FOREIGN RIGHTS
FICTION
Autumn & Winter
2019/2020
The end of a love affair. A powerful, fact-based novel.

Moscow, 1936. Charlotte, a German communist, has narrowly evaded capture by the Nazis. In late summer that year, she embarks on a journey lasting several weeks through her new Heimat, the Soviet Union, accompanied by her husband Wilhelm and Jill, a young British woman. The heat is overpowering and Stalin’s beaches are stony and narrow. The travellers feel oppressed by a tension that soon becomes visceral and forges a connection amongst the group more intense than they immediately realise. All of them work for the intelligence organisation of the Comintern that employs communists from around the world. Yet one of the “enemies of the people” on trial in Moscow is someone Lotte knows well, better than she would like.

Metropol follows three people navigating conviction and knowledge, loyalty and obedience, suspicion and betrayal. The political terror of the 1930s is unfathomable in its horror. But some people’s personal beliefs are equally shocking.

“The most likely details are fiction,” writes Eugen Ruge, “but the most unlikely ones are true.” The woman with the codename ‘Lotte Germaine’ who found herself at the Hotel Metropol at the end of that momentous summer was Ruge’s grandmother.

- Recommended by New Books in German (Goethe Institute).
- Ruge’s novel In Times of Fading Light was awarded the German Book Prize in 2011.
- In Times of Fading Light sold 600,000 copies and was translated into 28 languages.

Eugen Ruge, born in the Urals, studied mathematics in Berlin and became a member of the research staff at the Central Institute for Geophysics in Potsdam. He left the GDR for the West in 1988, where he began working as a writer and translator. He was awarded the Schiller Prize and a grant from the state of Baden Württemberg for his dramatic works. His first novel, In Times of Fading Light, was an international success and received numerous awards, including the Alfred Döblin Prize, the Aspekte Prize for Literature, and the German Book Prize. 2013 saw the publication of Cabo de Gata. A collection of plays and Approaches: Impressions of 14 Countries followed.
John Glueck goes to war – a gripping new historical thriller by Steffen Kopetzky

It’s 1944 and John Glueck is at war, deep inside Germany in the gloomy Hürtgen Forest. It seems only a few days ago that he was a student in New York, full of love for the German culture of his ancestors. Then he was inducted into Sykewar, the US Army’s propaganda unit. In France, he meets his idol Ernest Hemingway, on whose orders he goes to Hürtgen Forest, a seemingly unimportant area nevertheless bitterly defended by the Wehrmacht. He discovers a secret in the forest just as one of the biggest catastrophes of the war begins. The Battle of Hürtgen Forest ultimately claims over 15,000 lives. What can save John Glueck? His friend Van, a Senecan Native American with deep knowledge of woodlands? His broken German? A miracle?

No one who went into the “Forest of Blood” came out unchanged. The ignorance of the generals was a warning sign for future wars. Twenty years later in Vietnam, John Glueck discovers that politicians are as cynical and dishonest as ever. He is determined to make a difference and embarks on a path that leads from the terrible forest battles of World War II directly to the Pentagon Papers.

Steffen Kopetzky’s major new novel constructs a spellbinding narrative arc linking World War II with Vietnam, creating an intensely gripping story of war, lies and a man who leaves false truths behind.

- English sample translation is available!
- His previous novel Risk (Klett Cotta) spent months on the SPIEGEL bestseller list and was nominated for the German Book Prize.

Born in 1971, Steffen Kopetzky is an author of novels and stories as well as radio and stage plays. His latest novel, Risk (2015), spent months on the Spiegel bestseller list and was nominated for the German Book Prize. Between 2002 and 2008 he was artistic director of the Bonn Theatre biennial festival. He lives with his family in his hometown of Pfaffenhofen.
Where were we, my friend?

Perhaps this family was only sometimes a family. Now the roles are changing. The father, twice a widower, becomes a child again. He needs care and is forced to leave his home. He often forgets what just happened. He retells love stories from his own life, over and over. Sometimes he drifts off into a fantasy world.

Following his bestselling novel *Life*, for which he received the Leipzig Book Fair Prize, David Wagner’s new work creates something rare and precious. Despite living in the present and vanishing a little more each day, the father remains unique with all his idiosyncrasies and remaining memories. Wagner recreates daytrips, visits and car journeys to places where the old man once spent his life. “This is where we lived, Dad, here’s where you worked, that’s where you grew up.” We can’t help but be moved by the narrator’s humour, gentleness and sensitivity and marvel at the absence of indecision and anger. The old man’s dementia progresses slowly, silently, but doesn’t end in fear. Galan’s brothers used to call him Valentino. He’s happy, despite being aware what’s happening to him.

This poignant book addresses one of the most emotional and pressing issues of our times that affects increasing numbers of people. It is an unforgettable story.

- Wagner’s novel *Life* was awarded the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2013 and was translated into 16 languages!
- “In all its refinement and descriptive artfulness, this book is the organic continuation of a work that is already one of the most remarkable in contemporary German literature.” Andreas Platthaus, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on *Life*

David Wagner was born in 1971 in Andernach, Germany. His debut *My Evening-Blue Trousers* attracted significant critical attention. *Four Apples* was longlisted for the German Book Prize and for his novel *Life* he received the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2013. In 2014 he was appointed the first Friedrich Durrenmatt guest professor for world literature at the University of Bern. He lives in Berlin.
The saga of the Rautenberg family and its downfall is a panoramic story of national scope. At the time when Wilhelm and Inga first set eyes on each other, Konrad Adenauer is the chancellor of Germany. The beautiful Inga, a doctor's daughter, meets Wilhelm, a successful equestrian whose mid-sized company is about to become a world market leader. The two are a dream couple. But a few months after the birth of their second child, Inga dies of leukaemia. The younger daughter is raised by Inga's parents while the elder daughter stays with Wilhelm.

As a way of fleeing the constraints of the local church community and his severe mother, Wilhelm decides to build a secluded house far away from the nearest neighbour, riding school, swimming pool or tennis court. The house is ready just as the new school year starts and the time has come after seven years – just like in a fairy tale – to bring his younger daughter back home. But what happens next is not what Wilhelm expects. His company is in crisis, and the locals gossip about the scandalous Rautenberg family history. Wilhelm's daughter, the narrator, is forced to find a way to overcome her loneliness and find a path towards a fulfilling life.

**Eva Sichelschmidt** was born in 1970 in the green belt surrounding the Ruhr area. She moved to Berlin in 1989 to work as a costume designer for film and opera before opening a made-to-measure studio and a shop called Whisky and Cigars that gained fame across the city. She was also the representative for Berlin's Grisebach auction house in Italy. Her first novel, *Die Ruhe weg*, was published in 2017. She lives with her husband Durs Grünbein and her three daughters in Rome and Berlin.
Jonathan Buck is standing on a station platform, waiting for the train to Berlin. The mother of Strippe, Jonathan’s childhood friend, needs to talk to him. Jonathan has no way out; Strippe is dead and his mother wants to hear about the past and the future. Jonathan wants to lie in bed next to Elena reading d’Annunzio and smoking cigarettes. And eat cold tomato soup and reminisce about the past and his youth in Berlin after the Wall fell and everything seemed possible, with Strippe.

30 years ago, in the vacuum of the Wende years during and after reunification, they searched for sensuality and new idols. They wanted to be heroes in a revolution of the emotions. Strippe’s death forces Jonathan to take stock and pass judgement on his life and dreams.

Tom Müller’s book tells the story of a friendship that transgresses borders and describes the boundless hope and overconfidence of youth. Cool and urgent, The Youngest Days recounts a journey from Hamburg to Berlin, depicts childhood adventures and more recent escapades, references Italian poets and features German trains. There have been few novels published in German imbued with the same intensity, pain, wit and turmoil; The Youngest Days is a debut novel of exceptional quality.

Born in Friedrichshain in 1982, Tom Müller went to Trient, Porto Sant’Elpido and Castellamare di Stabia to learn Italian. After several years in Greece and other parts of the world he studied Romance languages and German in Tübingen, Pisa and Perugia. Tom Müller is publishing director at Tropen Verlag and lives in Berlin. The Youngest Days is his first novel.
Joseph Hammer, later known as Baron Hammer-Purgstall, is a 15-year-old with an exceptional talent for languages. His gift leads him from the Styrian village of his birth to the royal court in Vienna, where he is in great demand with diplomats who require an interpreter. Joseph learns Turkish, Arabic, Persian and many other tongues; he is sent to the magnificent city of Constantinople, comes into the service of a British admiral campaigning against Napoleon in Egypt and witnesses things first-hand he only knew from books. He is a tireless negotiator between the Orient and the Occident, yet never feels quite at home anywhere. Joseph is pained by the inability of the world to recognise his talent. To ensure the envy of his rivals, the attentions of women and the recognition of the legendary poet Goethe he will have to produce something magnificent. Like finding and translating a complete edition of *1001 Nights* containing every single story.

Unfolding in the era of the ancien régime and the revolution, Napoleon and Metternich, Joseph’s life moves between far-flung Oriental lands and the equally foreign Vienna. The strands of this rich tapestry are expertly woven together by Stermann to form a historical novel of high literary quality. His powerful narrative voice is imbued with a subtle irony and not needlessly overfreighted with gravitas. His abundant creativity fills this novel with whimsical, bizarre stories, facts and events. Its central, epoch-transforming theme is the yearning for distant places and for immortality.

- “By God, it feels good! We’ve become lost in all the fuss about the present day. We need a mirror placed a good distance away from us. Dirk Stermann has placed that mirror in the 18th century and polished it clean. See those people there? That’s us!” Michael Köhlmeier
- Stermann’s novel *Six Austrians in the Top Five* (2010) sold over 150,000 copies.

**Dirk Stermann** is well-known in Germany as an actor and as a radio and TV show host. In his adopted country of Austria he is famous as the long-standing host of the country’s best-known talk show. He is also a bestselling author.
The new novel by Friedrich Christian Delius: how Chinese will Europe become?

Kassandra is being sacked at his job as a financial journalist. “Kassandra” is a nickname for this cheery economics reporter whose biggest mistake is to investigate issues for himself, rather than parroting the pronouncements of ministers and multinationals. He’s the one who, at lunch in the canteen, asks: who is going to end up in hell for refusing for decades to implement a reasonable immigration policy?

It’s the night of his dismissal, and he carries on writing in his diary. His prose becomes more incisive and defiant. Sometimes he thinks about his 18-year-old niece. Maybe one day she’ll ask herself, “What was it like in the early 21st century when Europe fell apart?” He concentrates on the rape of Greece during the financial crisis, on the blindness for the influence of China expanding via its enormous economic power and anti-democratic ideology. Now unemployed, he wanders through the streets of Berlin and the pages of the nation’s media, listening to jazz and hearing the earthquake shaking the old world order to its foundation. After spending years in the US, Kassandra’s friend Roon wants to settle on the peaceful island of Rügen and open a GP’s surgery. Wandering the chalk hills together the two friends muse on what life will be like a century into the future, when China’s grateful leaders erect a statue to honour Angela Merkel.

Delius has written a rebellious, trenchant, highly political and clear-sighted novel.

Rowohlt•Berlin
August 2019
256 pages

“No doubt about it: Friedrich Christian Delius is a sensitive writer and an intelligent, subtle observer.”
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

“Delius has always been a critical analyser of political developments in Germany but never in a loud, superficial way. He has always been restrained, satirical and humorous. And above all exceedingly enjoyable to read.” Sigrid Löffler, Deutschlandradio

Friedrich Christian Delius was born in Rome in 1943 and grew up in central Germany. He did his doctoral thesis in German studies in 1970 and subsequently worked as a book editor. Today he divides his time between the Italian capital and Berlin. Some of his best-known works are Ribbeck’s Pears (1991), The Sunday I Became World Champion (1994), The Walk from Rostock to Syracuse (1995), My Year as a Murderer (2004) and Portrait of Mother as a Young Woman (2006). Delius has won numerous awards, most recently the German Critics’ Prize, the Joseph Breitbach Prize and the Georg Büchner Prize.
A classic of modern German literature first published in 1991, Ribbeck's Pears is being re-published to coincide with two anniversaries: 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the double centenary of Theodore Fontane's birth. This sumptuous new edition contains a postscript by the author looking back on how the story was written and discussing the influence of his bestseller since its publication.

Located 40 kilometres from Berlin, the village of Ribbeck was propelled to European fame by Fontane’s ballad. After the collapse of the Wall, West Berliners arrive there to plant a pear tree and celebrate the reunification of Germany with the villagers. They plant the tree like a flag in enemy territory in the grounds of the castle that’s been converted to a care home for seniors. They don’t ask about the past.

A village fete is held for the first time in decades, with pea soup, free beer and pear schnapps brought over from the West. One of Ribbeck’s farmers begins to make a speech. Faltering at first, he recounts the history of the village, describing feudal masters, Nazis and soldiers in World War II, the various stages of socialism right up to the collapse of agriculture. His history describes the village’s eponymous lords and the last Ribbeck who was interned in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. It depicts the Red Army and the elite Party cadres and the heirs that strut through the village measuring it up as though they were its masters. His speech is an act of resistance against the death of history, against the vanishing of memory in himself, the village and the country.

- Ribbeck’s Pears sold over 150,000 copies since its first publication.
- The novel was translated into 7 languages.

“Delius has erected a memorial to the collective experiences and conflicting emotions of a ‘silent majority’ that has remained quiet for too long.” Der Spiegel

Friedrich Christian Delius was born in Rome in 1943 and grew up in central Germany. He did his doctoral thesis in German studies in 1970 and subsequently worked as a book editor. Today he divides his time between the Italian capital and Berlin. Some of his best-known works are Ribbeck’s Pears (1991), The Sunday I Became World Champion (1994), The Walk from Rostock to Syracuse (1995), My Year as a Murderer (2004) and Portrait of Mother as a Young Woman (2006). Delius has won numerous awards, most recently the German Critics’ Prize, the Joseph Breitbach Prize and the Georg Büchner Prize.
The centenary of a book that remains urgently relevant today

*The Twilight of Humanity*, one of the most successful anthologies of poetry ever published in German, became a beacon of hope for the nation’s poetic youth and has remained so for a hundred years. The apocalypse invoked in its pages is constantly in the process of arising; our troubled times seem to bear eerie similarities to the period preceding World War I.

This volume includes poems by Gottfried Benn, Georg Trakl, Elke Lasker-Schüler, Georg Heym and many other poets. Some were soldiers, killed in action, some were expelled from their homes, some took their own lives or were murdered by the Nazis. One became the East German minister of culture. This concert features a range of distinct voices that combine to form an enthralling whole.

Coinciding with the centenary of this anthology's first publication, Rowohlt has now produced a new edition with illustrations by Egon Schiele and Oscar Kokoschka, among others, and also featuring modern graphic design and a preface by Florian Illies.

- Rights have been recently sold to Spain (Trotta).
- The original publication sold more than 100,000 copies!

Born in 1886, Kurt Pinthus was the foremost advocate of German expressionism. He advised the Rowohlt Verlag, was an editor at Kurt Wolff Verlag and later worked as a journalist and as a dramaturg with Max Reinhardt. He fled to the USA in 1937, returning to Germany many years after World War II. Kurt Pinthus died in 1975 in Marbach am Neckar.

"The Twilight of Humanity was my introduction to poetry."
Thomas Kling
The birth of tragedy from the spirit of the Old Testament

A diverse people yearn to be united and led by a king. God reluctantly fulfils their wish and arranges for Saul to be named ruler. His reign begins successfully; Saul wins wars and establishes a state based on firm principles. He extends its power step by step. But Saul is increasingly racked by self-doubt, while suspicion, melancholy and anger cloud his mind. Saul, the source of the new order – rejecting theocracy for monarchy – is becoming its greatest threat. God is forced to realise that He has chosen the wrong person. But He isn’t the only one regretting his decision, as the old unity between God and humankind finally and irrevocably ends.

Botho Strauß has condensed a Biblical story from I Samuel to construct a portrait of a man torn apart by expectations invested in him, by the task conferred on him by fate and the limits of his abilities. In a clear yet highly poetical style, Strauß’s Saul depicts the birth of tragedy from the spirit of the Old Testament.

● “He is one of the great, gifted storytellers writing in German.” Andreas Kilb, Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung
● “Botho Strauß is a stroke of luck for brave readers who don’t merely seek to have confirmed what they already think.” Ulrich Greiner, Die Zeit
● Rights to The Continuation were sold to Italy (Saggiatore).

Botho Strauß (born in 1944 in Naumburg, Saale) was editor at the magazine Theater heute and dramaturge at the Schaubühne, Hallesches Ufer in Berlin. He gave his debut as a dramatist in 1972 with the play Die Hypochonder. Since then, he has published numerous dramas, novels, short stories and essays. He has received the Literature Award of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts in 1981, the Mülheim Dramatists’ Award in 1982 for Kaldewey, Farce, the Jean-Paul Award in 1987, the Georg Büchner Award in 1989 and the Lessing Award in 2001 among others. Most recently, he was honored with the Schiller Memorial Prize of the state of Baden-Württemberg.
Theresia Walser’s plays build on her deft, light-handed style and keen instinct for bitter-sweet comedy to retrieve the irony and double meanings from everyday scenarios.

Her plays reveal the monstrous in the banal and the grotesque in the tragic: Walser eavesdrops on a chat between three women (who are all married to dictators), observes the strained tempers on a stopped train escalating into a fist-fight and witnesses the cut-throat competition between department store salespeople. Walser’s shimmering, vivacious scenes and darkly witty dialogue produce fascinatingly nuanced human dramas.

**Theresia Walser** (born in 1967 in Friedrichshafen) was an actress and had her debut as a dramatist in 1997. Her play *King Kongs Töchter* (1998) was a considerable success and has had more than twenty productions. Theresia Walser was voted Best Upcoming Playwright 1998 and Best Playwright in 1999 in the critics’ poll of the magazine *Theater heute*. She has received numerous awards and grants, amongst them the Schiller Memorial Prize 1998 and the BHF Bank Foundation’s Grant 2006.
Wolfgang Joop spent the first eight years of his life at his grandparents' farm in Bornstedt near Potsdam. Their sizable garden was a stone's throw from Sanssouci Park; in his imagination, both were his personal fiefdom. This book tells of family celebrations that spun out of control, of his mother who was hungry for life, of his first love for the daughter of a clergyman in Potsdam, of the leaden days after the family moved to Braunschweig that seemed to Wolfgang like being expelled from paradise. Joop recounts his loneliness at boarding school, how he made his first money drawing pin-up girls, tells of his time at the local art school in Braunschweig and the beginnings of his career as a designer at a time when the term “fashion designer” was not widely known in Germany.

This autobiography at times veers towards the intimate. It answers questions such as, what were the biggest influences in Joop’s life? Why is a sense of home and belonging so important to him? What made him the person he is today? Yet this book is also a study of a fascinating era in history, offering a rich portrait of Germany in the fifties and sixties.

A deeply personal autobiography by one of the most famous names in the world of fashion.

Wolfgang Joop was born on 18 November 1944 in Potsdam. He began his career as a fashion artist, author and freelance designer, attaining his international breakthrough in 1978 with a furs collection. In 1981, he founded his own label, JOOP!, later launching WUNDERKIND in 2003. In addition to his work as a fashion designer, Wolfgang Joop has also found acclaim as an artist and art collector.
“What’s left in life?” Judith is almost 50 and can’t think of a satisfying answer to that question. Her children have grown up and her husband is getting old. Not to mention her love life and aging body. Then her mother dies and Judith returns for the first time in 20 years to the place of her birth. She left behind a well-kept secret, an empty grave and a collection of hopes, dreams and nightmares.

Suddenly, everything seems to fall apart. A life-long lie turns out to be the truth. A rediscovered friend hopes she will live to see the next summer and wants to know what really happened all those years ago. A youthful love sparkles anew while an urn goes on an improbable journey. Judith realises it’s better to get excited too early than not get excited at all. It’s Time is a story about remorse and friendship, aging and staying young, a sense of home and belonging, love, death and the realisation that in the end nothing is lost.

- “In this book, Ildikó von Kürthy manages something new. She explores questions that move us when we get older and she pushes boundaries in a way that hurts. She is tenacious yet very sensitive and always has her own fears in mind. It’s amusing yet also very consoling, even in the face of death.” Bettina Tietjen
- Kürthy’s novels have sold over six million copies and were translated into 21 languages!
- It’s Time went straight to #2 on the SPIEGEL bestseller list upon publication, more than 50,000 copies sold in the first week.
- a sample translation will be available

Ildikó von Kürthy is a journalist and columnist for Brigitte magazine. She lives in Hamburg with her husband and two sons. Her novels have sold over six million copies and were translated into 21 languages.
After many years Elise returns to the village where she grew up, Peleroich on Mecklenburg’s Baltic coast. This is where she met Henning and Jakob, the two loves of her life. Henning was the reliable one she’d known since kindergarten while Jakob was the local heartthrob who dreamt of a career as an artist and one day disappeared from her life without a trace.

Elise dives deep into her own past and into the history of Peleroich, where her parents met in the 1950s. During the communist era, the village clocks ticked as slowly as ever. People would meet at the Kastanienhof for a beer, drive to the seaside or go for walks in the nearby forest. Until the day that news broke that one of the villagers had been helping people escape to the West via the Baltic Sea…

Anja Baumheier’s novel tells of a picturesque village and the fate of its inhabitants from the birth of the GDR, through the building of the Wall and into the post-reunification era.

Baumheier’s first novel The Land of Cranes has sold more than 60,000 copies and rights have been sold to France (Les Escales) and the Netherlands (Stortebeeker).

Anja Baumheier was born in Dresden in 1979 and spent her childhood in the GDR. Today she lives with her family in Berlin, teaching French and Spanish at a school there. The Land Of Cranes was her debut novel.
For three years, Heinz Strunk kept a diary in public in the pages of the satirical magazine Titanic. It began as a parody of the diaries of famous writers (“In the afternoon, tea taken”) but soon developed a life of its own and became an intoxicating brew of comedic discourse, short essays, aphorisms, nonsense, gloom and more than a smattering of profundity. Entitled Intimschatulle, or “box of intimacy”, the column has now been turned into a book.

Divided into twelve months, Took Notes, Then to Bed brings together a range of disparate themes, including observations from daily life, the works of other writers, evenings watching TV at home with lots of alcohol, aphorisms, watching oneself grow older, silly “career advice” and sometimes even poetry. It’s a unique mix that seeks not only a forerunner but also an equal in contemporary humorous writing.

- Strunk’s novel The Golden Glove topped the bestseller lists for months with 220,000 copies sold, was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2016 and made into a film by Fatih Akin.
- Rights to The Golden Glove were sold to the Czech Republic (Euromedia) and Finland (Sammakko).
- In autumn 2016 Heinz Strunk received the Wilhelm Raabe Prize.

The musician, actor and writer Heinz Strunk was born in Hamburg in 1962. He is a founding member of the comedian trio Studio Braun and has his own television show on VIVA. His book Meat Is My Veg has sold half a million copies. It has since been adapted into a prize-winning radio play, an operetta at the Hamburger Schauspielhaus and also a feature film.
The Greek philosopher Perplexus was the first thinker on record to describe what happens to men when they grow old: they get fat, become lethargic and complain about everything. Ralf König, a specialist on the male mid-life crisis, has filled these timeless axioms with new literary life, crafting cleverly rhymed verses that exploit hot-button issues for aging males, like a weakening sex drive or those father-son talks, to great comedic effect.

König’s hilarious story is set in ancient Greece and stars attractive fishermen and deadly sirens. Spoiler alert: when youth goes, it’s gone forever.

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.
Into the dark heart of Berlin – Olaf Kühl’s cleverly constructed literary thriller

Travel group guide Konrad Mauser gets caught up in an intelligence service operation in Berlin. The CIA thinks he has murdered a Russian defector and force Mauser into hiding. When Konrad’s best friend Pavel, a Polish-born Nietzsche specialist with a tenuous hold on life, doesn’t hear from Konrad, he goes out to search for him. He meets 17-year-old Jana, who thinks Pavel a romantic hero and helps him in his investigation. Neither protagonist has any idea they are in the crosshairs of the CIA, whose surveillance uncovers only the wretched state of Pavel’s marriage, deepening their suspicions.

When a second autopsy declares that death was from natural causes, the intelligence community is split. Cowley, a young intelligence agent, suspects that a political assassination is being covered up and launches his own secret probe. In Olaf Kühl’s brilliant literary thriller, a small mistake at the CIA turns the life of several Berlin residents upside-down, with unforeseen consequences.

- “An artfully composed detective story.” Der Spiegel on Der wahre Sohn
- “With Der wahre Sohn, Kühl has managed to produce not only a novel about a difficult search for truth but an impressive, literary reflection on families and what connects or tears them apart.” Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Olaf Kühl was born in 1955 in Eastern Frisia. He has been the Russia consultant for the current mayor of Berlin since 1996, while also numbering amongst the most renowned translators of Polish and Russian texts into German. In 2005, he received the German Youth Literature Prize and the Karl Dedecius Prize for Polish - German translation. Olaf Kühl lives in Berlin.
June, July, Anja. Steffen Schroeder’s intense novel about a special first love

It’s a scorching summer in the 1980s. All Konrad’s worries have melted away into the far distance, now that the school holidays have begun. He spends most of his time at an open-air swimming pool with his slightly handicapped friend Holger. One day, the pair find a dead woodpecker under their climbing tree. Next to it defiantly stands a girl. With short hair. Anja is different to all the other girls Konrad has ever known. She’s a runaway, sleeping rough and hiding out in the park. A secret friendship begins. Konrad brings her food and offers his help. They meet at the pool and go on excursions together. When they stumble across some tents belonging to a group of tramps, Konrad realises how headstrong Anja is – and how much danger she’s in. At this point he has already been in love with her for some time. Why did Anja run away from her family? How is it all going to end? Piece by piece, she reveals her story. To keep Anja hidden Konrad tells more and more lies and spends less time with Holger, who starts feeling the first pangs of jealousy. Konrad begins asking himself where he really belongs. Steffen Schroeder’s delightful novel tells of a boy from a comfortable, middle-class family, a three-way friendship and a secret love for a wild girl who breaks all the rules.

- “The strongest moments in Schroeder’s book are when he describes things in a close, authentic way.” Die Welt on Meeting a Murderer
- “A moving book, a stirring story.” Meininger Tageblatt on Meeting a Murderer

Steffen Schroeder was born in Munich in 1974. After training as an actor, he joined the ensemble of Vienna’s Burg Theater before moving to the Berlin Ensemble. He has played many TV roles, appearing on several shows as well as playing film roles in movies. He lives with his family in Potsdam.
"You have four daughters? Really? How do you manage?" Tillmann Prüfer hears those kinds of remarks a lot. His youngest daughter is in kindergarten, another at primary school, yet another is going through puberty while the eldest is sitting her school leaving exams. Every day he grapples with all the moments of wonder and insanity that occur in the lives of girls. He’s the only male in his household.

But who’s raising whom? Who can help him with answers to questions like, do I have to like my kids’ friends? What about their parents? Can I help when someone breaks their hearts? Should my daughters look up to me? What do I do if they hate my new pullover, throw it away?

All his daughters want, however, is for him to get a driver’s license. Other kids are driven around in SUVs, but he takes his children to birthday parties on public transport. So embarrassing!

Witty, thoughtful and clever, this is the wonderful story of a good-natured, yet often overwhelmed, father.

Tillmann Prüfer was born in 1974. He heads the style section of ZEIT magazine and is on its editorial board. He has received many awards during his career in journalism and has written several successful books. He lives with his family in Berlin.
Leipzig, January 1920. Paul Stainer, a police officer, returns home from a POW camp. Germany is stumbling through the chaos of the post-war years; nothing is as it once was. At night, Stainer is often plagued by the memories of the horrors he faced in the trenches. Then a sensational case forces the detective to focus on the present.

Several people have been shot in the villa of a manufacturing magnate. Everything initially seems to indicate that a burglary has gone terribly wrong. But a frightened witness and a suitcase stuffed with documents open up new leads for Stainer that point to a mysterious “Operation Judas”. Its architects will stop at nothing to hide their crimes. What Inspektor Stainer doesn’t know is that the group is already planning his death…

The freelance author Thomas Ziebula primarily writes fantasy and historical novels. In 2001 he was awarded the German Fantasy Writing Prize. Red Judas is his first crime novel and impressively unites Ziebula’s passion for German history and thrilling crime stories. The author lives with his family near Karlsruhe.
Located in an idyllic spot amidst an enormous forest in the Harz mountains, the Quellbach public house is a favourite haunt of cook Leon Bosch, who values its quiet isolation. Until one day, when, peering up into the dark boughs of the trees, he makes a grisly discovery: the dead body of a woman with a piece of black quartz where her heart should have been.

When other similarly mutilated corpses are discovered, Leon tries desperately to find the killer. The stones adorning the bodies have a connection to his own past, to a dark secret he buried in the woods years ago. A secret he thought was safe…

Lene Schwarz was born in Thuringia in 1976. After completing her studies in literature at universities in Berlin and Bologna, she began a career in publishing. Her passion for gripping crime stories led her to fill her bookshelves with thrillers and non-fiction crime books. She lives with her family in an old mill near Munich and dreams of writing about the perfect murder.
It's 2013 and nine school friends go out to a nightclub in the town of Bad Hombach. Two weeks later, the body of one of the group is dragged from the Rhine. Forensic pathologists examining the corpse find no evidence that any third party was involved in the death. Now in 2018, Police Commissioner Thomas Mohr languidly leafs through the old files of the cold case department, having been assigned there against his will. Looking through the 2013 Bad Hombach case file, tiny details kindle his finely tuned investigative senses. Something's not right here: the investigating agencies didn’t cooperate, the witness statements throw up questions that weren’t followed up on. And what about the biker gang that provided the doormen on the night in question? The deeper Mohr digs into this case, the more evidence he uncovers for a dark parallel world of intimidation and fear still operating in the present day.

More than 100,000 copies were sold of Kaes’ crime novels!

After finishing his university studies, Wolfgang Kaes became a crime reporter. Born in 1958, he has written for Stern, Die Zeit and many others. Today he is chief reporter at the Bonner General-Anzeiger newspaper. He was Journalist of the Year in 2012; in 2013 he was awarded the Henri Nannen Prize for investigative journalism.
Volume III:

Not a single soul as far as the eye can see. Just sea, cliffs and the beach. And a lighthouse. It’s a wonderfully beautiful place – not that Airin has a chance to enjoy it. The lighthouse has been converted into a cozy living space available for rent, and 24-year-old Airin has to look after the property while at the same time running her own bed and breakfast. It’s a lot of work for one person, but normally everything runs smoothly. Until Joshua, the nephew of the lighthouse owner, moves in. Arrogant and priggish, he complains ceaselessly about everything. Airin feels like strangling him. Or kissing him. Who cares, just as long as he stops talking!

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.
Ulrike Schweikert

THE CHARITÉ (Vol. II)

Times of change and difficult choices

Berlin, 1903: the renowned Charité hospital has appointed its first female doctors, among them Rahel Hirsch. She has a deep passion for science and has dedicated her life to helping people through medicine. The times of equality between the sexes, however, are still far away; her work is unpaid and women are still denied the vote. For Barbara, a young menial worker, men treating women as their property is a fact of life. When her aunt is raped, Barbara realises that she can no longer stand by and do nothing. She joins the women's movement and begins fighting for the rights of female workers and women's suffrage. When Barbara and Rahel happen to meet, they quickly realise that they’re fighting the same battle for self-determination, despite living in different social worlds. It’s the beginning of an unusual friendship – until the advent of World War I suddenly changes everything...

- Vol. I has sold over 80,000 copies!
- Rights to Vol. I have been sold to the Czech Republic (Euromedia) and Spain (Penguin Random House).

Ulrike Schweikert worked as a securities trader after an apprenticeship in banking, studied geology and journalism. Since her brilliant debut novel Die Tochter des Salzsieders she has been one of the most successful German authors of historical novels. The Charité - Hope and Fate made it into the top 10 bestseller list. Ulrike Schweikert lives and writes near Stuttgart.
In Helene Sommerfeld’s major historical saga, physician Ricarda takes up the fight against anaemia, diphtheria and neurasthenia. Some of the treatments prescribed by doctors during the old German Empire seem bizarre from today’s standpoint. This book collates the most interesting examples from medical textbooks of the era that inspired Helene Sommerfeld and shows the problems faced by patients – particularly female patients – of the period.

Much of the health advice included here seems strange, fantastic or just plain weird to modern readers. But in an entertaining way it explores the medical zeitgeist of a fascinating and important stage in modern history.

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 stems from their passion for medicine and their deep interest in historical characters and personalities, coupled with a desire to visit far-flung lands.
Vibeke is to join her father’s dye manufacturing business in Hamburg. But even more precious to her than paint is art itself. She travels to Skagen against her parents’ will to study painting there and begin to work in a café. There she discovers a picture she believes is an unknown work by a painter she much admires, Marie Kroyer. Together with the café’s owner, Thore, she tries to find out more.

Skagen, late 19th century: young Marie is exceedingly lucky that her creative talent is nurtured by her family at a time when most women are denied any chance of a successful artistic career. When she poses for the charismatic artist Peder Severin Kroyer, she falls in love. Marie’s friend Millie tries to warn her away from him but refuses to say why…

**Stina Lund** was born in 1970 in Vimmerby and grew up in the small town Småland where she spent most of her childhood in her parents’ bookstore. After the birth of her children, she gave up her profession as a conservator and started her writing career.
December 1929: the author Karen Blixen has returned home from Kenya to the estate of her rich family north of Copenhagen to visit her sick mother. Her relationship with Denys Finch-Hatton has ended, the global economy is in ruins and her farm in Africa close to bankruptcy. The baroness is at a low point in her life when she meets Minna, who has just begun working as a maid. Minna’s secret ambition is to become a teacher. She also fantasises about Carl, an assessor, yet both dreams are out of reach for a girl from a modest background.

Minna spent a magical afternoon with Carl at the Tivoli amusement park, dazzled by lights, surrounded by dancing snowflakes and drinking hot chocolate. But she fears that she’s not good enough for the young assessor. Karen Blixen is moved by the young girl’s story and encourages her to fight for her dreams, and in the process finds new courage to grapple with the challenges in her own life…

_Sanne Jellings_ was born in southern Germany. During her university studies, she discovered her love for Isak Dinesen, alias Karen Blixen-Finecke. In her early 20s she visited Blixen’s place of birth, Rungstedlund on the Oresund strait, for the first time. Since then, the old estate with its large park has become a special place for her. Sanne Jellings works as a literary editor and translator and lives with her family in Hamburg.
Mortimer Hicks, a widower, is 72 years old and values nothing if not peace and quiet, order and thrift. But just before Christmas, his rigidly structured world threatens to go out of kilter when his neighbour pushes her small son through his door and begs him to look after him for a while. There’s nothing Mortimer Hicks abhors more than children because they ignore three things that are sacred to him: quiet, order and thrift.

On top of everything else, Gwendoline crashes into his life, a resolute, adroit museum attendant. Gwendoline corrects and rebukes him – an outrage! Yet Mortimer can’t stop thinking about her. Come to think of it, he hasn’t been feeling himself lately, what with those dizzy spells and strange visions. Is he getting senile? Or could it be… love? At his age?

Born in 1966, Kate Roseland studied in London, where she fell in love with the city and its history. She lives with her family and two cats in Hamburg but often travels across the North Sea to visit friends and experience the unique atmosphere of the UK’s capital.
Many things are exactly as they were. And yet everything’s changed.

Police Commissioner Henning Bröhmann is back at his desk at the local police station in the quiet environs of Vogelsberg. But this time he’s on a mission. In the past he wasn’t exactly a model of commitment and motivation. Now he’s determined to turn over a new leaf and do a perfect job. So perfect, in fact, that it’s causing problems. Meanwhile, his aging mother is starting to show signs of dementia. And even worse, he’s just about to reach 50!

Then a body is discovered at the holistic Centre for Coaching, Mindfulness, Motivation, Balance and Personal Power – and Henning himself becomes ensnared in a perpetual process of self-optimization. Police Commissioner Bröhmann is on the case, getting a lot of things right and making a lot of mistakes along the way…

Dietrich Faber was born in 1969 and is one part of the international cabaret act FaberhaftGuth, along with Martin Guth. Together they have won several cabaret prizes. This is his debut novel – but certainly not the last case for detective Henning Bröhmann.
The inhabitants of the sleepy Alsatian village of Eguisheim awake one night to the screams of a woman running through the streets. A ghost, she claims, is haunting the local manor house in the form of La Dame Blanche, a widely feared portent of evil. The arguments against her story proffered by Chef de Police Céleste Kreydenweiss fall on deaf ears.

Then a dead body is discovered near the manor, adding more fuel to the fire of gossip enveloping this superstitious local community. It’s another puzzling case for Céleste and her Brigadier Luc Bato, whose investigation leads them to Strasburg’s red-light district.

**Jules Vitrac** is a successful German writer and lawyer. In her thrillers about the Alsatian investigator duo Kreydenweiss & Bato, she combines her professional experience with criminal milieux and her passion for intricate puzzles with a great love for France.
The year is 1417. The body of a young woman is found in the shadows of Hangman’s Alley. Her skull has been brutally bludgeoned and her face bears strange markings, with reddened cheeks and a false mole on her chin. Serafina, wife of doctor Achaz, investigates the murder of the rich merchant’s daughter and begins to suspect the dead woman’s resentful maid.

Another clue soon follows. Serafina’s brother, meanwhile, is hatching nefarious plans of his own while the town’s apothecary, Jonas, intends to shut down his charity for paupers. In her fifth case Serafina has her work cut out for her…

- The author’s historical novels have sold almost 1 million copies altogether!
- Rights have been sold to Russia (Hemiro).

Astrid Fritz studied literature in Munich, Avignon and Freiburg. She worked as a technical editor and spent three years with her family in Santiago de Chile. Among her successful historical novels are The Witch of Freiburg, The Swindler and The Maiden and the Duchess. Astrid Fritz lives near Stuttgart.
Cologne, 1423. Aleydis, a young widow, is trying to make a success of the small currency exchange business she has inherited. But enmity, envy and avarice are making her life difficult and the shady dealings of her dead husband continue to have repercussions in the present.

Why else would someone carry out an arson attack on her sister-in-law? Although Aleydis needs help, she is wary of her husband’s half-brother who suddenly turns up one day. She also tries to keep her distance to Vinzenz van Cleve, a judge whose family poses a threat to Aleydis...

Rights to *Flames and Silk* have been sold to Russia (Hemiro).

**Petra Schier** was born in 1978. She lives with her husband and an Alsatian in a small village in Germany’s Eifel region. She studied history and literature before beginning work as a freelance writer in 2003. Her historical novels, including a series featuring the apothecary Adelina, combine suspenseful writing with exhaustively researched historical background. She is a board member of the writer’s association DELIA. Find out more about Petra Schier at [www.petra-schier.de](http://www.petra-schier.de).
Vienna, 1787. Alfred, a medical student, is fascinated by the infamous Tower of Fools, a place for the treatment of the insane that marks a new era in medical science. But the conditions in the asylum are catastrophic and the sight of the young woman with strange marks on her arms becomes etched into his memory.

Helene, a young woman of noble birth, is new to the Viennese court. Her father believes the epicentre of royal power to be a nest of vipers and wants to keep his daughter away from it. But he can’t protect her forever. Alfred and Helene are fated to meet and fall in love. And they will pay a high price…

René Anour lives in Vienna, where he studied veterinary science. His studies and research also led him to Harvard Medical School. He now works for the Austrian government’s agency for health and nutritional safety and advises the European Medicines Agency on newly developed medicines. *In the Tower’s Shadow* explores a fascinating chapter in medical history: the Tower of Fools, the world’s first psychiatric hospital.
On the day she turns 60, Tilda not only loses her job but also realises that her relationship is over. This is not how things were supposed to turn out! Starting over at 60? When she comes across a job advertisement for a personal secretary posted by a "woman in her prime (84)", she decides to apply on the spur of the moment. Although her new boss is still hale and hearty, she intends to adopt the Swedish “death cleaning” approach.

Ruth wants Tilda to help get her affairs in order, Scandinavian style. Tilda initially finds the whole process awfully morbid. But Ruth teaches her that life always has surprises in store, regardless of your age…

Dagmar Hansen has published numerous novels, several of which were made into movies for the German broadcasters ARD and ZDF. Her first novel for Rowohlt, Pathways of the Heart, is devoted to an emotionally charged topic and is written for women who, despite being all too well acquainted with all life's ups and downs, still have the courage to confront their feelings and grapple with life’s big questions.
If Ella was a house, she’d be one with a crooked roof. That’s according to Mina, in whose allotment garden Ella spent most of her childhood. When Ella found a dead man in a deckchair as a little girl, it broke something inside her. Adult Ella works as a psychologist but because you can’t treat yourself with therapy, she’s still a bit weird.

And often lonely. Herr Oebing is grappling with depression and wears Cookie Monster t-shirts to his therapy sessions with Ella. He’s at least as strange as she is. Maybe that’s why he’s so well suited to her...

Like Ella and Mina, Susanne Bohne comes from the Ruhrpott area, Germany’s western industrial heartland. She studied German and worked as a designer before beginning a career as a writer and illustrator of children’s books. She sees humour as a good survival strategy and believes that the little things in life are often more important than they seem. It’s one of the central themes in The Crooked House.
In her work life, Merle is a professional in letting go: she’s made a career out of helping people de-clutter their lives. Any sense of order in her own life, however, is superficial. And her expert advice doesn’t seem to work for Ella Castello, either. Advanced in years, Ella is a former legend in the fashion world who has slowly turned her expansive home into a museum bristling with exhibits (she can’t bear to throw anything away).

Ella has rather unique ideas about the ideal home – can Merle learn something from Ella? And will she be able to tidy up the chaos of her own love life?

Ulrike Schäfer works as a freelance journalist for various women's magazines and online media. To regularly and thoroughly clean out is like wellness for her - above all the liberating feeling afterwards. Creative chaos only prevails when the woman from Münster, who recently moved to Cologne, works on a novel: then all kinds of research material piles up on her desk.
A slimy green fitness smoothie on his 45th birthday. A marriage that’s cooling more rapidly than a depressurising aircraft cabin. A lovelorn teenage daughter who calls him “saddo”. Family man Tobi Werner thought things couldn’t get any worse. Turns out, he was wrong. He later finds himself stumbling across a football pitch on match day with a bloody nose, dressed in a pink rabbit costume. Do that, if you want. But it’s s***. How did Tobi get into this situation? Good question. But not as important as how he’s going to get out of it…

Comedian Lars Niedereichholz was born in 1968 and lives with his family in Bad Homburg near Frankfurt. He’s one half of comedy duo Mundstuhl. Do That, If You Want, But It’s S*** is his third novel.
We’re not getting younger, fitter or prettier. Our options, our opportunities to start afresh are dwindling. Families get on our nerves and daily life can be a genuine challenge. Regardless of whether we procrastinate happily from one day to the next, work through endless to-do lists or get stressed out trying to relax and keep healthy.

Till Raether’s writing soothes the soul. Clever, warm-hearted and with an endearing self-ironic tone, Raether explores the big and small problems that keep us awake at night. Without offering clichéd advice, his writing helps us feel a little less lonely, a little more satisfied and, ultimately, take ourselves a bit less seriously.

Till Raether grew up in Berlin, attended the German School of Journalism in Munich and studied American literature and history in Berlin and New Orleans. Today he works as a journalist in Hamburg for a range of magazines, including Brigitte, Brigitte Woman and SZ Magazin.
Dresden in the year 1890: Vinzent Storch is the man behind the famous “Dresdner Pappen”, decorative paper figures that are immensely popular as Christmas tree decorations. On the day before Christmas Eve he is horrified to find a box that wasn’t delivered. He hurries to his carriage and heads towards Zinnwald to deliver the box in time for Christmas.

On his journey, a young girl wants to hitch a ride but Storch refuses. He doesn’t notice that Lisbeth secretly climbs on anyway. She only makes her presence known when Storch’s carriage is engulfed by a heavy snowstorm and he leaves the roadway. Lisbeth insists that she knows the way. If he is to reach his destination in time, he has no option but to trust her. As they make their way through the cold, Lisbeth tells Storch the tragic story of how she came to Dresden. His heart opens and these two sad souls become the best of friends.

This heart-warming story is a continuation of Ralf Günther’s successful *The Christmas Market Miracle*.

Ralf Günther was born in Cologne in 1967. He studied theatre, film and television studies. He is a novelist and writer of screenplays, and has developed TV programmes for ZDF and KiKa. He has written many successful historical novels, including the bestselling *Der Leibarzt* (Heyne, 2001). rororo has published his Christmas-themed books *Ach du Föhliche* (2011) and *Jesusmaria und Josef* (2013). *Das Weihnachtsmarktwunder* (2014) was published by Kindler. The author lives in Hamburg and Dresden.
While the snow drifts quietly across the island of Föhr, Grandma Imke daydreams about a lovely, harmonious Christmas with all the family. She puts up the tree and gets everything ready to celebrate Christmas in typical Friesian style. But one after the other, her guests phone to say they can’t make it after all.

Her attempts to make the best of Christmas Eve take her to a nearby dyke, the island’s disco and an old mill. Eventually, it all gets too much and she flees to her secret lover on the island of Amrum, where sudden flooding stops her returning home. Is there a Christmas miracle in the offing for the Riewert family?

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.
“A white Christmas! It’s been years since we had one of those. Don’t let old people tell you we used have them every year – total nonsense! One time the cherry trees started blooming! But I can also remember winters that were so cold that the goats climbed up the trees to eat the twigs because they couldn’t find anything else. Anyway, I’ve always made the best of it and did what I could with what came my way in life.”

Renate Bergmann has celebrated 82 Christmases and has at least as many Yuletide tales to tell. The best are collected in this delightful tome.

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.
Who invited that cousin three times removed? What has grandpa been drinking? Where’s the cat gone? And who’s driving the in-laws home? Every year, Christmas turns into a stress test for the whole family – the only thing that can brighten up the mood is this uproarious collection of Yuletide stories.

Dietmar Bittrich, born 1958, lives in Hamburg. Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag published his bestseller Alle Orte, die man Knicken kann. Since 2012 he has published a successful Christmas anthology with stories about hunchbacked relatives. You can find out more at: www.dietmar-bittrich.de
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