

AUFBAU

FICTION RIGHTS GUIDE

AUTUMN 2025



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Blumenbar

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PLEASE CONTACT:

Inka Ihmels (she/her)
Foreign Rights Manager
i.ihmels@aufbau-verlage.de

A portrait of our time that captures the digital present with ruthless precision

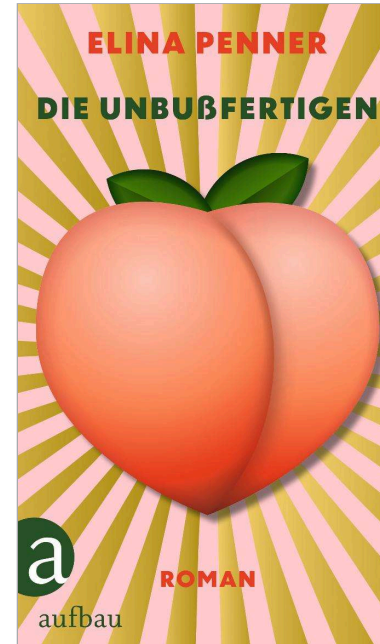
Ten people receive an ominous invitation. They end up in a mansion that looks like a stage set, but smells authentic. Among them: a mother who turns her children into Instagram content. A bus driver whose anti-vaccination opinions are complemented by her chakra vibes. And an influencer with the most famous arse in the country and the self-confidence of a goddess. Three women with follower numbers like stock prices. Seven men who comment, evaluate, and hate. But suddenly it's all real. Offline. No one is allowed to post anymore.

Elina Penner captures the glittering spectacle before the crash: a book like a toxic comments section, only smarter, funnier, and unfortunately, all too real. The novel of the hour about the new political power of the tech elite, about morality and power, and how we can live in the digital world.

Elina Penner was born in 1987 as a Mennonite German in the former Soviet Union and came to Germany in 1991. Low Mennonite German is her mother tongue. After years in Berlin and the United States, she now lives with her family in East Westphalia. She works as a journalist and writes for Vogue, among others. Her debut novel *Nightberries* was published by Aufbau in 2022 (full English translation available), her non-fiction book *Migrant Momma* followed in 2023.

"Elina Penner is the new Capote. She casually creates an intoxicating narrative whose protagonists are destroyed by the absurdities of our self-centred society." NINIA LAGRANDE

"Elina Penner, the voice of our overburdened generation of women, laughingly holds a mirror up to our faces, bringing us simultaneously to tears and understanding. Only she can do that so well." CAROLINE ROSALES



Elina Penner
The Unrepentant
Fiction. 352 pages
Aufbau. Hardcover
2025, October

Sample Translation available



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

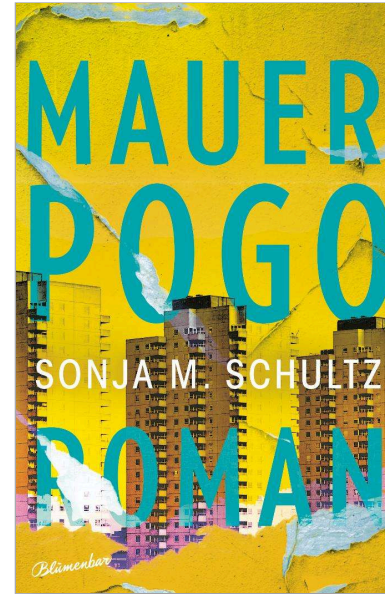
RIGHTS SOLD TO:
USA, Canada

A book like a new dawn, a love letter to the loud, wild and wonderfully broken

East Germany, 1982. Jo is fourteen and lives in Eisenwerda, a town with a thousand chimneys and absolutely no nightlife. She is on the cusp of her *Jugendweihe*, an East German coming-of-age ritual, and the horribly plain skirt is already ready for the occasion. Then she comes across a photo of a young Londoner that electrifies her: leather jacket, ripped tights, a safety pin in her cheek. Suddenly everything makes sense to Jo. She dyes her hair bright green – from now on she is punk. She forms a band with her best friend Frankie, falls in love with Ratte, who plays the drums at breakneck speed, and spends her nights pogo dancing in the compressed air shed. Together, they turn night into day and breathe a sigh of freedom. But the state won't let anyone step out of line so easily. Jo is soon targeted by the Stasi. Harassment, interrogations, and intimidation follow: Jo's initially naive rebellion has fatal consequences...

With its brash sound and powerful imagery, *The Sound of Punk* tells a story of friendship, anger and rebellion, and of the power of youthful hope in a system that fears freedom. A story with the force of a punk chord; a novel that vibrates in your hands while reading.

Sonja M. Schultz, born in 1975, grew up in Schleswig-Holstein and studied Theater Studies and Art History in Berlin. She works as a film journalist and scholar, as well as in political education, and occasionally performs spoken word poetry and songs. Her debut novel *Hundesohn* (*Son of a Bitch*) was published by Kampa Verlag in 2019. *The Sound of Punk* is her second novel. It is based on extensive research and real instances.



Sonja M. Schultz
The Sound of Punk
Fiction. 368 pages
Blumenbar. Hardcover
2025, August

Sample translation available

"A fast-paced dropout tale [...] with rough poetry, snotty humor – and hopelessly romantic."
TIP BERLIN

"Sonja M. Schultz tells this story vividly and rhythmically, bringing the rebellious energy of her protagonist to life." RIFFREPORTER

"The Sound of Punk is immune to romanticizing the injustice of the GDR regime. [...] At the same time, it erects a noisy, prickly monument to the rebelliousness of the East German punk scene." TAGESSPIEGEL

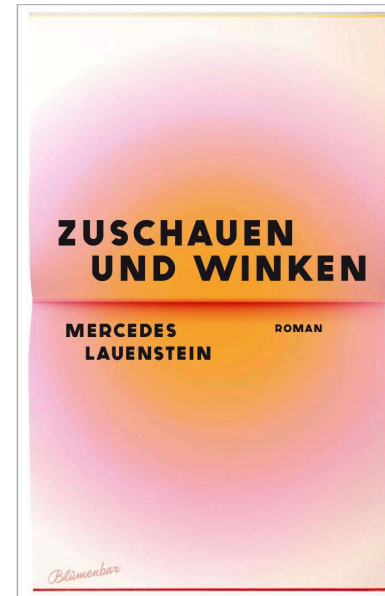
"Schultz creates an atmospheric sense of absurdity that constantly jumps back and forth between bittersweet humor and tragedy, much like the eponymous dance." RBB DER TAG

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

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

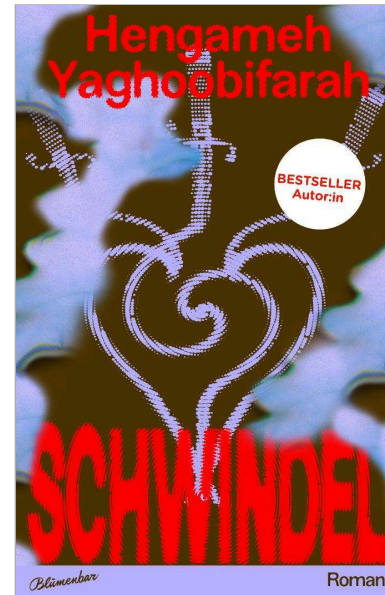
Friday evening, a high-rise building, 15th floor. Ava's date with Robin is going perfectly – until the doorbell rings and Ava's other lovers are at the door. Delia has left their cell phone in Ava's bedroom and wants to pick it up. Silvia, on the other hand, wants to confront Ava, because she's been 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. 351 pages
Aufbau. Hardcover
2024, September

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Spain

**Nominated for Leipzig Book Fair Prize
Winner of Erich-Fried-Preis**



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

Full English translation available

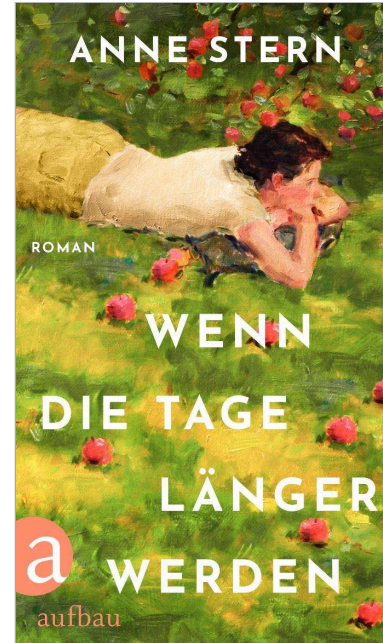
RIGHTS SOLD TO:
UK

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

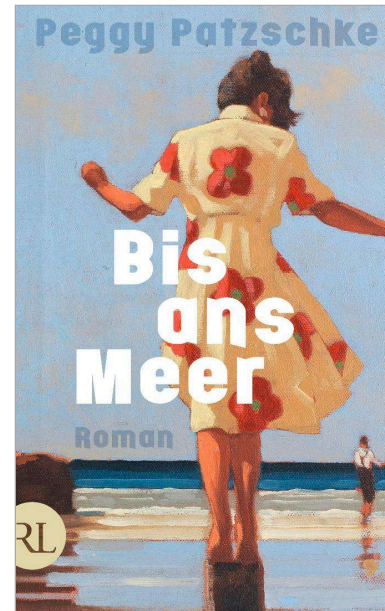
What are you prepared to give for love?

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.



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

“An entertaining book” FREIES WORT

“Peggy Patzschke unflinchingly confronts one of society's greatest problems: the transmission of trauma from generation to generation.” VILSHOFENER ANZEIGER

“A book that provides comfort. And hope.” BIBLIOMANIACS

“A gripping novel based on true events.” GRAZIA

“A compelling read” MITTELDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

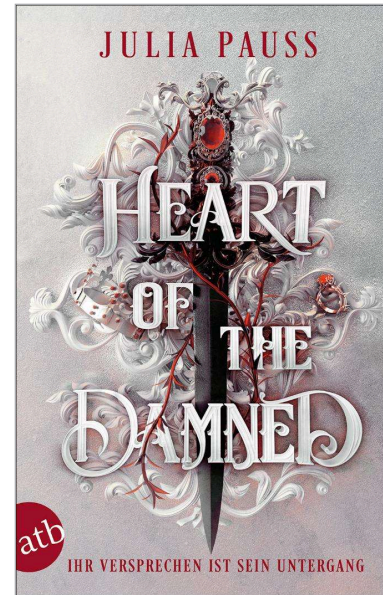
“A captivating novel” F.F. DABEI

Twisty, spicy and highly suspenseful

The kingdom of Lethia is the last bastion of humanity before the realm of the demons. But now it is in danger of falling victim to the demon lord. Prince Ren wants to secure allies by arranging a marriage, but shortly before the wedding his fiancée is murdered. That very night he catches Scarlett in his chambers, a thief with a rare talent that comes in very handy: she can change her appearance. Ren offers her a deal: Instead of being punished with death, Scarlett can live – if she slips into the role of his fiancée. Scarlett reluctantly agrees and is thrown into a crossfire of royal intrigue. Between heated arguments and pretended advances, she gets closer and closer to Ren. But he has absolutely no idea that he is letting his greatest enemy into his own bed.

The kick-off to a demonically good romance dilogy – Julia Pauss' romantasy features numerous popular tropes: Arranged Marriage, Enemies to Lovers, Hidden Identity, Betrayal ...

Julia Pauss was born in Salzburg, where she studied English and German philology. She can't imagine life without stories, and if she's not working on a new idea, she's probably curled up somewhere with a good book. Her favorite things to write are stories about women who find their way, about the strength of vulnerable heroes and about love that overcomes all boundaries.



Julia Pauss

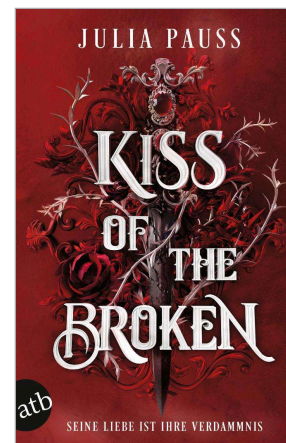
**Heart of the Damned –
Her Promise is His Doom
The Forsaken Dilogy I**

Fiction. 552 pages

atb. Quality Paperback

2025, September

Sample translation available



Julia Pauss

**Kiss of the Broken –
His Love is Her Perdition
The Forsaken Dilogy II**

Fiction. Ca. 544 pages

atb. Quality Paperback

2026, March

I only want to see you once

A mysterious man keeps turning up at Flora's flowershop. And then at night in front of her house. And although he frightens her, she senses that there is something between them. With each new day, Flora finds it harder to stay away from Sawyer. Deeper and deeper she loses herself in a maelstrom of forbidden feelings. But the ex-soldier hasn't traveled to Bishop's Hope to get to know Flora. He has come to say goodbye to her. For the two are connected by a past that puts everything Flora thinks she knows into question.

The start of an irresistibly spicy dilogy: highly emotional, gritty romance with elements of suspense and mental health themes; featuring strong tropes such as obsessive love, morality chain, mental health and trauma.

Mimi Kylling was born in the summer of 1993 and lives with her family in the Lüneburg Heath. She writes for the feeling in her heart when her fingers fly over the keyboard. For the tingling in her stomach when characters become personalities, and for all the thoughts she has carried around with her for so long. Her stories are as colorful and diverse as life itself. Her heart beats for the underdogs and the fallen heroes – because the quietest voices often have the greatest stories to tell.

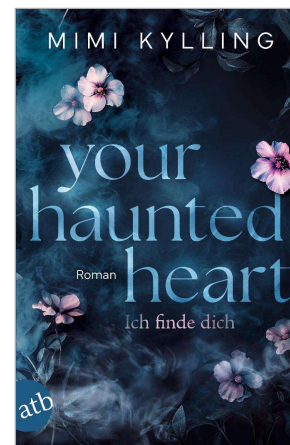
"I love dark romance, the forbidden tingle in the stomach and the moral pitfalls. However, I love emotional romance, relationships on equal footing and respectful spice just as much. This series combines all of these things – with strong heroines who know what they want and hot love interests to crush on!" MIMI KYLLING



Mimi Kylling
My Haunted Heart – I See You
The Haunted Love Dilogy I

Fiction. 399 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2025, August

Sample translation available



Mimi Kylling
My Haunted Heart – I Find You
The Haunted Love Dilogy II

Fiction. Ca. 416 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2026, February

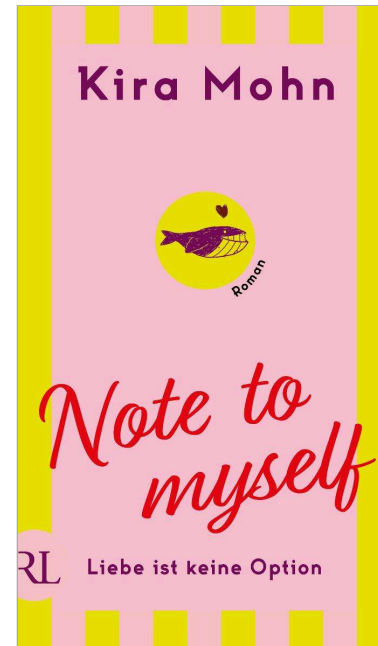
Let's be friends – or maybe rather not ... ?

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 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.

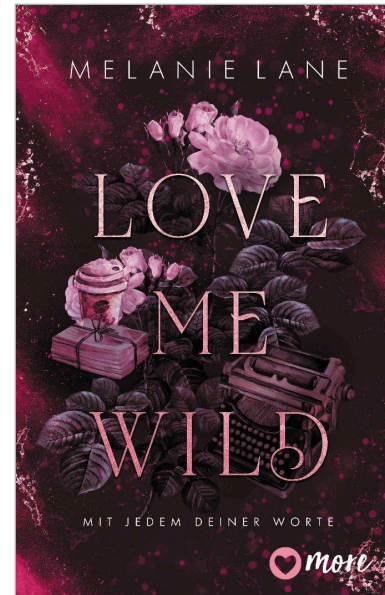
Moody Adult Romance with Small Town Vibes

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. 368 pages
2025, November

Anne Labus
**The Old Captain's House:
Island Secrets
Jersey Dreams III**
Fiction. Ca. 336 pages
2026, March

Because we're going to win!

Paris, 1917: Alice is a passionate swimmer. In the water she feels alive and free – here her body belongs only to her, and she has the feeling that she can control every last fiber of it. She finds peace and solace in the movement, and can forget the war and the early death of her husband. After Joseph, the love of her life, had tragically died, Alice was left to fend for herself. She trains hard, and although she gets better and better, she struggles: why isn't she allowed to show off her skills? Why is female competitive sport frowned upon? But she finds she is not alone: the women's sports association she founded becomes extremely successful. Her goal: to open the 1920 Olympic Games to women – in all disciplines. Along the way, Alice finds help from unexpected allies ...

The story of the first Olympic Women's Games, embedded in a beautiful love story.

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. Today, she is a bestselling women's fiction author who lives and works on the Baltic coast – and she is also a passionate swimmer.



Lena Johansson

Giving Up is for the Others

Fiction. 381 pages

atb. Quality Paperback

2025, October

*A novel set against the backdrop
of the first Olympic Games for women –
bestselling author Lena Johansson recounts
a largely unknown chapter in women's history*

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?

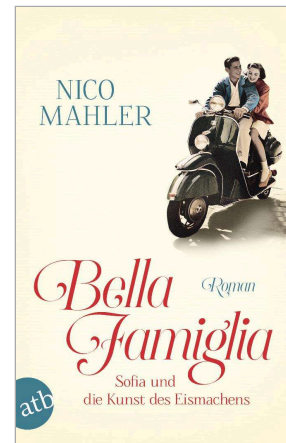
A gripping and empathetic novel about one of the brilliant but long-forgotten women in science.

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

English translation available



Nico Mahler
Bella Famiglia
Sofia and the Art of Ice Cream
Fiction. 349 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2024, July

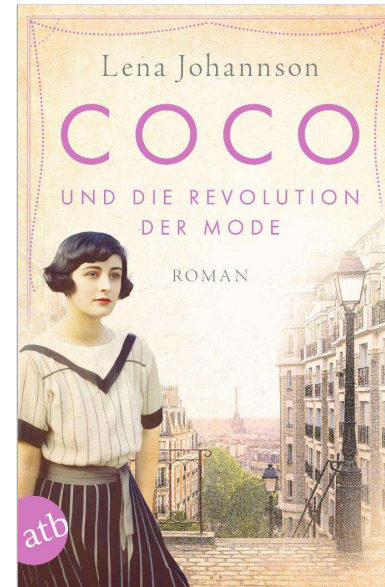
RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Czech Republic

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**

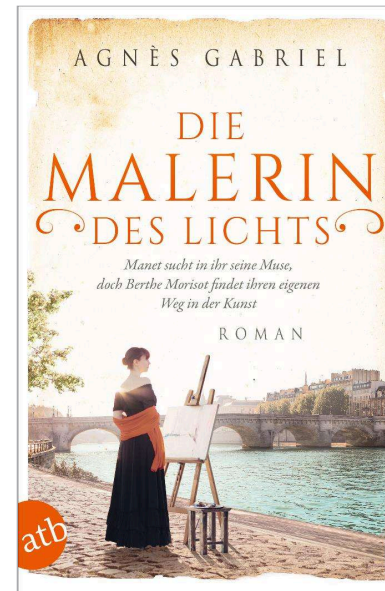
“Painting is as important to me as breathing.” Berthe Morisot

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.

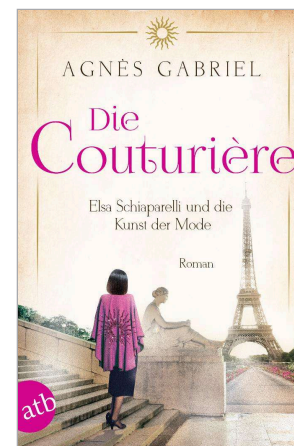


Agnès Gabriel
The Painter of Light
Manet Found His Muse in Her, but Berthe Morisot Paves Her Own Way in Art

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

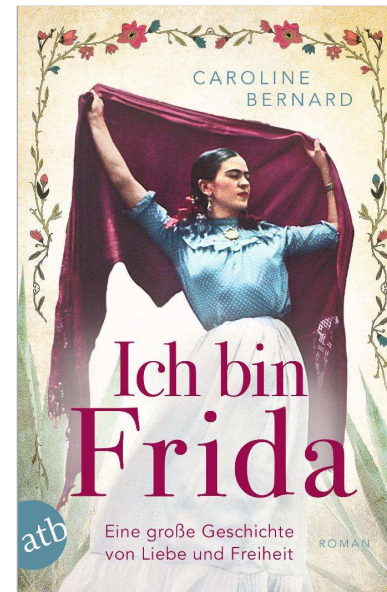
“I am my own muse!”

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

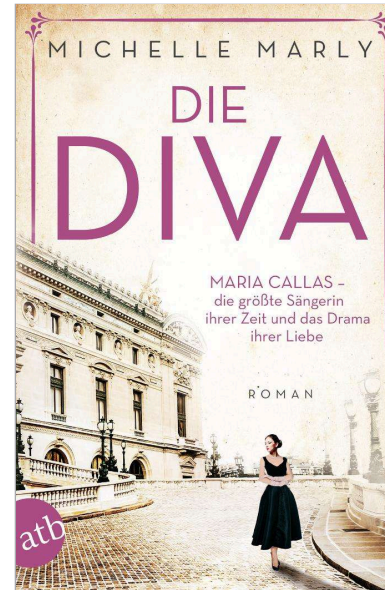
**BEST
SELLER**

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**

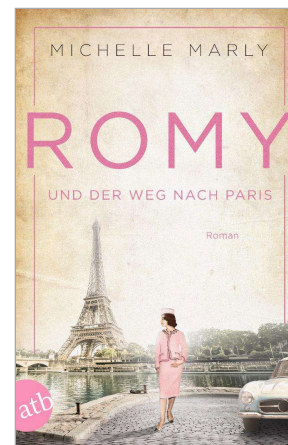
Michelle Marly

**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:

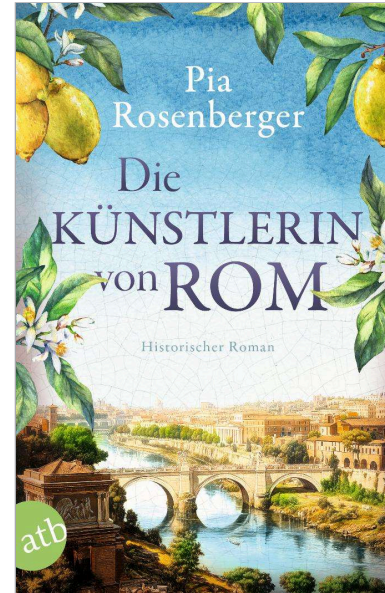
Czech Republic, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, France

A young sculptress in Rome: an exciting glimpse into the creation of Michelangelo's masterpiece.

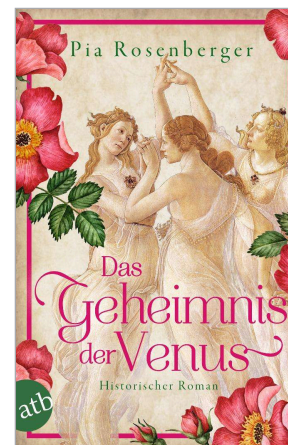
After the death of her father, Delia's greatest wish is to preserve his legacy and continue his sculpting workshop. But in order to do so, the young sculptress must first find her brother, who lives in Rome. Without further ado, she disguises herself as a boy and sets off on a journey to Italy. The search takes her to the Sistine Chapel, right in the middle of Michelangelo's workshop, where, disguised as "Dario," she becomes a pupil of the famous artist. Delia can hardly believe her luck. But there are rivals who are jealous of her. She becomes the target of an intrigue, suddenly finding herself in grave danger. And then her true identity threatens to be revealed...

A colorful historical novel, as surprising and breathtaking as Michelangelo's famous ceiling fresco.

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), *The Women's Artist* (rights sold to Italy) and most recently *The Secret of Venus* (rights sold to Estonia).



Pia Rosenberger
The Artist from Rome
Historical Fiction. 525 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2025, July



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

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
Estonia

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

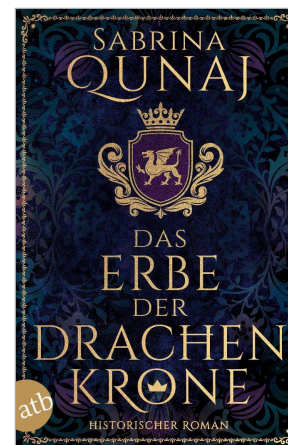
Wales in the 12th and 13th centuries: The princess Gwenllïan is used to having to defend her country against invasions. Against the Normans, who are the Welsh's greatest enemy, but also against the English king and his supporters. As the fighting intensifies, she enters into a marriage of convenience 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

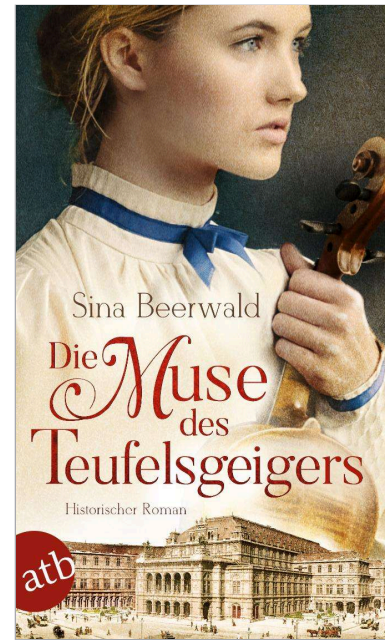


Sabrina Qunaj
The Heritage of the Dragon Crown
Historical Fiction. Ca. 624 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2025, December

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 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. 374 pages
 2025, May

Linda Winterberg
The Mountain Midwife
Time of the Children
 Fiction. 376 pages
 2025, November

The Cartier saga – glamorous and with lots of Parisian flair

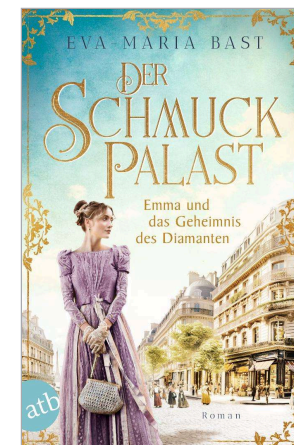
After turbulent times, a new era dawned for Parisian jewelers in the Second French Empire under the rule of Napoleon III. Louis-François and Antoinette Cartier ventured to reopen their jewelry store near the prestigious Palais Royal. Due to their excellent quality and in particular to Antoinette's exceptional 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. 381 pages
 2025, August

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.

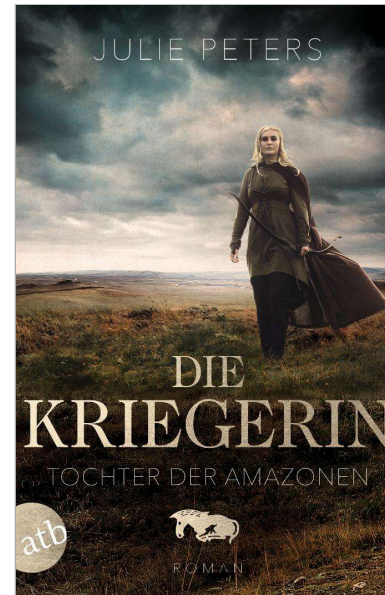
Julie Peters, born in 1979, worked as a bookseller and studied history before dedicating herself to writing full-time. She lives with her family in North Rhine-Westphalia.

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."

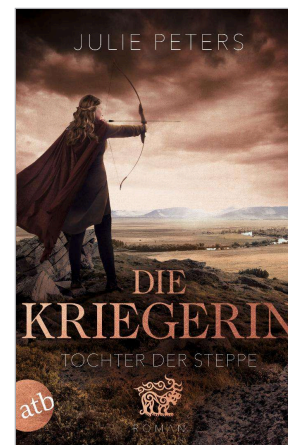
"A MUST for fans of Greek mythology and strong women!"



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

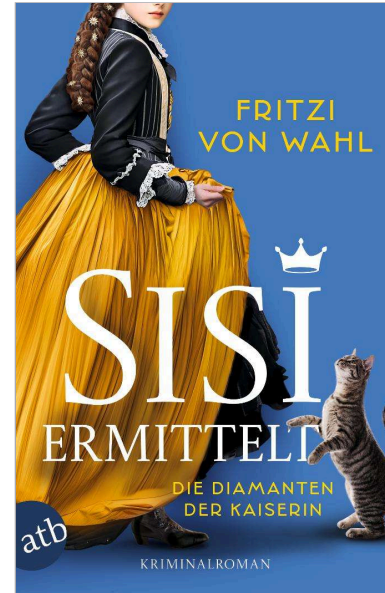
Julie Peters
The Warrior
Daughter of Freedom
Fiction. 412 pages
2025, January

Cozy crime with one of the most beloved women in history – and her cat

Sissi has been empress for six years and is bored to death. The tight corset of the Viennese court, the same old banquets and balls, gowns, cakes, and chocolate – she can't stand it anymore. More and more often, she finds herself wishing for her old life back, when she was still free to do whatever she wanted. To get away from it all, Sissi happily accepts Queen Victoria's invitation to attend a hunting party at Windsor Castle. Alfred is enraptured by the young monarch. She meets his advances with her own wit, and has the feeling that she can finally breathe again.

In the evening, she notices that a diamond is missing from her star diadem. Her suspicions are immediately aroused. Didn't she have the feeling that she was being watched during her morning horse ride? With a fervor, Sissi throws herself into the investigation, aided by her cat Carl. She needs an ally, because not only does her timid chambermaid try to dissuade her at all costs, but Sissi soon has to deal with a mysterious murder. And she doesn't want to know what Franzl has to say about all of this...

Fritzi von Wahl was born in Vienna in 1982, but now lives with her family and her cat in Berlin. Since childhood, the Sisi films have been part of her Christmas tradition. When she's not sending the empress on a manhunt or horse riding in Brandenburg, she works as a freelance journalist. *Sisi Investigates – The Empress's Diamonds* is the first in her cozy crime series set at the Austrian court.



Fritzi von Wahl
Sisi Investigates
The Empress's Diamonds
 Fiction. 286 pages
 atb. Quality Paperback
 2025, October

Sisi – a young, rebellious, self-confident woman who has everyone wrapped around her finger with her brilliant wit and her smile.

The dark depths laying beneath the row-house facade

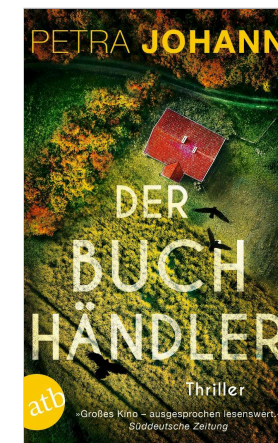
Eva's small family seems perfect. Daniel is a wonderful husband; her five-year-old son Linus makes her overjoyed. Until one night changes everything: Sofia, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Eva's best friend, babysits Eva's son. Afterwards, Daniel drives the girl home, but the next morning it turns out that Sofia never arrived. Only her bicycle and a bloody piece of clothing are found. Susanne and Eva are beside themselves with fear. When Daniel comes under suspicion, Eva must ask herself who she should trust: her best friend or her husband? After all, both are obviously hiding a number of things from her ...

Breathtakingly exciting and superbly told – the dark underbelly beneath the façade of a happy family. Who can you trust when your loved ones are lying to you?

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
Who You Trust
Crime Fiction. 428 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2025, December



Petra Johann
The Jetty
Thriller. 399 pages
2024, September

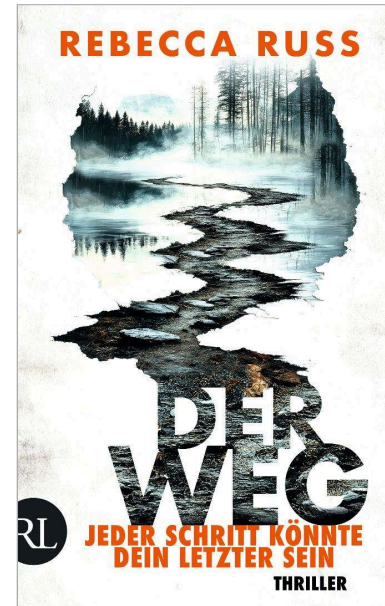
Petra Johann
The Bookseller
Thriller. 431 pages
2024, October

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.

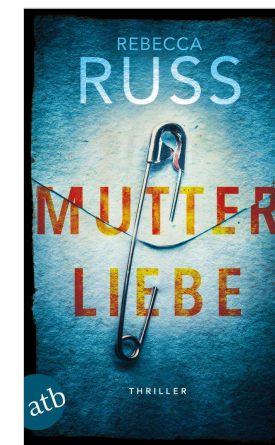
Rebecca Russ was born in Salzburg in 1991, where she still lives today with her husband surrounded by mountains and lakes. In addition to writing books, she is also passionate about designing them and works as a freelance cover designer. She enjoys spending her free time in nature, hiking or sailing. 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. 306 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. 383 pages
atb. Quality Paperback
2025, June

**BEST
SELLER**



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

Inka Ihmels (she/her)
Foreign Rights Manager
i.ihmels@aufbau-verlage.de
Tel: +49-30-28 394-123

Aufbau Verlage GmbH & Co. KG
Prinzenstraße 85
10969 Berlin
Germany

www.aufbau-verlage.de

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Andrea Spužević Golemac (she/her)
Corto Literary Agency
andrea@cortoliterary.com

Brazil
LVB & Co. Agência Literária
Luciana Villas-Boas (she/her)
luciana@lvbco.com.br
Anna Luiza Cardoso (she/her)
annaluiza@lvbco.com.br
Miguel Sader (he/him)
miguel@lvbco.com.br

Greece
Evangelia Avloniti (she/her)
Ersilia Literary Agency
eavloniti@ersilialit.com

Hungary
Rita Tillai (she/her)
Balla-Sztojkov Literary Agency
ballalit@ballalit.hu

Italy
Barbara Griffini (she/her)
Berla & Griffini Rights Agency
griffini@bgagency.it

Israel
Geula Geurts (she/her)
The Deborah Harris Agency
geula@thedeborahharrisagency.com

Netherlands
Linda Kohn (she/her)
Internationaal Literatuur Bureau BV
lkohn@planet.nl

Poland
Anna Kolendarska-Fidyk (she/her)
AKF Literary Agency
akf.agency@hot.pl

Romania
Simona Kessler (she/her)
Simona Kessler International
Copyright Agency
simona@kessler-agency.ro

Russia, Ukraine
Maria Schliesser (she/her)
Literaturagentur Maria Schliesser
schliesser.maria@gmail.com

**Spain, Portugal, Latin America
(Except Brazil)**
Carina Brandt (she/her)
International Editors' Co. Agencia Literaria
carina.brandt@internationaleditors.com

Türkiye
Amy Spangler (she/her)
AnatoliaLit Agency
amy@anatolialit.com