

Foreign Rights Guide

Frankfurt Book Fair 2025

**SCHÖFFLING & Co. / KAMPA / JUNG UND JUNG
ATLANTIS LITERATUR / OKTOPUS / DÖRLEMANN**

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LITERARY FICTION

Schöffling & Co.
LITERARY FICTION

Mara Floren
Concrete Palace

Novel
Roughly 208 pages
17 March 2026

Love is more than just a happy ending

A summer between prefabricated buildings and outdoor swimming pools. While others go on holiday, twelve-year-old Henri and her best friend Mo share a tube of sunscreen and exchange secret glances. They carry large stacks of books home from the library, read Stephen King and Kafka, and have permission to visit the adult section. Afternoons spent in quiet intimacy on the lawn or the rooftop turn into something more: a bond, a love that sustains them both while everything else falters and falls apart.

Because Henri is worried about her father. Usually he is funny and caring – he, the policeman who listens to his Depeche Mode tape in the morning and tenderly ruffles her hair. Now he is acting all strange, vandalizing his own backyard; something has taken hold of him that splits his personality.

Together with her mother, Henri tries to take care of her father and to conceal his mental illness. Not quite ideal conditions for growing up in peace. Henri seeks refuge in her relationship with Mo – and she writes. Stories full of ghosts, to find the words for what is happening to her family. And to save her father.

Concrete Palace is an intense, wise and deeply moving novel about love and the ghosts that no one calls upon but which come along nonetheless.

Mara Floren grew up in the 1980s in a West German high-rise housing complex, among other places. She worked for over ten years in German theaters in various roles behind the scenes. Today, Floren lives near Berlin, devotes herself to writing, and works as an anti-bullying coach in schools.

Jung und Jung
LITERARY FICTION

Laura Freudenthaler

Iris

Novel

Roughly 228 pages

18 February 2026



Iris is a writer who travels extensively in Europe and beyond. She finds moments of understanding in the encounters she has along the way. Moments of affirmation in a life that is on the verge of exhaustion, in a world that feeds on the cultural heritage of the past, which seems threatened everywhere. Back home, she talks about it, and Anton listens to her and shows Iris the photos he takes as an artist with damaged cameras. Her relationship with Anton (and other men) is based on agreements, including sexual ones. Violence and submission play an increasingly important role in this. Also in Iris' imagination, which begins to be ignited by the history of witch trials, by this and other stories of violence that have been inscribed on the female body over the centuries.

»Political writing that is literarily valid: it is extremely rare, but has been achieved in this text, which has been crafted down to the last detail. Here, there is no craving for attention or approval, no one is puffing themselves up with cheap moralizing, as is currently fashionable and freely available.« *Katja Gasser*

»Every word is perfectly placed, yet not a single one seems artificially inserted. Her tone is carried by a disturbing calmness, her writing never panders to the zeitgeist. Nevertheless, she pinpoints the scars and wounds of the times, but with the means of literature, which stands above things and yet is right in the middle of them.«

Bernd Melichar / Kleine Zeitung

Laura Freudenthaler, born in Salzburg, lives as a writer in Vienna. She made her debut in 2014 with *Madeleine's Skull*. Her novel *The Queen is Silent* (2017) won her the Bremer Literaturpreis sponsorship award and was named best German-language debut novel at the Festival du premier Roman in Chambéry in 2018. She received the European Union Prize for Literature for *Ghost Story* (2019). In 2020, she won the 3sat Prize at the Days of German-Language Literature in Klagenfurt. In 2024, she received the Reinhard Priessnitz Prize and the Anton Wildgans Prize. Most recent publication: *Arson* (2023).

Dörlemann
LITERARY FICTION

Elke Cremer
Going Home

Novel
Roughly 160 pages
17 March 2026

Twenty-four hours that change everything

At first, it seems like any other day – people meet in cafés, look forward to dates, argue with each other. A little girl has a sense of foreboding. When suddenly a violent crime occurs, a dynamic is set in motion that affects the lives of various people. A long-absent father reconnects with his daughter, a young woman dies under mysterious circumstances. An older gay couple finds their way out of a relationship crisis, and a successful manager realizes that he has made a big mistake. In a mysterious way, the lives of numerous people in the city seem to be intertwined. A fast-paced episodic novel that asks all of life's big questions within twenty-four hours.

Elke Cremer, born in Ludwigshafen in 1975, studied literature and musicology in Freiburg, Munich, and Florence and lives in Berlin as an author and film writer. For her literary work she received the annual literature scholarship from the Baden-Württemberg Art Foundation and the poetry promotion prize from GEDOK Heidelberg. So far, her publications include the poetry booklet *Lines Made of Bees* and, in 2022, the poetry collection *Elevation without Houses*. In 2017, 2022, and 2023 she received the German Audio Film Award.

Schöffling & Co.
LITERARY FICTION

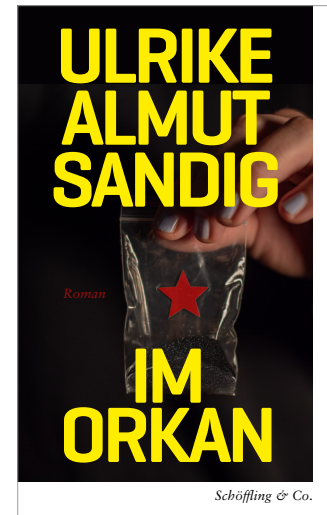
Ulrike Almut Sandig

In the Hurricane

Novel

Roughly 208 pages

18 February 2026



Overnight, the streets of Wolnopol change: dunes blow across the promenade, artificial-looking tornadoes tear swathes through the Ukrainian coastal town. What appears to be a natural phenomenon quickly turns out to be an existential threat. Are the storms coming from the east? Can the people and the town hold out against them?

Amidst this chaos, Maksym builds his career – dealing with synthetic drugs. His grandfather Bohdan, who survived the Gulag, teaches him chess and quotes Pushkin. His mother Nadia, a heart surgeon at the municipal hospital, trusts neither the state nor the people. Like Bohdan, she tries not to pass on the traces of the Soviet dictatorship to Maksym.

But as the city threatens to vanish into the sand, the family begins to falter as well. Even though Maksym thinks of his drug business as a game, he is already trapped in a dangerous spiral of power, addiction and violence.

With poetic clarity, Ulrike Almut Sandig's new novel poses the pressing questions of our time: How much do we need each other in the storm? And what is the price of our freedom?

»The poet has a lot to say, and she does know how.«

taz on Monster wie wir

» Can poets write prose? No, says prejudice. Yes, proves Ulrike Almut Sandig.«

Der Spiegel

Ulrike Almut Sandig was born in Großenhain. So far, she has published four volumes of poetry, three audiobooks, two volumes of short stories, a music album with her poetry band *Landschaft*, and numerous radio plays. Her poems have been translated and adapted to film, and she has received numerous awards for her work. She lives with her family in Berlin.

Dörlemann
LITERARY FICTION

Laura Vogt
The Year of Limestone
Novel
Roughly 160 pages
18 February 2028

A comforting book about letting go

A young artist and mother has to say goodbye to her beloved uncle, who is dying. Inevitably she is reminded of her father, who left her family when she was a child. While dealing with this dual pain, she begins to take an increasing interest in limestone. After all, she always enjoyed going to the mountains with her brother.

By contrasting the abstract with something concrete, by uncovering fossils in limestone or visiting a lime kiln, she finds her own way of coping with her grief. In the process, she not only learns a lot about herself, but also about nature, and along the way, she forms lasting friendships. A novel – as poetic as it is wise – about transience, reconciliation, and the substance life is made of.

Laura Vogt, born in 1989 in eastern Switzerland, studied cultural studies at the University of Lucerne and creative writing at the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel. Her published novels include *The Woman Lying Down* (2023), *As Far as We Are Concerned* (2020), and *So it Was That Easy to Leave* (2016). Her work has been recognized with various grants and scholarships and partially translated into English. She lives with her family near St. Gallen.

Schöffling & Co.
LITERARY FICTION

Anette Selg
The Year Before I Disappeared
Novel
208 pages
21 August 2025



Shortly before the end of the year, the Senate's approval letter arrives on her kitchen table: she has a year off in a year's time. She wants to travel, alone – to Vietnam, perhaps? Away from her job as a teacher, which she loves. Away from her warm Berlin nest, where Darling and Kim are, without whom she cannot imagine her life. She hasn't told her husband and child about the plan yet.

Anette Selg tells the story of a woman in midlife who follows a longing. To feel once again what does not come to the fore as a partner, teacher, mother. When did that happen? Back when she was an au pair in Aix? Backpacking in Thailand, with friends in Italy? Between family and work life, reading and travel preparations, memories come flooding back in the year before she leaves. Of 1984, of having sex for the first time, of Hagen, who wanted to love more than one woman, of Kim's birth and the death of her grandmother. Small and big events, beautiful and terrible ones. A year in which the narrator learns how she became the woman she is. Until the past and present collide – and her entire reality is called into question.

»Anette Selg is not concerned with the one big moment, but with the abundance of encounters, memories, and stories. A wonderful book that reads like life itself.«

Julia Schoch

»Anette Selg's narrative is full of poetry and finely drawn images.«

Lydia Jakobi / MDR-Kultur

»Anette Selg's debut *The Year Before I Disappeared* completely won me over. Doesn't everyone sometimes have similar thoughts, wanting to leave everything behind and get to know themselves better? [...] Highly recommended reading.«

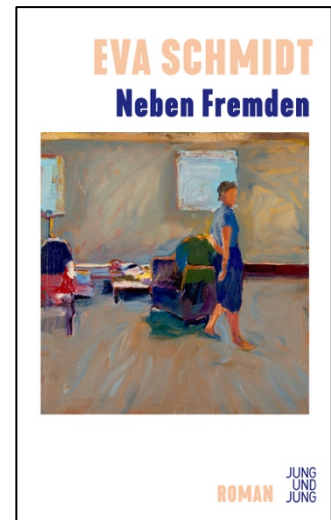
Instagram @andrea.liestundliest, Andrea Martha Pilgrim

Anette Selg, born in 1968, worked as an editor, including for Hans Magnus Enzensberger's *Andere Bibliothek*, and as a publisher, for example of Diderot's *Encyclopédie*. As a freelance journalist, she wrote for Deutschlandfunk Kultur, SWR, NZZ, and more. She has received literary scholarships in various places and has read at Open Mike and the Bachmann Competition in Klagenfurt. She has been a teacher at a secondary school for nine years. Anette Selg lives with her husband and two children in Berlin. With *The Year Before I Disappeared*, she was awarded a scholarship from the Bavarian Academy of Writing in 2023.

Jung und Jung
LITERARY FICTION

Eva Schmidt
Next to Strangers
Novel
192 pages
21 August 2025

Eva Schmidt tells a compelling and sobering story of farewell and loss, but also of the search for connection and closeness.



Rosa was a nurse, but since retiring she has had little contact with people. Her only friend is a former colleague, and her neighbors keep their distance, even though she only wants to help. Her relationship with her mother has never been good, and it hasn't improved since her mother became dependent on help and tried to take over her daughter's life more and more. There is also a man in her life, but he is married. When he dies unexpectedly, all Rosa is left with is the camper van he once gave her. But what is she supposed to do with it? Is it a chance for a different life, perhaps her last?

As she dares to set off, she receives a letter from her son, who broke off contact with her years ago. He wanted nothing more to do with her—now at least she knows where he lives.

»A retired nurse tries to come to terms with the death of her partner and find fulfillment in her old age. It doesn't sound like much, but then Eva Schmidt came along and turned it into the incredibly good novel *Next to Strangers*.« *Wolfgang Popp / ORF Ö1 Morgenjournal*

»Eva Schmidt has mastered the art of concise, situational intensification. In just a few lines, she outlines the extent to which external and internal perceptions diverge. It is the sober tone that captivates readers in Eva Schmidt's novel. [...] The question of what constitutes a meaningful life is not relevant to the author, but rather the conviction that no one should question a person's existence simply because they are unable to develop any idea of a fulfilled life and gave up on their desires long ago. Not defiantly, but with pride, the protagonist ultimately responds to the world: 'My life is also a life.'«

Sigrid Brinkmann / Deutschlandfunk

Eva Schmidt made her debut in 1985 with short stories, followed twelve years later by her first novel, *Between the Time* (1997). After a hiatus of almost twenty years, she published two acclaimed novels, *A Long Year* (2016) and *The Untalented Liar* (2019), both of which were nominated for the German Book Prize. Most recently, she published a volume of prose pieces, and short stories.

Schöffling & Co.
LITERARY FICTION

Svealena Kutschke

Spook Fish

Novel

224 pages

27 February 2025



Featured in *New Books in German*

Trust only in longing, not in injury. This sentence stayed with Laura Schmidt for many years. It is the advice of her fellow patient Noll, whom Laura met at the Jannsen Clinic in Lübeck in the 1990s. There, in the psychiatric ward, Noll and her confidante Olga Rehfeld created a refuge of stories, a space of literature, reading, writing and quoting - for comfort or as an escape from the abysses of the past? Laura gradually realises that the clinic where she herself found help was destructive for Rehfeld. She decides to illustrate one of Rehfeld's texts, to draw her life story, to pass it on. Something of Rehfeld should remain, of her and other people who spent almost their entire lives in the clinic.

With a fascinating cast of patients and medical staff, Svealena Kutschke tells the story of psychiatry as a place where deep vulnerability pushes humanity to its limits. As a place that became a gateway to violence, especially during the Nazi and post-war periods. As an echo chamber of German history. Medical diagnoses, Kutschke reminds us, say a lot about the society in which they are made. And she asks whether the psychological state of emergency is not an appropriate reaction to the impositions of society. A novel that brings light into the darkness like a spook fish in the deep sea.

»In *Spook Fish*, Svealena Kutschke achieves something almost impossible: in her precise, intense language, she tells of the abysses of German psychiatry from 1920 to the present day and at the same time writes a novel that is so touching, funny, bitterly sad, but always exciting, populated by such fine and complex characters that - despite everything - you are simply left full of love for humanity.« *Inger-Maria Mahlke*

»*Spook Fish* sketches an entire cosmology of our time. In her new, best book to date, Svealena Kutschke shows how violence is passed down through generations, but also how the power of storytelling can offer refuge, how moments of love and solidarity can blossom. And, once again, in such dazzling and subtle language that we as readers soon feel as if we ourselves are orbiting the Lübeck clinic.« *Matthias Nawrat*

Svealena Kutschke

Svealena Kutschke, born in Lübeck in 1977, is a writer and playwright. Her most recent play *No Shame in Hope (Jogging Trousers are not Destiny)* was nominated for the Heidelberg Playwright's Prize 2023. In 2022 she received the Hebbel Prize, among others for her latest novel *Thunderflies* (Claassen), and in 2019 the Schiller Memorial Prize.

Jung und Jung
LITERARY FICTION

Martin Prinz
The Final Days

Novel
272 pages
27 February 2025

A harrowing factual novel about a unique case of contemporary Austrian history



A valley opening in the Eastern Alps, April 1945, the days of the 'Thousand-Year Empire' are numbered. Within a very short space of time it has shrunk to nothing, and on the edge of this nothingness stands the Red Army, waiting until the battle for Vienna is decided. Where everything is long too late, but not yet over, district leader Johann Braun sets up his own personal court martial, a private murder regime. People with whom he or one of his helpers has a score to settle are arbitrarily sentenced, 'politically unreliable', supposed deserters, men and women, old and young, people who are in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Martin Prinz tells of the monstrous, soberly and in keeping with the facts. This is possible because the murderers of that time were put on trial shortly afterwards. Because the monstrosity was analysed in painstaking detail. And because two people who came within a whisker of being involved in the events, one as the perpetrator, the other as the victim, were never left in peace for the rest of their lives.

»This book has a force that you can't escape, just as it triggers a rage that you can't escape.«

Valerie Fritsch

»It is a factual novel in the best sense of the word, because it makes the factual so tangible and relivable. And this despite the fact that the language is a single interrogation.«

David Schalko

Martin Prinz, born in 1973, grew up in Lilienfeld, lives as a writer in Vienna. Writes travel stories, screenplays and novels (including *The Robber* and *The Last Princess*). Numerous awards, including the screenplay prize at the film festival in Gijon.

Schöffling & Co.
LITERARY FICTION

Jana Scheerer
Racist
Novel
240 pages
25 January 2024

English Sample available

Rights to previous titles sold (among others) to:

Italy – Blu Edizioni srl (reverted)
Korea – Dulnyouk publishing co. (reverted)
Taiwan – Babel Publishing Company (reverted)



Nora Rischer is sitting in the treatment chair of a fertility clinic when an email reaches her: *racist incident at our university*. She is curious, anticipating outrage – and taken aback: Is this about her own German studies seminar? Rischer is shocked. Critical voices echo in her head, she starts blaming herself: Did she, as a lecturer, really behave like a racist? Should she apologize? And why? Out of an honest sense of guilt or to save herself? Is she being canceled even though she is not an old white man, but a queer woman who previously thought of herself as a liberal leftist?

Racist is a black comedy that refuses to retreat into overly comfortable certainties. The author takes a comical and precise look at all the human reflexes, contradictions and rhetorical devices that make a constructive social exchange about discrimination so complicated.

»*Racist* is a wonderful satire on identity politics debates, modern shitstorm culture and supposed moral superiority. [Jana Scheerer] succeeds in making fun of discursive balancing acts and at the same time taking the topics discussed seriously.«
Sebastian Fasthuber / Der Falter

»Author Jana Scheerer writes fast-paced and funny about university structures and exposes the claim of totality underlying current discourses on discrimination.« *Jörg Magenau, Deutschlandfunk Kultur / Lesart*

Jana Scheerer was born in 1978, holds a doctorate in German studies and knows the bizarre potential of university structures from several years as a research assistant. Among other things, she has worked analytically on political communication, was a fellow of the Literary Colloquium Berlin and was awarded the Prenzlauer Berg Literature Prize for her first book *My Father, his Pig and Me*. She is also the author of numerous books for children and young people. *Racist* is Jana Scheerer's fourth novel. She lives in Berlin.

Schöffling & Co.
LITERARY FICTION | DEBUT

Lilli Polansky
No Need to Congratulate Me
Novel
272 pages
22 August 2024



Rauriser Literature Prize 2025

It all starts with a leaden tiredness. But Lilli has no time to be tired. For as long as she can remember, she has had to work harder than others. At home, because she and her mother have to get along on their own. In friendships, because she never really belongs. At school, because she always gets the numbers wrong. Now that Lilli is about to take her A-levels, she can only ignore her tiredness. Until she collapses. It turns out that Lilli's heart isn't beating fast enough and she needs a pacemaker. Up to now, Lilli's problems have all had to do with life. Suddenly she has to fight to survive ... As if that wasn't enough, her boyfriend breaks up with her shortly before the surgery. And not even a pacemaker can heal a broken heart.

A poignant debut novel full of humor about a young woman who, just as she is finding her way in life, has to face death. And who is confronted harder and earlier than most people with the question of what really matters in the end.

»[...] Lilli Polansky has [...] done everything right in her writing. [...] It's impressive how close she gets to the core of her personality without resorting to empty words or clichés in her search [...]« *APA*

»It's young literature that is clever, beautiful, humorous, frightening and poignant. The novel is reminiscent of the works of Caroline Wahl, not only because of its play with numbers, but also because of its quest for life and its enormous power.« *Hauke Harder / Leseschatz*

»[Lilli Polansky's] story is one of survival. It is angry and sad. And despite all the heaviness, some parts of this novel are funny - even if the laughter sometimes gets stuck in your throat.« *Leonie Bellina / Münchner Merkur*

»With *No Need to Congratulate Me*, Lilli Polansky has succeeded in creating a haunting debut [...] with constantly sparkling sentences and full of relivability - as well as a resonant critique of the healthcare system.« *Martina Bauer / Radio fm4*

Lilli Polansky could easily become an actress or EU Commissioner with her name, but she decided to write a novel of all things. Now she has to answer the question of whether she publishes under a pseudonym or her nickname almost every day. Born in Vienna in 2001, she now lives and studies there.

Atlantis Literatur
LITERARY FICTION | DEBUT

Mariann Bühler
Shift in the Rock

Novel
208 pages
11 July 2024



Nominated for the Swiss Book Prize 2024
Terra Nova Prize 2025

The sign 'Closed until further notice' hung outside for a long time until Elisabeth made the decision to continue running the bakery. She does it alone. Every morning she fires up the oven, stirs the dough, puts the loaves in the oven - and surprises the whole village and herself. Alois' farm in the same neighbourhood. A farm that has been in the family for generations, Alois was not asked if he wanted to take it over. He lives with the dog, ignores the expectation of starting a family - but something is tightening. Perhaps it has something to do with Camenzind. Meanwhile, a young woman returns to the village; the three steps to the bakery run themselves. She fetches the key to the summer house from her grandparents; it is to be sold. She sees everything again, the mountain ridge, the valley, the balcony with the drawbridge. Soon, it seems to her, the house begins to speak to her. The novel follows three characters who know nothing about each other and yet are connected - through the area, the village and the pressing question of how things should actually continue. Stubborn traces of the past have become entrenched in them, but then something starts to move. In her linguistically dense debut, Mariann Bühler observes how change finds its way and shifts happen that were never intended, sometimes even moving mountains.

»True self-determination can lie in the smallest gestures, in the conquest of a life that is, after all, one's own - this is what this clever and moving novel is about.« *Yael Inokai*

»Mariann Bühler's extraordinary narrative talent is evident in the novel *Shift in the Rock*. The author has created an empathetic, visually powerful and multi-layered book about everyday upheavals close to the characters, full of existential power, skilfully assembled, dense and light.« *Manuela Waeber / Jury Swiss Book Prize 2024*

»Mariann Bühler takes a closer look. In her debut novel, she utilises literature's ability to penetrate the interior. Into the interior of the parlour, the barn and the bakery, into the interior of lived life and people.« *Martin Läubli / NZZ, Bücher am Sonntag*

Mariann Bühler, born in 1982 near Lucerne, studied English literature and linguistics, Islamic studies and gender studies in Basel and Berlin. She lives in Basel as an author, literary mediator and event organiser. *Shift in the Rock* is her debut novel; she was awarded the Central Switzerland Literature Prize for an extract from the manuscript.

Atlantis Literatur

LITERARY FICTION – DEBUT

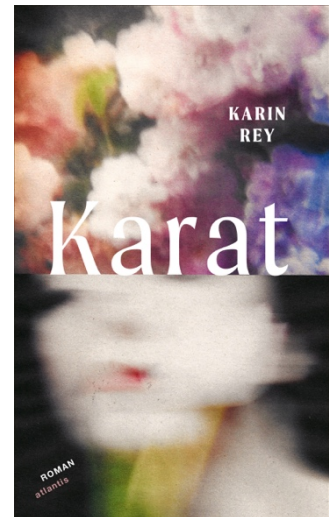
Karin Rey

Carat

Novel

208 pages

21 August 2025



Etna doesn't know why she was named after a volcano. She is only explosive when she has to put up with injustice – as a goldsmith, she particularly dislikes the dirty gold business. But now, looking at the pregnancy test, there is a completely different line that is upsetting her...

Svenja, on the other hand, loves making lists, and she loves working through them point by point even more. Today, she has to pick up the wedding rings, because her wedding is planned for three weeks from now. What's not on her list? Going on a road trip with a goldsmith named Etna.

Two women together in a car, singing along to the songs of their youth, on their way to meet the first potential father – because Etna can't possibly raise the child on her own, having promised to devote all her energy to fair trade gold. Soon the two realize that they have much more in common than just their year of birth.

With plenty of wit and drive, Karin Rey tells the story of breaking out of the unease of the world as it is. Something has to change, that much is clear – and so the two begin to search for a good father, uprooting neophytes and already knowing how to set up a fair production line. A committed and at the same time lighthearted debut!

Karin Rey, born in 1990, graduated from the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel in 2022 and initially published the travel guide *Closeby*. *Carat* is her debut novel. She lives in Windisch in Aargau.

Atlantis Literatur
LITERARY FICTION

Martin R. Dean
Tobacco and Chocolate
Novel
224 pages
10 September 2024

Nominated for the Swiss Book Prize 2024

Rights to previous titles sold to:

Frankreich – Gallimard (reverted) / Norwegen – Gyldendahl (reverted)
Schweden – Bonniers (reverted) / Niederlande – Manteau (reverted)



After the death of his mother, the narrator finds an album in a drawer containing photos of his early childhood, which he spent on the Caribbean island of Trinidad and Tobago. As a young woman, the daughter of labourers from Aargau had embarked on an adventure with a good-for-nothing from the West Indian upper class and had a child. While the rest of the family endeavours to erase the memory of her mother's years with the 'savages', the narrator sets out to save this story, which is also his own.

Tobacco and Chocolate takes us to the tropical jungle of a British crown colony in the 1950s and 1960s. As the narrator continues to explore his Indian ancestors, who were shipped to the Caribbean as contract labourers, he uncovers not only a family tree, but also a piece of colonial history. This is juxtaposed with memories of growing up in his grandparents' 'tobacco house' in Aargau and the rapprochement with a mother who always seemed unapproachable during her lifetime.

»Martin Dean's novel skilfully depicts intimate biographical experiences and tells of the questionable handling of colonialism and the supposed stranger in the midst of society.«
Felix Münger / Tagesschau SRF

»Dean weaves family, migration experiences and colonial history into a multi-layered, subtle and yet vivid memoir that is reminiscent of W. G. Sebald in its quiet undertow.«
Martina Läubli / NZZ, Bücher am Sonntag

Martin R. Dean was born in Menziken, Aargau, in 1955 to a father from Trinidad and a Swiss mother. He studied German language and literature, ethnology and philosophy at the University of Basel and taught at the Basel School of Design and at the MuttENZ secondary school. Dean is an award-winning author, who lives in Basel.

Jung und Jung
LITERARY FICTION

Robert Prosser
The Plundered Nest
Novel
176 pages
16 September 2025

Between Lebanon and Tyrol: A report on the graffiti scene in Beirut turns into a journey into the dark past of the author's own family. A novel of quiet power!



The contrast could not be greater: Having just been in Beirut, the narrator returns to the mountain village in Tyrol where he comes from. The winter season is over, everything is deserted, and he wants to work in peace on his reportage about the art scene in Lebanon. But Rami, a graffiti artist he met on his trip, awakens memories that go back to his childhood: of Lenz, a one-armed painter from Berlin who came to the village in 1944 to stay.

At the time, he didn't ask any questions, but now he wants to know more. He learns about a camp for forced laborers in the village, a hideout for deserters in the mountains, and the involvement of his grandfather Ludwig, one of the camp guards. Did Ludwig have anything to do with the disappearance of a Ukrainian prisoner who had an affair with his best friend's sister?

»How, asks the narrator, and with him this slim, linguistically finely crafted novel, does one tell of what was, if one wants to do justice to the ambiguous? When does it become necessary to play with the facts in the service of truth?«

Joachim Leitner / Tiroler Tageszeitung

»Prosser is concerned with finding a language to describe origins beyond common clichés [...] and to show what people, what fates, and what stories can be found.«

Eva Rottensteiner / ORF Tirol

»How can you think about something when the public hype leaves no room for it? How can underground art dock onto the surface of daily events when there is no space provided for it? In his novel, Robert Prosser tells of the underground of collective consciousness, which is stored in the museum of oblivion. He chooses a journalistic plot to uncover the underground story.« *Helmut Schöner / Lesen in Tirol*

Robert Prosser studied comparative literature and cultural and social anthropology in Innsbruck and Vienna. Author and performance artist. He has received numerous awards for his novels, including the Reinhard Priessnitz Prize in 2014. With *Phantoms* (2017), he was longlisted for the German Book Prize. Most recent publication: *Disappearing in Avalanches* (2023).

Atlantis Literatur
LITERARY FICTION

Daniel Mezger
Before I Grow Old
Novel
336 pages
21 August 2025



»The question wasn't if, the question was when to leave this town. Hanover, Ontario.« Charlotte, known as Charlie, is the girl with the guitar. Together with the boys in her band, she hopes to make it big. At home, her mother has long since come to terms with her diagnosis, an insidious hereditary disease that is likely to be dormant in Charlotte as well. But the promise of youth is huge, and Charlotte wants a free life. She records her first album, with Toronto, Detroit, and Berlin waiting for her. She left Hanover behind long ago – but the possible disease is getting closer. At the latest when she meets Jason and the desire to have children comes up, she has to ask herself whether she should get tested. Whether she wants to know what could determine her life forever. For her, growing old could begin early.

Daniel Mezger tells a stirring tale of rebellion against a perfidious fate that a young woman already sees looming before her and her mother. Her search for freedom brings her a moody music career, and with a driving groove, the potentially fatal diagnosis is overtaken, played down, and removed from its pedestal of concern with succinct dialogue.

»Daniel Mezger tells the story of a young woman's search to free herself from external definitions in order to go her own way in a gripping beat.« *Babina Cathomen / Kulturtipp*

»Gentle yet relentless, sober yet emphatic, Mezger accompanies his characters on their journey into the painful zones of existence.«

Roman Bucheli / Neue Zürcher Zeitung about Playing Land

Daniel Mezger, born in 1978 and raised in the Swiss canton of Glarus, is a playwright and prose writer. After training as an actor in Bern, he initially worked for several years in theaters and in front of the camera in Germany. He then studied at the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel, where he now teaches. He is also a singer in an indie band. *Before I Grow Old* is his third novel. His debut, *Playing Land* (2012), was enthusiastically received by critics. Mezger lives in Zurich.

Jung und Jung
LITERARY FICTION

Dagmar Leupold

Birthmarks

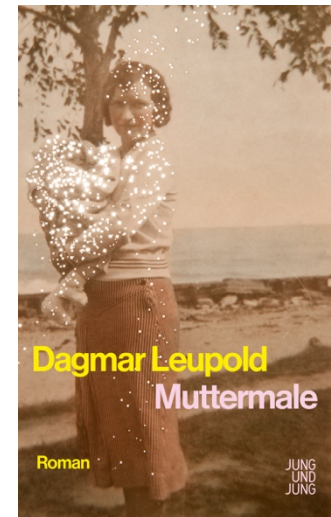
Novel

176 pages

16 September 2025

Nominated for the Bavarian Book Prize 2025

Virtuoso, gentle, and relentless: Dagmar Leupold makes things speak—they tell of her mother, but also of war, flight, and alienation.



How do you talk about your own mother? Born over a hundred years ago in East Prussia, she fled from the Red Army, arrived somewhere in Western Germany after many detours, and there, in her new life, in the new era after the war, which was soon no longer talked about, she always remained a stranger. A stranger even to her own daughter, who drifted further and further away until her mother's story eventually became incomprehensible. *Birthmarks* is a novel about reconciliation. Dagmar Leupold makes repeated attempts to regain what has been lost. To do so, she draws on what remains of her mother's life: everyday objects, habits, photos, favorite words and phrases – everything that speaks to her about her mother across time.

She listens to these words in order to eavesdrop on secrets and the unspoken, and repeatedly finds traces of trauma.

»Dagmar Leupold's novel *Birthmarks* is particularly successful in terms of psychology and style [...] rarely has the influence of a lost homeland on the next generation been described as impressively as it is here.« *Andreas Platthaus / FAZ*

»In your sleep, you may even have loved your daughter, writes Dagmar Leupold in *Birthmarks*. This simple sentence alone gives an idea of the power of her novel. What the line does not reveal is how incredibly rich in imagery and life experience the author's language is. Dagmar Leupold thus sheds completely new light on themes that have been described many times before. The book proves that great literature does not need a new subject.« *Jury Bavarian Book Prize*

Dagmar Leupold, born in Niederlahnstein in 1955, lives in Munich and works as an author and translator. She studied German language and literature, philosophy, and classical philology in Marburg, Tübingen, and New York. From 2004 to 2021, she headed the Literature and Theater Studio at the University of Tübingen. Her work includes novels, short stories, poems, and essays.

Dörlemann
LITERARY FICTION

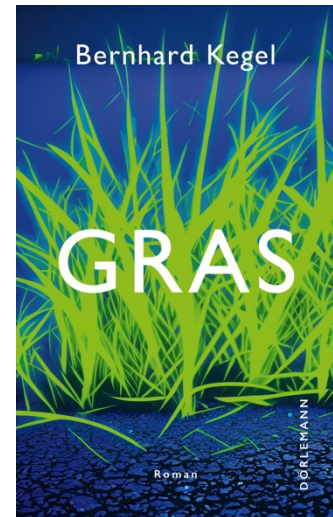
Bernhard Kegel

Grass

Novel

384 pages

22 February 2024



Featured in *New Books in German*: »Grass is a fine example of climate change science fiction, delicately treading the line between a catastrophic forecast and a portrait of hope for the future.«

The catastrophe begins on Bundesplatz square in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. On her way to the underground, aspiring biologist Natalie discovers delicate stalks of bright, intense green between the cobblestone cracks. The grass multiplies rapidly, soon pushing up the asphalt of the streets and the stones on the pavements, conquering neighbouring districts, destroying roadways, pavements and the foundations of houses. Worst of all, the grass is proving resistant to known herbicides. A race against time begins for Natalie, the authorities and scientists.

Accident or crime, manipulation or mutation? In this Berlin novel, Bernhard Kegel tells a story of catastrophe and hope.

»In this opus, Bernhard Kegel once again proves himself to be a prophet of global biological disaster. ... There is no other writer in Germany who is as harsh in his indictment of environmental damage. He is regarded as a kind of messiah who denounces the destruction of nature, especially as he is able to draw philosophical conclusions from the impending fiasco.« *Ulf Heise / MDR Kultur*

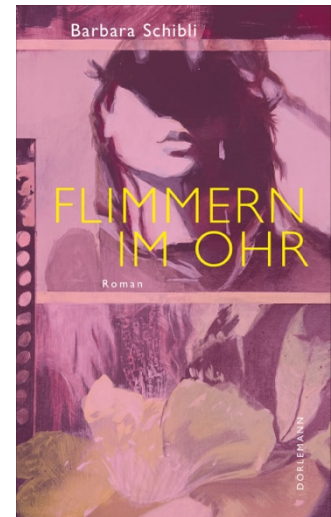
»... you can't shake off the feeling that Berlin author Kegel has actually written a key novel about his difficult-to-govern hometown.« *Tobias Rüther / Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*

»Grass is a mixture of Robinsonade and dystopian science novel,... incredibly worth reading.« *Sabine Rohlf / Berliner Zeitung*

Bernhard Kegel, born in Berlin in 1953, studied chemistry and biology at the Free University of Berlin and received his doctorate in 1991. Today he is an enthusiastic jazz guitarist and full-time writer. Since his debut novel *Wenzel's Mushroom*, published in 1993, he has written a large number of novels and non-fiction books in which he uses his specialist expertise in literature, delighting both experts and readers without a scientific background alike. He lives with his family in Brandenburg and Berlin.

Dörlemann
LITERARY FICTION

Barbara Schibli
Flickering in the Ear
Novel
288 pages
10 October 2024



Featured in *New Books in German*: »Shedding a light on the feminist movement in 1970s Switzerland, *Flicker in the Ear* is an insightful, empathetic novel that examines personal identity and how we cope with frustration.«

Summer 2010: while Priska is practising listening to her inner ear implant so that the punk music of yesteryear could become a rapture again, a political scandal is shaking the Swiss public. As in the politically heated 1970s and 80s, the domestic secret service has once again illegally tapped into the data of suspicious persons.

Priska was also under surveillance back then. The new fiche affair brings back memories of her time in the club scene and the women's movement, but above all of Gina, her role model, her fearless comrade-in-arms and great love, who was also targeted by the secret service. Over thirty years later, Priska thinks back and wonders how her life became what it is now.

With poetic images and gentle radicalism, Barbara Schibli explores the question of whether we become more and more ourselves over the years or lose ourselves in compromises. And how we recognise the difference.

»When you hear the words trickle, follow the sentences and immerse yourself in the images, you believe that Barbara Schibli finds her stories as easily as in a dream or frenzy.« *Ursula Fehr / Zürcher Unterländer*

»Barbara Schibli combines wide-awake political awareness with a philosophy of listening and the meaning of music.« *Jana Avanzini / Aargauer Zeitung*

»A wonderful novel of small and large transformations, of personal and social change.« *Margit Schaller / Blog Kulturpur*

Barbara Schibli, born in Baden in 1975, studied German, Italian literature and journalism. She lives in the canton of Aargau and works as a secondary school teacher in Baden. In 2016, she won the Studer/Ganz Prize for the best unpublished prose manuscript. In 2017, she was awarded the GEDOK Literature Prize for her debut novel *Braiding*. In 2018, she won the competition of the 8th sonOhr Hörfestival with her radio play *Marten Repellent*.

UPMARKET FICTION

Kampa
UPMARKET FICTION

Tatjana von der Beek

Blue Days

Novel

208 pages

17 July 2025



Sisters Leo and Emma receive a surprise invitation from their father to visit Greece. After years of sporadic contact, he wants to celebrate his 60th birthday with his daughters and their partners on a sailing trip. But Leo has more than just swimwear and sunscreen in her luggage. Contrary to her agreement with Karl, she continues to take the pill: Leo's upcoming project management role takes priority. This is in stark contrast to Emma, who wants nothing more than to have a child with Onur. Meanwhile, their father is leading a life that the sisters know nothing about. On the cramped catamaran, the tensions within the family cannot be hidden for long. After a failed maneuver, the mood finally threatens to tip over, and skipper Alex comes to the aid of the inexperienced sailing group. As she and Leo grow closer, it becomes clear that much more needs to finally come to the surface.

»Was that really a good idea? A vacation together for two sisters, with their husbands and father, who never has time? Whether yes or no, Tatjana von der Beek tells us in *Blue Days* in a wonderfully light, entertaining, and multi-layered way.« *ELLE*

»[*Blue Days*] thrives on the subtle tensions between the characters and the unspoken truths that the protagonist herself still has to learn to articulate.« *Emma Rotermond / Der Freitag*

»With *Blue Days*, Tatjana von der Beek presents a story for the summer that couldn't be more heated and fitting.« *L.MAG*

Tatjana von der Beek, born in 1993, studied literary writing and editing in Hildesheim, was co-editor of *BELLA triste*, part of the artistic direction of the *PROSANOVA* 2017 literature festival, and a finalist in the 23rd Open Mike competition. Her debut novel *The World Outside the Windows* was published in 2022. Tatjana von der Beek lives in Leipzig and Düsseldorf.

Schöffling
UPMARKET FICTION

Lea Bernardi
The Cat from Castiglione
Novel
Roughly 192 pages
22 May 2026

A cat that appears out of nowhere – and changes everything ...

When her grief has reached its lowest point, she decides to travel to Castiglione. Will the narrator find distraction in the small village in southern Italy? Will she dare to look ahead into a future without her husband Martin? In the picturesque house on a cliff that she has rented, she encounters a mysterious cat. No one told her it would be there, but suddenly it was. And this cat seems to be quite peculiar. Soon, the narrator gets the impression that their meeting was no coincidence: the grey cat with its yellow eyes becomes her companion while she slowly finds back into life. What begins between beach strolls, conversations with the wise store owner Giuseppe and quiet moments by the sea, is an inner journey that leads out of grief and into new trust and confidence.

A warm-hearted novel about arriving in the present moment, the deep connection between humans and animals – and new hope that sometimes encounters us when we least expect it.

Lea Bernardi emigrated with her family from sunny Italy to Hamburg in the late 1970s when she was a child – a cultural shock that only reading and writing could cure. However, she returns to her home country at least once a year, otherwise, she says, she would shrivel like an old lemon.

Kampa
UPMARKET FICTION

Anne Freytag

Still Water

Novel

256 pages

24 April 2025

When Ferdinand spoke of a 'summer at sea', Nora had something else in mind: less remote, less professional. Franziska also had no idea what she was letting herself in for when her husband Kilian announced a holiday for seven: with his boss Walter Bronstein, Ferdinand Mattern, his biggest rival, their three wives and Walter's son David. They want for nothing on the luxurious superyacht in the Philippines, it could be a relaxing time, but the guests have an inkling: This trip is about more, about something big. But nobody seems to know exactly what. Why has Walter invited the two rivals and their wives? Two couples in their forties, children out of the woods, homes paid off, careers on the rise - the men's careers, of course. Everyone is on their best behaviour. There are beaming smiles and skilful conversations. Married couples you couldn't imagine being happier. But nothing is as it seems. They all play a role in this production. But for whom? And who is directing?

Anne Freytag observes precisely and mercilessly reveals what she sees. With great urgency, she tells of tacit agreements that are cancelled, expectations and disappointments, needs and desires, conventions and secrets.

Anne Freytag studied International Management, graduated just in time for the economic crisis, wrote over a hundred job applications, couldn't find a job, worked in a boutique for a while, registered as unemployed, retrained as a graphic designer, got herself hired as a career changer with lousy pay at various agencies and then finally pursued her dream: Since 2013, she has devoted herself entirely to writing. She has been nominated several times for literary prizes for her books for young readers (including twice in a row for the German Youth Literature Prize) and has received awards for them (including the Bavarian Art Promotion Prize in the literature category). Anne Freytag lives and works in Munich. Her literary debut *Lies We Tell Us* has been published by Kampa Verlag.



Kampa
UPMARKET FICTION

Anne Freytag
Lies We Tell Us

Novel
384 pages
20 March 2024

English Sample available



Helene should have left her husband. For Alex. But she didn't. And now her husband has left her – because he fell in love with someone else. 'It just happened.' With this sentence, Georg tears apart the fabric of a life that Helene has always tried to hold together. But maybe the end isn't an end at all? Maybe it's a beginning. Something that Helene needed to free herself from the social corset, from her eternal attempts to conform to the images of a woman: as a wife and career woman, as a mother and daughter... What does it actually mean to be a woman? This question accompanies Helene as she begins to go her own way.

»I'm right in the middle of it. I feel with Helene. Her pain. Her transformation.« *Daniela Stohn / Brigitte*

»In captivating, poetic language, Freytag draws the reader into the entanglements of different kinds of love as if in a whirlpool.« *Kristina Schmidl / Südwest Presse*

»[Anne Freytag] writes sensitively, poetically and emotionally. The focus is always on the characters and their reflections. While others only stay on the surface, she goes all in. All or nothing.« *@literatour_blog*

»[Anne Freytag's] language immediately captivated me from page one.«
Jutta Schmitt, Bücher bei Frau Schmitt / hr2

Anne Freytag studied International Management, graduated just in time for the economic crisis, wrote over a hundred job applications, couldn't find a job, worked in a boutique for a while, registered as unemployed, retrained as a graphic designer, got herself hired as a career changer with lousy pay at various agencies and then finally pursued her dream: Since 2013, she has devoted herself entirely to writing. She has been nominated several times for literary prizes for her books for young readers (including twice in a row for the German Youth Literature Prize) and has received awards for them (including the Bavarian Art Promotion Prize in the literature category). Anne Freytag lives and works in Munich. *Lies We Tell Us* is her literary debut.

Oktopus

UPMARKET FICTION

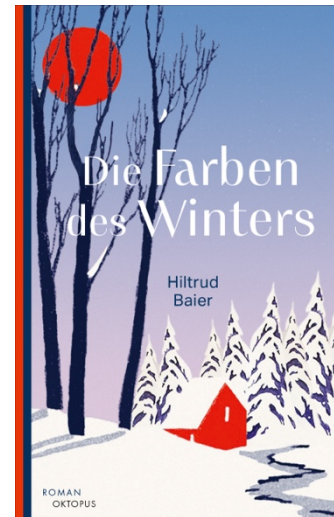
Hiltrud Baier

The Colours of Winter

Novel

288 pages

10 October 2024



When Hamburg-based graphic designer Nova Sarri looks for inspiration for her book covers, she thinks of the colours of Lapland. She used to spend every holiday there with her father Juhan and his new family. These are her favourite childhood memories: her father, whom she was allowed to help look after the reindeer, her 'bonus mum' Kristin, who knitted warm hats for her, and Kaspar, her physically impaired stepbrother, who snuggled up close to her in the sledge. The fact that contact with the rest of the family was severed when her father died is still difficult for Nova to cope with today. She has never heard from Kristin or Kaspar again. When a letter from northern Sweden summons Nova to the reading of her father's will, she believes there has been a mix-up. After all, Juhan didn't die a fortnight ago, as the notary claims, but more than twenty years ago. Nova sets off for northern Sweden. A journey that changes her life from the ground up.

Hiltrud Baier grew up in southern Germany. After training as a bookseller, she studied German and education. Over twenty years ago, she emigrated to Lapland for love. She enjoys the spectacular nature there, where you can hike for hours without meeting a soul. Hiltrud Baier has published four novels for adults to date: *Bright Days*, *Bright Nights*; *Days With Ida*; *Tango Summer* and *The Colours of Winter*. She has also published two crime novels under the pseudonym Klara Nordin.

Oktopus

UPMARKET FICTION

Hiltrud Baier

Tango Summer

Novel

272 pages

22 June 2023



»Is it that time again?«, asks the postman as he hands Riitta a large parcel. 'Are you sewing again?' All year Riitta looks forward to this one week in summer when Phil comes to Finland to dance with her at the tango festival in Seinäjoki. In the meantime, she leads a quiet life in her wooden house with sauna, goes fishing on Lake Inari by boat or gardens. Phil and she never talk about the past and their former love, that's the agreement. But this year Riitta hesitates to sew a new dress - she has a feeling that Phil won't come. Without further ado, Riitta decides to return to her former home for the first time in twenty-seven years to visit Phil in southern Germany. At the same time, however, Phil invites his daughter Johanna and his granddaughter Leni to accompany him to Finland - he wants to show them the country he loves so much. Will Riitta and Phil miss each other and possibly miss their last chance to come to terms with the past?

»After reading, you are left with the pleasant feeling of having spent a short holiday in the Finnish forests, complete with a mental cinema in which you can credibly experience and understand all the emotional entanglements.«

Helen Hoff and Katrin Schmidt, Lesezeichen bookshop in Germering / Süddeutsche Zeitung

»Beautiful descriptions of nature, a good family story, written very fluently and easily - you immediately search the internet for Finnish tango to round off the experience of the novel.« *Ute Gartmann / Osterholzer Kreisblatt*

»Between birch trees and the midnight sun, a story unfolds about how people can lose each other and how it's never too late to find each other again.« *Buchjournal*

»A real story of happiness.« *Simone Lilienthal / Buchszene.de*

Hiltrud Baier grew up in southern Germany. After training as a bookseller, she studied German and education. Over twenty years ago, she emigrated to Lapland for love. She enjoys the spectacular nature there, where you can hike for hours without meeting a soul. Hiltrud Baier has published four novels for adults to date: *Bright Days, Bright Nights; Days With Ida; Tango Summer* and *The Colours of Winter*. She has also published two crime novels under the pseudonym Klara Nordin.

CRIME FICTION

Kampa

CRIME FICTION

Christof Weigold

The German Tycoon

Hollywood 1932: A Case for Hardy Engel

Crime novel

608 pages

16 September 2025



Private detective Hardy Engel would do anything for his friends. When one of them dies, he throws himself into a murder case that soon becomes legendary.

When Hardy Engel immigrated to America in 1920, he received crucial help from his compatriot Paul Levy, whom he subsequently lost sight of. In 1932, Engel, now a private detective, meets him again. Levy has become a powerful film producer at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer under the name Paul Bern—and the husband of Hollywood superstar Jean Harlow. In the midst of the Great Depression, the reunion seems like a stroke of luck for the unemployed detective, who receives a lucrative assignment from Paul. And also for his friend, bar owner Buck, who has massive debts to the Mafia. But then Paul is found murdered in his mansion, and Hardy is drawn into a case that challenges him like no other before and calls old friendships into question ...

Christof Weigold, born in Mannheim in 1966, wrote plays, was a regular writer for the Harald Schmidt Show, and now works as a freelance screenwriter for film and television. In 2018, the first volume of the series about German private investigator Hardy Engel, *The Man Who Doesn't Play Along*, was published. Weigold won the Mordsharz Festival Prize for the best German-language debut and was nominated for the Glauser Prize. Three more parts followed: *The Blood-Red Carpet*, *The Last Lover*, and *The Evil Father*. In *The Burning Conscience*, case analyst Felix Petry, who like Christof Weigold lives in Munich, investigates for the first time.

Kampa

CRIME FICTION

Philipp Gurt

Shadows of Graubünden

Crime novel

Roughly 336 pages

11 November 2025

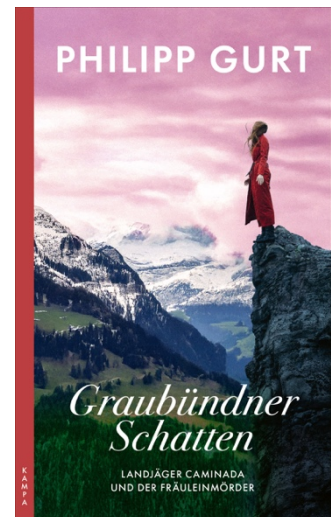
No. 1 Bestseller author in Switzerland

On a warm spring evening in 1953, an agitated young woman hurries along a deserted country road toward Chur at dusk. Two days later, the police finds her body in the forest. She was undoubtedly strangled, and she is wearing a red ribbon around her neck. Just a few days later, a young seamstress disappears from a girls' home and is also found murdered – she too is wearing the sinister mark around her neck. The news spread quickly and the area is in turmoil, while rural police officer Caminada and his best friend, identification officer Lieutenant Marugg, pick up the trail. When, shortly afterwards, a murder in front of a remote alpine hut leads the two of them on a completely new trail, all their previous assumptions are suddenly called into question.

»Constable Caminada is well on his way to becoming an icon of Swiss crime fiction.«
Sebastian Helbig / Südostschweiz

»Philipp Gurt is not only one of Switzerland's most successful authors, he also has an exciting life.« *Olivier Berger / SRF Südostschweiz Standpunkte*

Philipp Gurt was born in 1968 as the seventh of eight children to a poor mountain farming family in Graubünden and grew up in various children's homes. Gurt began writing short stories as a teenager, and his first novel followed at the age of twenty. He has always had a deep connection to nature, which has also shaped his highly atmospheric writing. His attachment to the canton of Graubünden, where he still lives today as a freelance writer, is evident in each of his novels.



Kampa

CRIME FICTION

Alex Lépïc / Alexander Oetker

Lacroix and the Contract Killing at the TGV

Crime novel

208 pages

27 February 2025



The fact that Docteur Obert rings Lacroix's doorbell early on a Saturday morning does not bode well. The day before, the forensic pathologist had overheard a conversation in the Train Bleu restaurant in the Gare de Lyon that left him no peace. Admittedly, he had already had a glass of red wine, but the fact that a man in the private room behind him was instructing his counterpart to commit murder on the TGV to Reims - Obert hadn't imagined it! Instead of strolling along the colourful market street with his wife Dominique, Lacroix makes his way to the station restaurant. A wonderfully old-fashioned place, from a time when travelling was still something special. But there is no time to lose: Eight TGV trains run daily between Reims and Paris. Travelling at over three hundred kilometres per hour, the commissaire and his team have just forty-six minutes each to find the potential victim among two thousand travellers and thwart the murder. Lacroix's investigation leads him to the oldest champagne house in the world, where he is confronted with a dark family secret.

»Alexander Oetker creates a unique atmosphere and creates characters that his readers can't get enough of.« *Buchmarkt*

Alex Lépïc's Commissaire Lacroix made it into the top 50 of the *Spiegel* best-seller list with his first case. Under his pen name Lépïc, author **Alexander Oetker**, born in 1982, created this wonderfully old-fashioned Commissaire. With his successful Aquitaine series revolving around Commissaire Luc Verlain (Hoffmann & Campe), he has already proved himself to be an expert in all things French. He lived in Paris for many years and continues to report on the *Grande Nation*. Today, he commutes with his family between Southwest France and Brandenburg.

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