FOREIGN RIGHTS
FICTION
Spring & Summer
2019
A gripping page-turner that evokes modern classics like Donna Tartt’s *The Secret History* and Emma Cline’s *The Girls*

English sample translation is available!

Born in Bonn in 1973, Anselm Neft studied religion and European ethnology. He worked as a kitchen hand washing dishes, as a management consultant and as a teacher, touring for two years with his medieval folk rock band. His work has appeared in DIE ZEIT and his creative writing has been published in both novel and anthology form. He has lived in Hamburg since 2016, where he is part of the “Liebe für Alle” spoken word performance group. In 2018 he was invited by Nora Gomringer to read at the 42nd Klagenfurt literary festival.
Norbert Zähringer
WHERE WE WERE

A modern-day Dickens-esque story about an orphan who becomes a tech millionaire

It’s the night of July 20, 1969. Neil Armstrong sets foot on the Moon. Millions around the world are glued to their TV sets while a few others are busy exploiting this global media event for their own ends. Like Martha Rohn, a murderer who escapes from a women’s prison on that eerily quiet night. Is it a coincidence that her son Hardy runs away from his children’s home – where he was sent after his mother’s conviction and is known as “Orphan 13”? He knows nothing about her, not even if she’s alive. Then a married couple take Hardy in; growing up, he dreams of one day becoming an astronaut. Years later, in America, where the internet has made him rich, his dream is within his grasp.

Where We Were is a novel of immense scope whose expansive narrative unfolds across an entire century. Vivid and inventive, this story is an exposition of expertly deployed narrative pacing, at times pushing us relentlessly forward at breakneck speed before switching effortlessly to slower, more reflective passages.

This expansive tableau gracefully melds disparate temporal eras, nations and historic detail with an engrossing array of individuals and their fates; the narrative oscillates between a frenetic race from one cliff-hanger to the next and subtle, gentler passages of remarkable sensitivity. This rich, spellbinding novel explores experiences of fleeing, the tumultuous effects of coincidence as well as identity, belonging and foreignness – its locus all the while on the question: Where were we, and where will we be?

“With his four previous novels, Norbert Zähringer has already created works that are here to stay. He has managed to move deftly along a tightrope that before him Robert Gernhardt as one of only a very few writers danced on nimbly, one stretched across a thematic abyss between comedy and despair [...]”.
- Andreas Platthaus in his address awarding Norbert Zähringer the Robert Gernhardt Prize for an excerpt from this novel.

Norbert Zähringer was born in Stuttgart in 1967 and grew up in Wiesbaden. His 2001 novel So (2001) was praised as “one of the funniest and most bizarre and absurd debuts in recent years” (Süddeutsche Zeitung) and “entertaining, self-assured and opulent literature” (Die Welt). His novel While I Was Sleeping was published in 2006, One of Many in 2009. He lives with his family in Berlin.
An ex-couple embarks on a desperate search for their daughter – and for new lives.

Two people, two separate existences, are thrown together on a journey with an unknown destination. Living geographically and psychologically far apart, they neither know nor like each other yet are forced into an alliance to search for the only thing that connects them: their adult daughter, plagued by mental illness, who has suddenly disappeared.

Georg leaves behind his bed-and-breakfast in Austria, Heidi her mannered, middle-class existence in Frankfurt; both leave behind their new families. They travel on planes, boats and mopeds through Vietnam and Cambodia, desperate to find the next clue to their daughter’s whereabouts. Some of the obstacles along their way lie within, stemming from their past and their inability to confront the present.

Featuring Doris Knecht’s distinctive narrative voice, this gripping novel sends two (almost) strangers on a mission of uncertain outcome, its powerful narrative driven forward by a series of decisions whose consequences weigh ever more heavily on the lives of all involved.

Knecht’s novel *Better* was longlisted for the Austrian Book Prize.

The columnist and novelist Doris Knecht was born in the Austrian state of Vorarlberg. Her debut novel *Gruber's Departure* (2011) was nominated for the German Book Prize before being turned into a feature film. She was awarded the Ravensburger Foundation Book Prize for *Better* (2013). Her widely acclaimed novel *The Forest* was published in 2015.

“The nonchalant way Doris Knecht depicts the existential is remarkable.” *Literaturen*

“Her language sparkles, her sentences are the kind we are tempted to write down. A genuinely great novel.” *Hamburger Morgenpost* on *Better*
The events depicted here occur during the winter of the terrorist attack on the Christmas market near Berlin’s Gedächtniskirche, the German capital’s Church of Remembrance. A man with no name watches the precarity pervading his neighbourhood with an increasing sense of unease. A series of conversations with his neighbours lets him reflect on his own biography and peer into theirs, and becomes an investigation into the human spirit and the meaning of life and death.

One of his conversations is with Dariusz, formerly a surgeon and father; his son drowned in South America. He also meets with Karsten, a former fellow student, in a bar near Berlin’s Charité hospital where Karsten works as a molecular biologist. And he talks to the elderly Dorota, a former architect from Poland whose intellectual energy confuses and inspires him. The blow, when it falls, hits him all the harder. His last visit to Dorota’s flat finds him standing in an empty room; the landlord informs him that Frau Dorota has hanged herself in her bedroom.

The Sad Guest is a powerfully existential inquiry into one self and the wider world. Developing a bewitching narrative intensity, this philosophical and deeply human novel ‘knows’ about loss, about the effects of suppressing suffering and what it means to arrive somewhere new. This story of survival insists on the permanency of beauty despite the unnerving ugliness of fear and death.

Rights to The Enterprise (2014) have been sold to Italy (L’Orma) and Russia (Eksmo).
Rights to The Many Deaths of Grandfather Jurek have been sold to Croatia (Mala Zvona) and to Poland (Bukowy Las).
“A great Berlin novel.” Welt am Sonntag
Shortlisted for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2019!

Matthias Nawrat was born in the Polish town of Opole and moved with his family to Bamberg at the age of 10. He studied biology before moving to Switzerland to study at the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel. His 2014 novel The Enterprise was critically acclaimed and nominated for the German Book Prize. It also garnered Nawrat the Kelag Prize and the Bayern 2 Wordplay Prize. He lives in Berlin.
A mutilated body is found next to train tracks near Jena. How did the young man from Mozambique die? First lieutenant Otto Castorp from the murder investigation commission in Gera looks for witnesses but is confronted with a wall of silence.

The evidence, however, points to racist motives for the killing. When it becomes clear that this line of inquiry can no longer be disregarded, the commission is ordered to drop the case: a racist murder is inconceivable in the German Democratic Republic. Otto Castorp begins his own covert search for the killer, under observation by the powers that be...

Based on a real case, Max Annas' novel is an urgent, deeply political thriller with a relevance that goes far beyond the 1980s and the former East Germany.

- Rights to The Wall have been sold to the USA (Catalyst Press) and to France (Belfond).
- Rights to Illegal have been sold to France (Belfond) and Japan (Sogensha).
- The author won the German Prize for Crime Fiction in 2017.

Max Annas was a journalist and worked for many years in South Africa on a research project studying South African jazz. He now lives in Berlin. He was awarded the German Crime Writing Prize for both his debut novel The Farm and his second book, The Wall.
After ten years in the captivity of a brutal torturer, 19-year-old Madelin McFarland manages to escape. Her mother Susan, who had given up hope of ever seeing her daughter again, is overjoyed. Only a few hours later, Madelin has again disappeared.

Susan’s husband Stuart is found lying injured in the kitchen and her younger daughter is in a state of shock so deep that she can’t speak. Detective Superintendent Kate Fincher from Edinburgh’s Criminal Investigation Department goes all-out to find Madelin, who has been traced to the Scottish Highlands calling herself Amy. But who is she fleeing from?

- Previous titles sold more than 200,000 copies!
- Rights to her previous thrillers were sold to the Czech Republic (Sevcik), France (Albin Michel), Italy (Giunti), the Netherlands (WPG) and to Turkey (Koridor).

Karen Sander worked for many years as a translator and taught at university level before she decided to focus on writing. She lives with her husband in the Rhineland region of Germany and wrote her doctoral dissertation on the writer Val McDermid.
The front door of the flat is unlocked. On the living room table lies a pizza, recently delivered but untouched. The woman who ordered it has disappeared without a trace. Police Commissioner Jens Kerner and his colleague Rebecca Oswald soon discover that this shocking case is not unique: they are hunting a criminal as treacherous as any they’ve ever encountered.

The killer has evidently been hunting his victims for years. All the victims were home alone, all had ordered a takeaway. Their food order was to be their last sign of life…

- Rights for Housesitter were sold to the Czech Republic (Alpress).
- More than 180,000 copies were sold of the SPIEGEL bestseller The Girls’ House!
- “Andreas Winkelmann pushes the narrative forward with a vehemence only seen in English-language thrillers.” - Die Welt
- Winkelmann’s thrillers have been translated into 8 languages.

Andreas Winkelmann was born in 1968; he discovered his interest in thrilling stories when he was still young. Blinder Instinkt and Bleicher Tod have become bestsellers. He lives with his family in a lonely house at the edge of a forest near Bremen.
Little Juni grows up in the 1950s on an airfield near New Orleans. There’s nothing this wild child enjoys more than tinkering around on planes with her stepfather. But Juni wants more; she wants to fly to the stars. Years later, as the world is engulfed in a heated race for supremacy in space, she gets a giant step closer to realising her dream. She and twelve other women are selected for a NASA astronaut training programme. A gruelling test regime begins that brings each of the women close to her breaking point. But Juni holds out to the end and attains excellent scores.

Her dream of journeying into space seems close to becoming reality when she hears the devastating news: none of the women will be allowed into space; men like John Glenn are to be sent up instead. As if that wasn’t bad enough, she also discovers that her whole life is based on a lie. Juni is crushed, but finally resolves to fight for the truth and her dreams…

Maiken Nielsen was born in Hamburg in 1965. She spent a part of her youth on container ships and was taught there by her parents. Since 1996, Maiken Nielsen has worked as a writer, reporter and announcer for television.
Cousins Ophelia and Franka grow up together near the Rhine and are best friends throughout their childhood. They are connected by a dark secret that Franka has revealed to Ophelia – and no one else.

At finishing school, the intellectual, ambitious and ethereal Ophelia is offered the opportunity to study the violin in the USA. Fun-loving Franka, on the other hand, drifts from one internship and relationship to the next, often needing Ophelia’s support. When she finds a job at a gallery in New York, she’s happy to finally be near her childhood friend again.

In New York, however, things take a dramatic turn. Ophelia has a serious accident. At the same time a group of terrorists flies hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center. Between the rubble of the twin towers appear irrefutable signs that Ophelia has betrayed Franka’s confidence…

The journalist Julie von Kessel has worked for over ten years at ZDF’s Morgenmagazin early morning TV show. She was previously part of the ZDF studio team based in New York, and her reporting included the events of 9/11. She grew up in Helsinki, Vienna, Zagreb, Bonn and Washington, DC. She lives with her family in Berlin.
The beginning of a unique romance trilogy about three young women, a lighthouse and love - for all fans of Mona Kasten, Laura Kneidl and Colleen Hoover!

Take Some Time Out! The headline grabs Liv’s attention as she browses, depressed, through the job ads. Although she’s only 22 and just starting out in journalism, a recent disastrous interview cost her a new job. The ad sounds like a dream come true: someone needs a house-sitter to mind a lighthouse on the Irish coast for six months!

Taking time out is exactly what Liv needs to clear her head and recharge her batteries. She sends off her application and a few weeks later finds herself standing in front of her new home. Next to a good-looking Irishman who makes her heart beat faster. She doesn’t know it yet, but he’ll break her heart, too…

Kira Mohn has done a lot of different things. She founded a music magazine, studied pedagogy, spent time living in New York, self-published her own books written under the pseudonym, Kira Minttu, worked with four friends to build the writers’ label Ink Rebels, and – most importantly – started a family. She is active on Facebook and Instagram and enjoys interacting with her readers there.

Volume II:

A rousing romance novel about an injured young woman and a stubborn man in a small town on the Irish West Coast

After a terrible blow of fate throws her life into confusion, Seanna needs desperately to get away from it all. She’s come to the village of Castledunn in the hope of getting her life back in order. The wild countryside of Ireland’s west coast and the slow pace of rural life give her new energy.

Her job behind the bar in the village’s only pub provides a comforting sense of routine. Then the pub changes hands, bought by the attractive Neall Kennan, who throws Seanna’s feelings into turmoil. Not only is she attracted to him, she’s also reminded of her own past. It’s more than Seanna can bear.

Please note our new address starting March, 18th: Rowohlt Verlag GmbH, Kirchenallee 19, D-20099 Hamburg
“Life’s a journey. Don’t take too much baggage with you.” - Billy Idol

32-year-old Maya refuses to tie herself to places or people. A professional travel blogger, there’s hardly a corner of the world Maya hasn’t seen. There’s only one place she never wants to visit: La Gomera, home of her adoptive mother Karoline.

A few years ago, Maya found out by accident that Karoline isn’t her biological mother and has never forgiven her. Maya finds out that she’s pregnant after a brief affair. Of all the places in the world, the prospective father, Tobi, has settled on the island of… La Gomera.

Maya reluctantly flies out to the island, home of drop-outs, hangers on and penniless artists, to stay with her mother. She doesn’t yet realise that this will be the most important journey of her life.

- Katharina Herzog’s novel Between Us the Sea (2018) sold more than 90,000 copies and spent 16 weeks on the SPIEGEL bestseller list.
- A Never-Ending Summer (2017) sold more than 100,000 copies and made number 13 on the SPIEGEL bestseller list.

All her life, Katharina Herzog has loved thinking up new stories and writing them down. After a brief spell in journalism she went back to creative writing. She soon began publishing her books, and has already won a wide audience as an author of e-books. She lives with her family near Munich.
The Doctor: Love’s Ways

Berlin, 1915: while physician Ricarda bravely supports the city’s starving women, her private life is marred by deep concerns about her children’s future. Her son Georg is a soldier, fighting at the front while elder daughter Henny has revealed a carefully concealed secret and makes a fateful decision.

Ricarda’s youngest, Antonia, has been working in Berlin’s zoo and has nurtured an ambitious plan to become the nation’s first veterinary surgeon. When the capital blooms once again during the Roaring 20s, Ricarda suffers yet another blow of fate. Will her husband’s love help her get through these difficult times?

- Rights to Volume I have been sold to Italy (Giunti) and Spain (Penguin Random House)!
- Volume I and II sold more than 170,000 copies.
- Storms of Life (Vol. II) made number 1 on the SPIEGEL bestseller list.

Helene Sommerfeld is the pseudonym of a married couple living in Berlin, both of whom are professional writers. Many of their novels and non-fiction books were bestsellers. The unique energy and vitality of their books is due to their passion for medicine and their deep interest in historical characters and personalities coupled with a yearning to visit far-flung lands.
After the death of her parents, Stella finds herself stranded in Hamburg’s harbour district, wandering aimlessly around with no money, passing the prostitutes, day labourers and disabled war veterans.

Here in St Pauli she meets Lorenzo, a farm worker, who fled the fascists taking control of Italy. Lorenzo falls in love with Stella’s blue eyes and creates a star-shaped form of pasta in her honour. He manages to win Stella’s heart through his family recipes.

The couple go on to build a successful business based on simple noodle dishes. But when Lorenzo travels to Italy looking for new suppliers, Stella suspects that the price may be too high to pay…

Previous titles by the author total over 300,000 copies!

Brigitte Pasini is the pseudonym of Brigitte Kanitz, a successful German author. She has lived in Italy for decades but keeps a suitcase in her home city of Hamburg. This German-Italian family saga is infused by thrilling true stories from her own family history.
Julia Freidank
THE BREWERY ON THE BANKS OF THE ISAR: FATEFUL GAMES

A woman caught between love and intrigue, tradition and transformation

Bavaria, 1897: Antonia Pacher leaves her parents’ impoverished farm for Munich in the hope of earning some money. By chance she gets work at a brewery and soon finds herself in competition with other employees, the bar girls, brewery lads and master brewers. But Antonia refuses to give up and resolves to fight for her position at the company — and for the love of Melchior Bruckner, heir to the brewery.

But Melchior and his mother Franziska have their own battles to win, aiming for even greater success by gaining a prized license to sell beer at Oktoberfest. But the Bruckner family has enemies who have set treacherous intrigues in motion to destroy their family business...

This intriguing novel marks the start of a major new family saga.

Julia Freidank is the synonym of a successful author of novels and non-fiction books. Born in Munich, she has always been fascinated by the many tales about her home city. And because Munich wouldn’t be Munich without the brewing industry, she felt it was time to write a story set at a brewery.
Milan, 1493. When silk merchant Bernardino Bellapianta finds the young Pandolfo lying on a rubbish heap with a broken skull, he takes the injured man in and nurses him back to health in his fairytale palace. Pandolfo, who has lost his memory, begins a search for his own past. He survives a second murderous attack, ascends high into the skies with a builder of flying machines, falls in love with a woman for the second time and slowly realises that his benefactor is not as innocent as he appears.

Like Pandolfo, Bernardino is a man without a past. A foundling, his business acumen and ambition led him to the Orient and to fabulous wealth. The old Milanese families grow resentful; malicious rumours circulate about Bernardino’s suspiciously good relationship with the Turkish sultan. Is that why Pandolfo one day stumbles over the body of a murdered Turk? The corpse is lying in the hold of a ship – and at the same time in Bernardino’s palace. Puzzled?

Much of what goes on in this rich, tense and meticulously researched historical novel is puzzling. Over the course of its spellbinding narrative, Pandolfo is forced to discard many illusions on his way to finding his old self and the love of his life.

Michael Römling was born in Soest in 1973. He studied history in Göttingen, Besançon and Rome. After completing his PhD, he founded a publishing company, and wrote many history books and historical novels for young readers. Since completing his dissertation and living in Rome for eight years, he feels closely connected to the Renaissance period.
Brigitte Riebe
THE KU’DAMM SISTERS: A GOLDEN AGE (Vol. II)

A major new trilogy set in the 1950s about three sisters and a Berlin business dynasty

Berlin, 1953. While eldest sister Rike puts the family’s business above everything else, middle daughter Silvie wants to push away the dark memories of the war by living her life to the full. Rike’s hard work in rebuilding the department store on Berlin’s Ku’damm doesn’t interest her in the slightest. After all, business is booming. Rike wants to offer her customers the newest innovations: petticoats, nylon stockings and Perlon shirts as well as the finest fabrics and wares in the latest Italian fashions.

But the dynamics of the family have changed. Now that the wounds of war are healed, the men refuse to let the women run the business on their own. Florentine, the youngest sister, is now a young woman and begins rebelling against anyone and everyone in a way that threatens to split the family. Silvie realises that she will have to take responsibility for the business and for the family…

Rights to all three titles have been sold to Hungary (General Press).

Brigitte Riebe completed a doctorate in history before becoming a publishing editor. She has written many successful novels set in past historical eras. Her books have been translated into many languages. She lives with her husband in Munich.

Backlist:

VOL. I: Die Schwestern vom Ku’damm
Wunderlich
October 2018
432 pages
They were young, spoiled and famous. When Klaus and Erika Mann wrote a travel guide about the Riviera in 1931, public interest was assured. With great pleasure Erika and Klaus write about the wild Marseille, the fashionable Cannes and of course about Monte Carlo.

They chat lightly and ironically about places and people, their favourite restaurants and let us participate in their encounters with artist friends and other celebrities of the time. A fascinating document about the Riviera at the beginning of the thirties – with numerous historical photos.

- A renowned, prize-winning author, Thomas Mann remains a leading figure in the German canon and his work has been published all over the world.
- A declaration of love to the Côte d'Azur from Erika and Klaus Mann, the brilliant eldest children of German author Thomas Mann

**Erika Mann** was born on 9 November 1905 in Munich. She first worked as an actress and journalist. At the beginning of 1933 she founded the cabaret "Die Pfeffermühle“ in Munich; a few weeks later she went into exile with the whole troupe. From 1936 she lived mainly in the USA as a lecturer and publicist. During the Second World War, she participated in the BBC's German programs and was a war correspondent for the Allies. In 1952 she returned to Europe with her parents. She died in Zurich on the 27th of August, 1969.

**Klaus Mann** was born in Munich in 1906, the first child of Thomas and Katia Mann. He began his literary career as the *enfant terrible* of the Weimar Republic. After 1933 he became an important figure in the German literary elite that had been forced into exile by the Nazis. Klaus Mann’s death in 1949 in Cannes was caused by an overdose of sleeping pills.

"[Klaus Mann's] autobiography is] certainly one of the great autobiographies of the century and probably the definitive one of the life of a German exile... Not only very good reading but also essential in the literature of twentieth-century exile.” — Carl Zuckmayer, *Bloomsbury Review* on *The Turning Point*
“One of the most significant society novels ever written in German” (Die Zeit) – now in a new edition

Eduard Has sees himself as lucky. The war has destroyed his home city but also opened lucrative new opportunities for his real estate firm in Frankfurt’s upmarket borough of Westend. He rewards his own success with a collection of expressionist paintings, a genre still widely rejected. Next to his coolly stylish wife he keeps a lover; he also adores the ground his daughter Lily walks on. Why can’t life just continue like this forever?

Westend is set in a borough of Frankfurt built during the economic boom of the Gründerzeit in the 19th century, nestled between the Palmengarten botanical gardens and the Alte Oper opera house. Being in the spirit of the great European society novels, its focus is the city and its populace, covering all classes and social strata. This gloriously vivid story allows Martin Mosebach to assemble a cast of characters whose fates he uses to depict an entire epoch of post-war Germany. Speculators and art dealers, rubbish collectors, janitors and cleaning women, the last scions of old Frankfurt’s respectable upper class and a pair of young lovers who carry the burdens of their fathers’ sins and learn to overcome them… An epic of stellar quality, Mosebach’s novel portrays the transformation of an urban society in the West Germany’s founding years. It is one of the author’s major works that is now, 30 years after its widely ignored publication, awaiting rediscovery.

- Rights to The 21 have been sold to the USA (Plough Publishing).
- Rights to the novel Mogador have been sold to Italy (E/O Edizioni).

Martin Mosebach was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1951. After passing his bar exams to qualify as a lawyer in 1979, he established himself as a writer in the city of his birth, where he still lives today. His first novel was published in 1983; since then, he has published a further nine acclaimed novels that have been translated into several languages. He has also written stories, poetry, libretti and essays on art and literature, ventured into travel writing and explored religious, historical and political topics. Mosebach has received many accolades and awards, including the Heinrich von Kleist Prize, the Georg Büchner Prize and the Goethe Award.
First published in 2003, The Heresy of Formlessness is already a modern classic, unique for its melding of poetic shimmer and keen observation. Martin Mosebach offers up a compelling defense of the traditional Roman Rite and a searing critique of the postconciliar liturgical reform through which ancient rites were profaned by tone-deaf modernizers.

For Mosebach, the only coherent solution to this crisis is a wholehearted return to the old Latin liturgy in its tightly-woven symbolic texture of prayer and chant, gesture and ceremonial – the rich heritage of its "mystic benedictions" (Trent).

Long out of print, this revised and expanded edition will be the more welcome for its six new chapters and foreword by eminent moral philosopher Robert Spaemann.

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"Among those writers with a particular talent for description, Martin Mosebach is an author of epics." Paul Jandl, Die Welt

"Martin Mosebach is one of the most brilliant contemporary storytellers." Denis Scheck, Druckfrisch
For some people, birth is the most spectacular event they’ll ever experience. Not so for little Matthias. His imaginative gifts turn his life into a series of wondrous incidents, each more spectacular than the last (his conception was like an intergalactic fireworks display). The first setback in his young life is his mother’s cooking (thankfully ameliorated by his grandmother’s saint-like care).

But life surprises Matthias with more challenges, like the battle to thank the butcher for a free sausage; the threat of Sunday visits to acquaintances whose front door looks like it came from a communist dictator’s mausoleum; Katharina, who has a laugh like yellow lemonade; or the day his grandmother says goodbye for good. As Matthias grapples with these trials, he’s forced to acknowledge his own idiosyncrasies and that they seem at odds with the world around him.

Matthias Egersdörfer’s existential, delightfully original and extremely funny debut novel tells of a young boy faced with the myriad challenges of growing up who uses his boundless imagination to dream (and fight) his way through the stormy sea of childhood and adolescence.

- “Coupled with a bizarre form of logic, his absurd exaggeration of conflict makes Egersdörfer unique. Bravo!” Thüringer Allgemeine
- “Ingeniously monstrous.” Süddeutsche Zeitung

Born in 1969, Matthias Egersdörfer grew up near Nuremberg. His higher education began with a course in German studies and philosophy, although he later studied painting at the Nuremberg Academy of Art. He has worked for many years as a stand-up comedian, musician and actor. He has received many awards for his solo shows such as “Vom Ding her”, “Ich mein’s doch nur gut” or “Falten und Kleben”, including the German Minor Arts Prize and the Bavarian and Austrian Stand-up Comedy Prizes. As an actor he is a regular on those episodes of the Tatort TV show that are set in Franconia. He also contributes to other TV shows such as “Neues aus der Anstalt”. He lives in Fürth.
In the middle, on the outside: Albrecht Selge’s story of a life without attachments

A woman is on a ceaseless journey, never arriving. Living on a train, she disembarks only to change from one route to another. Her life consists of railway compartments, buffet cars, waiting rooms at stations. She’s enveloped by life, caught in its stream; she is removed from life, condemned to its periphery. She sees the world, the continuum of day and night, the seasons, the travellers. But she doesn’t belong.

Once, she had a life like everyone else. A flat, a job, the odd relationship now and again. She remembers the nice, indecisive man with curly hair and her best friend, Lilo. Now she has a year-round ticket valid for any train in the country, a black carryall with some essentials and a plastic bag to collect glass and plastic bottles she can redeem for money. Her existence is governed by timetables and connections between trains that always seem tenuous, always in jeopardy. But she is a remarkably insightful traveller, sensitive to the comedies and tragedies of existence and her unending in-betweenness. She also has an awareness that Germany seems to have lost its way.

Albrecht Selge’s inventive wit and masterful ability to depict ocean-deep ironies produce a novel that despite its serious subject matter retains a lightness of tone and power to surprise throughout. Is this the story of a fall, of abject failure? Or the tale of someone’s ability to get back on their feet and carry on, to find new dignity? One thing is certain: it views our present moment through an unusual and intriguing prism.

- “Eerily beautiful, a must-read.” Die Zeit on Awake
- “It’s the observations that morph into one another, the reflections and thought fragments that make Albrecht Selge’s prose so alluring: his wonder at the world and what, at its core, keeps it together.” Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Albrecht Selge was born in 1975 in Heidelberg. He grew up in West Berlin and studied German and philosophy in Berlin and Vienna. His first novel, Awake (2011), was critically acclaimed, and was nominated for the Alfred Doblin Prize. Albrecht Selge is a freelance author and lives with his family in Berlin.
Herr Tsarelli, a former discus champion, is part of a special family. His wife Ruth died a long time ago yet somehow remains the focal point around which her relatives’ lives move. Her grandson Oskar is a canny loner unimpressed by the many attempts made to lure him into the fresh air. Daughter Mona is buried in work and sometimes reminisces about her relationship with Eric, Oskar’s father, which might not be completely lost, after all.

Meanwhile Herr Tsarelli’s melancholic chess partner Georgi is working on a plan to regain the intimacy of his erstwhile wife Dina, a piano teacher. Here, the various narrative strands meet: Georgi brings Oskar into his plan, asking him to contact Dina’s piano students. Mona finally enjoys some fresh air when she meets Johannes on a rooftop while Johannes is forced to acknowledge that Mona never belongs to only one person…

Marie-Alice Schultz’s emotional and clever novel is about family, pseudo-family, the poetry of DIY stores and love between human beings.

Marie-Alice Schultz received Hamburg’s award supporting talented new writers for her work on Mikado Forests.

Marie-Alice Schultz was born in Hamburg in 1980. She studied theatre and German studies in Berlin and fine art in Vienna. She is co-editor of the Hamburg-based literary magazine tau. Her work has been published in numerous periodicals and anthologies. In 2016 she was awarded a stipend by the Jürgen Ponto Foundation and participated in the 20th literature workshop in Klagenfurt.
When humans got down off the trees, Ralf König was nearby, observing quietly...

Africa, 6 million years ago. The emerald green rainforest recedes, ceding ground to an expanding savannah landscape. It’s the moment that apes decide, “Let’s get out of the trees!” But once on the hard ground of reality, they’re forced to walk upright, their brains grow and, hey presto: say hello, *Australopithecus*! But instead, humankind’s first clear thought is, “Oh shit…”

How right that was. Because every invention, be it *Homo habilis*’s stone axes or *Homo erectus*’s fire, just gets them deeper into trouble. And just when males start eating old meat and thinking they’re kings of creation, females decide to get secretive about when they’re ovulating, causing a lot of confusion around mating rituals. But Flop isn’t that bothered, he’s more interested in the beefy *Homo robustus* quietly grazing on the nearby steppes...

One word the early hominins never quite got the hang of was “peace.” Similarly passé was, “Back into the trees!” Flop decides to resist the progress of evolution.

(It didn’t quite work out for him, as we now know. But it was worth a try.)

A genuinely evolutionary comic book!

Ralf König’s comic books have been translated into 18 languages.

**Ralf König**, born in 1960 in Soest, studied graphic design. His stories were first published in gay men’s magazines. His breakthrough came with *Maybe ... Maybe Not* (*Der bewegte Mann*, 1987), which was hugely successful both as a graphic novel and as a feature film. His work has also been presented in countless art exhibitions. He received the 2014 Max und Moritz Prize for his life’s work.
27 years ago, Silke Möhlenstedt pulled the emergency cord. Not figuratively, literally. On a train. The results: she lost her marriage, some money, her job. Two front teeth got smashed, too. The teeth weren’t hers, however, they belonged to train conductor Rudi Paschkens. She managed to have some of the damages awarded against her commuted to community service that Silke is still serving to this day at a shelter for the homeless. Since then, her life consists mainly of the lives of others.

There’s her liberal friend Renate, a third-generation marriage swindler; her secret admirer and pigeon breeder Willy-Martin; her aged neighbour Frau Goebel, whose last wish is to travel to an East German holiday resort called “Tropical Islands”; and then there’s Zippo, a homeless man who has no health insurance and is fighting prostate cancer. Although Silke helps out everywhere, the scope of her own life stays narrow. But Renate keeps encouraging her to start afresh, to take a new chance. When her bitter ex-husband tries to elbow his way into her life, she finally loses her rag.

Giulia Becker’s warm and humorous novel describes the lives of outsiders who, like Silke, strive to find a little happiness.

Born in 1991, Giulia Becker is part of TV comic Jan Böhmermann’s writing team. For years she has every now and again broken off her university course (media science and literature), to live and work in Cologne. She has 50,000 followers on Twitter. Her song, “Verdammte Scheide” has been viewed nearly a million times.
A serene village in Mecklenburg is to be the final resting place of a powerful farming magnate in a hastily arranged burial. Chief Detective Michael Herzberg quickly becomes suspicious; the details just don’t add up. But the inhabitants of Lichtenfels refuse to speak about what’s happened.

No one seems to profit from the death of this prominent businessman, who was also a fervent Nazi. It’s only when Herzberg manages to talk to some of the village elders that the investigation makes any progress. As the Red Army moved through Lichtenfels in the final days of the war, an event occurred so horrific that it silenced those who witnessed it for decades...

Claudia Rikl’s tense, thrilling book interweaves historical themes with contemporary political issues to form a cleverly constructed case with many surprising plot twists.

Claudia Rikl was born in Naumberg, East Germany in 1972. She grew up there and was preparing to take her school-leaving exams when the Berlin Wall fell. This period of countless demonstrations, of churches filled to overflowing, this era of collapse and rejuvenation made a lasting impression on her. A jurist and literary scholar, she lives with her family in Leipzig.
Daphne Penrose (named after Cornwall’s most famous writer, Daphne du Maurier) has been invited to an exclusive reception at Glendurgan Garden. It’s early summer, and the gardens are lit up by the vivid hortensias. Guests enjoy some tasty Cornish food while listening to Lewis Russel, an expert on du Maurier’s work.

Daphne’s husband Francis has elected to stay at home (this isn’t really his sort of thing), so Daphne is attending on her own. The event comes to tragic end, however, when the body of Dr Finch is discovered in the gunnera beds. But who on earth would want to kill this much-liked physician? And what role does Professor Russel play in all this?

With the police officer in charge of the investigation seemingly preoccupied with his upcoming holiday, it falls to Daphne and Francis to solve this puzzling crime…

Born in 1949, the literary academic Thomas Chatwin is exceedingly knowledgeable about all things English. He has a passion for Cornwall and spends every minute of his spare time there. Under his real name, Claus Beling, he was responsible for international film productions based on novels, including a series of Rosamunde Pilcher films for the ZDF network. Through his long-standing friendship with Rosamunde Pilcher and the many holidays and trips they have spent together, he has gained many detailed insights into Cornish life.
The sleepy village of Neuharlingersiel is electrified by the deadly shooting of Tjark Ukena while out on his motorbike. Soon after, another bullet grazes kite surfer Antje. The police in Wittmund believe a madman is behind the attacks, ordering village policeman Rudi to watch out for suspicious characters and strangers.

Rudi, however, has other things on his plate. His long-lost father, believed missing, has just turned up at the Steffens farm. But the family reunion will have to wait. Helped by teacher Rosa and postman Henner, Rudi begins his search for the shooter and barely manages to avoid a further deadly crime…

Christiane Franke enjoys living on the North Sea coast. In addition to her work as a writer and editor, she works as a lecturer for creative writing.

Cornelia Kuhnert lives in Hannover and worked there as a teacher. She has published several crime novels.
The dead body of an animal rights activist is found near a remote farmhouse in the Algarve, under the hooves of her own horse. An accident? Commissioner João Almeida has darker suspicions, but no one believes his theory that the woman was murdered. He turns to a German journalist, Anabela Silva, who recently moved into the village where her parents still live.

At Almeida’s request she goes undercover with the activist group whose members include many Germans. But her attraction to Almeida isn’t the only reason she is determined to help him. She also needs his help in tracking down a child that went missing during a dark chapter in Portugal’s history…

Born in 1960 in Oldenburg, Carolina Conrad is a former journalist who spent three years travelling from Europe to Brazil in a self-built catamaran after deciding to leave the rat race behind her. Her first book, Untergehen werden wir nicht, was published in 2002, and recounted her experiences at sea. Since 2007 she has focussed on writing women’s fiction, with Alles gegen Werner and Hart aber Hilde becoming instant successes. She lives with her husband, dogs and cats in Portugal.
Valerie, a journalist, is slowly descending into a burn-out-driven crisis when she is sent by her editor on a trip to research an article about pilgrimages on foot and journeys of self-discovery. Reluctantly, Valerie begins a trek through the heath-covered lowlands of north-western Germany. After only a few days she is wracked by back pain and blisters.

She stops to gather her strength for a few days at a guest house on the edge of a nature reserve. Annegret, the establishment’s hale and robust owner, instantly recognises that Valerie is physically and mentally exhausted. Together with a local beekeeper, she brings Valerie closer to nature by showing her how to make honey, bake bread and make elderberry juice. But Valerie realises that finding herself is about more than just spending a few days in the countryside...

More than 160,000 copies were sold of You’ve Got a Message and rights were sold to Lithuania (Alma Littera)!

Sofie Cramer, born in northern Germany’s heathland in 1974, studied German language and literature and political science in Bonn and Hanover. Today, she lives and works as a freelance scriptwriter and author in Hamburg. Sofie Cramer writes under a pseudonym — because her own experiences are often part of her books, among other reasons.
Verena loves her daughters Ella and Anni more than anything else on earth. When her husband Rainer suddenly takes time off from his family and marriage, she’s suddenly a single parent and immensely unhappy. When her mother suggests going to a specialist spa for single parents and their children on the island of Fehmarn, she reluctantly agrees.

The minute she arrives, all her prejudices are immediately confirmed: the whole place is squirming with annoying mothers and their insufferable kids. But there are flashes of light in the darkness. Like Jan, who sits down with his daughter at their table…

**Julia Greve** was born in 1975 and lives with her family in Bonn. She is passionate about her work for a small NGO that advocates for sustainable textile production. This is her debut novel, the product of two visits to a spa that caters single parents and their children.
Caro has had enough! Now in her later 40s, she suddenly feels that her life needs a new direction – after all, she’s spent every single summer holiday in the last 20 years on the same bit of the Baltic coast! But is that really the root of the problem? Or is it a marriage that seems to consist only of tired routines? Or that her daughter is moving out? Has she been suppressing other needs and desires? Caro knows that her life is far from over and decides to realise a dream she has nurtured for decades: interrailing!

Her plan is to head off into the unknown with her best friend and plunge headlong into new-found freedom and adventure. But overfilled trains, sleepless nights and a ferry strike put enormous strain on Caro and Matti – and on their friendship. Then one day in Greece Caro meets an old sweetheart from her youth…

Bloom’s debut novel Life Starts at 40 (2017) sold more than 40,000 copies and was a SPIEGEL bestseller!

Franka Bloom is the pseudonym of an experienced script writer who has contributed to children’s films as well as TV crime dramas like Tatort, SOKO Leipzig and Ein Fall für zwei. She has won many awards for her work. She lives with her two daughters and her partner in Leipzig.
Sandra Malien lives in a small beach house. One day, she stumbles into a book club meeting at the island’s little bookshop frequented by local bibliophiles and other islanders who don’t want to spend every evening nodding off in front of the TV.

The attractive course leader, Björn, catches Sandra’s eye. But no one on the island knows that she can’t read or write. How is she supposed to read the story to be discussed at the next book club meeting?

When she bumps into Björn on the beach, she seizes her chance and tells him that she’s forgotten her glasses. Björn reads her the story on a picnic between the dunes – and Sandra falls head-over-heels in love with him. Can their story have a romantic and happy ending despite the secrets that separate them?

Mommsen’s *The Little Island Bookshop* (2018) spent 15 weeks on the SPIEGEL bestseller list and more than 40,000 copies were sold!

**Janne Mommsen** was born on the Baltic Sea coast. Before becoming a writer he was a nurse, a shipyard worker and a pianist on a cruise ship. Now he mostly writes novels, scripts and plays. He lived in northern Frisia and often returns to take in the invigorating coastal atmosphere. Fittingly, his wife’s family has lived on Föhr for hundreds of years.
Private eye Charlie Brinks has begun a new career as a bodyguard. The insolvency of Air Brandenburg has left 1000 people without a job, yet four board members have each pocketed millions while their erstwhile employees are out on the street. Understandably nervous, the four managers have hired bodyguards. Now Charlie is driving the airline’s former CEO, Dr Hundt, around in a big Merc.

The new job is a godsend, as it turns out. At home, at his brother’s house, the air is getting thicker by the minute. His brother is Police Commissioner Holger Brinks of the local Criminal Investigation Division. Their mother, Anita, is getting on everyone’s nerves, especially now that she has a new lover: Jean-Pierre, a now-unemployed flight attendant with a propensity to come home drunk and stumble around in the flower beds. Jean-Pierre’s previous employer? Air Brandenburg. So, Holger is secretly thankful when a new case is dumped on his desk, even if it looks like a routine investigation. A certain Maik Schuster has committed suicide.

When the CEO Charlie is protecting gets shot at, the weapon used in the attack is traced. It’s registered to none other than Maik Schuster. The two brothers now have a new case they will have to work on together, whether they want to or not.

- Hans Rath’s And God Spoke trilogy was sold to six countries and were also bestsellers!
- The first volume Brothers and Cops reached the longlist of the Crime Cologne Award in 2017.

Born in 1965, Hans Rath studied philosophy, German studies and psychology in Bonn. He lives with his family in Berlin, where he works, among other things, as a scriptwriter. His trilogy Man tut, was man kann, Da muss man durch and Was will man mehr garnered him a wide and avid readership. Two of the books have been turned into feature films. The three novels of his Und Gott sprach trilogy were also bestsellers.

Edgar Rai was born in 1967. After being expelled from several schools he spent a year in the US, and later pursued music and English studies in Marburg and Berlin. Among other jobs he has worked as a scriptwriter, basketball coach, choir leader, odd job man, and online editor. In 2001 he embarked on a successful career as a novelist. He has three children and lives in Berlin.
Amore is in the air... Contessa Giulia, media spokesperson for the Pope and member of an old clan of Roman nobles, is due to inherit the family’s considerable wealth. But only if she marries. There’s no shortage of candidates or jealous relatives.

But Giulia’s intended is Francesco, a Franciscan monk. Conservative circles in the Vatican believe that God should step in and punish the sinners. And if God has better things to do, they’ll give Him a helping hand. Buoyant and undaunted as ever, Pope Petrus tackles a conspiracy and tries to prevent a murder. Jubilate!

Jan Chorin traveled to Rome for the first time at the age of eighteen — with a tent, backpack and an Interrail ticket in his pocket. He is a historian and lives (and writes) with his wife Johanna Alba in the middle of Munich, the northernmost city in Italy. When in Rome, he especially loves the late afternoon light that illuminates the facades of the old palazzi.
Renate Bergmann is surprised to find herself owning a plot of land, which she passes on to her nephew Steffen to pay him back for all those times he helped with her modern gadgets and gizmos.

There’s a saying in German: during his life, a man should build a house, father a son and plant a tree. As far as the house building goes, she’ll probably get some help from Kurt. The “having a son” bit isn’t working out too well, either, with Steffen’s wife Ariane expecting another daughter. At the end, we find Steffen standing around with 14 apple tree saplings.

Thankfully, Renate’s garden has more than enough room for an orchard. But what does Renate herself have to say about the goings on at her building site?

- Renate Bergmann’s *I Don’t Even Have Any Grandchildren!* (2018) was number 3 on the SPIEGEL bestseller list and spent 20 weeks on the list.
- *I Don’t Even Have Any Grandchildren!* sold more than 130,000 copies!

**Renate Bergmann** lives in Berlin. She helped clear bombing debris after WWII, worked for the East German state railway, is a household professional and a four-time widow. In 2013, she took to Twitter and began microblogging about her insights and exploits. Her books, meanwhile, have won over the analogue world.

**Torsten Rohde**, born in 1974, studied business administration and worked as a financial controller. His Twitter account @RenateBergmann, in which he tweets about Renate’s exploits, became an internet phenomenon. His book *Successful Life Begins at 80*, published under his pseudonym Renate Bergmann, was a phenomenal success, and was followed by many other successful books and reading tours.
Police Commissioner Peggy Storch has a one-night-stand with a young man who, together with friends, has rented a flat through Airbnb for his friend’s bachelor party. The next day, the groom-to-be is found dead. Everyone had drunk plenty of alcohol. During the night, a drug dealer visited the flat, as did a neighbour complaining about the noise. Rumour has it the ‘lucky’ couple had been going through a difficult phase in their relationship.

It's a complex and confused case – exactly the kind of tangled skein that attracts the talents of the investigating team of Storch and Harmsen...

Sebastian Kretz was born in 1982, and grew up in East Frisia. He has lived in Berlin since 2005. He studied political science and attended the German School of Journalism in Munich. He works for GEO magazine as a contributor and reporter. The high-tech DNA process Peggy uses in the book was the subject of an article he wrote in 2015 for GEO about Germany’s Federal Criminal Police Office.
Stettin, 1566: the Loytz trading house is one of northern Europe’s richest. But following the death of the family patriarch, sons Michael and Stephan fall out, vying for control of the company. The two brothers are also rivals in love for the affections of the beautiful Leni. Despite her love for Stephan, Leni’s father marries her off to Michael.

Set in an age dominated by the War of the Three Crowns and the downfall of the once powerful Hanseatic League, the Loytz brothers fight for the future of their trading house in their bitter family feud – and against an old arch-enemy, the mighty prince-elector Joachim von Brandenburg…

Axel S. Meyer, born 1968 in Brunswick, studied German and history. During his studies he worked as a cartoonist. He lives in Rostock, where he works as a reporter and editor of the Ostsee-Zeitung. Axel S. Meyer won Rowohlt’s Historical Novel of the Year prize for his debut The Book of Sins in 2009. He expertly combines fiction and history and creates exciting books: for fans of Bernard Cornwell.
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