

# SCHÖFFLING & CO.



Foreign  
Rights Guide  
Fall 2023

  
KAMPA

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 atlantis  
verlag

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## Mirko Bonné

### *All The Stars Uncounted*



Novel  
336 pages  
27 July 2023

#### English sample available

Rights to previous titles sold to:

Bulgaria – Atlantis  
China (Chinese simplified) – Yilin Press  
Estonia – Eesti Raamat  
France – Editions du Typhon  
The Netherlands – Querido  
Ukraine – Vsesvit

What to do with your life when your days are numbered? This is what former Hamburg bridge commissioner Benno Romik has to ask himself when he receives a terminal diagnosis. While he struggles for composure and considers what and who is important to him in the precisely calculated time he has left, his life is upended – in fact, completely blown apart: Emerging from an explosion, injured political activist Hollie Magenta finds refuge with Romik. After the violent protests surrounding the G20 summit, she and her radicalized band of »demolition queens« set cars on fire; but it soon becomes clear that they have even bigger plans. And the closer Dr. Romik and the 21-year-old grow, the more involved he becomes. A race against time begins.

In his new masterful novel *All Stars Uncounted*, Mirko Bonné blows up and builds bridges across the thorny territory between generations in an intensely poetic language.

»*All the Stars uncounted* is the profound social novel of a great storyteller who is able to plumb the depths of human existence like few others.«

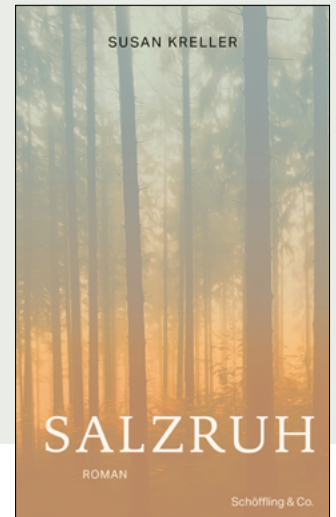
*Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt*

»Mirko Bonné has written an expert mixture of fast-paced political thriller, Hamburg gothic and existential parable. A masterpiece in the field of social prose [...].«

*Konstantin Ames / tagesspiegel*

**MIRKO BONNÉ**, born in Tegernsee in 1965, lives in Hamburg and Provence. He recently received the Hamburger Literaturpreis für Übersetzung 2020 for his translations from the French and English, including of Joseph Conrad, John Keats, Grace Paley, and Oscar Wilde. For his own literary work, which includes highly regarded novels that have been nominated for the Deutscher Buchpreis as well as poetry and essays, he has received the Prix Relay (2008), the Marie Luise Kaschnitz-Preis (2010), the Rainer Malkowski-Preis (2014), and a nomination for the Alfred-Döblin-Preis (2019).

**Susan Kreller**  
*Salzruh*



At the Bertoldi Pension, a run-down hostel in the East German Altmark region, the landlady Oda Prager and her chambermaid Maria Rosa run a tight ship. Those who accept their invitation must sit at their assigned tables and abide by their rules. Still, they are offered a glass of bubbly now and then. Shortly after they arrive, the guests are told, without further explanation, that they may not go outside for their own safety. Unsettled by the view of dark Salzruh Forest, they are compelled into uneasy camaraderie. Beyond the woods lies an old castle, once a popular resort for the Soviet-era trade union federation and still an enticing sight for the hostel guests. Who will be the first to venture forth? The former school principle troubled by the fall of the Berlin Wall? The devoted nurse and her child, who incessantly plays ball games? The alcoholic barkeeper? The older couple that actually wanted to celebrate their golden anniversary? Or the two lovers, young and beautiful, who puzzle the other guests to no end?

With her special brand of humour, award-winning author Susan Kreller condenses elements of Gothic horror to create a deeply contemplative chamber piece on entrapment and freedom, staying or leaving, rebellion or reconciliation with one's own fate.

»A must-read! Susan Kreller is the master of rhythm. I devour everything she writes.«

*Markus Orths*

Novel  
272 pages  
27 July 2023

**English sample available**

Rights to previous titles sold to:

France – Presses de la Cité  
The Netherlands – Clavis Uitgeverij  
UK – Putnam Young Readers  
Italy – Il Castoro Editrice  
Turkey – Ginko Kitap

**SUSAN KRELLER**, born in Plauen in 1977, did her doctorate in German literature. She won the Kranichsteiner Jugendliteratur grant, has been nominated four times for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, winning it in 2015 for *Schneeriese. Pirasol*, her highly praised first novel for adults, was published in 2017. She is a freelance writer and lives with her family in Berlin.

**Maike Wetzel**  
*Floating Bridges*

Recommended  
by New Books  
in German



A Sunday on the lake. A woman sits on the bank and hugs her two small children. What was supposed to be a lovely weekend has turned into something else entirely. The sailboat has capsized and the father is missing. He cannot possibly have drowned in this harmless lake, can he? Surely, he'll resurface and joke about his wife's fears. As the emergency helicopter circles overhead, the narrator remembers her life with this man, her counterpart in a moving marriage.

With relentless candour and great linguistic precision, Maike Wetzel writes about going on after everything changes and finding solace in our own memories and in literature. In the tradition of Joan Didion, Maggie Nelson, Ocean Vuong, and Marguerite Duras, the author tells a very personal but also impressively universal tale of love, grief, and parenthood. *Floating Bridges* is a gripping farewell and a touchingly honest novel about surviving as a mother and writer.

»The fragmented form of the novel blesses the book with a lightness, with an elegance, despite the heavy subject matter.«

*Thorsten Dönges / Berliner Zeitung*

»The novel is told in quiet tones and yet unfolds a tremendous force over its 200 or so pages. This is mainly due to Maike Wetzel's precise language and the images she finds for loss and grief.«

*Tino Dallmann / MDR Kultur*

Novel  
208 pages  
27 July 2023

**English sample available**

Rights to previous titles sold to:

English World – Scribe  
Finland – Like

**MAIKE WETZEL**

After studying film at HFF Munich and in Great Britain, Maike Wetzel now lives in Berlin, where she works as a writer and author for film and theatre. She has received numerous grants and literary prizes. Some of her stories in *Entfernte Geliebte* (2019) were written at the Villa Aurora in Los Angeles. Her debut novel *Elly* (2018) was awarded, among other distinctions, the Robert-Gernhardt-Preis. The short film *PROLL!* by Adrian Figueroa was based on Wetzel's screenplay and won the Deutscher Kurzfilmpreis 2021.

# Laura Freudenthaler

## *Arson*

Recommended  
by New Books  
in German



»I must begin to survive.« The woman's voice narrating Laura Freudenthaler's book observes – sober, calm, and contained – how things spin out of control. Things in her surroundings, in her life; the things that herald a global catastrophe: burning fires, drought, and expanding heat everywhere. The woman who speaks here registers it all with cold despair and growing obsession. Driven by dreams, seeking refuge, she constantly changes domiciles; she replaces the intrusions of the city with the isolation of the countryside and increasingly distances herself from the world where, in the evenings and at parties, people talk about hardly anything but relationships and psychotherapy. Instead, she finds a comrade-in-arms in a man who works as an expert for wild fires at the meteorological institute. He suffers from insomnia but knows that four-and-half hours of sleep are enough to survive. And so he holds vigil over the maps that record every fire in the world – as if one could stop what is already way beyond control.

»*Arson* not only moves us but also shows: The combination of political as well as poetic awareness can result in outstanding literature.«

*Katja Gasser / ORF*

»*Arson* is a brilliant diagnosis of contemporary sensitivities. It is a book at the height of the times. And a text that knows about the resilience of literature. «

*Klaus Kastberger / Die Presse*

Novel  
256 pages  
28 August 2023

**English sample available**

Rights to previous titles sold to:

Spain – Ático de los Libros  
Italy – Voland  
The Netherlands – Ambo Anthos  
Sweden – Lindelöws bokförlag  
Poland – Od do

**LAURA FREUDENTHALER**, born in Salzburg in 1984, lives in Vienna. Her debut novel, *Der Schädel von Madeleine*, was published in 2014. She received the Förderpreis zum Bremer Literaturpreis for her novel *Die Königin schweigt* (2017), which was recognized in 2018 as the best German-language debut novel at the Festival du premier Roman in Chambéry. For her second novel, *Geistergeschichten* (2019), she received the European Union's literary prize. In 2020 she won the 3sat-Preis at the Tage der deutschsprachigen Literatur in Klagenfurt for her text *Der heißeste Sommer*; in 2021, she received the manuskripte-Preis for her work.

## Matthias Gruber

### *The Loneliness of the First of Their Kind*



Novel  
304 pages  
28 August 2023

She is 14 and would like to be like other girls – above all, pretty. Yet Arielle hardly has any hair on her head, something is wrong with her teeth, and she can't sweat. She spends the afternoons with her father in the apartments of deceased residents, clearing them and separating out the trash. In the evenings, while he is looking for crypto money on discarded hard disks, she goes through strangers' lives on old cell phones. When she comes across Pauline and uploads the photos from the unknown girl's phone onto the Internet, she begins to attract attention, not least Erich's. But as it all becomes too much for her to handle, her unstable mother begins to enjoy the unexpected attention and wants to use it to realize her own dreams.

This book raises the literary flag on the dumping grounds of our present and is still gripping and touchingly comic. It holds up the mirror and shows us what we're like: with a smile that is both real and fake, beautiful and ugly all at the same time.

»This novel shimmers in all the colours of our present, revealing the true colours of our humanness.«

*Birgit Birnbacher*

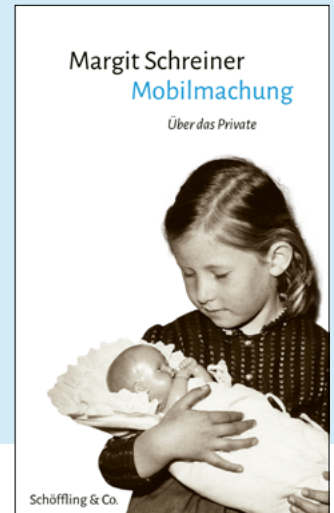
»Matthias Gruber has written a clever, touching, imaginative book about the seductive and brutal social media parallel worlds.«

*Bernd Melichar / Kleine Zeitung*

**MATTHIAS GRUBER** was born in Vienna in 1984 and raised in Salzburg, where he now lives with his family. He studied theatre arts and has worked as a receptionist, in online marketing, and at an emergency shelter. He is a co-founder of the Salzburg city magazine *fraueinflora.at* and *QWANT*. In 2020, he won the FM4 short-story competition Wortlaut. *The Loneliness of the First of Their Kind* is his first novel.

## Margit Schreiner

### *Mobilization. On Private Matters*



»Every newborn lives before the invention of time. After just a few cell divisions, I already felt that something extraordinary had been created, and I wandered as a tiny blackberry to the uterus in which I resolved to nest. I must admit that I preferred the neutral kindness with which it provided a cozy little place for me to my later, very capricious mother.«

After *Vater. Mutter. Kind. Kriegserklärungen* (2021) and *Mütter. Väter. Männer. Klassenkämpfe* (2022), famous Austrian author Margit Schreiner explores in her inimitable way all that is private. Beginning with her earliest years in a *petit bourgeois* city in the 1950s, the author tells a humorous tale with an always critical eye towards gender roles, from her experiences as an embryo and infant through her early childhood. This is not mere naval-gazing; it is also an astute reflection upon becoming a human being and human history.

»The insubordination queen of Austrian literature.«  
*Anton Thuswaldner / Literatur und Kritik*

»Margit Schreiner dazzles [...] with an absurd and utterly irreverent humor [...] and with a power of observation that can discover philosophical truths in trivialities.«  
*Andreas Wirthensohn / WDR3 Mosaik*

192 pages  
27 July 2023

Rights to previous titles sold to:

The Netherlands – De Arbeiderspers  
India – Itihaas Bodh Prakashan  
Turkey – Yapi Kredi Kultur

**MARGIT SCHREINER** was born in Linz in 1953. After longer stays in Tokyo, Paris, Berlin, Italy, and then again in Linz, she now lives in Gmünd, Lower Austria. She has received several scholarships and prizes for her books, including the Oberösterreichischer Landeskulturpreis and the Österreichischer Würdigungspreis für Literatur. In 2015, she received the Johann-Beer-Literaturpreis and the Heinrich-Gleißner-Preis. Most recently, she received the Anton-Wildgans-Preis (2016). She was nominated for the Österreichischer Buchpreis in 2018 for *Kein Platz Mehr*.



## Lea Singer

*The Patron Saint of the Holy Drinker.  
Joseph Roth's Forgotten Love*



Novel  
304 pages  
12 October 2023

**English sample available**

Rights to previous titles sold to:

US – New Vessel Press

He was buried on 30 May 1939 – the bankrupt writer who just seven years earlier had been one of the best-paid journalists in Germany: Joseph Roth. Many attended, but only one was wracked with sobs: Andrea Manga Bell, married to the designated king of the Duala in Cameroon, mother of two, trained graphic designer, a north German with very dark skin. She was Roth's great love, his erotic ideal, the foundation of his existence, intellectual inspiration, and unpaid secretary. The beauty from a well-educated family moved from hotel to hotel with the soon-to-be indebted Roth, whom she found both ugly and irresistible. Was she able to protect the homeless writer from drowning his fears and doubt in alcohol? Was she, who belonged nowhere and everywhere, a home for him? The story of this love affair began in 1929 in a villa near Berlin when Joseph Roth fell in love with this clever woman in a quince-yellow bathing suit and she fell in love with him: the blue-eyed story-teller with the absurdly tight officer's trousers, the Jew from a small town on the outer margins of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was gentle and pathologically jealous, truthful and deceitful; he idolized and slandered her. And he couldn't live without her. This story has never been told.

»Lea Singer writes novels for passionate readers.«

*Elke Heidenreich*

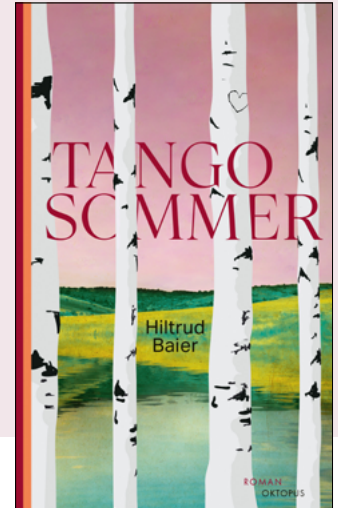
»One of the best-read women and one of the most interested in the arts who is publishing books in this country.«

*Tilman Krause / Die Welt*

**LEA SINGER** was born in Munich in 1960. She studied art history, singing, musicology and literature. With her novels about historical figures, the art historian is just as successful as she is with her textbooks, which she publishes under the name »Eva Gesine Baur.« She lives in Munich and was awarded the Hannelore-Greve-Literaturpreis, the Schwabinger Kunstpreis, and the Bodensee-Literaturpreis. Kampa Verlag recently published the novels *Der Klavierschüler* and *La Fenice*.

## Hiltrud Baier

### *Tango Summer*



Novel  
272 pages  
22 June 2023

»Is it that time again?« asks the postman when he hands Riitta a large package. »Are you sewing again?« All year Riitta looks forward to this week in summer, when Phil comes to Finland to dance with her at the tango festival in Seinäjoke. In the meantime, she leads a quiet life in her wood house, replete with a sauna, takes out her boat to go fishing on the Inaris Lake, or gardens. She and Phil never speak about the past and their former love – that’s the deal. Yet this year, Riitta hesitates to sew a new dress. She has the feeling that Phil won’t come. Spontaneously, Riitta decides for the first time in 27 years to return to her old home and visit Phil in southern Germany. He, however, has also invited his daughter Johanna and his granddaughter Leni to go to Finland with him – he says he wants to show them the country he so loves. Will Riitta and Phil miss each other and potentially their last chance to reappraise their past?

**HILTRUD BAIER** grew up in southern Germany. After becoming a bookseller, she completed studies in German literature and teaching. Over 20 years ago, love inspired her to move to Lapland, where she embraced the spectacular beauty of the landscape, where you can hike without encountering another soul; and she loves the melancholy Finnish tango that she first discovered at a tango festival in Seinäjoki. *Tangosommer* is Hiltrud Baier’s third novel after *Helle Tage, helle Nächte* and *Tage mit Ida*. She has also published two crime novels under the pseudonym »Klara Nordin.«

## Hansjörg Schertenleib

### *The School of Winds*



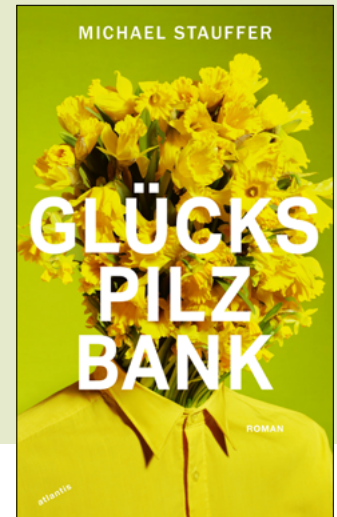
A 40-year-old man wanders through the barren northwest of the Republic of Ireland. The wind-tossed former schoolhouse of 1894 that he bought turns out to be a centre of gravity for the sparsely settled community; almost all of his neighbours went to school there. He soon believes that he is hearing its former pupils tell their stories; their voices merge into a choir of the unheard and he immerses himself in the country's painful, myth-steeped history. He plays on the local soccer team, gets to know cranky farmers with whom he cuts peat, befriends a loner and a Carrom master who, like him, lives alone in the hills of Donegal. Day after day he is made aware that he has indeed landed in a foreign place on the edge of Europe. As puzzled as he is amused, he eavesdrops on the conversations in pubs, oases of cosiness that dot the rainy, forsaken region; observes birds and sheep; experiences the power and beauty of the Atlantic Ocean; falls in love with the violinist of a folk group and is left struck with awe by the spectacles of nature happening before his eyes – whether he cares about them or not.

Novel  
208 pages  
28 August 2023

**HANSJÖRG SCHERTENLEIB** was born in Zurich in 1957; he was trained as a printer and typographer and has been a freelance author since 1982. His novellas, story collections, and novels such as the best-sellers *Das Zimmer der Signora* and *Das Regenorchester* have been translated into a dozen languages and received multiple awards; his plays are produced all over the world. Schertenleib lived in Ireland for 20 years, four on Spruce Head Island in Maine, and has lived in Burgundy since the summer of 2020. Last published: *Die Fliegengöttin* (2018), *Palast der Stille* (2020), *Offene Fenster, offene Türen* (2021), *Die grüne Fee* (2022), *Im Schilf* (2023), and the Maine crime novels *Die Hummerzange* (2019) and *Im Schatten der Flügel* (2020).

**Michael Stauffer**

*The Lucky Devil Bank*



Novel  
176 pages  
27 July 2023

It is a tired truism that speculating can make you filthy rich overnight – or dirt poor. Mikka has known this for a long time. When she hung out with Andreas at his uncle’s pool after school, they were constantly investing, optimizing, transferring, but none of it made the world a better place and one day the pool also disappeared. As a student of economics, Mikka meets a professor who encourages her in the first semester: »Go ahead and worry about the fact that people from your ›everything-must-grow-world‹ will no longer find their way out. Find new narratives!« Yes, they have only just realized that making more money is based primarily on fantasy and trust, but it’s easy to imagine the opposite. Mikka is ready for something new, something completely different, and she is aware of her own special abilities which must have to do with her Finnish roots. Together with Andreas, who now takes care of rich clients at a bank in Geneva, she sets up Onnepekka Pankki, the Lucky Devil Bank. A bank that gets rid of money. A bank that really saves the world.

Describing reality as a grotesque, Michael Stauffer turns the idea of ceaseless accumulation of capital on its head.

»An author who stands out from the crowd. Michael Stauffer is by no means a complacent writer ... he is definitely a distinctive, essentially unmistakable, pointed voice in Switzerland’s German-speaking literature.«

*Martin Schwarz / hr2 Kultur on Ansichten eines alten Kamels*

**MICHAEL STAUFFER** writes all types of prose, is an author and director of numerous radio plays for SRF and several German stations, writes poetry, and improvises with musicians. Together with Noëlle Revaz he forms the spoken-word performance duo Nomi-Nomi. His latest publications are the novels *Ansichten eines alten Kamels* (2014) and *Jeden Tag das Universum begrüßen* (2017). Stauffer teaches at the Swiss Literature Institute (Hochschule der Künste Bern) and lives in Biel.

## Irina Liebmann

*Would it be nice? It would be nice!  
My Father, Rudolf Herrnstadt*



Biography  
416 pages  
22 June 2023

»Would it nice? It would be nice!« is the headline of one of the many lead articles written by the brilliant journalist Rudolf Herrnstadt. The communist from a Jewish family in Upper Silesia moved to Berlin early in his life and became famous in the Weimar Republic as an editor of the *Berliner Tageblatt*. He was shaped by long stays in Moscow, where he founded a family. After his return to Germany, he became editor-in-chief of the Communist Party's main news organ in the German Democratic Republic, pugnacious as ever. Due to his criticism of the Party's poor treatment of human beings, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) ultimately kicked him out.

Irina Liebmann's conversations with contemporary witnesses paint a picture of a passionate, ironic, humorous, and radical man who time and time again managed to get under his comrades' skin. Herrnstadt's vision of a society in which the individual could develop freely tragically failed. A major historical figure, this book brings him to life.

»Irina Liebmann revives the terror and the hopes of an entire epoch in this biography of her father.«

*Leipziger Buchpreis, the jury*

**IRINA LIEBMANN** was born in Moscow in 1943 to the German journalist Rudolf Herrnstadt and the Russian German scholar Valentina Herrnstadt; she is a freelance writer in Berlin. She has received many accolades for her books, including the Berliner Literaturpreis (1998), the Preis von Autoren für Autoren des Lübecker Literaturtreffens (2015) and the Uwe-Johnson-Preis (2020). She received the Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse for *Would It Be Nice? It Would Be Nice!* in 2008. New editions of her work are published by Schöffling & Co.

## Alexander Pechmann

### *The Library of Lost Books*



Is there a library somewhere in the world collecting all those books that could never be published? What compels writers to torching their work? And how can it be that manuscripts are stolen and disappear forever? With literary sleuthing, Alexander Pechmann conjures them in this book and tells of all the works that were destroyed or lost through accidents and coincidences, on purpose or even by mistake. Their fates and secrets are told in numerous anecdotes: from Dostoevsky to Flaubert, from Thomas Mann to Balzac, from Joyce to Kafka.

The library of lost books also contains texts that were never written or that no one was ever supposed to know about. Finding oneself on an expedition through literary history and the world of books, one encounters a bizarre book caravan in ancient Persia, a barbaric typewriter, Hemingway's travelling bag, chambermaids and ventriloquists, Pushkin's rabbits and Herman Melville's lost island.

240 pages  
21 September 2023

**ALEXANDER PECHMANN**, born in Vienna in 1968, is a writer, translator and editor. He also considers himself a treasure hunter for literature and has a great fondness for lost texts and forgotten stories. He has translated and edited numerous works of English and American literature, including works by Herman Melville, Mary Shelley, Mark Twain, Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry David Thoreau, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. His most recent novel is *Im Jahr des schwarzen Regens* (2021).

**Lars Reyer**  
*False Cathedrals*



When the past, the present, and the future merge, it takes but a deep breath to be transported from the potato harvest »in Saxony on fields in fall« to a post-apocalyptic landscape in which »small herds of people« graze in a valley and crows »proclaim the carrion.«

In his new volume of poetry, Lars Reyer takes us on a journey along the boundaries of time and place. Into Saxony's dark history and present, where, in the Ore Mountains, the »maternity dens are still wide open«, and the urban fallows begin to glow from internal tension. To the wet meadows and small towns of Münsterland, in the tracks of the forgotten poet and pharmacist Erich Jansen. Reyer's poems oscillate between narrative impulses and bone-dry abstraction. Karl Marx drops in, Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* makes an appearance, and the American Emo band Elliott sets the rhythm for all of it. In this way, a highly textured work emerges, replete with allusions and references, leaving readers to wonder what mythological spaces are next revealed to them in some grey backyard.

»(Lars Reyer) writes original, concise, and conclusive, magically intense, melodic and picturesque poetry. In his work, irony and self-mockery counteract pathos.«

*GWK Literature Award, the jury*

Poems  
 120 pages  
 28 August 2023

**LARS REYER**, born in Werdau in 1977, studied philosophy, English, and ethnology in Münster. He subsequently studied at the Deutsches Literaturinstitut Leipzig. His debut *Der lange Fußmarsch durch die Stadt bei Nacht* was published in 2006 in the Lyrik Edition 2000; more poems have been published in numerous anthologies and magazines. In 2013, he published the volume of poems *Magische Maschinen* with Schöffling & Co. and received the Literaturförderpreis der GWK-Gesellschaft für Westfälische Kulturarbeit.

**Philipp Gurt**  
*A Dance of Death.*  
*Gendarme Caminada and the Dairymaid*



Crime  
 320 pages  
 16 November 2023

The shepherd of Altsäss, an alpine pasture high up on the Swiss Calanda massif, is found dead in a cheese barrel. The milk has turned red with blood and presents a dreadful sight: Toni was slain. He was discovered by the dairymaid Freya Schwarz, who tends the cows with her two sisters. The three young women navigate the daily hardships of life in the Alps, but ever since they have run the dairy, they go dancing every Saturday night. The dance not only attracts three scrappy woodcutters but all sorts of people from the Chur Rhine Valley – even the local pastor finds out about it and warns his parish about such wicked ways. Soon thereafter, a body is found at the foot of the mountain in Schelmentobel. Gendarme Caminada and his best friend, forensic pathologist Peter Marugg, are summoned to the mountain to solve the murder. Their investigations are tricky and lead them back 10 years to 1943, when Calanda experienced the most extensive forest fires in the history of the region. After the third victim is found, the men must admit with a shudder that evil wears many masks and the mountain could be deadly for them, too ...

»Gendarme Caminada is well on the way to becoming a legend in Swiss crime literature.« *Sebastian Helbig / Südstschweiz*

**PHILIPP GURT** was born in 1968 as one of eight children in a poor mining family in Graubünden. He grew up in various orphanages. He already began writing short stories as an adolescent and wrote his first novel when he was 20. He has always felt close to nature, which strongly influences his highly atmospheric writing. His links to the Canton of Graubünden, where he still lives and works as a freelance writer, are palpable in all of his novels. Kampa Verlag most recently published *Bündner Abendrot* and *Bündner Sturm*, the fifth and sixth cases for Giulia de Medici, as well as *Graubündner Schreie* (formerly titled *Der Puppenmacher*) and *Graubündner Finsternis*, the third and fourth cases for Gendarme Caminada.



## Christof Weigold

### *The Evil Father*



The dubious death of a Western legend, rivaling movie moguls and glamorous parties – private detective Hardy Engel investigates in the Hollywood of the late twenties.

Crime  
624 pages  
28 August 2023

Hollywood in the year of the stock market crash. Private detective Hardy Engel is finally released from prison. William Randolph Hearst, the mighty movie mogul and publisher himself, has arranged his release under odd circumstances. The price: Engel must find out who is blackmailing the tabloid tycoon. The case involves a strange death Hardy gets more and more drawn into: In 1924, the famous film pioneer Thomas Ince died shortly after his birthday party on Hearst's yacht. Was it really a natural cause, as all the witnesses have confessed? Did Hearst's relationship with actress Marion Davies have anything to do with it, and was Carl Laemmle, German head of Universal Studios, on board, too? In order to find out the truth, Hardy Engel's investigations need to take a turn against his own employer. A dangerous double game begins...

Woven into the gripping plot are numerous events and characters from Hollywood's golden age: Chaplin's delicate love affairs, gambling ships and prohibition mobsters, the deep fall of silent movie stars, and intrigues surrounding the first Academy Awards.

»A harmonious melange of film history and the classic crime thriller.«

*Sofia Glasl / Süddeutsche Zeitung about The Blood Red Carpet*

**CHRISTOF WEIGOLD**, born in Mannheim in 1966, wrote plays, was a regular author of the Harald Schmidt Show and now works as a freelance screenwriter for film and television. In 2018, the first volume of the series about the German private investigator Hardy Engel *Der Mann, der nicht mitspielt* was published. Two more parts followed: *Der blutrote Teppich* and *Die letzte Geliebte*. Weigold won the Mordsharz Festival Preis for the best German-language debut with it and was nominated for the Glauser Preis. Christof Weigold lives in Munich.

**Benjamin Stückelberger**  
*Ashes to Ashes.*  
*A Case for Pastor Gabathuler*



**Pastor Gabathuler books an escort service and challenges the Russian mafia – all in the name of loving thy neighbour, of course!**

Pastor Gabathuler is shocked when he sees one of the crematorium's staff among the mourners. Normally, Boris Vucotic just hands over the urns; he doesn't take part in the service. But Vucotic needs a private word with the pastor – he's seen something strange in the deceased's ashes! Gabathuler's curiosity is piqued. After all, it was he who, before joining the reformed church, spent 12 years with the canton's police force fighting human trafficking and prostitution. When he moved into the pastor's house in the parish of Winterthur-Ganterwald, he wanted to leave that life behind him. Even Barbara, whom Gabathuler still knows from the police academy, has moved in with him – on trial. Yet his inner policeman cannot let it go, especially when the widower tells him what role the Russian mafia played in his wife's death. To find out who is pulling the strings, Gabathuler takes an unconventional approach: he hires one of their female escorts. But his adversaries are not joking around. If he isn't careful, Gabathuler might be one step closer to heaven than he bargained for.

Crime  
 256 pages  
 12 October 2023

**BENJAMIN STÜCKELBERGER** was a pastor in the reformed church of Zurich in Meilen and Winterthur-Wülflingen for 16 years, where he focused on young people following confirmation. He then became a freelancer, writing and producing musicals for young adults. He writes a regular column for a weekly and lives with his wife as a freelance author in Meilen. *Auf der Kanzel*, pastor Roger Gabathuler's first case, was published by Atlantis Verlag.

**Marcel Huwyler**  
*The Purple Angler-Fish.*  
*Eliza Roth-Schild's Second Case*



**The ex-wife of a businessman, Eliza Roth-Schild has to earn her own living and engages in corporate espionage, on land and at sea.**

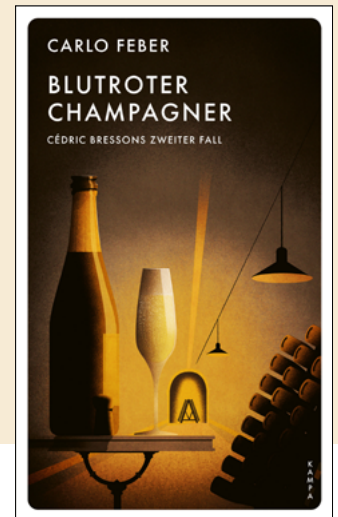
Her clients are wealthy, powerful, and prominent, and they know every trick in the book. They admire Eliza Roth-Schild's savvy ability to get information (while happy to ignore her more corrupt methods) as well as her discretion. Kuno Schenk, a plumber who became a self-made man, is no exception. His daughter plans to marry one Ken Bauer, but Schenk has his doubts about Bauer's real intentions. The man came into money in a very short time and even though his business is not going well, Bauer's private fortune continues to grow. At his birthday party, Eliza is charged with finding out more about the groom-to-be. He has rented himself an entire grand hotel on the shore of Lake Constance, no less, to honour himself. Afterwards, he plans to party with a small circle of friends on his opulent houseboat. In her first life as an entrepreneur's wife, cruise ships and luxurious yachts were Eliza's second home, so she feels at ease among the exclusive guests. While spying, she enjoys the support of Mr Wälti, a taxi driver who stood by Eliza in her darkest hours and who also has untapped talents. As her chauffeur, he is capable not only on land but under water, and his analytical skills would put even the best FBI profiler to shame.

»It is the small, wicked ideas that make Marcel Huwyler's characters so lovable. His writing is so deft and refreshing, his images so comical, that he thrills his readers.« *Aargauer Zeitung*

Crime  
 192 pages  
 27 July 2023

**MARCEL HUWYLER** made his name with crime novels featuring Ms Morgenstern, who has so far handled four cases. Born in the Swiss village of Merenschwand in 1968, he already wrote plays as a child and told his parents the most unbelievable tales. After working as a primary school teacher for 7 years, Marcel Huwyler became a journalist. As an author, he wrote articles about his home and stories from all over the world for almost three decades. Marcel Huwyler now lives on a lake in central Switzerland, where he reads, writes, cooks, and plays the piano. In the spring of 2022, his crime novel *Das goldene Taschenmesser* was published by Atlantis Verlag; it was Eliza Roth-Schild's first case. In the fall of 2022, *Heilige Streiche. Weihnachten in Müntschesberg* was published.

**Carlo Feber**  
*Blood-Red Champagne.*  
*Cédric Bresson's Second Case*



Crime  
 320 pages  
 12 October 2023

Ex-police commissioner Cédric Bresson, once the »best private eye in Paris,« has become an almost equally successful champagne vintner. At a reception hosted by the grapevine and rose grower Bernard Grandjean, Cédric's first rosé is passed around, and the new vintner even manages to make a 2.2 metre high champagne pyramid in front of Lézy-le-Sec's high society. Even his skeptical father-in-law is impressed! Late in the evening, a scream pierces the festivities: The host is found dead in his »love nest,« where he cultivated his roses. It seems that he has been strangled with an artificial grapevine and a golden rose is sticking out of his throat. Theuilly-Bazet, the secretary of state, is also among the guests and orders Cédric to take the case. With the help of his local police team as well as the former film diva Viviane, Cédric uncovers secret rivalries among the rose aficionados and champagne refiners. At the village fair in Lézy, the cards are literally dealt anew: the Queen of Spades appears in person – but who is Cédric to let a criminal give him the run-around?

»An entertaining crime novel with a lot of charm.«

*Beate Rottgardt / Ruhr Nachrichten on Der tote Champagner-Präsident*

**CARLO FEBER** studied political science at FU Berlin and the Institut d'études politiques de Paris. Before turning his attentions entirely to his passion for literature, he was a labor expert at the Frauenhofer-Gesellschaft and a project manager at a Berlin media agency. Since 1995, he has been writing crime and historical novels under various pseudonyms and he teaches creative writing. A 1965 vintage from "the wine-country of Pfalz," Carlo Faber has always had a penchant for good wine. On a trip through Champagne, where he discovered a passion for demi-sec, he hit upon the idea for Cédric Bresson.

**Claudia Bardelang**  
*Greed is Black.*  
*Johann Briamonte's Second Case*



Crime  
 288 pages  
 27 July 2023

The prestigious art dealer Hellstein & Oehring, located in Freiburg's historic centre, has invited guests to a reception at the splendid Art Deco villa Ferrette in St. Blasien. The relaxed get-together comes to an abrupt end when Julian Jeltsch, a trainee in the art shop, takes a fatal fall from the second floor – or was he pushed? Jeltsch is dead on impact and takes a secret to the grave: just weeks earlier, an elderly lady had offered the gallery something she found in her attic. Since such pieces are rarely of high value, gallerist Martin Oehring was more than a little surprised about what she had brought: an oil study for the *The Tower of Blue Horses* by Franz Marc from 1913, an invaluable work. Oehring decided to leave the client in the dark and instead assigned the unconventional but exceptionally talented Jeltsch to create a copy, swearing him to the utmost secrecy. And now Jeltsch is dead! Chief inspector Briamonte is at the reception, too. Instead of renovating his Black Forest estate, settling down in his new home, and enjoying the summer in his wild fruit garden, he now has to shed light on the gallerist's shady activities. After all, Jeltsch is only the first casualty.

**CLAUDIA BARDELANG** was born in Switzerland in 1964 but grew up in Emmendingen in the German Breisgau region. The lithographer and painter exhibited in Germany and Italy for many years before discovering her passion for writing. She then studied to become a teacher, her current profession. Claudia Bardelang has a grown daughter and lives with her partner in Freiburg in Breisgau. Kampa Verlag has also published *Schwarz ist der Wald. Der erste Fall für Johann Briamonte*.

**Roger Graf**

*Bad Business, Maloney!*

*The Hair-Raising Cases of Philip Maloney*



Stories

400 pages

16 November 2023

Whiskey is his best friend and he prefers to sleep on the floor under the desk of his shabby office. The grumpy private eye has been thrilling readers for over 30 years, and not just in Switzerland. In Germany, too, Philip Maloney has long attained cult status and his hair-raising cases are addictive. The shameless snoop of dubious character, plagued by money worries, always has a snappy comeback as he makes his way from case to case and corpse to corpse. Only women manage to cool his ambitions – and put the brakes on his investigations. And then there is another problem: Hugentobler, a police detective with his own share of flaws. As Maloney so aptly says, he's »dumber than a potholder.«

»Roger Graf leads the reader into the thicket, from which there is no escape – except to read on.«

*NZZ*

**ROGER GRAF**, born in Munich in 1958, started writing poems and short stories during his apprenticeship as a sporting goods salesman. He wrote screenplays and film reviews alongside radio satires, sketches, games, and nonsense. In 1989, he developed the radio play series *Die haarsträubenden Fälle des Philip Maloney*, which the Swiss radio station SRF has been airing every Sunday between 11 am and noon for over 30 years. Philip Maloney, who Graf created as a parody of Raymond Chandler's legendary detective Philip Marlowe, is probably Switzerland's most famous private eye.

## Roger Graf

### *Ticket for Eternity*



Philip Maloney has a new neighbour. She is also a detective specializing in missing persons. While he has only enough money in the bank to last for the next two months and cannot even afford to place an ad for new clients, he has two new cases on his desk: a young woman receiving strange postcards who believes they are being sent by the father she never knew, and a journalist who was supposed to meet his girlfriend at the movies four weeks ago but never showed up and has since vanished without a trace. Philip Maloney still claims not to depend on referrals from the competition, but takes them on anyway, and, corpse by corpse, solves his trickiest case so far.

Crime  
256 pages  
28 August 2023

**ROGER GRAF**, born in Munich in 1958, started writing poems and short stories during his apprenticeship as a sporting goods salesman. He wrote screenplays and film reviews alongside radio satires, sketches, games, and nonsense. In 1989, he developed the radio play series *Die haarsträubenden Fälle des Philip Maloney*, which the Swiss radio station SRF has been airing every Sunday between 11 am and noon for over 30 years. Philip Maloney, who Graf created as a parody of Raymond Chandler's legendary detective Philip Marlowe, is probably Switzerland's most famous private eye.

## Roger Graf

### *Dead Certain*



**A man hangs himself in an empty office building – even though he’s actually been dead for almost 10 years.**

It’s cold. The fog grows thicker. Philip Maloney’s client, Ms Koller, calls the private eye to an office building in which her boyfriend disappeared over four hours earlier – but they’re too late. The man who claims he is »Basil Huber« is dead: by hanging. Ms Koller is convinced that her boyfriend has not taken his own life. Maloney finds out that the dead man’s fingerprints correspond clearly to those of one Urs Imhasli, a private eye like Maloney – but he has been dead for years. Together with his colleague Jasmin, Maloney reopens the case. His former colleague’s corpse leads them to four murdered children, a pedophile in hiding, and into the very heart of the Swiss political machine.

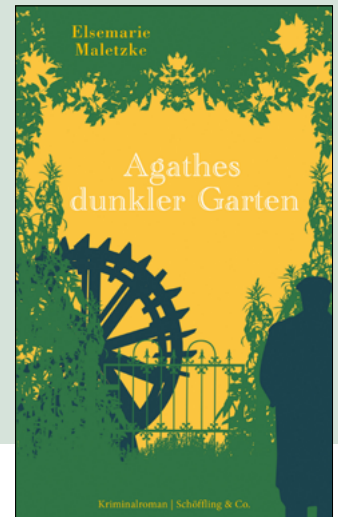
Crime  
304 pages  
28 August 2023

**ROGER GRAF**, born in Munich in 1958, started writing poems and short stories during his apprenticeship as a sporting goods salesman. He wrote screenplays and film reviews alongside radio satires, sketches, games, and nonsense. In 1989, he developed the radio play series *Die haarsträubenden Fälle des Philip Maloney*, which the Swiss radio station SRF has been airing every Sunday between 11 am and noon for over 30 years. Philip Maloney, who Graf created as a parody of Raymond Chandler’s legendary detective Philip Marlowe, is probably Switzerland’s most famous private eye.



## Elsemarie Maletzke

### *Agathe's Dark Garden*



Agathe is waiting but she doesn't know for whom. She has bought the small mill with its overgrown garden because she thinks herself safe there from an anonymous blackmailer. Yet he is hot on her heels and she needs allies: young Andreas and his grandfather Adam. When Adam discovers the traces of a »cold« murder case involving an unknown woman, it becomes clear to them: the dead won't let them go. The trail leads to Estonia where, unexpectedly, a young woman with the same name as the murder victim turns up. This raises more questions: Who is the dead person and what was she looking for at the mill? And what does the blackmailer have on the owner? In the dark garden, Agathe ultimately has to face her past.

Elsemarie Maletzke is a master of illusion: in her new crime novel, eccentric characters come together beneath the fruit trees – until this paradise turns out to be a crime scene and the garden a refuge for more than just one undetected murderer.

»Elsemarie Maletzke writes with a twinkle in her eye, spunk, and elegance, and she has fun with language and her quirky characters.« *Ursula May / Hessischer Rundfunk*

Crime  
288 pages  
22 June 2023

Rights to previous titles sold to:

The Czech Republic – H&H

**ELSEMARIE MALETZKE** was born in Upper Hesse in 1947. She has written travel books, novels, and highly acclaimed biographies about classic female authors of English literature. In 2009 she received the Robert-Gernhardt-Preis. She lives and works as a journalist and author in Frankfurt am Main.

# BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

»I am entranced. This book is a real treasure!«

*Bookshop Thalia, Erlangen*

»My favourite book for spring. I felt like I was reading an old classic.«

*Winkler Bookshop, Berlin*

»Jane Crilly has written a very gentle but emotionally powerful novel.«

*Detlef Knut*

»An enchanting book! This little novel tells earnestly yet lightly of the greatest love – beautifully, calmly and poignantly – and without any kitsch.«

*Hugendubel, Göttingen*

»A reading delight.«

*Bookshop in Johannis, Nuremberg*

»Gorgeous!«

*Märkische Allgemeine*

»Jane Crilly portrays the conventions of times past with both with humour and earnestness.«

*Andreas Wallentin / WDR 5*

»Simply beautiful!«

*Flow Magazin*

»Enchanting and beautifully written. For us the first highlight of this book spring.«

*Walsroder Zeitung*

**Jane Crilly**  
*The Gardener of Wimbledon*



**A love affair that began at Wimbledon lasted a world war and ultimately a lifetime.**

Great Britain, 1938. For the young Rose Blake, Wimbledon is a place where her greatest dream could become true. Yet the time isn't ripe: If her parents have their way – and they always do – Rose should become a good housewife, not a professional tennis player. For Henry Evans, Wimbledon is the place that he and Rose grew closer than anywhere else – for the teenagers come from completely different worlds: Rose, the scion of a »good« family, plays Chopin on the piano and learns French; Henry, whose mother died prematurely, is a member of the household staff. He lives on the grounds only because the Blake family hired his father as a gardener. And yet, life brings Rose and Henry together. He is allowed to serve as her ball boy, she teaches him tennis, and he gives her rides on his bike. They become friends and fall in love. Until the War painfully separates them. Henry follows the only course he can: he becomes the gardener of Wimbledon – for the next 50 years, always hoping that one day, Rose will return ...

A novel as touching as *Five Quarter Hours to the Sea* by Ernest van der Kwast and as British as Alan Bennett's *The Uncommon Reader*.

Novel  
 256 pages  
 23 March 2023

**Full English manuscript available**

Rights sold to:

Spain – Libros de Seda  
 Italy – Feltrinelli

Even as a little girl, **JANE CRILLY**, born in a small town in Southern England in 1972, wanted to leave her birthplace behind. She eagerly became an *au pair* only to be bitterly disappointed by the awful guest family and their more awful children. Her only consolation was the *pâtisserie*, which may have saved her during the loneliest year of her life. Later, Crilly studied – with far greater enthusiasm – art history and worked in several galleries. However, her greatest passion was literature. Her favorite author is Nancy Mitford. For a long time, Crilly's writing landed in her desk drawer; *The Gardener of Wimbledon* is her first novel. Today, Crilly lives between London and Cambridge with her English bulldog Headache and her husband.

## Franziska Gerstenberg

### *Although Everything is Over*

Recommended  
by New Books  
in German



Novel  
296 pages  
26 January 2023

**English Sample available**

Shortly before 11th September 2001, East German Charlotte and West German Simon meet. Soon after the birth of their child the first cracks in the relationship appear. And even though Karl is born shortly after Greta, the marriage can no longer be saved. The couple decides to quite literally divide both the house and the family; Charlotte lives with their son in one half, Simon with their daughter in the other. Growing up in this version of normalcy leaves its mark. Karl, a loner, begins to stalk his sister, and when Greta becomes politically active, he wants to show her what he's capable of – with fatal consequences. Ultimately, not only the family has to ask itself how to go on when everything is over.

In her great family and social novel, Franziska Gerstenberg captures all of the seemingly trivial moments that ultimately end in catastrophe. With poetic flair, she creates a compelling portrait of the last 20 years in reunified Germany and searches for potential salvation in love.

»A unique narrative voice. She tells stories about the trivialities of life, subtly introducing her themes until suddenly revealing the delicate threads – or the heavy ropes – that our lives hang on.«  
*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

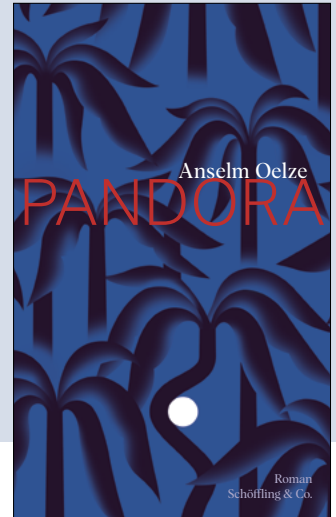
»Highly readable and cleverly constructed, the story is gripping and engages the reader's emotions throughout, with a moving ending that offers some comfort despite the tragic events that unfold.«  
*New Books in German*

Rights to previous titles sold to:

Hungary – L'Harmattan Könyvkiadó  
The Netherlands – Ambo | Anthos

**FRANZISKA GERSTENBERG**, born in 1979, lives in Wendland with her family. She has received numerous stipends and literary prizes. Her first novel, *Spiel mit ihr*, won the Förderpreis zum Lessingpreis des Freistaates Sachsen; her stories *So lange her, schon gar nicht mehr wahr* won the Sächsischer Literaturpreis 2016. Parts of *Although Everything Is Over* were written during her stay at the Villa Massimo.

**Anselm Oelze**  
*Pandora*



Four strangers are in crisis: Writer David Rubens has been abandoned by his wife and child. Teacher Telmo Schmidt is being blackmailed by his students. Astronomer Jurij Bogić is struggling with his father's past whereas ethnologist Carline MacPherson is struggling with the future of humanity. All of them are confronted with one question: how can you know what's right and still do the wrong thing? Their fates intertwine until finally it grows clear how the evils of Pandora can be transformed into something healing – and an unexpected meeting in the South American rain forest takes place.

Following his successful debut *Wallace*, Anselm Oelze has written another brilliant novel, *Pandora*, about the »woke generation«, whose private delusions coincide with the social crises of the present and who, suddenly knocked off course, face unexpected challenges.

»After just a few pages, the book has an incredible pull. [...] One of the absolute book highlights of the coming year!«  
*Matthias Kesper / Thalia*

»A delightfully dizzying flight of the imagination«  
*Denis Scheck / ARD Druckfrisch on Wallace*

Novel  
464 pages  
23 February 2023

**English sample available**

Rights to previous titles sold to:

Italy – Ponte alle Grazie

**ANSELM OELZE**, born in Frankfurt in 1986, studied philosophy in Freiburg and Oxford. In 2019, his novel *Wallace* was published by Schöffling & Co. and was nominated for the Debütpreis der lit.COLOGNE. For his literary reportage entitled *Die Grenzen des Glücks*, Oelze received the Literaturfestpreis Meissen 2021. He is a freelance writer and lives with his family in Leipzig.

## Gabriele Tergit

### *The First Train to Berlin*



In her fast-paced satire *The First Train to Berlin* – published for the first time in its original typescript – Gabriele Tergit leads us through post-War Berlin. The young American Maud is naive and has not seen much of the world outside of New York’s high society. When she gets the opportunity to accompany a British-American military mission to Berlin – with the aim of teaching the Germans the principles of democracy – she takes this chance to go on this one adventure before her wedding. Soon the glamorous but naive Maud realizes that the Germans are neither interested in democracy nor in being saved by her or the other Allies.

With her signature black humor, this great exiled writer reveals a post-War Germany that has yet to overcome its National Socialist mindset. An angry novel replete with absurd dialogue and situational comedy to rival Billy Wilder’s screwball comedies.

»Tergit’s dialogue blazes throughout the book, fast-paced, cynical. Her eye, further sharpened by exile, scrutinises the Zionists as well as the self-absorbed, filthy rich Americans.«

*Bernadette Conrad / ZEIT online*

»The mentality of the post-war years is captured to the letter.«

*Tobias Schwartz / Berliner Morgenpost*

»Gabriele Tergit is now considered a major novelist unfairly forgotten in the post-War years of last century.« *SWR 2*

Novel  
208 pages  
23 February 2023

Rights sold to:

The Netherlands – Van Maaskant  
Haun

Rights to previous titles sold to:

UK – Pushkin Press  
US – The New York Review of Books  
France – Christian Bourgois  
Italy – Einaudi  
Spain – Libros del Asteroide  
Greece – Dardanos  
The Netherlands – Van Maaskant  
Haun

**GABRIELE TERGIT** (1894–1982) was a writer and journalist and became known for her court reporting as well as her novels, articles and other prose pieces. In November 1933, she emigrated to Palestine, moving to London in 1938. Though her literary work was rediscovered quite late, she is now regarded as one of the most important authors of the interwar and post-war period.

## Ursula Krechel

### *The Reckoning*

German  
Book Prize  
2012



What do you have to fear, what can you dare to hope for, if you return to Germany from exile in 1947?

Following her celebrated novel *Shanghai, fern von wo*, published in 2008, Ursula Krechel once again goes searching for clues in her new, spectacular novel *The Reckoning*. Post-War Germany, waver- ing between economic depression and a re-awakening, is the backdrop for this almost parable-like tragedy of someone who never arrives.

Richard Kornitzer is a judge and a character akin to Michael Kohlhaas. The Nazi era, with its absurd and lethal rules, marks him for life. Afterwards, nothing is as it used to be: his small fam- ily from Lake Constance and Mainz to England destroyed and his homeland almost stranger to him than his magically illumina- ted exile in Havana.

Ursula Krechel's novel weaves together the fictional and non- fictional; seeking and inventing, she gives atmospheric shape to a time in which the past weighs heavily on hopes for the future. With linguistic sensitivity and an insistent affection, she delivers late justice for its figures. *The Reckoning* is about a German family and, with great narrative power, the founding years of a republic.

»The most beautiful and at the same time ambiguous German- language novel this fall.«

*Andreas Platthaus / FAZ*

Novel  
496 pages  
17 September 2012

**English sample available**

Rights sold (reverted):

France – Carnets Nord  
Italy – Mondadori

**URSULA KRECHEL** is a drama- turg. She teaches at the Berlin University of the Arts and Wa- shington University in St. Louis and she is a member of the Berlin Academy of the Arts, the German Academy for Language and Literature in Darmstadt, and vice president of the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz. She lives in Berlin.

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