

>> WALLSTEIN

Foreign Rights Catalogue **Autumn 2025**



About Wallstein



Wallstein Publishing was founded in 1986. A major event in the development of the publishing house was the huge success of Ruth Klüger's biography »weiter leben – Eine Jugend« (Still Alive) in 1992. Partly due to its high literary quality, this book is one of the most-read literary works written in German on the subject of the holocaust, and has become a »classic of holocaust literature«.

Wallstein continues to add approximately 200 books per year to its list, with an annual turnover of approximately three million euros.

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Three women and a house in which they all come together – and have to decide what they want to save: their beliefs or their relationships with the people they love.

Anselm Oelze

Upstairs

Novel

When Tess moves into a beautiful old flat in the centre of Leipzig with her girlfriend Moyra, several dreams come true for them. Their relationship finally has a home and, with the support of Moyra's parents, she can even open her own tailor shop: on the ground floor of the building where Rolf, the husband of her neighbour Heike, used to run a beverages shop until it had to close due to competition from delivery services and rising shop rents.

For more than thirty years the elderly couple has lived on the top floor of the building and when eventually the lease of the apartment is terminated, the young women offer to help. But the more Heike and Rolf get worked up about »the broken system« and »the corrupt elites« and sense conspiracies everywhere, the more resolutely Moyra distances herself from them. Tess, on the other hand, gets into a serious conflict of solidarity, and ultimately everyone is forced to decide what they want to save: their own beliefs or their relationships with the people they love.

In his new novel, Anselm Oelze not only tells the story of a house and three women. He also deals with the divisions in society and asks how living together can succeed against all expectations.

Anselm Oelze, born in Erfurt in 1986, studied Philosophy in Freiburg and Oxford, among other places. After completing his doctorate, he worked at the University of Helsinki and Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität München. His novel ›Wallace‹ (Italian: ›Una lettera per Mister Darwin‹, Ponte alle Grazie 2021) was published in 2019, followed by the literary reportage ›Die Grenzen des Glücks: Eine Reise an den Rand Europas‹ (2021) and another novel called ›Pandora‹ (2023). He has received several awards and lives with his family in Leipzig.



Anselm Oelze

Upstairs

Novel

275 pages



A quiet yet eloquently powerful book on the loss of home through war, about pain and the loss of language. In this moving novel, the author finds a magnificent language of her own.

Jehona Kicaj

ë

Novel

The unusual title ›ë‹ stands for a letter that has an important function in the Albanian language, although it usually goes unpronounced. As the child of refugees from Kosovo, the narrator is searching for a language and a voice. She grows up in Germany, goes to kindergarten, school and university, looking for understanding, but encountering attributions, incomprehension and ignorance.

When the Kosovo War took place by the end of the 1990s, she experienced it from a safe distance. But war and death are also present in the diaspora – they are just experienced differently.

The novel ›ë‹ tells about the Kosovo war and recalls the suffering of families who lost their homeland, whose murdered relatives were buried anonymously and are still missing or unidentified as of today. Jehona Kicaj brings a past to life that cannot fade because it is permanently embedded in every fibre of the body.

Jehona Kicaj, born in Kosovo in 1991 and raised in Göttingen, studied Philosophy, German Studies and Modern German Literature in Hanover. After academic publications, she has also been publishing literary texts since 2020. She is co-editor of the anthology ››Und so blieb man eben für immer.« Gastarbeiter:innen und ihre Kinder‹ (2023). The novel ›ë‹ is her debut.



Jehona Kicaj
ë
Novel
176 pages



Can the survivors simply remain silent after a catastrophe? And is this silence their and our only chance for future happiness?

Hinrich von Haaren

Wilderness

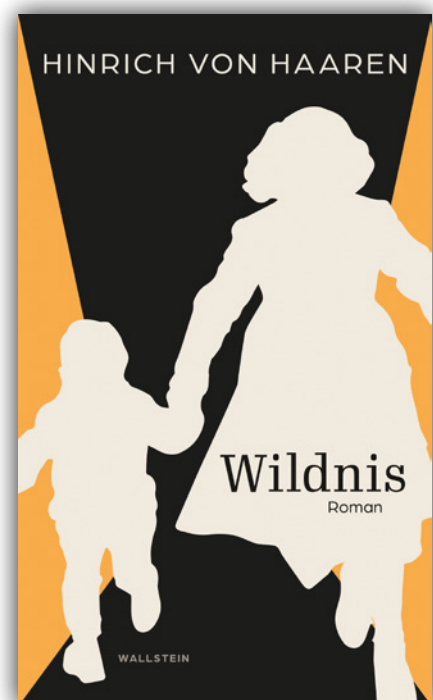
Novel

Gottfried Schult teaches history at Cambridge. On his 60th birthday he meets Ely, a man thirty years his junior. This evolving relationship gradually uncovers a long-hidden trauma in Schult. Memories of the Hamburg firestorm of 1943 re-surface – accompanied by recollections of his sister Toni, who died during the bombing. The more Schult unearths his past, the horror inextricably tied to it deepens. Is he to blame for his sister's death? Can a six-year-old boy be held responsible for such an event?

But Gottfried Schult no longer wants to lead a silent existence. Only in language and verbalisation he is able to find the chance for happiness and to live on.

Alternating confidently between campus, romantic and historical novel, ›Wilderness‹ tells of a man grappling with the repressed and his attempt to create a new past.

Hinrich von Haaren, born in 1964, originally from Lower Saxony, has lived in London since 1995. He studied Sinology and German Language and Literature in Berlin. Several scholarships and prizes. Most recently he published the novels ›Blaues Reich. Winterstadt‹ and ›Brandhagen‹.



Hinrich von Haaren
Wilderness
Novel
290 pages



Observations, memories and stories from a country scarred by war.

Ofer Waldman

One Can't Distinguish Intercepted Missiles from Autumn Clouds

Observations

A circle of children, two girls running around them, fighter jets thundering past on the horizon, the game is called ›Black Sheep‹, the times are times of war, when language repeatedly fails, stutters. You always start anew: For a conversation with a mother whose son would like to be Peter in ›Peter and the Wolf‹ and was murdered on October 7th, or with an English teacher from Gaza who sees the silent question of time in the faces of his pupils. For the journey to Jerusalem to say goodbye to one's own dying father, whereby the private, intimate walk between conversations and objects left behind becomes a look at a family history between Chernowitz, Vienna and Jerusalem. An observation of childhood in a country scarred by war, a country gripped by madness, changed beyond recognition.

›One Can't Distinguish Intercepted Missiles from Autumn Clouds‹ is an essayistic mosaic of observations, memories and narratives, present, past, sometimes surreal – and it is constantly interspersed with intimate, private moments in order to not give up searching for language, knowledge, interpersonal perception before the arbitrariness of war.

Ofer Waldman, born in Jerusalem in 1979. As one of the first musicians in the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, he moved to Berlin in 1999, where he completed an orchestral music diploma playing horn. He was part of Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Nürnberger Philharmoniker, the New Israeli Opera and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. Ofer Waldman later completed his doctorate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (History) and the Freie Universität Berlin (German Studies). He has been working as a freelance author since 2015, mainly for German broadcasting corporations. In 2021 he was awarded the ›Deutscher Hörspielpreis‹ by ARD.



Ofer Waldman
**One Can't Distinguish Intercepted Missiles
 from Autumn Clouds**
 Observations

approx. 160 pages



The stories written in Kafka's first intensive creative phase from 1912 onwards are among the most popular of his works worldwide: ›The Judgement‹, ›The Metamorphosis‹, ›In the Penal Colony‹.

Franz Kafka

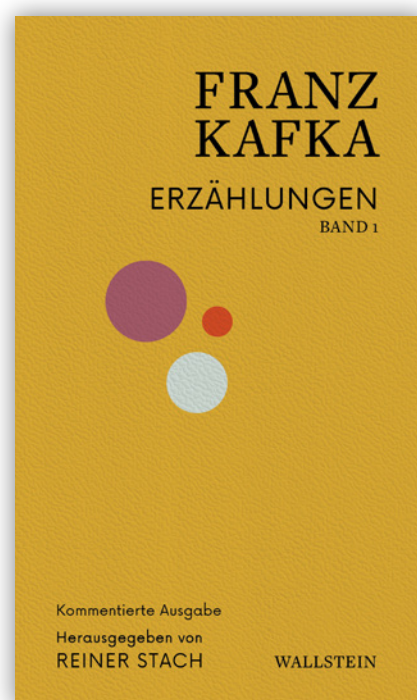
Stories

Volume 1

The dark origins of power, but also its abuse, are among the central motifs of the stories written during Kafka's first intensive creative phase from 1912 to 1915 – such as ›The Judgement‹, ›The Metamorphosis‹, ›In the Penal Colony‹ and other, partly unfinished texts – and which form a literary cosmos all of their own. The overlapping of horror, absurdity and comedy is also one of the features that we now recognise as characteristic of Kafka's writing. His first book publication ›Contemplation‹ (1912) is both an overture and a promise.

The central question of the annotated edition is how Kafka achieved this. The detailed commentary explains the essential motifs, terms and narrative techniques, as well as significant deletions and corrections in the manuscript, providing an insight into Kafka's workshop. This reveals an extraordinarily densely woven texture, a virtuoso play with different levels of reality, with irony and numerous hidden references. Reiner Stach's afterword provides an overview of the history of the stories' impact.

Reiner Stach, born in 1951, studied German Language and Literature, Philosophy as well as Mathematics in Frankfurt am Main. After being an editor for several publishing houses, he began working on a three-volume biography of Franz Kafka in the mid-1990s, which is now internationally recognised as a standard. He was awarded ›Sonderpreis zum Heimito von Doderer-Literaturpreis‹ (2008), ›Bayerischer Buchpreis‹ (2015), ›Joseph-Breitbach-Preis‹ (2016) as well as ›Prix Médicis‹ (2025). Publications at Wallstein Verlag: Franz Kafka: ›Der Process‹ (ed. and annotated, 2024); Franz Kafka: ›»Du bist die Aufgabe«. Aphorismen‹ (ed. and annotated, 2019); English publications: ›Kafka. The Early Years‹ (Princeton University Press 2016); ›Is that Kafka? 99 Finds (New Directions Publishing); ›Kafka. The Years of Insight‹ (Princeton University Press 2013); ›Kafka. The Decisive Years‹ (Princeton University Press 2005).



Franz Kafka

Stories

Volume 1

approx. 400 pages



Hendrik Otremba, writer and musician in one, takes an insightful look at the work of the legendary band Can and talks to its founder Irmin Schmidt.

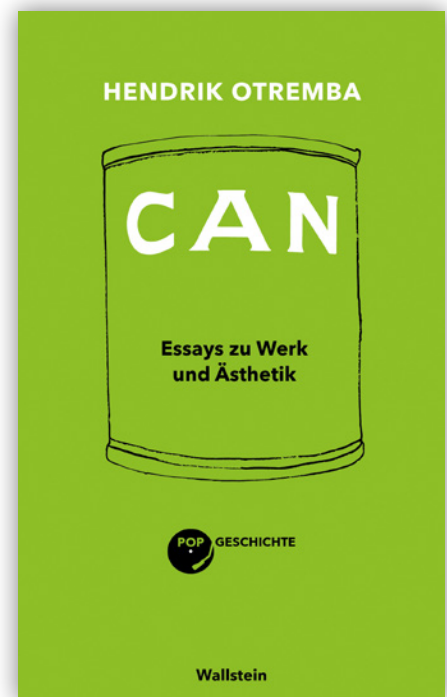
Hendrik Otremba

Can

Essays on Work and Aesthetics

The band Can – although loosely associated with the term Krautrock – cannot be pigeonholed. Between 1968 and 1979, the band regularly released albums that are now regarded as modern classics between pop and avantgarde, composed successful film music and played concerts that got out of hand. Today, the band enjoys legendary status in international circles. After splitting up, the members remained closely connected and continued their careers on solo paths, often supporting each other musically. Even auteur filmmakers such as Roland Klick and Wim Wenders benefited from the group's great talent for composition. Hendrik Otremba follows in the footsteps of the band and its protagonists and illuminates their work and aesthetics in eight essays that are as emphatic as they are intelligent and knowledgeable. Otremba was fortunate to meet three members of Can – Damo Suzuki (1950-2024), Holger Czukay (1938-2017) – in person and was able to interview the band's founder, Irmin Schmidt (*1937), in detail for this volume.

Hendrik Otremba, born in 1984, is a writer, musician, artist and lecturer in Creative Writing. His paintings are published and exhibited, used as album covers and in various magazines. His debut novel ›Über uns der Schaum‹ was published in 2017, followed by ›Kachelbads Erbe‹ (2019), ›Benito‹ (2022) and a first volume of poetry ›Wüstungen, Nebel‹. In 2023, Otremba also held the Poetics Lectureship at the Universität Münster. He has released six albums to date, being the singer of ›Messer‹, most recently ›Kratermusik‹ in 2024.



Hendrik Otremba
Can
Essays on Work and Aesthetics
approx. 150 pages



Travelling for pleasure is the great personal reward, the time-out, the adventure, the escape from all constraints and obligations. And also tied to the fear of missing out.

Valentin Groebner

Fully Booked

Travelling for Pleasure

Five years after closed borders due to the pandemic, more people around the world are travelling for pleasure than ever before and news of overcrowding and the destruction of supposed idylls is omnipresent. Is tourism a trap and the reward self-deception?

Following his highly acclaimed essay ›Ferienmüde‹ (›Holiday Fatigue‹), Valentin Groebner has once again embarked on a journey: from dream beaches with camper vans to wellness resorts on tropical islands, from Alpine idylls and their development to the great fulfilment in the bucolic emptiness of Burgundy. Where does the tourist's fear of always being too late for the truly beautiful and genuine come from? And what do you see when you finally arrive at the places where the enticing pictures circulating on social media have been snapped? Whether in Greek car parks, on Mediterranean beaches or in the shadow of melting glaciers, the future of travel will be full of tourists; all plagued by the fear of being late, of missing out on the best and the anxious dread of having come up short again. But there is enough authentic experience for everyone. You just have to want to do it – and let yourself be surprised.

Valentin Groebner, Professor of History specialising in the Middle Ages and Renaissance at the University of Lucerne, has published numerous books on the history of culture and science, including ›Ferienmüde‹. His translated works include ›Who are you?‹ (Zone Books/MIT Press 2007), ›Liquid Assets, Dangerous Gifts‹ (Pennsylvania University Press 2002) and ›Storia dell'identità personale e della sua certificazione‹ (Edizioni Casagrande 2008).



Valentin Groebner
Fully Booked
Travelling for Pleasure

136 pages



Villa in the jungle or part of the region?

Johannes Becke

This Is Not Europe

How Israel Became Part of the Middle East

A growing number of voices in the Israeli public are critically questioning whether we can continue to view Israel as a Western exclave in the Middle East, as a »villa in the jungle«, as former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak once put it, or whether we should not have long since understood Israel as part of the region – on the one hand integrated by a dense network of geopolitical alliances, on the other influenced by a political culture increasingly characterised by the Middle East.

Johannes Becke takes up this debate beyond Israeli day-to-day politics and asks differentiated questions about the cultural localisation of Israeli society. He develops the thesis of a comprehensive cultural- and institutional-historical integration of Israel into the Middle East and North Africa since its foundation. Not only the religious law, the huge security apparatus and the treatment of ethnic minorities correspond to widespread patterns in the region, but also Israeli politics, cuisine and music. Johannes Becke shows the light and dark sides of integration and for the first time describes Israel not as a Western state but as a Middle Eastern one.

Johannes Becke, born in 1982, holds the Ben-Gurion Chair for Israel and Middle East Studies at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg. His research focuses on comparative perspectives on Israeli society and Arab-Israeli relations.



Johannes Becke
This Is Not Europe
 How Israel Became Part of the Middle East
 approx. 296 pages



Dirk Rose provides highlights on the history and important media theory positions of media criticism. Historical, systematic, compact.

Dirk Rose

Media Criticism – Theory and History

The discourse of media criticism is more than 2,500 years old – and is still a relevant topic. Dirk Rose explores the question of why this is the case. In the first part, he outlines a media and cultural theory model for describing media criticism. In the second part, he reviews important historical milestones from Plato to Rousseau and Herder to Adorno and current debates on media criticism. Media criticism thus proves to be a major constant in thinking about our knowledge and how it comes about. Such a historical-systematic outline, which takes up a good two hundred pages, has never been presented before.

Debates about current media developments are contextualised and rationalised without being limited to these. The book is aimed at interested observers of today's media debates as well as students of media studies and media professionals themselves. Media criticism also affects us as much as it does because our self-image has always been shaped by and through the media.

Dirk Rose, born 1976 in Erfurt, is Professor of Modern German Literature and Media at the University of Innsbruck. His publications focus on media criticism and media ethics, polemics research and the mediality of literature.



Dirk Rose
Media Criticism – Theory and History
approx. 224 pages, approx. 3 images



About Friedrich Nietzsche's formative influence on Thomas Mann's entire oeuvre.

Matthias Bormuth

In the Light of Nietzsche

On Thomas Mann

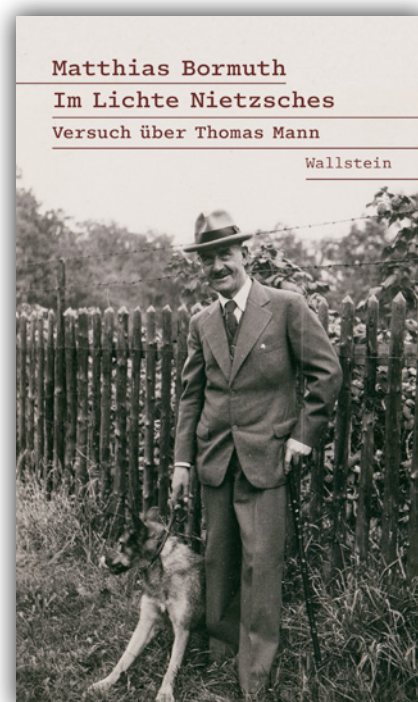
From his literary beginnings, Thomas Mann can be read in the light of Nietzsche. Both share the Schopenhauer experience, the tension between life and spirit. Tonio Kröger already owes its aesthetic contours to the philosopher, and his scepticism also shapes the later ›Betrachtungen eines Unpolitischen‹, for example in the will to open faith.

Through the years of the Weimar Republic and National Socialism, Thomas Mann repeatedly accentuated Nietzsche's ambivalent image, which oscillates between enlightener and prophet, in novels, stories and essays.

›Der Zauberberg‹ would be inconceivable without modern nihilism, while the mythical Joseph-novels are fuelled by Nietzsche's depth psychology. ›Doktor Faustus‹ critically reflects the ideological obsession between genius and madness.

The distance to the late Nietzsche is fuelled by Thomas Mann's religious humanism, as this essay on the history of ideas aims to show, particularly with regard to Goethe. But the Weimar Classicism also symbolises the Nietzschean idea of the mask, which Thomas Mann particularly appreciated in its playful ambiguity. Throughout his life, he mysteriously withdrew his deepest convictions from prying eyes in his writing, like backdrops that constantly recede.

Matthias Bormuth, born 1963, Professor of Comparative History of Ideas at the Universität Oldenburg. He publishes and edits on Hannah Arendt, Erich Auerbach, Karl Jaspers, Martin Warnke and Max Weber. His research focuses on interdisciplinary studies in the fields of Intellectual History, Cultural Studies and History and Ethics of Psychiatry.



Matthias Bormuth
In the Light of Nietzsche
On Thomas Mann
approx. 144 pages



Julia Frieese **delulu**

Novel | 247 pages

»Don't you also wish you cared less about yourself?«

Res always believed that she was someone special – just like her idol Frances Scott. But on the very day she is set to meet her favourite pop artist of all time, her life comes to an abrupt end. Her life passes her by on the backdrop of films, music and advertising from the time of the turn of the millennium. And through this we are immersed in the subconscious of Western popular culture. An existence of constant stimulation is expected here as a matter of course, leading to a grandiose end – which must never be reached. Res finally meets Frances in delirium: in lofts and restaurants, at tennis matches and big gigs. It is the last glimmer of a dream from a time when pop seemed to be apolitical and sold nothing but hedonism. Neither Res, who describes the dream, nor Frances, who sells the dream, determine the rules of this game. They strive to become a product and a brand. But why? In a playful style, »delulu« explores the contemporary desire to be seen.

Everything is connected in this delicately arranged novel, which is definitely as colourful and entertaining as a toy.

Rights available



Julia Frieese **MTTR**

Novel | 421 pages

While in the office, Teresa Borsig finds out for sure: she is pregnant. She feels simultaneously attracted and repelled by the idea of having a family. The memories of her own childhood are full of distance, discipline and beatings. Urged by nurses in the abortion clinic to swallow the pill, Teresa refuses to go through with it: she wants to be a mother after all. Can she fulfill this role while lacking a mother of her own?

The health care system takes the pregnant woman in as it once did with her parents. Efficient. Cold. They only want what's best for her. And isolate her baby in a warming bed. Will her infant survive? Doctors and nurses talk about *it*, but never with her. Teresa screams. She shouldn't take herself so seriously, the hospital says. »MTTR« recounts the effects of German post-war education, recounts the inability of baby boomers to show emotions, and if they do, it's only through substitute actions: Purchase, correction and concern. Every dialogue is an act of malice. You almost don't notice it, because file-gray emotional temperature and gross ineptness are everyday life in Germany. Will millennials, like Teresa, reproduce this?

Rights available



Teresa Präauer

Cooking in the Wrong Century

Novel | 198 pages

The novel of an evening and an invitation to dinner. Full of recipes for a successful life and an unsuccessful evening, which always starts anew; clever, funny, cheerful, and at the same time accompanied by the sometimes subliminal and sometimes quite openly articulated aggressions of the people involved. In conversations, the hosting couple and their guests discuss very important and marginal issues, covering the range from ›foodporn‹ images on the internet to cooking, shopping and living as social practices.

Increasingly, the evening becomes more comical, more tragic, more erotic – negotiating individual current terms, while the hostess is not particularly talented at hosting and repeatedly feels transported to the wrong century. Along the way, a history of goods, food and cooking is told anecdotally.

Rights sold

- Danish: Forlaget Klara W.
- Dutch: Meridiaan Uitgevers
- English: Pushkin Press
- French: Editions Flammarion
- Italian: Marsilio Editori



Thea Mengeler

After the Ferries

Novel | 175 pages

On a formerly popular vacation island, the ferries suddenly stop coming and with them the vacationers. Life comes to a standstill; most of the inhabitants leave the island, only a few hold out. Hoping for the ferries to return and isolated from each other, they carry on with the same old activities. The lives of those who remain only change when a girl called Ada inexplicably appears at a hotel and seeks to get close to the former janitor. Her questions about his past and that of the island lead to an upheaval that cannot be stopped, even when Ada vanishes as abruptly as she had appeared. The characters' stories become more and more intertwined as they begin to come to terms with their past – and with the question of whether a return of the ferries is something to wish for at all.

Thea Mengeler's novel tells of private and social relational dynamics, of (over)tourism and of reclaiming one's own life, one's own living space. In concise but sensitive language, she describes the events on the island as well as the inner lives of her characters, whose life choices are put to the test.

Rights available



Teresa Präauer **Girl**

78 pages

A playful literary text about belonging and demarcation, about the difficulties and hilarities of growing up.

In this book, Teresa Präauer devotes herself to a figure that has almost been left out of her earlier books: girls. In personal reminiscences and literary reflections, she talks about childhood and competition, girl gangs and boy games. About affiliation and differentiation as well as the difficulties and serendipity of growing up.

»Girl« is full of observations, tenderness and exhilaration, and it is an intimate gift from the author to her readers.

Rights available



Teresa Präauer **Becoming Animal**

100 pages

In »Becoming Animal«, Teresa Präauer observes stages of transition, transformation, metamorphosis. Her text allows anyone or anything that has hair to make an appearance: in places that are overgrown with textured surfaces, fur, fake fur or grass. She has assembled a collection of shaggy figures for this purpose, from medieval drawings of mythical creatures – half real, half fantasy – to hairpieces from the Alps, Toni Erdmann wearing wigs and costumed furies from subculture. The author explores all these artificial and artistic phenomena in concrete pictorial observations and philosophical considerations.

In Teresa Präauer's work, animalisation is a procedure described in terms of art, culture, film and fashion, but she also applies it to the writing and reading of literature itself. As we write, we exhaust the possibilities of speech, reaching its human limits. As we read, we are transformed, according to the warning and the promise this narrative-essayistic text holds.

Rights sold

- English: Seagull Books



Ulf Erdmann Ziegler **No Turning Back**

Novel | 216 pages

A man searching for the meaning of life – a touching literary ›road movie‹

A. W. Mumme, a well-known radio essayist, receives a letter from pension insurance and begins to question himself: is a pension of 1,183 euros all he has left after a long working life? A literary agent's idea to write a popular autobiography appears just at the right time. Mumme uses a generous advance to buy a »retro motorbike«. He sets off on a journey from Berlin via Leipzig and Paris to the Côte d'Azur, where, in an hour of inner paralysis, his concept of meaning – regarding life and society – shatters. There is no turning back. In this novel Mumme's life is reflected in the presented self-images of the protagonist: the rootless child of a hippie mother; a young man in a gloomy city of intellectual movements called West Berlin; a glamorous media man at the side of a no less glamorous woman; a friend of a dandy artist. The notion that really haunts Mumme is the stereotype of the ›old white man‹ (German: ›alter weißer Mann‹), which he definitely doesn't want to be – but whose abbreviation, AWM, can be found in his name.

Rights available



Henning Ziebritzki **Brand**

Novel | 144 pages

With his debut novel Henning Ziebritzki explores the childhood of an attentive boy between the harsh everyday life of a village, adults shaped by the experience of war and his first poetic impressions

Through the memories and stories of a boy growing up in the village of Brand, the family and inhabitants come to life, as does the background of contemporary history and the Northern German landscape. The story is set in the sixties, known by adults as the post-war period. Encountering August, a strange boy, a first erotic impression made by the teacher in the schoolyard and the great-grandmother as well as the dead grandfather characterise the child just as much as the test of courage of the pig ride, a threatening encounter with a stranger at the harvest festival or experiences with the supernatural while fetching milk and the first reading of a poem by Goethe. His mother's stories about the village and its inhabitants play a special part, having a lasting influence on the boy and becoming his first poetic experiences.

In vivid and poetic language, Henning Ziebritzki depicts impressive scenes of a childhood in the countryside

Rights available



Nicolas Pethes

Springsteen

A Lifetime Conversation | 216 pages, 7 illustrations

Bruce Springsteen has been a rock star for decades, fostering a heartfelt relationship with his audience. This is not only due to his precisely designed and musically diverse albums, which reflect the significance of different phases of his life and whose engaging songs encompass all genres of American pop music. Springsteen also bases his music and the messages associated with it on direct contact with the audience: he achieves this special bond through his concerts, which are characterised by extreme physical intensity, his understanding of rock'n'roll as a musical tradition, which includes emphatic anthems as well as sharing personal stories, his committed statements on socio-political debates as well as his examination of age and transience.

The latter were also the central theme of Springsteen's tour in 2023, whose stages Nicolas Pethes chooses as a guiding line when he follows Springsteen's »lifetime conversation with [his] audience« and uses numerous testimonies from fans to show that the idea of such communication between artist and audience is no mere illusion. Instead, it is based on serious emotions and practices, which Nicolas Pethes compiles in a knowledgeable and entertaining way.

Rights sold

- English: Bloomsbury Publishing



Valentin Groebner

Holiday Fatigue

When Traveling Didn't Help Anymore

A most recent buzzword was »overtourism«: overcrowding in cities, beaches, dream destinations. Then the big shutdown came in the spring of 2020: closed borders, closed airports, deserted city centers. With the return to normality, wanderlust will probably return, the great departure for the vacationing. But where to? Vacation was not envisioned in any of the great social utopias of recent centuries, in Tommaso di Campanella's Sunshine State any more than in the communist paradise or in the supposed dissolution of all bodies and boundaries in the self-governing Digitalia of the 1990s. Overthrow? Revolution? All irrelevant.

At the beginning of the 21st century, vacation was the last great social utopia, the territory of freedom, three weeks a year. Unfortunately, this utopia is just ceasing to function. It has become crowded and cramped in paradise. That's why – like every paradise – it was unfortunately closed down for good recently. The fulfillment of dreams has left behind too much dirt, a lot of weariness and tiredness. Then the COVID 19 pandemic came. And at some point, normality will return. Reason enough for a little stocktaking.

Rights available



Heinrich Detering **Earth in Revolt**

Karl Marx and Ecology | 221 pages, 36 illustrations

A captivating search for clues uncovers ecological lines of development in Marx's writing that have often been overlooked: a new approach to a work of surprising timeliness

Ecological awareness has characterized Karl Marx's work from the very beginning. It is not the result of a late change, but pervades his thinking from his early writings to his final years. Marx ties in with Romanticism's idea of nature and turns it from a speculative standpoint to an empirical point of view. Regarding this endeavour Charles Darwin and Adam Smith, Ludwig Tieck and Goethe also play an important role. Poetic texts and writing styles permeate social and scientific discourses.

By combining a historical approach with close readings, Detering reveals the surprising topicality of Marx's writings in our time, a time in which the different forms of Marxism have run their course whereas the survival of capitalism is conjuring up a global ecocide.

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Carolyn Emcke **What Is True**

On Violence and Climate | 124 pages

A plea for the ethics of storytelling and thinking in utopias. How is it possible to talk about violence? How can we tell stories about experiences that override all moral expectations of what people can do to each other? With what caution, what discretion and what empathy must we search for language in contexts of war and violence? Carolyn Emcke asks about the ethics of storytelling. For her, the search for what is true is always one that also questions her own role. Anyone who writes about violence and trauma must also write about what remains untouched as a normative core: human dignity.

Writers who reflect on what is true, who think above all about violence and how it destroys people, must also talk about the violence of the climate crisis: What role does factual storytelling play in narrating climate discourses? For Emcke, the search for truth in the face of the climate catastrophe must open up in different directions. Backwards: What has happened and who is responsible? But also forward: This search for truth in the context of the climate crisis must show what will be, it must open up and map out spaces of possibility. »What Is True« is a plea for the ethics of storytelling and for utopian thinking.

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- Catalan: Atmarcardia
- Spanish: Penguin Random House



Riccardo Niccolosi Putin's War Rhetoric

191 pages, 7 illustrations

Rhetoric as a weapon – about Putin's speeches as a political tool

Vladimir Putin rhetorically prepared and escalated the war against Ukraine while also substantiating it with complex arguments. The web of justification strategies may seem disconcerting and disturbing, but it deliberately ties in with the expectations of a broad national and international audience. The Russian president is not a charismatic and eloquent politician. Especially in comparison to his opponent Selenskyj, his oratory skills are clearly inferior. But Putin's wordings are the origin of all political communication strategies in present day Russia.

Riccardo Niccolosi dissects Putin's war communication: From the parody of Western justifications for war to a paranoid causal logic in which Russia is drawn up as the eternal victim of Western hegemonic aspirations; from the affect rhetoric of resentment to the mystification of the Second World War as a never-ending event; from the modelling of the conflict in Ukraine as an anti-colonial, tectonic shift in the geopolitical world order to the elevation of war as the only true form of existence in present and future Russia. The power of words thus legitimises the martial use of force just as much as it accomplishes to let war appear as the solution to all problems.

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Hartmut Lehmann Apocalypses

Lessons from Past Catastrophes | 192 pages

Pandemics, wars, climate emergencies: people have underwent times of devastating disasters in the past. What can we learn from their experiences?

The pandemic, the climate catastrophe, new wars in Europe and the Middle East: we seem to be facing an unprecedented, extreme situation. But over the last 800 years, people in Europe have already had to face the apocalypse several times and feared the beginning of the end time. In the 14th century, the plague left a trail of devastation in its wake. In the late 16th and 17th century, a worsening climate caused an agonisingly long series of famines, epidemics and wars. In the 20th century, war and the destruction of human life on an unprecedented scale upset the political and moral order around the world. These extreme scenarios marked ruptures and were social stress tests.

The historian Hartmut Lehmann explains in a comprehensible style what these catastrophes meant for people in their everyday lives and what they remembered about them. He asks what role conspiracy theories played in all these events and who made a scapegoat. Last but not least, this book is about lessons from the existential threats of our past: how can they help us to overcome the challenges of our time?

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Sebastian Peters

Hitler's Photographer Heinrich Hoffmann

A Biography | 624 pages, 77 illustrations

The first biography of Heinrich Hoffmann – important photographer, propagandist and close confidant of Adolf Hitler

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To this day, our image of Adolf Hitler is decisively shaped by the photographs of one man: Heinrich Hoffmann. The Munich-based photographer was a National Socialist from the very beginning and quickly used his professional skills for the service of the party. From the early 1920s on, his photographs shaped the visual image of the NSDAP and its leader, whom Hoffmann staged in line with Nazi propaganda. The personal photographer became a close confidant of Hitler and therefore soon an integral part of the inner circle of the NSDAP. And he knew how to profit from this unique position: since 1933, Hoffmann rose to become the publisher of a large company that expanded into a veritable picture factory for the Third Reich. With hundreds of thousands of propaganda photos, Hoffmann created a striking visual representation that was intended not least to cover up the brutal violence of the regime. The photographer became an influential propagandist – and a multimillionaire.

Even if Hoffmann's person gradually sank into insignificance after 1945, his photographs have an afterlife to this day.



Michael Löffelsender

The Buchenwald Concentration Camp 1937–1945

160 pages, 49 illustrations

Marking the 80th anniversary of liberation: The history of one of the largest National Socialist concentration camps – the essential characteristics, developments and contexts presented in a compact form

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From the summer of 1937, the SS had the Buchenwald concentration camp built on the Ettersberg near the city of Weimar. It became one of the largest concentration camps. Until its liberation in April 1945, more than a quarter of a million people from almost every country in Europe passed through the main camp on the Ettersberg or one of its more than 130 satellite camps. 56,000 men, women, young people and children did not survive.

To mark the 80th anniversary of liberation, Michael Löffelsender offers a concise history of the concentration camp that covers all important aspects. The internal history of the camp, the actions of the SS, the experiences of those persecuted and the integration of the camp into German society under National Socialism are described and exemplified.

In the year 2025, which is important in terms of remembrance policy, we now have an accessible, up-to-date and compact account of the Buchenwald concentration camp for a wider audience.



Franz Kafka | Reiner Stach (Ed.)

The Trial

Novel | 397 pages

Even after a century of multiple interpretations, the enigmatic fate of Josef K. continues to captivate readers. His entanglement in the ghostly bureaucracy, its inscrutability which makes it impossible for him to find his bearings, do not allow for simple analysis. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely for this reason, Kafka's »The Trial« is a pleasure to read, even after almost 100 years, and feels like an intense dream. Newly edited and annotated by Kafka biographer Reiner Stach, this volume invites you to read Kafka's »The Trial« once again or for the first time.

This first volume of the annotated edition focuses on one question: How did Kafka actually do it? The detailed commentary explains essential motifs, terms and narrative techniques, as well as significant deletions and corrections, providing an insight into Kafka's work. Thus, it becomes clear how extraordinarily dense »The Trial« is woven. The edition sheds light on the virtuoso play with levels of reality that Kafka pursues. Finally, the editor's afterword provides an overview of the genesis, transmission and impact of the work.

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- Chinese: Lucidabooks
- French: Editions L'orma
- Italian: L'Orma Editore



Renate Müller-Buck

»... trembling with colorful bliss«

Nietzsche in Venice | 199 pages, 34 illustrations

Between 1880 and 1887, Friedrich Nietzsche spent a total of five extended visits in Venice. It was the only city he loved, a »consecrated place« for him and, as a place of »100 deep solitudes« an »image for the people of the future«. He was welcomed and cared for by the musician Heinrich Köselitz, whose teacher he had been at the University of Basel.

Based on Nietzsche's letters as well as reports and memories of friends and companions, Renate Müller-Buck conveys a picture of the philosopher's everyday life in Venice and the significance that the lagoon city had in his thinking. We accompany him through the shady alleyways with their »regular trachyte cobblestones«, which he particularly liked as a »three-quarter blind man«. We follow him to the Calle nova, where Köselitz spent whole mornings playing music for him in his room. And we leaf through his Venice readings with him: Lord Byron, George Sand, Stendhal.

Renate Müller-Buck, a proven expert on Nietzsche, takes a knowledgeable and intimate look at Nietzsche as a person and at the same time offers a special picture of Venice at the end of the 19th century.

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