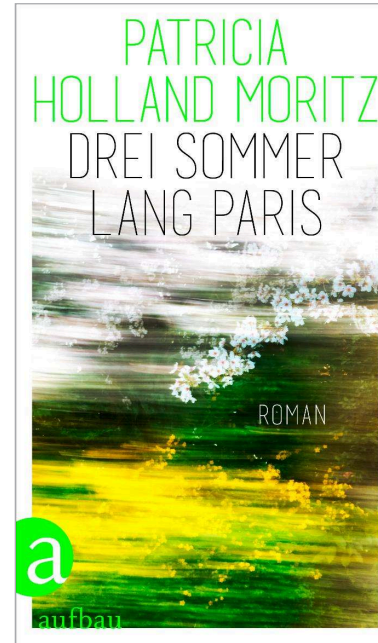


## 1989: Without money, without a plan – a young woman from East Germany conquers Paris

It is the summer of 1989 when the 21-year-old sits surrounded by pensioners on the train from Leipzig to Paris. She swaps her homeland for freedom, the narrow confines of the GDR for Paris, a city she only knows from books. It must be here, the vibrant life she seeks, full of world events – bring it on! With her head full of stories and a camera in her hand, the young woman throws herself right into the thick of it. Following in the footsteps of Hemingway, Apollinaire, and Rilke, she searches for the real Paris and finds it in the people she meets. A job in a haulage company, a small flat, the dream of true love – as Ulrike begins her new life, an era ends in her old homeland. Nothing is as certain as it seemed, and within Ulrike grows the desire to write her own story, to capture this summer.

Patricia Holland Moritz tells the story of a young woman from the East who conquers Paris and freedom, and gives the much-praised city a whole new lease on life.

**Patricia Holland Moritz** was born in Karl-Marx-Stadt – now Chemnitz. She worked as a bookseller in Leipzig, then left the GDR and worked as a haulage clerk in Paris. After a few semesters of North American studies, she became a booker for various bands, and then a writer. In addition to writing, she works for the SPD in Berlin-Lichtenberg and also helps the homeless there. In 2021, she published the novel *Kaßbergen* with Aufbau, which tells the story of Ulrike's upbringing in Karl-Marx-Stadt.



Patricia Holland Moritz  
**Paris for Three Summers**  
Fiction. Ca. 426 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2025, March



Patricia Holland Moritz  
**Kaßbergen**  
Fiction. 379 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2021, March

Only Hengameh Yaghoobifarah writes  
so fluidly, genuinely, and wittily  
about queer desire and identity

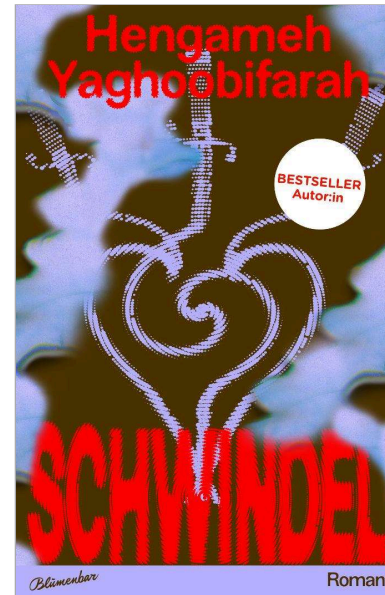
Friday evening, a high-rise building, 15th floor. Ava's date with Robin is going perfectly – until the doorbell rings and Ava's other lovers are at the door. Delia has left their cell phone in Ava's bedroom and wants to pick it up. Silvia, on the other hand, wants to confront Ava, because she's been ghosted for a week – now she finally wants to know what's really going on. The three of them meet for the first time in Ava's hallway. They knew about each other, but Ava only ever revealed the negative qualities of the other lovers to them.

Overwhelmed, Ava flees to the roof of the high-rise, and the others run after her. In their haste, no one brings keys or a cell phone – they wouldn't know who to call anyway, as the neighbors in the apartment complex are practically anonymous. So a date for two turns into a joint mission for four. The goal: to get down. But the way there is paved with conflict and revelations.

**Hengameh Yaghoobifarah** lives and works in Berlin. They have been a member of the editorial team at *Missy Magazine* since 2014. Between 2016 and 2022, their column *Habitus* appeared in *taz*. Together with Fatma Aydemir, Hengameh Yaghoobifarah published the highly-acclaimed essay collection *Your Homeland is Our Nightmare* in 2019. Yaghoobifarah's successful debut novel, *Ministry of Dreams*, was published in 2021.

"Hengameh Yaghoobifarah is a wonder of a writer." DIE ZEIT

"Nobody writes about queers as excitingly, cleverly and incredibly funny as Hengameh Yaghoobifarah. You literally inhale this novel, learn something like a new language and laugh your head off. Every page is so deliciously full of life." DANIEL SCHREIBER



Hengameh Yaghoobifarah  
**Dizzy**  
Fiction. Ca. 240 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2024, September

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
USA

**Recommended by New Books in German**

English sample translation available



Hengameh Yaghoobifarah  
**Ministry of Dreams**  
Fiction. 384 pages  
Blumenbar. Hardcover  
2021, February

English sample translation available

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
Czech Republic, Netherlands

## A novel told as swiftly as Tarantino's *Kill Bill*

In Cemile Sahin's new novel *Commando Ajax*, paintings that have been missing since a sensational art heist in Boston in 1990 mysteriously reappear, including precious works by old masters such as Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Degas. By chance, they end up in the hands of Ali Hüseyin Korkmaz, a roofer and gifted amateur painter. Ali Hüseyin fled Dêrsim, Kurdistan, with his siblings after their home went up in flames. Having barely arrived in exile in Rotterdam, nothing is the same for the family after a sniper at the youngest brother's wedding settles an old score and destroys a life. What follows is a chain of events that will land one of the brothers in prison and turn their sister Fatma into a premier cleaning lady. And Ali Hüseyin will prove his talent as a painter for a spectacular painting swap.

In the style of a fast-paced action film with quick cuts, Cemile Sahin brings together the story of a Kurdish family in exile with the jet-set lifestyle of the international art world and tells of betrayal, love, and friendship funnily, wittily, and coolly – as freshly and in tune with the times as only she can.

**Cemile Sahin** is an author and artist and was born in Wiesbaden in 1990. She studied in London and Berlin and is the recipient of the *ars viva* prize for Visual Arts. *Taxi* was her debut novel, *All Dogs Die* her second and *Commando Ajax* her third. Cemile Sahin has been awarded the Alfred Döblin Medal for her writing. She lives in Berlin.

"An artist everyone will soon be talking about." CAROLIN WÜRFEL

"Sahin combines pop and politics, approachability and artistic ambition." MISSY MAGAZINE



Cemile Sahin  
**Commando Ajax**  
Fiction. Ca. 352 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2024, September

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
Spain

**Nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize**



Cemile Sahin  
**All Dogs Die**  
Fiction. 239 pages  
Aufbau. Hardcover  
2020, September

Full English translation available

RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
UK



## What are you prepared to give for love?

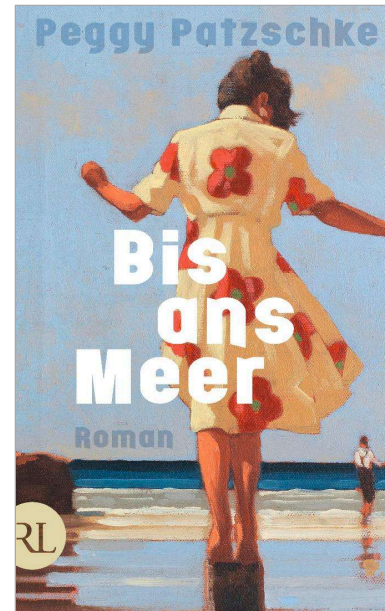
January 1945: Frieda must flee Silesia with her daughter overnight, wearing only the bare necessities and in freezing temperatures of minus 30 degrees. Her husband Karl is at the front. Frieda and he have promised to find each other again and to keep faith in their love – without realizing the price that Frieda would pay.

Decades later, her granddaughter wonders why she is unable to form the bonds she longs for. Where does this fear of closeness come from? Confronted with the news that she is expecting a child, she sets off in search of clues from her family history. What is the story behind the estrangement between her mother and grandmother Frieda, about whom she knows far too little? In the hope of finding answers to the painful gaps in her own life, she immerses herself in the dramatic fate of her grandmother. A story of great suffering, but also of great love.

A poignant novel about three women who must face the trials of love and life.

**Peggy Patzschke** was the radio voice of central Germany for over a decade. Today she works as an editor and presenter in front of and behind the camera for ARD, MDR, and 3sat. She also has a podcast. She lives in Leipzig, and this is her first novel.

“A captivating novel” F.F. DABEI



Peggy Patzschke  
**To the Sea**  
 Fiction. 445 pages  
 Rütten & Loening. Hardcover  
 2025, February

*A gripping novel based on true events*

## A woman and mother in resistance

In Berlin during the Nazi era, saying no is life-threatening. But Ruth writes it on the walls of the city at night: No. The young woman is against the regime, hides Jewish friends with her resistance group, steals food stamps, and distributes leaflets – including the last of the White Rose. Her daughter Karin is always at her side and bravely maintains the innocent facade. But when this threatens to crumble, Ruth must learn what it means not only to be a woman in the resistance – but also a mother.

A story about the unshakeable bond between mother and daughter and what it means to resist as a woman with a child. Excellently researched and impressively told.

**Thérèse Lambert** grew up in Munich and now lives with her family in Berlin. As the sister of four brothers and later a student of forestry, she learned early on how to be a woman among men. This is one of the reasons why she is particularly passionate about strong women such as Lou Andreas-Salomé, Alma Mahler-Werfel and Ray Eames.



Thérèse Lambert  
**When the Leaves Dance Again**  
Fiction. 352 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2025, June

*Based on a true story: Ruth Andreas-Friedrich and her daughter Karin went down in history as Berlin resistance fighters.*

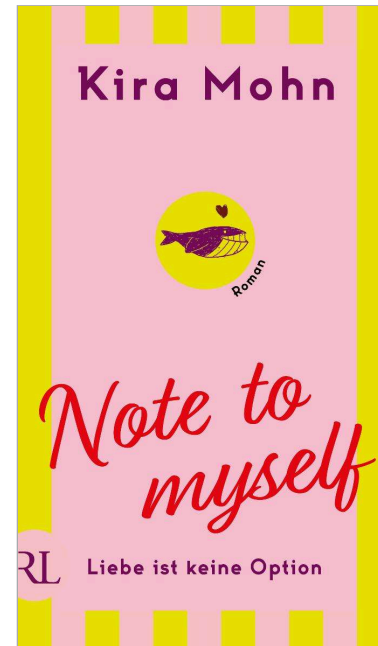
## Let's be friends – or maybe rather not ... ?

Alice is done with the world – more precisely, with her boyfriend. More recently, ex-boyfriend. Not only did he have to cheat on her, it had to be with her friend Mindy – in Alice's bed! Alice throws them both out of her flat – and tosses the mattress out of the window immediately afterwards. Unfortunately, it lands on the head of Lennon, who is anything but thrilled. But at the sight of Alice, Lennon quickly switches from “justifiably annoyed” to “increasingly enraptured,” and asks Alice to buy him a drink to make amends – realizing sooner than he expected that he needs to get to know this woman better.

But Alice keeps her life under control by writing lists, and at the moment “anything that's more fun without men” is the order of the day. She has firmly resolved to renounce love in the near future. But Lennon doesn't let up, and keeps turning up at the children's bookshop where Alice works. When he manages to bring a blue whale into the picture, a path out of the friendzone suddenly appears...

A wonderfully romantic feel-good rom com from *Spiegel* Bestselling Author Kira Mohn.

**Kira Mohn** has held several different positions throughout her life. Before working as a freelance journalist and copywriter, she studied psychology and education. She founded a music magazine, lived in New York for a while, and launched the author label “Ink Rebels” together with four friends. Today, she devotes herself entirely to her work as a writer and lives with her children in Munich.



Kira Mohn

**Note to Myself: Love is Not an Option**

Fiction. 377 pages

Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback

2025, March

English sample translation available

*The start of a series of enchanting, funny love stories in New York for slightly more grown-up New Adult and Romance readers.*



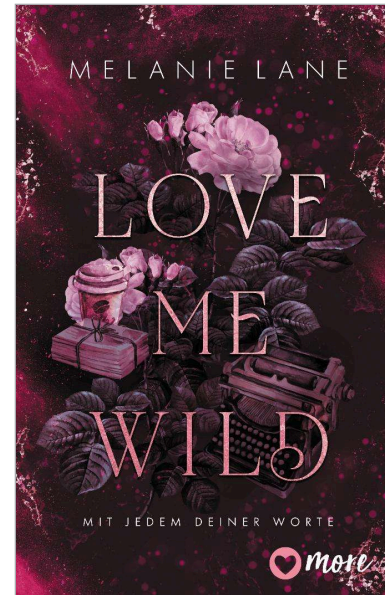
## Moody Adult Romance with Small Town Vibes

The temperamental Gigi has one mission: she must convince the reclusive thriller author Kingston to attend his brother's wedding. When she turns up at his doorstep in Colorado, Kingston is anything but excited – he is determined to get rid of her and finish his new novel. But Gigi is persistent and disrupts his orderly life in a marvelous way. Kingston's writer's block lifts, and he offers her a deal: she stays with him until the wedding as his muse, and in return, he accompanies her to the ceremony. What began as a pragmatic deal quickly develops into a fiery connection that goes deeper than either of them had expected.

In late-night conversations, they open their hearts and share their dreams, fears, and secrets with one another. The closer the tough city dweller and the withdrawn writer come to one another, the clearer it becomes: their passion is real – but do they have a future together?

Melanie Lane is back with a new romance novel: intense, sensual and full of emotion.

**Melanie Lane** lives and works in the beautiful city of Hamburg. She is enthusiastic, loud, likes to drink vino and detests categorization. As a self-professed feminist, she is committed to issues such as equality and diversity, which can also be found in her books.



Melanie Lane  
**Love Me Wild – With Your Every Word**

Fiction. 539 pages  
more. Quality Paperback  
2025, June

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Czech Republic

English translation available



Melanie Lane  
**Running Wild**  
**Love, Chaos and Alpaca**

Fiction. 415 pages  
more. Quality Paperback  
2023, September

English sample translation available

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Czech Republic, Italy

## Three sisters, one guesthouse, and big emotions

Amidst the soft waves and breathtaking landscape of the picturesque island of Jersey, three sisters, Lilly, Rose, and Jasmin are faced with a surprising challenge: they are to inherit the charming but aging guest house of their beloved mother. But the inheritance comes with one condition – each of them must run the guesthouse alone for at least three months before they are allowed to sell it.

Lilly is the first to take over. As she battles through the day-to-day life of hotel management, she finds a surprising fondness for working in hospitality. But then Simon appears – the man who once broke her heart. To distract herself, Lilly begins to flirt with the attractive doctor George. But the more she tries to control her feelings, the more her life threatens to fall apart at the seams ... Can Lilly leave her past behind her and save the guesthouse?

A fresh start on the isle of Jersey: on the magnificent island off the French coast, the Brown sisters get the chance to start anew. Anne Labus' new series: a charming, feel-good setting, perfect for dreaming away.

**Anne Labus**, born in 1957, lives with her husband near Bonn. After her apprenticeship as a bank clerk, she worked as a self-employed fitness and Pilates trainer, among other things. The author enjoys cooking, mountain hikes and long walks on the beach. She finds inspiration for her novels in Ireland and Italy or on the North Sea island of Spiekeroog.



Anne Labus  
**The Old Captain's House:  
Island Longing  
Jersey Dreams I**

Fiction. 351 pages  
more. Quality Paperback  
2025, March

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Netherlands

English translation available



Anne Labus  
**The Old Captain's House:  
Island Storms  
Jersey Dreams II**  
Fiction. Ca. 368 pages  
2025, November

Anne Labus  
**The Old Captain's House:  
Island Secrets  
Jersey Dreams III**  
Fiction

## The great love of two legends of music history

Nashville, 1956: “You and me, we’ll get married one day”, Johnny Cash is certain of this when he meets June Carter. However, it would be a long time before then: Both pursue their careers and observe each other from afar. Eventually they go on tour together and fall madly in love. But both are married and very religious, and social conventions do not permit their love. Country music fans are traditionally considered old-fashioned and conservative. What would they say if they abandoned their families? Moreover, the record companies would act up, fearing a drop in sales. So they both try to be reasonable and resist their love. But they don’t succeed. June processes her feelings with the lyrics of *Ring of Fire*. When Johnny records the song, it becomes a global hit – and Johnny and June no longer fight against their feelings, but for their love.

A captivating novel about love against all odds and a fascinating insight into the music history of the sixties

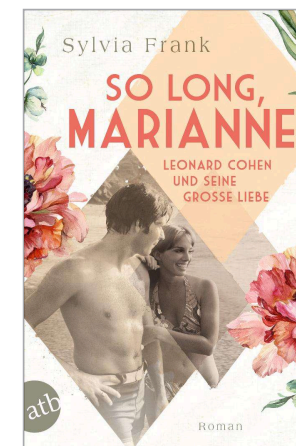
**Sylvia Frank** is the pseudonym of a German couple, a successful author duo living on the island of Rügen. Sylvia Vandermeer, born in 1968, is a qualified businesswoman. She also studied Biology, Psychology and Fine Art. Today she works as a freelance author and painter. Frank Meierewert, born in 1967, has a PhD in Ethnology, and has worked as a freelance author since 2008.



Sylvia Frank  
**Ring of Fire**  
**June Carter and Johnny Cash**  
 Fiction. 362 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, August



Sylvia Frank  
**Gala & Dalí**  
**The Inseparables**  
 Fiction. 445 pages  
 2022, February



Sylvia Frank  
**So Long, Marianne**  
**Leonard Cohen and the Love of His Life**  
 Fiction. 428 pages  
 2023, April

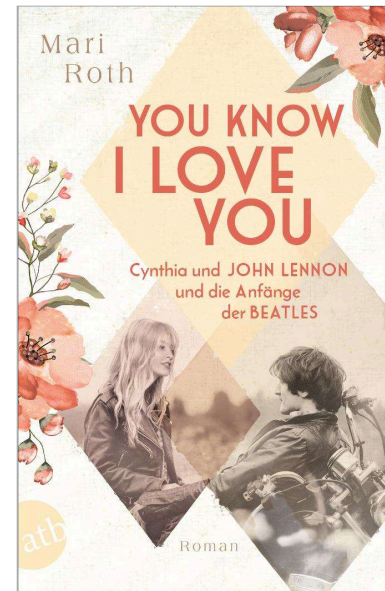


## John and Cynthia: The young love of one of the greatest songwriters of all time

Liverpool, 1957: traumatised by the accidental death of his mother, a young John Lennon rebels against everything – and yet all he wants to do is make music. Then he meets the beautiful but quiet Cynthia, who is immediately captivated by his dark charisma. At her side, John experiences the stability and love he never experienced in his family. Together with Paul McCartney he now writes his first songs, and it is not long before the stage performances of The Silver Beatles become legendary.

Meanwhile, Cynthia's role as John's wife is kept secret from the public ... Can she still be herself at John's side? The novel about John Lennon's first love and the birth of the Beatles.

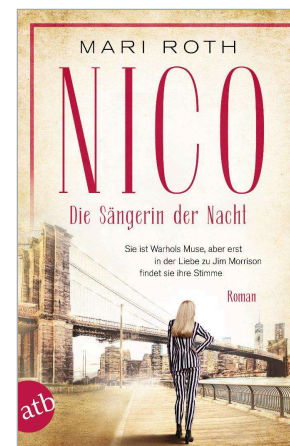
**Mari Roth**, born in 1969, works as a journalist, translator and writer and lives in Berlin. She has been interested in pop music since she was a teenager. One of her first records was the album "Double Fantasy", which John Lennon recorded with his wife Yoko Ono shortly before his death. But much more than Lennon's relationship with Yoko Ono, she found The Beatles' origins particularly fascinating – and the part his almost-forgotten first wife Cynthia played. Roth's novel *Nico – The Singer of the Night* is available from Aufbau Taschenbuch.



Mari Roth  
**You Know I Love You  
Cynthia and John Lennon  
and the Origins of The Beatles**

Fiction. 351 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2023, September

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Bulgaria



Mari Roth  
**Nico – The Singer of the Night  
She is Warhol's Muse, but First Finds Her Voice  
when She Falls in Love with Jim Morrison**

Fiction. Ca. 332 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2021, October

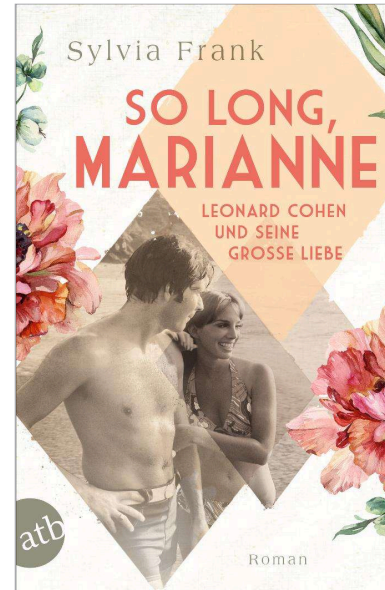
**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Hungary

## Dance me to the end of love – Leonard Cohen and Marianne Ihlen

Hydra, 1960: a young Leonard Cohen has arrived on the Greek island to fulfil a dream: become a famous writer. There he meets Marianne and her husband Axel, and witnesses how violent Axel can be. When the marriage breaks down, Leonard cares for the deeply hurt Marianne, and the two fall in love. When his novel is torn apart by the critics, Leonard falls into a depression. Now it's Marianne's turn to save him: she gives him a guitar, and soon he's celebrating his first hits. But can Marianne cope with life by the side of an international star – and will their relationship survive Leonard's meteoric rise?

The moving story of Leonard Cohen and Marianne Ihlen, without whom songs like *So Long*, *Marianne* and *Bird on the Wire* would never have existed.

**Sylvia Frank** is the pseudonym of a German couple, a successful 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.



Sylvia Frank  
**So Long, Marianne**  
**Leonard Cohen and the Love of His Life**  
 Fiction. 428 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2023, April

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Estonia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary



Sylvia Frank  
**Gala & Dalí**  
**The Inseparables**  
 Fiction. 445 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2022, February

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Lithuania, Czech Republic, Romania, Estonia, Hungary, Bulgaria

## She shows the astronauts the way to the stars

Ever since she observed constellations at night with her uncle Theodore as a child on the beach in Rhode Island, Maureen has been fascinated by the sky and knows that she wants to learn how to read the sky and immerse herself in the wonders of the universe. The stars are central to her life and she is determined to become an astronomer. Unbeknownst to her parents, who have completely different plans for their daughter, Maureen enrolls at NYU to study astronomy. She quickly becomes one of the best in her field and prevails against all odds. Even love doesn't hold her back. And so she makes it to the top: as NASA's first female chief astronomer, she plays a leading role in the development of the groundbreaking space observatory. The starry sky – overwhelming, enchanting, and ultimately incomprehensible – remains the passion of her life. But is the price she has to pay for her career ultimately too high?

A gripping and empathetic novel about one of the brilliant but long-forgotten women in science.

**Nico Mahler**, born in Munich in 1974, studied history and political science and works as a freelance journalist. He lives in Berlin. His debut novel *Bella Famiglia* has already been published by Aufbau Taschenbuch.



Nico Mahler  
**The Star Researcher**  
Fiction. 302 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2025, March



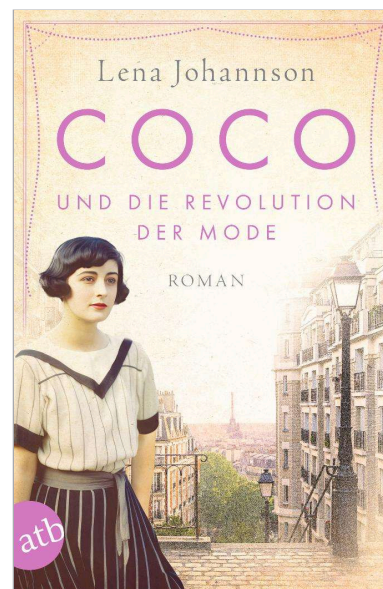
Nico Mahler  
**Bella Famiglia**  
**Sofia and the Art of Ice Cream**  
Fiction. 349 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, July  
**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Czech Republic

## Coco Chanel – a remarkable woman with an unconditional desire for greatness

Gabrielle dreams of becoming a star. But the reality of her childhood looks very different. When she loses her mother at the age of just 12, she grows up in an orphanage. With the help of her aunt, she discovers her talent for sewing. She soon starts to create elegant pieces from felt caps. But Gabrielle has other ideas: She gives singing a try and becomes “Coco”, yet success does not seem to arrive. Her talent for sewing provides her with a modest income. Then she meets Boy Chapel and with him the love of her life. With his help, she opens up a boutique with her own collections in Paris – and delights fashionistas with her comfortable dresses and elegant designs. Meanwhile, Coco has high hopes for her love for Boy. Is he the man who will not only support her with her dream to revolutionize the fashion world but who will also stand by her as a faithful lover?

Bestselling author Lena Johansson tells the story of how the orphan girl Gabrielle became one of the greatest icons of the 20th century.

**Lena Johansson**, born in 1967 in Reinbek near Hamburg, worked as a bookseller before becoming a travel journalist, combining her two passions for writing and traveling. She lives and works as a freelance author on the Baltic coast.



Lena Johansson  
**Coco and the Revolution of Fashion**  
 Fiction. 383 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, October  
 RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
 Hungary, Estonia

*“Fashion is short lived.  
 Style never is.”  
 Coco Chanel*



## The hidden pages behind the queen of “cozy crime”

Since her father's death, 17-year-old Agatha Miller has lived alone with her mother in Torquay, a small harbor town on the south coast of England. The feisty Agatha devours books, and loves the theater, horseback riding, and golf. She writes poetry and is interested in music. Agatha definitely has a mind of her own – rather than entering into a marriage of convenience, she wishes to become a pianist. But her dreams of a career as a musician are dashed, and the love of her life is a long time coming. To escape the daily grind, Agatha begins to write – initially short stories, but later works about a detective called Hercule Poirot. When she meets Archibald Christie, her happiness seems guaranteed. The two quickly get married and travel the world together. Agatha brings her typewriter everywhere she goes – but will her writing finally be recognized?

**Susanne Lieder** grew up near Bad Oeynhausen and lives with her family south of Bremen. Since 2012 she has been working primarily as a writer, fulfilling her childhood dream. She writes commercial fiction, historical novels and fictionalised biographies.

"A must-read!" EKZ BIBLIOTHEKENSERVICE

"An authentic book that pays a much-deserved tribute to the Queen of Crime!" CARPE GUSTA LITERATUR

"A captivating biography that is highly entertaining." STADTRADIO GÖTTINGEN



Susanne Lieder  
**Agatha Christie**  
**She Fights for Her Love and Conquers the World With Her Crime Novels**

Fiction. 383 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, June

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Brazil, Estonia,  
Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary



Susanne Lieder  
**Astrid Lindgren**  
**Her Life is All about Childhood**

Fiction. 361 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2022, October

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
Denmark, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia,  
Estonia, Hungary

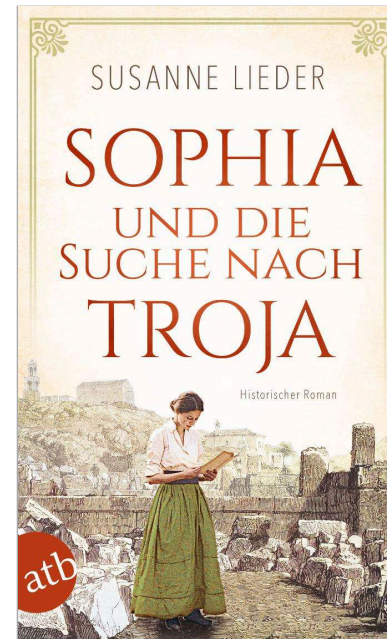
**BEST  
SELLER**

## The story of an incredible adventure and a great love

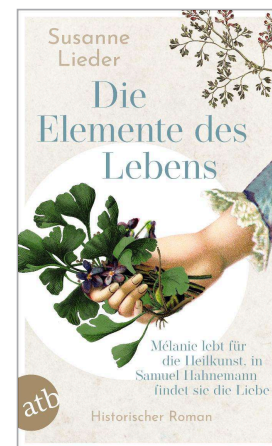
The end of the 19th century: Ever since he read *The Iliad* as a boy, Heinrich Schliemann has been convinced that it is not just a story. The legendary Troy, which withstood the ten-year Greek siege and finally fell only by trickery, really did exist! Schliemann not only firmly believes in it, he is determined to find the fallen city. To join him in this great adventure he searches for the right woman – whom he finds in Sophia Engastroménos, a Greek woman. Against all odds, a love develops between them. Sophia treasures the fact that Heinrich involves her in everything and that he takes her opinion and advice into careful consideration. She shares his passion for Troy and accompanies him to the excavation sites. Photos depicting Sofia with Priam's Treasure circulate around the world. Heinrich is celebrated as the discoverer and the success of the excavation, with Sophia's face at the forefront, becomes a media sensation.

A captivating novel about the wife of the great archaeologist Schliemann and the discovery of the legendary Troy.

**Susanne Lieder** grew up near Bad Oeynhausen and lives with her family south of Bremen. Since 2012 she has been working primarily as a writer, fulfilling her childhood dream. She writes commercial fiction, historical novels and fictionalised biographies.



Susanne Lieder  
**Sophia and the Search for Troy**  
 Fiction. 364 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2025, January



Susanne Lieder  
**The Elements of Life**  
**Mélanie Is Passionate about the Art of Healing and Finds Love with Samuel Hahnemann**  
 Fiction. 376 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, January

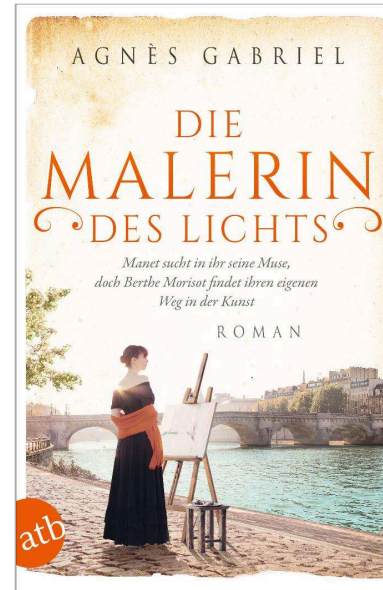
## “Painting is as important to me as breathing.” Berthe Morisot

Paris, 1864: After the young painter Bertha witnessed how her sister had to give up art after marriage, she vows never to marry. She meets the pioneer of modernism Édouard Manet, who finds his muse in the beguilingly pretty woman. He ridicules her artistic ambitions, however – although Berthe’s paintings sometimes fetched higher prices than his. Then she meets his brother Eugène, who falls in love with her and asks for her hand in marriage. But can Berthe accept this love without risking her career as a painter?

Berthe Morisot (1841–1894) was the only woman to co-found the Impressionist painting movement and participated in seven of the eight Impressionist exhibitions with countless works. However, unlike her world-famous colleagues Renoir, Degas, Manet and Monet, who are still regarded today as innovators of painting, she and her art were forgotten after her death. It is only recently that her impressive work has been rediscovered. An exhibition at the Musée d’Orsay in Paris in 2019 demonstrates just how far ahead of many of her fellow painters she was with her bold, abstract brushwork.

A colorful, sumptuous novel about a liberated, thoroughly modern woman who was so much more than Manet’s muse.

**Agnès Gabriel** is the pseudonym of a German author. Trained as an art historian and Romanist, she worked as a scholar for several years before becoming a journalist and starting to write. Through historical novels, which have been translated into numerous languages, she has garnered an international audience: Her novel *Merci, Monsieur Dior* was a great success and has been translated into 11 languages. The author lives in Hamburg.

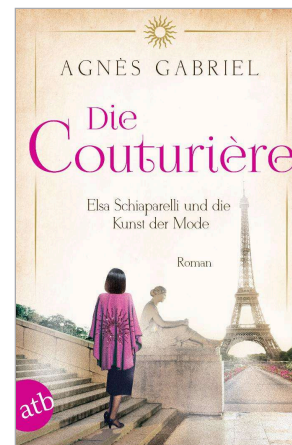


Agnès Gabriel  
**The Painter of Light**  
**Manet Found His Muse in Her, but Berthe Morisot Paves Her Own Way in Art**

370 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, April

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Netherlands

English sample translation available



Agnès Gabriel  
**The Couturière**  
**Elsa Schiaparelli and the Art of Fashion**

Fiction. 382 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2023, April

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Poland



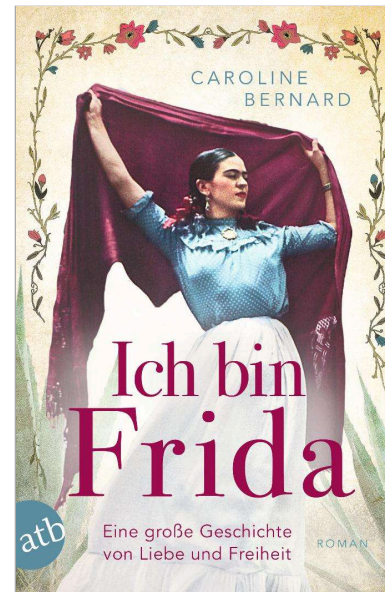
## “I am my own muse!”

Summer of 1938: Frida has reached a turning point in her life. She wants to make a name for herself in the art world – and she has to question her idea of great love. For she is still only seen as the famous Diego Rivera’s wife, not as a painter in her own right. Then she receives an invitation to exhibit her work in New York and Paris. Frida sees a chance for her big breakthrough, but will her paintings be able to meet the expectations of the international art world?

The time has finally come: Frida has her first solo exhibition in New York, and it is a roaring success. She is celebrated in the Manhattan art scene. She then runs into photographer Nickolas Muray again. An *amour fou* develops between them and Frida gets caught up in a whirlwind of emotions. At the same time, her life is revolving more and more around art, which ends up saving her, providing inspiration not only for her life as a woman, but also for love. After leaving the artistic shadow of her husband Diego, who is an incorrigible womanizer, she also wants to follow her feelings when it comes to love. But Nick demands something seemingly impossible from her. Frida has to find out what she really wants – both in art and in love.

The new novel about Frida Kahlo: With deep knowledge and sensitivity, bestselling author Caroline Bernard shows us a side of this global icon that we have never seen before

**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.



Caroline Bernard

**I am Frida**

**A Grand Story on Love and Freedom**

Fiction. 376 pages

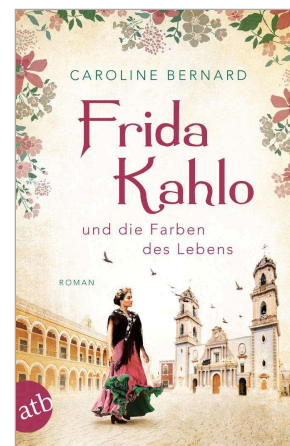
atb. Quality Paperback

2023, October

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Portugal, Denmark, Hungary, Estonia, Slovenia, Serbia, Italy

English sample translation available



Caroline Bernard

**Frida Kahlo**

**and the Colours of Life**

Fiction. 400 pages

atb. Quality Paperback

2019, September

English sample translation available

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

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

**BEST  
SELLER**

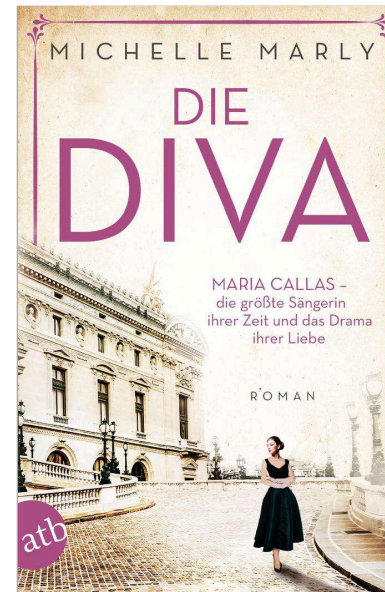


## Callas – la Divina, the divine, the eternal voice of love

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

Michelle Marly's third novel about the glamorous Maria Callas has everything her readers could wish for – a gorgeous and elegant female icon, the jet-set atmosphere of the European swinging sixties, and a tragic love story.

**Michelle Marly** is the pseudonym of a bestselling German author who grew up in the world of cinema and music. For many years she lived in Paris, but today she lives with her husband and dog in Berlin and Munich. Rights to her bestselling novel *Mademoiselle Coco* and *the Scent of Love* were sold to 22 countries. The novel spent months on the best-seller list, selling more than 320.000 copies.



**BEST  
SELLER**

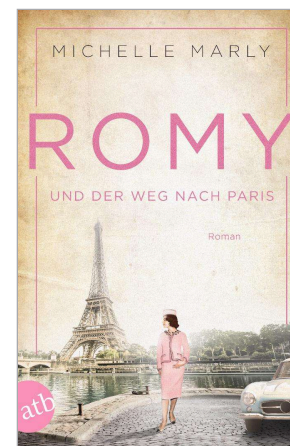
Michelle Marly

**The Diva  
Maria Callas –  
The Greatest Singer of Her Age**

Fiction. 420 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2020, February

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Romania, Slovakia, Lithuania, Macedonia (the former Yugoslav Republic of), Portugal, Denmark, Czech Republic, Spain, France, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, Italy, Hungary, Estonia, Bulgaria



**BEST  
SELLER**

Michelle Marly

**Romy and the Lights of Paris**

Fiction. 415 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2021, March

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

Czech Republic, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, France

## A courageous and likable heroine – love, power, and intrigue

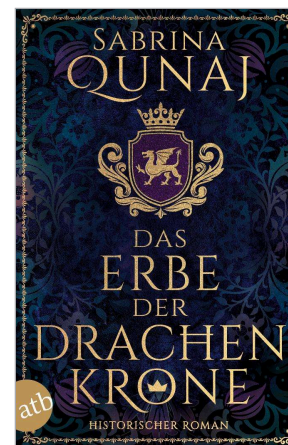
Wales in the 12th and 13th centuries: The princess Gwenllïan is used to having to defend her country against invasions. Against the Normans, who are the Welsh's greatest enemy, but also against the English king and his supporters. As the fighting intensifies, she enters into a marriage of convenience with a Welsh warrior in order to strengthen the rebellion and unite Wales. Ednyfed, who bears the severed heads of his enemies on his coat of arms, is not exactly her husband of choice. And Ednyfed himself marries her solely for the sake of her noble bloodline. But their love for their country makes them allies amidst battles and intrigue. In the face of great danger, the two also realize their love for one another. But does it stand a chance as long as there is no peace?

A grand epic set against the breathtaking and picturesque backdrop of Wales.

**Sabrina Qunaj** grew up in a small town in Styria, Austria. After graduating from an academy of economics, she worked as a student coordinator at an international college for tourism before starting a family and making writing her profession. She lives in Styria with her husband and two children.



Sabrina Qunaj  
**The Daughter of the Dragon Crown**  
Historical Fiction. 618 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, December

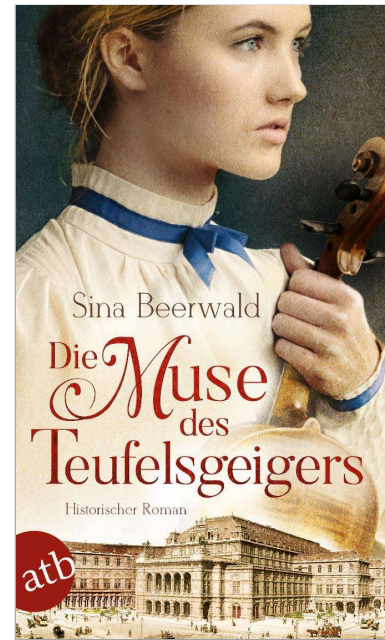


Sabrina Qunaj  
**The Heritage of the Dragon Crown**  
Historical Fiction. Ca. 624 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2025, December

## A violin maker, Niccolò Paganini, and a forbidden love

Sophie von Sawicki has mastered the craft of violin making like no other. Since her husband became addicted to alcohol, she has taken on all repair jobs herself – in secret, of course, because running a violin workshop as a woman is not allowed in early 19th century Vienna. She looks after her two children on the side. But then misfortune befalls the family: Paul von Sawicki has amassed huge debts. The only thing that can save them now is a lucrative commission. And suddenly the infamous violin virtuoso Niccolò Paganini appears in front of her workshop. His beloved Guarneri del Gesù needs to be repaired; he urgently needs it for a concert the next day, which has brought the whole city into a frenzy. The Italian is surrounded by rumors that he has made a deal with the devil, so incredible are his playing skills. Sophie, however, recognizes much more in him than a virtuoso – and feels so attracted to the supposed devil's violinist that she cannot resist ...

**Sina Beerwald**, born in Stuttgart in 1977, has made a name for herself with over twenty successful books to date. She has won the NordMordAward and the Samiel Award, and several of her titles have been shortlisted for the LovelyBooks Community Award, the biggest German-language readers' prize. In 2008, she moved to the island of Sylt with two suitcases and lots of ideas stowed in her luggage.



Sina Beerwald  
**The Muse of the Devil's Violinist**  
 Historical Fiction. 446 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, October  
**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**  
 Russia

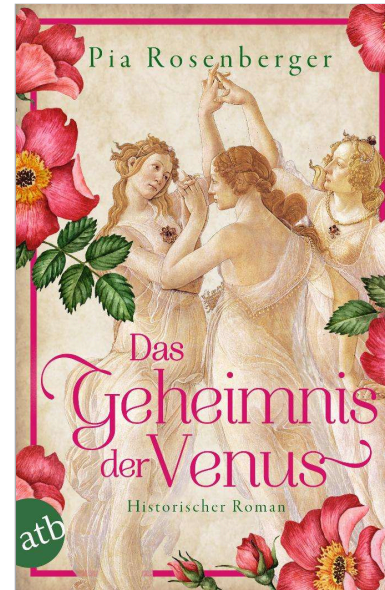
*The captivating story of a young violin maker  
 and her illicit love for the greatest  
 violin virtuoso of his time*

## The fascinating story behind the famous Botticelli painting *Primavera*

Florence, 1482: The young illuminator Mira has been waiting out the days in a convent after a conspiracy against the Medici family. Then Lorenzo de Medici calls her back to Florence to teach the city's four young "princesses" in the palazzo. She also assists the painter Sandro Botticelli with his new painting, *Primavera*: Mira is tasked with drawing sketches of 190 plants and flowers. While working on the painting, she meets the guardsman Riccardo, who makes her heart beat faster against her will – as Mira is meant to marry a cousin of Lorenzo de Medici.

But it is not just love that puzzles Mira: when not only Gianna, the model for "Flora," disappears, but also one of the three Graces is found dead, suddenly all those involved in Botticelli's painting seem to be in danger. However, Mira has no idea that the secret behind this conspiracy leads back to her own unknown origins ...

**Pia Rosenberger** was born near Osnabrück and completed an apprenticeship in hand weaving before going on to study art history, literature and educational science. She has lived with her family in Esslingen for over 20 years and works as an author, journalist, museum educator and city guide. Aufbau Taschenbuch has already published her novels *The Sculptress* (rights sold to Italy and Hungary) and *The Women's Artist* (rights sold to Italy).



Pia Rosenberger  
**The Secret of Venus**  
Historical Fiction. 510 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, July

*A young illuminator amidst  
the breathtaking backdrop  
of Renaissance Florence*



## The midwife of a new era

Maria is just finishing her training as a midwife in Munich when she receives a letter from her childhood friend Max asking her to return to her home village to work as a midwife. Maria is torn. After all, as an illegitimate orphan, she was more tolerated than she was welcome there and has some less than fond memories of the idyllic village in Upper Bavaria. At the same time, she sees it as her duty to help the pregnant women there, some of whom are falling fatally ill as a result of the old-fashioned practices of the local midwife, Alma. However, Alma adamantly refuses to give way to the young, modern midwife. And then there is Max. Her best friend from childhood is now a self-confident and attractive young man who is expecting his first child with his wife. Maria knows that it is wrong to be attracted to a married man – and yet her heart starts beating faster every time she sees him. Max seems to feel the same way.

A touching story about tradition, courage, and female solidarity.

**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 *Vineyard Saga*. Now the author is devoting herself to a project close to her heart: telling the story of a midwife from her own homeland.



Linda Winterberg  
**The Mountain Midwife**  
**Women's Hope**  
 Fiction. 410 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, September

English synopsis available



Linda Winterberg  
**The Mountain Midwife**  
**Days of Love**  
 Fiction. Ca. 384 pages  
 2025, May

Linda Winterberg  
**The Mountain Midwife**  
**Time of the Children**  
 Fiction. Ca. 416 pages  
 2025, November

## The Cartier saga – glamorous and with lots of Parisian flair

After turbulent times, a new era dawned for Parisian jewelers in the Second French Empire under the rule of Napoleon III. Louis-François and Antoinette Cartier ventured to reopen their jewelry store near the prestigious Palais Royal. Due to their excellent quality and in particular to Antoinette's exceptional customer service, their shop soon becomes an exclusive destination, and the business flourishes. Fine ladies purchase jewelry, silver tea services, bronze statuettes, ivory ornaments, pocket watches, and amethyst bracelets. In the evenings, when the store is closed and the children are asleep, Antoinette tirelessly arranges the displays, appraises pieces of jewelry, and increasingly becomes an irreplaceable business partner for her husband. When the jewelry-loving empress herself places an order with the Cartiers, a dream comes true: they become purveyors to the imperial court.

A gripping family story which captures the splendor of an era, inspired by the success story of the Cartier jewelry dynasty.

**Eva-Maria Bast** is a journalist, the CEO of Bast Media GmbH and the author of numerous non-fiction books, crime novels and contemporary titles. She has been awarded various prizes, including the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's German Local Journalism Prize, in the History category. As one half of the authorial duo Charlotte Jacobi, she has written several books including the *SPIEGEL*-bestselling *The Douglas Sisters*. She lives on Lake Constance and in Würzburg.



Eva-Maria Bast  
**The Jewelry Palace**  
**Antoinette and the Glittering of Gems**  
 Fiction. 403 pages  
 atb. Quality Paperback  
 2024, October  
 RIGHTS SOLD TO:  
 Hungary



Eva-Maria Bast  
**The Jewelry Palace**  
**Camille and the Splendor of Gold**  
 Fiction. 319 pages  
 2025, March

Eva-Maria Bast  
**The Jewelry Palace**  
**Emma and the Secret of the Diamond**  
 Fiction. Ca. 400 pages  
 2025, August

## An invention that revolutionized the everyday lives of women – the washing machine

East Westphalia, 1896: Katharina grows up in modest circumstances on a farm. She is an only child, and must help on her parents' farm even as a young woman. Although the farm runs well, she toils from dawn to dusk and envies her friends of the same age, who live in middle-class circumstances and have the leisure of free time. Katharina bears her fate bravely, but she dreams of a carefree life in the city.

When she falls in love with Carl, a technical enthusiast who is developing a milk centrifuge in his workshop, Katharina is the first to recognize the potential of his invention. But Katharina and Carl have to fight – for their happiness and for the success of their small business.

The start of a thrilling saga about the invention of the washing machine – based on the success story of a German family business.

**Susanne von Berg** is the pseudonym of author Andreas Schmidt, whose numerous published crime novels have attracted a large readership throughout Germany over the years. Andreas Schmidt lives and works as a freelance author and journalist in his home town of Wuppertal. The first volumes of the exciting department store saga *The Department Store – A Time of Yearning* and *The Department Store – A Time of Wishing* are published by Aufbau Taschenbuch.



Susanne von Berg  
**The Time of Women  
A Great Invention**  
Fiction. 413 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, May



Susanne von Berg  
**The Time of Women  
The Future's Promise**  
Fiction. 367 pages  
2024, August

Susanne von Berg  
**The Time of Women  
The Years of Emergence**  
Fiction. Ca. 302 pages  
2024, November



## She is in love with a Greek god, but freedom is her purpose

As an Amazon, Otrere learns to fight and ride at an early age. After the death of her father, she becomes ruler of the Scythians who roam the steppes north of the Black Sea. She strives to preserve her people's free way of life – especially against the archaic male world of the Greeks. Otrere's ideals are put to the test when she meets the Greek god Ares. Against her better judgement, she gets involved with him because he promises peaceful coexistence between the two peoples. But then she faces the greatest challenge any woman could ever face ...

The world of the Amazons – told in a fresh, modern and feminist way. The first novel in a series about the most exciting warrior dynasty in Greek mythology.

**Julie Peters**, born in 1979, worked as a bookseller and studied history before dedicating herself to writing full-time. She lives with her family in North Rhine-Westphalia.

### Praise from Readers:

*"The moving story of a strong woman – feminist, emotional, historically highly interesting."*

*"I recommend this book not only to all those who are fond of Greek mythology – it has much more to offer than just the story of Otrere."*

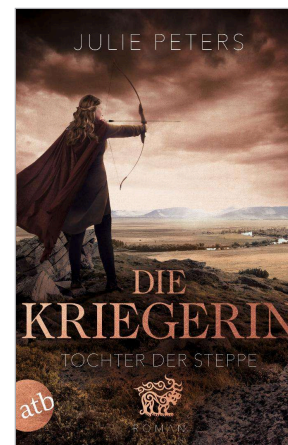
*"A MUST for fans of Greek mythology and strong women!"*



Julie Peters  
**The Warrior**  
**Daughter of the Amazons**

443 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, January

English sample translation available



Julie Peters  
**The Warrior**  
**Daughter of the Steppe**  
Fiction. Ca. 415 pages  
2024, July

Julie Peters  
**The Warrior**  
**Daughter of Freedom**  
Fiction. 412 pages  
2025, January

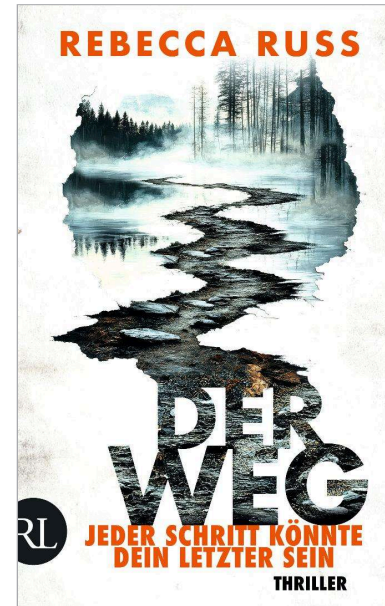


## What if your loveliest dream turns into your worst nightmare?

It was supposed to be the perfect trip. But not everyone returns ... Julia and Nicki are best friends. They've come up with something very special for Julia's bachelorette celebration: instead of partying, they're going hiking. Just the two of them on the remote Kungsleden hiking trail in Sweden. But one morning the unthinkable happens, and Julia is left alone in the solitude of the rugged terrain. Without maps, without orientation, and without any idea of what has happened to Nicki. Will she find her way back? And who is the figure that Julia seems to keep seeing?

A breathless thriller with an unexpected twist.

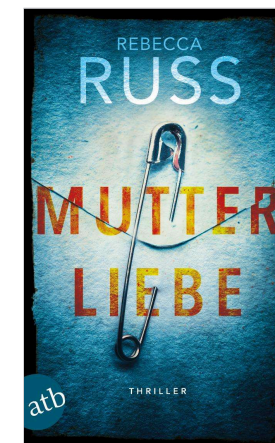
**Rebecca Russ** was born in Salzburg in 1991, where she still lives today with her husband surrounded by mountains and lakes. In addition to writing books, she is also passionate about designing them and works as a freelance cover designer. She enjoys spending her free time in nature, hiking or sailing. Her books published by Aufbau Taschenbuch so far include *The First Woman*, *Motherly Love* and *The Influencer*.



Rebecca Russ  
**The Path**  
**Every Step Could Be Your Last**  
Thriller. Ca. 304 pages  
Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback  
2025, June



Rebecca Russ  
**The Influencer**  
Thriller. 288 pages  
2024, March



Rebecca Russ  
**Motherly Love**  
Thriller. 287 pages  
2022, August

## The missing chef and the sushi mafia

Two investigators between Hamburg and Tokyo: A series featuring the most unusual crime-fighting duo on the German police force. Although they seem to have almost nothing in common – Kenjiro Takeda, a Japanese saxophonist and lover of jazz, and Claudia Harms, a chilly blonde who handles the office jungle in stressful situations.

Now Henrik Sebold is releasing volume 8 of the successful *Inspector Takeda Reports* series: a missing sushi chef, a dead TV star, and a trail that leads to international cocaine smuggling ... Inspector Takeda has no idea what lies ahead of him when he sets off in search of a fellow countryman who has gone into hiding. Hiroyuki Endo was considered a master sushi chef in Tokyo. But he secretly left Japan to go into hiding as an assistant chef in Hamburg. Now he has gone missing – and Inspector Takeda is meant to find him. A body is soon discovered: TV chef Tom Trautmann, for whom Hiroyuki used to work. Could Hiroyuki have killed his boss? But new clues soon emerge, tying Trautmann to involvement with cocaine and other drugs.

**Henrik Siebold** is a journalist and author. He has worked for a Japanese daily newspaper and spent several years in Tokyo. He lives in Hamburg and travels extensively to Japan. So far, seven volumes of the Inspector Takeda series have been published by Aufbau Taschenbuch, beginning with *Inspector Takeda and the Dead of Altona* (2016).

*“Inspector Ken Takeda ... for me one of the most interesting, unconventional and compelling detectives currently in the German crime scene.”* CORNELIA HÜPPE, crime bookshop Miss Marple, Berlin

*“It is fascinating how the author maintains the high standard of his series in each subsequent volume.”* CRIME TIME



Henrik Siebold  
**Inspector Takeda and the Deadly Fame**  
Crime Fiction. Ca. 368 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2025, June



Henrik Siebold  
**Inspector Takeda and the Dead of Altona**  
Crime Fiction. 413 pages  
2016, May

Henrik Siebold  
**Inspector Takeda and the Silent Death**  
Crime Fiction. 352 pages  
2017, May

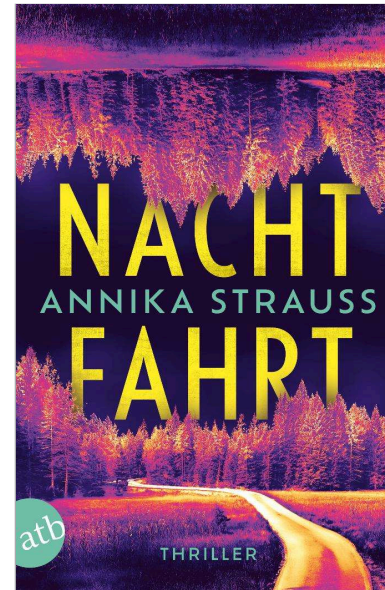
## How can you win a murderous game without knowing the rules?

26-year-old Katharina Holten's father dies suddenly in a tragic accident: a huge shock for Katharina. Not only does she have to return home and take charge of her father's driving school, she is also confronted with the event from years before that completely turned her life upside down. A few years ago, Katharina – traumatized by an incident during a night drive – was forced to give up not only her job as a driving instructor, but also her relationship. Now she returns to the scene of this terrible incident. Her father's driving school needs someone to take over and her niece Ronja, who lived with her grandfather as an orphan, needs someone to look after her. But then Ronja is kidnapped. If Katharina doesn't manage to find out what this has to do with her family's history within 48 hours, the young girl will die. Katharina must do everything in her power to win a game – the rules of which she doesn't know. A breathless race against time begins ...

A gripping psychological thriller about a deadly family secret.

**Annika Strauss**, born in 1984, attended a drama school in Stuttgart and studied rhetoric and German studies. She has acted in more than thirty film productions and has also written her own screenplays. In addition to writing, she works as an editor at SWR. *Night Drive* is her debut.

*"I couldn't stop reading – fascinating characters, an unusual setting, and some wicked cliffhangers!"* IVAR LEON MENGER



Annika Strauss  
**Night Drive**  
Thriller. 387 pages  
atb. Quality Paperback  
2024, September

English sample translation available

### Praise from Readers

*"What a fast-paced thriller! With Night Drive, Annika Strauss delivers a debut that packs a punch."* @romanticthrills

*"Night Drive knows no speed limit! Fast-paced! Exciting! So much happens that you can hardly catch your breath."* @library\_of\_dennis

*"A MUSTREAD for this autumn."* @papertourist

*"This was such a fast-paced ride through the night! [...] An absolute highlight for me!"* @joolte\_hoert



## A gripping psychological thriller about a concealed murder

Until half an hour ago, Priska thought her life was perfect. Great job, great husband, great house on Lake Plön, and excitedly anticipating a long weekend with her half-brother Moritz and his new girlfriend Anna. But now Priska is standing on the jetty that belongs to her lakehouse, gazing into the clear water. A man is lying at the body of the lake, he is dead, and it is her fault. The guests are already knocking at the door. But what should she do with the coat the dead man was wearing? She decides to cover everything up – and so the misfortune takes its course ...

A profound, masterfully composed psychological thriller about two women: One wants to keep a secret by any means necessary, the other just wants to get to know her boyfriend's sister – until she begins to suspect that she might be a murderer. A highly suspenseful, psychologically sensitive novel about how a life can be turned upside down in a matter of seconds – with unforeseen consequences. Petra Johann writes poignantly about the dark depths of a family.

**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.



Petra Johann

**The Jetty**

Thriller. 399 pages

Rütten & Loening. Quality Paperback

2024, September



Petra Johann

**Sisters**

Crime Fiction. 410 pages

2023, May

Petra Johann

**The Bookseller**

Thriller. 431 pages

2022, March



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