Why We Took the Car

PICTURES OF YOUR TRUE LOVE

A girl stands in a yard behind a clinic. The gate opens, and the girl slips out, beginning a journey through forests, fields, villages and along the motorway. "The stars wander, and so do I." Her name is Isa, and Isa is going to meet people – friendly and mysterious, malevolent and sad. A sailor who might be a bank robber. An eccentric writer. A dead forestry worker. A lorry driver who has lost his way. On a rubbish tip she meets two fourteen-year-old boys. One of them she takes a liking to, the shy blonde one.

Right up until his death in 2013, Wolfgang Herrndorf worked on this wonderful novel about the lost, mad and enchanting Isa, and expressed his wish that it be published. A romantic journey through days and nights, unfinished and yet delivering a fully formed creative vision.

"The way that Herrndorf tells his stories – with a language that you get addicted to – is brilliant." Frankfurter Rundschau

• Herrndorf’s previous novels all became bestsellers.
• 1.5 million copies of his novel Tschick (Why We Took the Car) were sold and rights were sold to 30 countries!

WOLFGANG HERRNDORF

was born in Hamburg in 1965 and died in Berlin in 2013. Having studied to become a painter, his first novel, Vögel im Püschlwettern, was published in 2002. Other acclaimed novels followed, such as Wasserdichte diäten (2007), Tschick (2010) and Sand (2011). A posthumously published volume of diaries, Work and Structure, was published in 2013.

© Mathias Mainholz
Melle’s forceful, poetic novel about two underdogs. And about love.

THOMAS MELLE was born in 1975 in Bonn, and is one of the most important theatre scriptwriters of his generation. He was nominated for the translation award at the Leipzig Book Fair in 2006. His prose debut was published in 2007, which earned him the 2008 Bremen Literary Prize. His award-winning novel Sickster was published in 2011. Thomas Melle lives in Berlin.

3,000 EUROS

Denise’s life isn’t exactly going brilliantly. Working at a discount supermarket, she’s often unable to cope with her young daughter. Her only consolation is the utterly unrealistic dream of travelling to New York. The money she’s promised for her part in a porn film is, she hopes, going to change everything. Then she notices Anton, a down and out ex-law student living in a shelter, heavily in debt and who always seems to be scowling. Denise, angry and indignant, vows to fight for her rights and for her daughter. Anton is in despair, and feels neither. A seemingly impossible love story?

“Thomas Melle recognises the rifts in our society, even when they are barely visible.” Die Welt

• Nominated for the German Book Prize 2014!
• English sample translation available (also for his debut novel Sickster).
• Recommended by New Books in German (Goethe Institute).

And about love.

Rowohlt·Berlin | fiction

THOMAS MELLE

Sickster

Sickster

August 2014
208 pages

Januar 2015
256 pages

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And about love.
Rowohlt | non-fiction

MARTIN WALSER was born in 1927 in Wasserburg and now lives in Überlingen by Lake Constance. He has received numerous awards for his work, among them the Georg Büchner Award and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. He has also been decorated with the order “Pour le Mérite” and was appointed “Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres”.


“Human beings are poets. If they stop being poets, they stop being human,” notes Martin Walser in his diary in April 1979. While previous volumes of his diaries depicted a life in writing, this fourth volume focuses on the writing part. Walser asserts that life attains meaning through writing. That writing creates works of beauty that are also truths. And this volume provides the proof for his daring thesis. Yet life exists to be lived. And Walser does live, and experiences life to the full. And only then does he begin writing. About Woody Allen, Thomas Bernhard, Heinrich Böll, Hilde Domin, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Joachim Fest, Max Frisch, Günter Grass, Lars Gustafsson, Jürgen Habermas, James Joyce, Franz Kafka, Gershom Scholem and many others.

“What Martin Walser has experienced and written about here is an adventure that leads to a great work of literature.” Martin Lüdke, Frankfurter Rundschau

Rowohlt Berlin | fiction

MAX GOLDT was born in Göttlingen in 1958 and currently lives in Berlin. His last books include The Boss Refrains from Freezing With Orientation (2012) and A Wife Made From Timber Office (2010). In 2008 he was awarded both the Hopp Ball Prize and the famed Kleist Prize.

FEMALE BOSSES IN FLOOR-LENGTH DENIM SKIRTS

“It’s only a movie,” Alfred Hitchcock was fond of saying when someone, especially himself, had something bad to say about one of his films. So if a work of art isn’t completely successful, it isn’t all that bad. What’s far worse is when you have to sneeze when you have your mouth full of food, for example during a state dinner. You hold your hand in front of your mouth but don’t manage to cover it completely, resulting in a shower of half-chewed fish with potatoes flying into the face of the Libyan ambassador sitting opposite, who already seemed irritated beforehand. And then to top it all, you can’t remember on the spur of the moment what “I’m sorry” is in Arabic.

• An artfully designed book for everyone who loves funny and outstanding literary texts.

Rowohlt Berlin | fiction

LUCY FRICKE was born in Hamburg in 1974, worked for a long time in scripts and continuity before studying at the German Literature Institute in Leipzig. In 2005 she won the Berlin “Open Eyes” competition and two years later her first novel Thirst is Worse than Homesickness was published. In 2010 she organised the first Hamburg Festival for new literature and music: “HAALIT!”. She lives in Berlin.

THIRST IS WORSE THAN HOMESICKNESS

“Her youth was now over. And she would have preferred to be alone. Panic gripped her at the mention of the ‘group evening.’ Judith hated groups, group activities, group games; it sounded to her like a bad diagnosis. I am very sorry, but you have Group. How did she end up in a home, anyway? With no drugs, no weapons, just lots of what they call Help available everywhere you look.” Lucy Fricke’s story tells of the end of youth, an engrossing, dramatic story told with great verve and compassion. Without hope among the hopeless, her heroine staggers through therapy, casual jobs and her first true love.

“Lucy Fricke sieves souls through souls in a way that is almost uncanny. Her language is simple, yet artistic, and her observations astounding.” Hamburger Abendblatt

roworo | fiction

TAKESHI’S SKIN

Frida is a sound designer, one of the best there is. She can invoke pure horror, conjure up a war. She knows that there are twenty ways to smoke a cigarette, and that each one sounds different. Yet someone, she thinks, should cut that annoying clicking noise out of her hip, the sound of the years passing by. And if it were up to her, it would all just carry on, year in year out. Her life with Robert in their house near the city. But one day Jonas turns up, a young director. The soundtrack to his apocalyptic new film has inexplicably gone missing. Along with the sound editor. Frida is to go to Kyoto to reconstruct the missing soundtrack.

Takeshi’s skin

Frida accepts, her curiosity awakened, ignorant of what lies in store. In the land of the talking machines and Sony recorders. And the challenges that await aren’t just of the technical, professional sort. Meeting Takeshi, a young man, threatens to shake her world to its foundations. And when on 11 March 2011 another, very different sort of earthquake strikes, cause and effect, the internal and the external, seem to dissolve into one another.

Rowohlt | fiction

HEINZ STRUNK
THE STRUNK PRINCIPLE
The multitalented Heinz Strunk has made a name – of sorts – for himself as an inventor of jokes, writer of novels, player of music and actor of characters. Now he’s turned to a new career as a professional expert. On everything. Readers of the satirical magazine Titanic have been delighting over his column “The Strunk Principle”, in which Heinz Strunk pronounces his expert views on literature, economics, sexuality, pensioners, sport, holidays, illness and much more. A rauous exposition of Strunk’s dry, deadpan brand of humour.

FRIEDRICH CHRISTIAN DELIUS
INVISIBLE LIGHTNING
Poems
According to the critic Steffen Jacobs, Delius shows “a sensitivity for the moment that combines an understanding of form and a terseness of language in a way that is utterly beautiful.” Friedrich Christian Delius rejects illusion, has cultivated a sharpness of style that is often broken up by moments of irony. He often draws on the everyday, the mundane to create poetry. These poems condense into a bridge “that leads through the thicket of the air and onto a surprising new road.”

THOMMIE BAYER
THE DEPRIVED AREA CALLED THE HUMAN HEART
Three wild young guys, and one beautiful girl: all in the same lifeboat, paddling away furiously trying to survive the tempestuous white-water ride called the Swinging Sixties! We follow four people as they swim downstream towards the 1970s called the Swinging Sixties! We follow four people as they swim downstream towards the 1970s

NILS MOHL
CHECKOUT 53
One week in the life of a nameless cashier who commutes between work at an electronics store and his flat in a prefab housing block. A novel about hundreds of possible answers to the question: “Would you like a bag?” About change and interactions with customers. Nestled in a terse, compartmentalised narrative style are gems of observational writing that reveal a unique view of the world and its inhabitants.

DIRK LAUCKE
WITH SOCIALIST GREETINGS
Hermann F. Odetski has lost touch both with the world and his son Phillip, about whom he’s constantly worrying. He’ll probably finish school and then join some government employment scheme, Hermann frets. Odetski Sr. goes down to his cellar and gets out the good old Erika, a typewriter, the cap on whose ‘e’ was broken off years ago. He sits down to write a letter to someone who will know what he’s going through. Margot Honecker, wife of the old East German communist leader, Erich Honecker. Phillip has never really understood his father. But he takes on the role of Margot for the old man’s sake. Through Margot as an intermediary, father and son get closer than they’ve ever been. Perhaps there will be a happy ending for this story, after all…

SOMETIMES THE DEVIL IS ONLY HUMAN
Psychotherapist Jakob Jakobi is visited by a man named Anton Auerbach one day, who wants to buy Jakob’s soul. His reasoning is that since Jakob has met God, his soul is now particularly valuable. But for who? For the Devil, of course. And that’s exactly what Auerbach purports to be. Jakob is annoyed. What, he wonders, could be so special about his little practice that it’s the scene for a meeting between the representatives of the powers of Heaven and Darkness? Or at least people who think that’s what they are. Jakob has not the slightest intention of selling his soul – or of believing “Tony’s” protestations about his identity. But the alleged Devil has an ace or two up his sleeve. Jakob’s life turns slowly into a living hell. Now, more than ever, he needs God’s support…

Rath’s previous title sold more than 50,000 copies!
THE STERNTALER CONSPIRACY

In the grey light of dawn in a small rural town, Süleyman, a young homeless man, sees a motorcyle come off the road and crash. When he goes through the dead man’s pockets he finds an envelope containing photographs. They are pictures that shouldn’t even exist. Süleyman believes that he has stumbled on a way of making some quick money. He soon realises that his opponents will stop at nothing to get what they want.

At the same time the body of a woman is found in a Frankfurt hotel room, killed by a gunshot to the face. Kommissar Marthaler soon discovers that the dead woman was a renowned journalist who was investigating a mysterious conspiracy: the Sterntaler conspiracy. Marthaler’s fifth case is set in 2008; the state elections have ended in a hung parliament, and the planned extension to Frankfurt’s airport – one of the nation’s biggest building projects since the end of World War Two – is threatened. With such huge amounts of money at stake, some interested parties will stop at nothing ...

"Jan Seghers writes the perfect crime novel."
Der Tagesspiegel

The BREED

Five minutes. That was how long Helga let her son out of her sight. It was a moment of carelessness. And it was in this instant that her son went missing.

As though chief police inspector Henry Conroy doesn’t have enough on his plate with this puzzling case of child abduction on his desk. Now he also has to deal with a new colleague. Manuela Sperling is both impertinent and self-assured. But she also has good instincts. The two officers soon get a new lead that takes them to an old farm on the border to the Czech Republic. A farm owned by a breeder of dogs. Whose dogs need meat, and lots of it. And their breeder will get it for them, whatever it takes ...

• His first thriller The Water Sprite’s Fury became a bestseller.
• Rights sold to Italy and Korea.

A WORLD IN FLAMES

It is May 1940 and German tanks are pushing inexorably westwards. While the French capital descends into panic, the last Simplon Orient Express leaves for Istanbul. Fate has brought these passengers together, each with their own reason that compels them to get on this last train out of Paris. A Balkan prince is desperate to regain rule over his country. His Jewish mistress fears for her love, and for her life. A German spy wants to protect her at all costs. A Russian prince is on the run; his Soviet pursuers are hot on his heels. A famed silent film actress is more afraid of being forgotten than of the war. The passenger list also includes agents of all the countries currently embroiled in this global conflict. And yet no one suspects that the train is carrying something so special that Hitler has ordered his armies to search Europe for it.

This journey is ill-starred from its beginning, and each time the train reaches a border it could mean the end. Each of its passengers fears the dawning of the next day. Then a fire breaks out. While Europe plunges into darkness, this train is racing through the night like a blazing torch ...

• An opulently told story about the fate of its protagonists. This is momentous drama and a great pleasure to read.
• The last Orient Express: a spectacular setting for a story of electric suspense and surging emotions.
• 20,000 copies sold within the first week!
• Rights sold to Italy (Newton Compton)
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**Autumn & Winter 2014 / 15**
SAYONARA, COP!
CARSTEN GERMIS
rororo | fiction

In a small seaside village, two school students make a gruesome discovery: a body floating in the water, almost unrecognizable due to fish bites. Chief Inspector Tomma Peter is still able to identify the corpse quickly, however: Nicola Sencker, marketing manager at the harbour corporation. A hard-nosed careerist, the victim was adored by men and hated by women. Everything seems to point to a crime passionel. Tomma gets a new lead in the form of an anonymous tipoff ...

HOSANNA!
JOHANNA ALBA, JAN CHORIN
rororo | fiction

Christmas has come to Rome, and the smell of candyfloss and oranges is in the air. Tourists and locals, for once, are all united in happy expectation of the holiday season. The only person whose stress levels are sky-rocketing is Pope Peter II; and it’s not just because of the pontiff’s hectic December schedule, either. His elder sisters are more than a little concerned about a Spanish priest who has unaccountably gone missing. Peter, of course, can’t resist investigating the young man’s puzzling disappearance personally ...

KEEP BREATHING NORMALLY
JOHANNA ALBA, JAN CHORIN
rororo | fiction

Lexi is devastated when instead of settling down into a peaceful retirement with her, her partner Karsten leaves her for a younger woman and to begin a new life in South America. A new life? Two can play at that game, Lexi thinks. And without Karsten. As a widow, perhaps? She decides to get him declared dead and empties his bank accounts. As a result of a boozy afternoon at a hotel bar she decides to share her flat – now far too big for her – with friends. “We’ll start a pensioner’s flatshare!” she shouts out to anyone who’ll listen, egged on by the champagne she’s been quaffing. Everyone produces to the new team – especially the charming Lexi – and she instantly feel the fire of their old connection bursting back into life. If it wasn’t for a particularly dark and damaging secret ...

WUNDERICH | fiction
HORTENSE ULLRICH
rororo | fiction

HORTENSE ULLRICH worked as a journalist and script writer before turning her hand to writing novels. Her humorous, quirky storylines have to date found over three million fans. Her books have been translated into twenty languages. She is married and has two adult daughters, lived for eight years with her family in New York and currently lives in Bremen.

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rororo | fiction

Lexi is devastated when instead of settling down into a peaceful retirement with her, her partner Karsten leaves her for a younger woman and to begin a new life in South America. A new life? Two can play at that game, Lexi thinks. And without Karsten. As a widow, perhaps? She decides to get him declared dead and empties his bank accounts. As a result of a boozy afternoon at a hotel bar she decides to share her flat – now far too big for her – with friends. “We’ll start a pensioner’s flatshare!” she shouts out to anyone who’ll listen, egged on by the champagne she’s been quaffing. Everyone agrees enthusiastically, especially the charming Lexi – and the two instantly feel the fire of their old connection bursting back into life. If it wasn’t for a particularly dark and damaging secret ...

WUNDERICH | fiction
HORTENSE ULLRICH
rororo | fiction

HORTENSE ULLRICH worked as a journalist and script writer before turning her hand to writing novels. Her humorous, quirky storylines have to date found over three million fans. Her books have been translated into twenty languages. She is married and has two adult daughters, lived for eight years with her family in New York and currently lives in Bremen.

HOSANNA!
JOHANNA ALBA, JAN CHORIN
rororo | fiction

Christmas has come to Rome, and the smell of candyfloss and oranges is in the air. Tourists and locals, for once, are all united in happy expectation of the holiday season. The only person whose stress levels are sky-rocketing is Pope Peter II; and it’s not just because of the pontiff’s hectic December schedule, either. His elder sisters are more than a little concerned about a Spanish priest who has unaccountably gone missing. Peter, of course, can’t resist investigating the young man’s puzzling disappearance personally ...

KEEP BREATHING NORMALLY
JOHANNA ALBA, JAN CHORIN
rororo | fiction

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**ANNEKE MOHN**

**APPLE ROSE SEASON**

When their mutual friend Isa dies, a group of old friends meet up at Isa’s house to sort through her possessions. The house with the apple rose hedges they all lived in when they were at university together. During the day they pack boxes and clear out old cupboards, in the evening they drink red wine and chat about life, the universe and everything. Each of the women has a secret of her own which she’d rather not share with the others. On a cold December day the heating breaks down and the friends huddle together in front of the oven in the kitchen …

![January 2015](image)

March 2015

352 pages

**FANNY WAGNER, CAROLIN BIRK**

**MOSTLY FABULOUS**

Success will make you ... tired, as it turns out. Nina thinks she’s finally made it. Her fashion label is going from strength to strength. It’s not easy to keep it that way with the local villagers and their, ahem, idiosyncrasies. To give her more time for her daughter Marie and her new boyfriend, Christian, a local carpenter, she hires a young carlisle together in front of the oven in the kitchen …

![October 2014](image)

February 2015

288 pages

**ANDREA RUSSO**

**NONNA LUCIA GOES ON HOLIDAY**

Julia and Antonio are just about to tie the knot when Antonio’s grandfather dies. At the funeral, held near Naples, a black butterfly causes quite a stir: first it lands on Julia’s shoulder, then on Marcello, Antonio’s brother. For the widow, Nonna Lucia, the meaning is obvious: Julia has chosen the wrong brother! Nonna immediately decides to accompany the couple back to Germany. But the turbulent car journey back is just the start of Julia’s troubles. Lucia is determined to force Julia and Antonio apart, come what may …

![November 2014](image)

288 pages

**SUSANNE FALK**

**LOVE IN BLACK AND COLOUR**

Broke and left in the lurch by her boyfriend, Birgit decides to move back to the countryside she grew up in and start afresh. On her first day back she drives drunk into a fence owned by Sören, her erstwhile boyfriend as a teenager who has never stopped hating her for splitting up with him. When one morning he finds a zebra standing between the cows on his pasture, a corrupt local official intends to get the animal destroyed. Birgit and Sören are suddenly united ...

![November 2014](image)

288 pages

**POLARIS**

**fiction**

**BETTINA WÜNDRICH** has had a hugely successful publishing career in a range of roles, including editor-in-chief, writer and product developer. She has supervised or worked with many renowned magazine titles and currently advises newspaper and magazine publishers on the development of new products and works as a freelance writer. This is her first novel.

**HIGH GLOSS**

Josefine Stern is the editor of a highly successful fashion mag. Her specialist metier: the latest hair- and must-have handbags of the season. Then tragedy strikes: publisher and mentor Gus passes away. Suddenly, she and her staff are propelled into a new era: ‘Digital Transformation’ they’re calling it. Now it’s all about apps and the internet. Hard-headed Melissa has been installed to manage the transition, and she’s making sure things are done by the book. Josefine is finding it difficult to keep her mind on the job. Her head is full of other things, like what Martin, a notorious womaniser, is really after; why her Greek neighbour has started coming round with pots of soup; how to deal with sagging skin; not to mention how on earth she’s going to save her own job … Will she see the catastrophe that’s looming before it’s too late?

- The devil wears Prada in Germany too!

**RAKKAUS! (FINNISH FOR LOVE)**

Frank, a Swiss journalist, travels to Finland to discover the secret of the Finnish tango. He meets Kaisa, married to a Finn and has two children.

When Antonio’s grandfather dies. At the funeral, held near Naples, a black butterfly causes quite a stir: first it lands on Julia’s shoulder, then on Marcello, Antonio’s brother. For the widow, Nonna Lucia, the meaning is obvious: Julia has chosen the wrong brother! Nonna immediately decides to accompany the couple back to Germany. But the turbulent car journey back is just the start of Julia’s troubles. Lucia is determined to force Julia and Antonio apart, come what may …

![December 2014](image)

256 pages

**CHRISTIAN GASER**, born in 1963, works as a freelance journalist and teaches at a Swiss University. Every summer, he spends several weeks in the Finnish wilderness. Gasser is married to a Finn and has two children.

"Rakkaus: this is how Finland and how love feels – heaven and hell, mostly at the same time! You do not get the one without the other; that’s why I love the country and its people!" Christian Gasser
KERSTIN ENGEL
ANTS DON’T KISS
Science is Isa’s life. As a biologist (specialised in ants), she has a deep distrust of emotions. The primatologist Dr Ben Breitenbach, on the other hand, cultivates his image as an adventurer and is widely known for the image he has on women. Fierce competition breaks out between the two when both are nominated for the same prestigious science prize. The two meet on a ship on their way to the award ceremony in Norway. Ben comes up with a cunning plan: crack Isa’s hard professionall shell to gain a crucial advantage ...

MIRCO BUCHWITZ, RIKJE STANZE
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, PRINCESS!
When she wakes up next to some bloke in a bed with sheets bearing the logo of a football club, it dawns on Ina that she’s not going to pull her ideal man drunk at some bar. And she’s fed up with daydreaming her way through dull days working at a call centre, and she’s had enough of talking to her pillow with a picture of Johnny Depp on it. Ina decides that she has to get that big mouth of hers under control. If not for the sake of getting Mr Right, then at least to snare Mr Not-Completely-Fucking-Wrong ...

ANDREAS ALTENBURG, HARALD WEHMEIER
BREAKFAST AT STEFANIE’S: LET’S GET OUT OF HERE!
Steffi, Udo, Herr Ahlers and Grandpa Gehrke win a holiday at the hotel run by the famous easy-listening singer Andrea Berg. They take off in their VW not suspecting the disaster that awaits. When old Granddad Gehrke almost starts a fight with a rocker gang, the four manage to escape – in their underwear – before finding refuge on a bus of senior citizens on an outing. But they soon realise that things aren’t getting any better ...

DIETMAR BITTRICH (ED.)
NO MORE DRINK FOR GRANDDAD!
Every year the same old story: wouldn’t Christmas be idyllic if it wasn’t for the family? Arrogant uncles, obnoxious aunts, nasty nieces, beved-up brothers-in-law… Not to mention those cousins from some part of your patchwork family you never even knew you had! Meanwhile, your gran wants to hear Christmas carols, your parents are fighting (again!), your sister is off in a huff while your brother is just about to throw in the towel and leave them all to it. The only consolation is that things aren’t any better across the road at your neighbours’ house.

Katja Doubek, born in 1958, studied literature, history, philosophy and psychology. She has worked as a psychotherapist and a freelance journalist for German broadcasting, TV and daily newspapers. She then wrote several non-fiction books, amongst them biographies on Lee Strasus, Katharina Kepler and August the Strong.

THE VIZIER’S GIFT
The year is 1229, and the Spanish army is laying siege to the capital of Mallorca, previously conquered by the Moors. The Christians have ignored the offers of surrender by the Vizier, and the city’s inhabitants are facing enslavement and death. In desperation the Moorish ruler sends King Jaume a special gift, a girl versed in all the arts of love. Samira, a harem slave, is ostensibly to attempt to move the king to leniency. But her real mission is to kill him. Samira believes that she can save her lover – as it turns out, a bitter fallacy ...

DOGGED BY LOVE
Bonny and Baldo, two terrier/beagle mongrels are abandoned somewhere in Southern Italy. Bonny is found weeks later by Mia, dying of thirst; the half-dead Baldo winds up with Giuseppe, a bar owner. When later the two dogs happen to meet they are overjoyed and are soon inseparable. A happy coincidence, too, for Mia and Giuseppe! But Mia has to return to her native Germany. One day she opens her door to find Giuseppe standing there with Baldo; it is the beginning of a wonderful love story.

• The true story of a heartbreaking love: tragic, charming and simply wonderful!

Ricarda Jordan was born in Bochum in 1958 and lives as a freelance author in Spain. Using the pen name Sarah Lark she writes compelling novels centred on New Zealand and the Caribbean. When writing under the name Ricarda Jordan, she immerses her many readers in the colourful world of the Middle Ages.

• A wonderful Christmas tale from old Mallorca by the bestselling author!
A powerful agent is the right word. Whenever we come upon one of those intensely right words in a book or a newspaper the resulting effect is physical as well as spiritual, and electrically prompt.” – Mark Twain

THE ALPHABET OF THOUGHT
HOW LANGUAGE FORMS OUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS
Words can console or hurt us, can haunt us for days or even years. When we read a love letter or are involved in an argument, we are reminded of the power of language. Often we aren’t even aware of its influence. Which is why we are so easily manipulated, for example by advertising. In this revealing, insightful book, Stefanie Schramm and Claudia Wüstenhagen show us that language affects our lives and thoughts in more far-reaching ways than we realize. It even influences our perceptions and consciousness, as revealed by the language of an Aboriginal tribe that has no spatial labels such as “in front,” “behind,” “right” or “left,” but only directions in the sense of the points of the compass. This has structured the tribe’s sense of orientation so that they can always and with complete precision describe the position of certain places, even at night. The authors have collected startling results of research in a diverse spectrum of fields, including psycholinguistics, psychology, neuroscience and even economics. They conclude by describing how we can use the power of words to our own end. It has been proven, for example, that talking about fear weakens its impact. And it turns out that learning foreign languages is not only good exercise for the brain but also reveals new facets of one’s personality.

STEFANIE SCHRAMM, a freelance science writer and works for publications including DIE ZEIT, msw, TAZ, ZDF am Sonntag and the Deutschlandfunk radio station. She attended the Cologne School of Journalism and studied economics and politics.

CLAUDIA WÜSTENHAGEN is a staff writer with ZEIT Wissen. She attended the Cologne School of Journalism, studied economics and politics at the University of Cologne and public health at the University of Auckland.

“Words make people. And shape our world.”

Foreign Rights
Autumn & Winter 2014 / 15
GERMANY: A WINTER’S JOURNEY
It is a remarkable journey of discovery: 800 km on foot from the rampant atheism of Hamburg in the north to the entrenched Catholicism of Altötting in the south. In the winter of 2013/2014, the author embarked on a pilgrimage which revealed a country, he was astounded to find, that he hardly knew. He retreated from the world and its goings on for many weeks, cutting himself off from news about the global financial crisis, the latest government announcement, the football results, from every-thing. Winkler discovered that Germany is still deeply divided: the Black Madonna of Altötting is completely unknown in the North; seen from Valhalla on the Danube in the South, Hamburg might as well be somewhere beyond the Seven Mountains of Norway. The author strides through the Lüneburg Heath and across the erstwhile bor-der to the GDR; visits the cathedral in Halberstadt and the house in Eisleben in which Martin Luther died; and trudges through deep snow amidst the Fichtel mountains. He meets Lower Saxons, real Saxons, Thuringians and Bavarians, grave-diggers, hunters, foot-ball fans, forestry workers and pub regulars. Most of them tell him he’s mad.

AND EVERYTHING WAS QUIET
“Even as an unbeliever, I felt humble and ashamed among the ruins of this foreign country,” Melvin Lasky notes in his diary. He arrives in Germany as a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army in the last year of the war, charged with gathering material for a his-tory of the invasion. But what he finds there can’t be organised into some sanitised, comfortable account: chaos, rubble, inhumanity. Dumbstruck he travels through vast stretches of bombed out ruins, from Alsace to Bavaria, from Kassel to Braunschweig, until finally reaching the devastated capital. While sketching out the early stages of the occupation, he – crucially – listens closely to the people he meets. It is these voices – the voices of concentration camp survivors, resistance fighters, Allied soldiers, POWs, Nazis, people who sheepishly went along with Hitler’s regime, and those who lost their homes to Allied bombing – who make up an enthralling, hor-rific and momentous mosaic of the year 1945. They make this previously unpublished diary a unique his-torical account.

Childhood East – Childhood West

In this startling, evocative book, two of the best writers of their generation tell of their own child-hood, each telling the other their own story with great precision and literary flair.

“Jochen Schmidt is a gentle, calm magician.”
Stern
“David Wagner wonderfully balances melancholy and concision.”
Der Tagesspiegel

The Other Side
Two Germans. Two boys, born almost at the same time. But not in the same country. One grows up in the West, not far from the West German capital of Bonn; the other grows up in the East, in Berlin, cap-ital of the GDR. They both play at home, in the gar-den, between the high-rises or on building sites and wait for the evening’s TV schedule to begin. They drive around on bikes with their friends, steal sweets from their siblings and argue on the back seat of the family car. They dream of playing in the national football team, ‘forget’ to do their piano practice, and are told in school that the world on the other side is worse.
WOLFGANG SANDNER was born in 1942 and was a record producer with the renowned Wergo label before moving to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in 1982. He worked there for almost three decades as a music journalist. He is a professor at the institute of musical study at the University of Marburg and has written and edited works on a range of diverse topics including Carl Maria von Weber, Tom Waits and Gidon Kremer. His acclaimed biography of Miles Davis was published in 2010.

KEITH JARRETT

Keith Jarrett is one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, a jazz visionary and outstanding interpreter of the classical canon, and a master of improvisation. His legendary Köln Concert from 1975 is still the biggest selling solo jazz album of all time. Wolfgang Sandner has known Jarrett for many years; having been a guest at his house, he had the rare opportunity to get to know the man behind the music through many long conversations. Little has been known about Jarrett’s biography until now. In this remarkably well researched, astute yet sensitive book, Sandner picks up the threads from Jarrett’s childhood when he was hailed as a wunderkind; relates how he found himself musically while playing with greats like Chet Baker, Charles Lloyd and Miles Davis; and how he came to develop his outstanding talent. Sandner reveals what formed and inspired Jarrett’s life and musical development. Sandner’s revealing present.

SERGEI LOCHTHOFEN is a journalist, and was born in 1953 in the Russian town of Vorkuta. His parents moved to the GDR when he was five years old. He attended a Russian school and later studied journalism in Leipzig. He was editor-in-chief at the Thüringer Zeitung from 1990 to 2009. He was awarded the accolade ‘Editor-In-Chief of the Year’ by Medium-Magazine, and is a regular guest on television current affairs panel shows.

Grey in Grey: Life in a Doomed Country

In the north of Russia, three young lads are fighting for their lives, caught in a damaged boat on an icy river. It is the Vorkuta, namesake of a region that is synonymous with oppression and death. Decades later, one of the boys stands on the steps of the cathedral in Erfurt and announces to the assembled crowd of tens of thousands that his newspaper has declared itself independent of the seemingly omnipotent party machinery. It is the birth of the first reform newspaper in the GDR. The author looks back on his experiences as a German among Russians, and as a Russian among Germans. His personality shaped by growing up without a sense of home or belonging. In his inimitably nuanced, erudite style, Lochthofen describes how he came to East Germany and learnt the language on the streets; he tells of his life as the only pupil at his school whose parents were civilians. Running away from home, he travels to the Crimea to study art, fleeing back to East Germany to escape being drafted, before being immersed in the grim absurdities of life as a journalist in the GDR on the staff of a Communist Party newspaper.

GREY IN GREY: LIFE IN A DOOMED COUNTRY

KEITH JARRETT

SPRING IN JERUSALEM

Wolfgang Büscher lived for two months in Jerusalem’s Old City, first in an Arab hostel near the Jaffa Gate, then in a Greek convent built during the Crusades. His was only a passing visit, yet he trod paths steeped in the history of the past two millennia. Büscher immerses himself in the culture and history of this unique city. He listens to Jerusalem, records its scenes and sounds and delves deeper into its secrets. He spends days in the Arab, the Christian and the Jewish quarters, imbibing the half-light of the narrow alleys, the souqs, the Via Dolorosa, the Wailing Wall and the rooms where the Arab men drink cardamom-flavoured coffee and smoke shishas. He walks through the Kidron Valley, the Garden of Gethsemane, wanders over the roofs above Jerusalem and lets himself be locked in for one night in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This is the unique travel memoir of one spring spent exploring a city with a profound history and a fascinating present.

Spring in Jerusalem

WOLFGANG BÜSCHER. Born in 1951, Wolfgang Büscher is a writer for the DIE 2017 newspaper. He has written numerous award-winning travel books, including Hartland, Asian Absoncess, Germany; A Journey and Berlin – Moscow: A Journey on Foot.

SPRING IN JERUSALEM

November 2014
320 pages / illustrated

SPRING IN JERUSALEM

September 2014
384 pages

SPRING IN JERUSALEM

November 2014
256 pages

Long-awaited: the new Büscher!

‘His travel memoirs are among the best books to have been published in German in the last few years.’ Der Spiegel.

‘There’s a good chance that Büscher will one day be considered classic travel literature, before even Bruce Chatwin.’ Süddeutsche Zeitung.

• Büscher’s previous titles were bestsellers and have been sold to 10 countries.

Rowohlt: Berlin | non-fiction

Rowohlt: Berlin | non-fiction

Rowohlt: Berlin | non-fiction

Berlin – Moscow: A Journey on Foot

Germany, A Journey

© Frank Zauritz

© Frank Zauritz

© Frank Zauritz

EIN FRÜHLING IN JERUSALEM

WOLFGANG BÜSCHER

Ein Frühling in Jerusalem

IN JERUSALEM

Berlin – Moscow: A Journey on Foot

Germany, A Journey

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Winter 2014 / 15

24 25
The Art of Small Talk
Alexander von Schönburg

From LA to New York with no money in less than three weeks, right across the USA.

From LA to New York with no money in less than three weeks, right across the USA.

The Art of Small Talk
Alexander von Schönburg was born in 1969 and has written for Die Zeit, Vanity Fair and Vogue, among many others. He was a journalist with FAZ and editor-in-chief of Park Avenue. He has written numerous bestsellers, including In Best Company (2008). He lives with his family in Berlin.

The Art of Small Talk

Alexander von Schönburg reveals how to master the ultimate conversational challenge: small talk. An expert in all questions of taste and social etiquette, he implores us to – if we don’t manage anything else – stick to conversational topics that are appropriate. After you’ve finished this book you’ll be chatting nonchalantly about the God particle, throwing about a couple of witty bon mots about the new Tarantino film before ruminating with aplomb on the tenets of Buddhism. This is a charming, witty self help guide in the art of good conversation, yet also a glossary of topics in current affairs and contemporary culture. A sharp, revealing and elegantly humorous book for anyone who wants to emerge as a winner from even the most dire conversational and social situations.

"Schönburg’s humour, the seductive charm of his ideas and his wily cunning all work towards making us agree with him.”
Nürnberger Nachrichten

"This book has changed my life.”
Christian Kracht on »Die Kunst des stilvollen Verarmens«

• The author’s previous works were bestsellers.

• Rights for his previous titles were sold to 12 countries!
Otmar Jenner was a smoker for many years, but managed to kick the habit. And if there’s one thing his experience has taught him, it’s that the traditional method – of creating fear of illness and transfers and useless medical procedures, ambulance services, expensive investigative journeys and useless medical operations, is round off by a set of exercises and a functional workout and relaxation programme. Just a few minutes a day are all that’s required.

The problem of Germany’s communally funded health care system: an almost neurotic compulsion to be on the safe side. Doctors, nurses and clinical personnel have all fallen under its spell, too. It’s the reason that billions are spent each year on superfluous operations, expensive investigative procedures, ambulance transfers and useless medication.

THE GERMAN PATIENT

Stunned by their distressing diagnosis, many cancer patients fall into a dangerous passivity. But combating cancer requires a more active outlook. Easy to learn, the Simonton Method is an excellent way of mobilising the body’s capacity for self-healing, in turn helping to fight the disease. This book contains not only a detailed, supportive two-year health plan that encourages people with a serious illness not to give up hope, but also contains invaluable advice for little things sufferers can do every day to help prevent acute discomfort from returning. The comprehensive care concept is rounded off by a set of exercises and a functional workout and relaxation programme. Just a few minutes a day are all that’s required.

THE SIMONTON METHOD

Jessica is 31 when cancer begins destroying her life as well as parts of her body. During her ongoing chemotherapy, she makes a momentous decision: if I survive this, I will stop wasting valuable time. Jessica embarks on the journey of her life, experiences New York, parties the night away at the carnival in Rio, and learns how to surf in South Africa. At the end of her journey she finds she has not only overcome her fear but also found herself, and realises she has a backpack full of memories that no tumour can ever take away.

SCARS OF THE HEART

Especially about the part where he supports people who end their own lives. In the last 20 years he has helped hundreds of people who have decided on voluntary euthanasia. His vocal advocacy of doctors being allowed to accompany patients through this process has made him well known in Germany and beyond. Until now, he has not been prosecuted for his actions. Under German law, “supporting a suicide” is not a crime in the case of adult patients who are mentally capable and take the deadly dose of poison themselves. “Actively assisting a suicide,” however, is a criminal act. Some conservative politicians want to introduce legislation that would end this distinction and criminalise both forms. A nationwide debate on the subject seems imminent. Uwe-Christian Arnold sets out his personal standpoint, using real life cases to illustrate his arguments. The “right to life” he insists, does not contain an inherent “compulsion to remain alive.”

LAST AID: OUR RIGHT TO DIE

Uwe-Christian Arnold was born in Berlin in 1944. Having studied medicine he became a specialist in urology, and set his own medical practice from 1980 to 2000. He began thinking seriously about euthanasia in the mid-1990s. In 2012 he won a long and prestigious court case against the supervisory medical board in Berlin that had tried to ban him from giving a deadly drug to a female patient who he knew was intending to commit suicide.
Johannes Hayers, Felix Achterwinter
Just Kidding!
Sometimes, when the little darlings refuse to do what they’re told and you’ve exhausted all the ‘recommended’ ways of getting your way, it’s time to get crafty. This book collects some of the best parenting ideas ever. Take Maria’s daughter, for example: after replying the tenth time with “Why?” to a friendly request to please fasten her seatbelt, Maria resorted to: “Put your seatbelt on, or somewhere a unicorn will die!”

Bastian Obermayer
Dreaming of Happiness
Bastian Obermayer is responsible for some of the most original, insightful reportage of the past decade. This volume showcases his immense talent, and includes the story of an experienced manager who has been living on benefits for the last five years, unable to fund a job; his meeting with football legend Lothar Matthäus, who puts the yoghurt pots in his fridge into a footballing utopia; but can’t see it anywhere... We’re all too well acquainted with those minor things that can cause major irritation. Thomas Raab collects these curious little bugbears, the much-vaunted ‘first-world problems’ into one witty, thoughtful book.

Jan-Uwe Rogge, Angelika Bartram
Dream Worlds: The Power of Your Child’s Imagination
Children don’t need to have knowledge forced into their brains at the earliest opportunity; they think visually, in pictures and images. Their fertile and creative imagination is a language that parents have often forgotten. But if they can relate in the right way to these magical powers of fancy and fantasy – and aren’t obsessed with intellectual learning – they can unlock vast potential for their little ones’ personal growth. This book shows parents how to make the most of the opportunities the dream world of children presents.

Thomas Raab (ed.)
I Did Something Amazing and No One Was There to See It!
Your empty yoghurt pot can’t hold the weight of the spoon and falls over; you’re at a restaurant and someone else gets his food before you even though you ordered first; you can hear a mosquito but can’t see it anywhere... We’re all too well acquainted with those minor things that can cause major irritation. Thomas Raab collects these curious little bugbears, the much-vaunted ‘first-world problems’ into one witty, thoughtful book.

Christian Ankowitsch
Why Einstein Never Wore Socks
If you’re hungry, you think more creatively. If you put on a lab coat, you do things with more care. And if you put schoolchildren in the front row, you make them smarter. How we think depends on any number of details. Here’s Christian Ankowitsch’s intriguing thesis in a nutshell: we don’t only think with our heads, but with our whole bodies.

Florian Schroeder
If Only...
The world is a pretty confusing place. If there are 26 types of jam to choose from, we’ll buy honey. If we look for reasons for our decision, we’re suddenly dissatisfied with it. But life is about making choices in each and every moment. Florian Schroeder is trying to find out how to be decisive, and on the way there confronts some of the biggest questions about our existence, such as: Do we even make decisions at all? Or is it just instinct taking over? Or do we make decisions in our heads? Or with our brains? And what do people do who may have a head on their shoulders but are less than gifted in the brain department?

• 30,000 copies sold of his previous title Open for Anything – and Nothing.
JUDITH LUIG
ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?
When your best female friend becomes a mother, things are going to change. For good, probably. Meeting up is suddenly only possible at ridiculous times, and at silly places like playgrounds and in clothes shops. With five nieces and nephews and six godchildren, Judith Luig is an expert in what happens to your friendships when your friends have kids. This warm, funny book for parents and non-parents alike tells the story of Judith’s best friend and how the two managed to make their friendship work, despite motherhood.

MAX MOOR
WHEN MAX’S NAME WAS DIETR
May 1, 1958, little Dietr is born in a Zürich hospital. Popular Swiss maxims will define his notion of Switzerland: punctuality is the politeness of kings or the best of the worst will become civil servants. He believes it, too, until a teacher sees elves, two barefooted brothers try to win the hand of a well-to-do aunt and a local official starts prescribing a Swiss version of Vaseline for cows’ udders. What once seemed a vast country somehow shrinks to a provincial little pimple on grandfather’s globe. Enjoyable and moving stories by the bestselling author about his home country.

Polaris | non-fiction
GERHARD HAASE-HINDEMBERG
THINKING ABOUT SEX
What do our sexual phantasies say about the society we live in? Research on this fascinating topic was pioneered by Nancy Friday in the 1970s, but what are the erotic dreams of people today? The author developed a questionnaire and ran ads to get people to respond – and was inundated with replies. People from every class and corner of Germany told him about their most intimate desires. Assisted by the sexual behaviour researcher Christoph J. Ahlers, he assembled the responses into this startling, fascinating book.

MARC BAUMANN
A SHADOW OF JUSTICE: INSIDE THE COURT SYSTEM
Marc Baumann was selected in 2008 to become a lay judge. His task in the five years he spent in the role was to represent the voice of the people at trial. As a lay judge he confirmed verdicts in court that he thought were reasonable at the time, but that, when talking about his experiences later to his partner, he found he was hardly able to justify. His views on what is just were often far removed from those of the presiding judge.

MAREK FIS
POLISH AND LEGAL
When Marek Fis was a boy his father said to him, “You’re not really Polish.” His parents sent him to Bavaria. But he didn’t really fit in there; he spoke better German, for one thing. In this excruciatingly funny, tongue-in-cheek look at national and ethnic stereotypes, Fis talks about his life as a Pole among Germans and pokes fun at both sides. His stories satirize everyday life in Germany’s more ethnically mixed regions, including the supposedly precarious situation of the natives, promiscuous Africans, Turkish street criminals and Polish drunkards.

TILLMANN PRÜFER
BRUNO THE HOLY: MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER AND HIS UNBELIEVABLY JOURNEY
“Once missionary Bruno Gutmann had baptised him, the tribe’s chief went to nine of his ten wives and took his leave from them, saying that this was what God wanted. Bruno rode back to his wooden hut on his donkey and thanked God that he had found his true home in Africa.” Tilmann Prüfer traces the amazing story of his great-grandfather – only discovering at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro how exciting his ancestor’s life really was ...

FIL
PEEING STANDING UP AT THE URINAL
Fil, an ex-punk, is a real Berlin original, growing up on a north Berlin housing estate. In this book, Fil tackles the subjects of his childhood in a high-rise housing block; his experiences in the 70s at his school; and the growing pains of a young lad who isn’t sure which causes him more headaches: his parents, his teachers, girls or Fil himself.

ACHIM HAGEMANN
THE POPOLSKIS
Having drunk 22 glasses of vodka at the church fete in Pyskowice over 100 years ago, Pjotrek Popolski composed a little melody. As amazed musicologists were to discover years later, the four chords of his song were also incorporated in 90% of all international chart hits. It marked the beginning of the fantastic – and highly fictional – story of the Pololski family. Wonderfully whimsical with a unique, anarchic brand of humour, Achim Hagemann’s story writes the fictional Pololski family into the annals of history.
WOLFGANG BELTRACCHI, born in Höxter in 1951, is a painter and counts among the world’s most versatile forgers in the German-Belgian origin. Because of her involvement in her husband’s sale of counterfeit paintings, she was imprisoned for four years.

Meeting his future wife Helene caused him to carry on painting, his “works” showing the influence of a huge range of artists. Unlike other forgers, he could imitate not just three or four painters, but a vast number. His paintings still hang in galleries, museums and art books, and are viewable in collections.

FOR 28 DAYS
Warsaw, 1942. The 16-year old Mira smuggles food in order to survive in the Warsaw Ghetto. When she discovers that the entire Ghetto population is to be deported to concentration camps and murdered there, she desperately tries to find a way to save her family. She comes into contact with a group of young people who are planning the unthinkable: an uprising against the occupying forces. Mira joins the resistance fighters who, as it turns out, can hold out longer against the SS than anyone had thought. Much longer. For 28 days. During these 28 days, Mira has to decide where her heart belongs. To Amos, who wants to take as many Nazis into the grave with him as he can? Or to Daniel, who wants to help the orphans in the bunkers? 28 days in which Mira experiences moments of great humanity, betrayal, suffering and happiness.

• The thrilling autobiogaphy by the forger of the century.
• 80,000 copies sold.
• Translated into 10 languages!

Highlights 2014 / 2015

WOLFGANG BELTRACCHI, born in Höxter in 1951, is a painter and counts among the world’s most versatile forgers in the history of art. He was sentenced to six years in prison following a spectacular lawsuit against him.

HELENE BELTRACCHI, born near Cologne in 1958, is of German-Belgian origin. Because of her involvement in her husband’s sale of counterfeit paintings, she was imprisoned for four years.

Self Portrait
Wolfgang Beltracchi’s story is one of personal development: born and raised near the Dutch border, he embarked on a trek along the hippy trail through Paris, Brussels, Spain and Morocco. Meeting his future wife Helene caused him to redefine his attitude towards life, his goals and his opinions.

David Saffer, born in 1966, is one of the most successful authors currently writing in German. The novels Lousy Karma, Jesus Loves Me, Suddenly Shakespeare, Happy Family and Mine! have enjoyed considerable runs in the millions in Germany and abroad. He was awarded the Grimme Prize and an Emmy for his screenplay for the TV series Berlin, Berlin. His new book shows a new side to his writing.

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Contact details
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