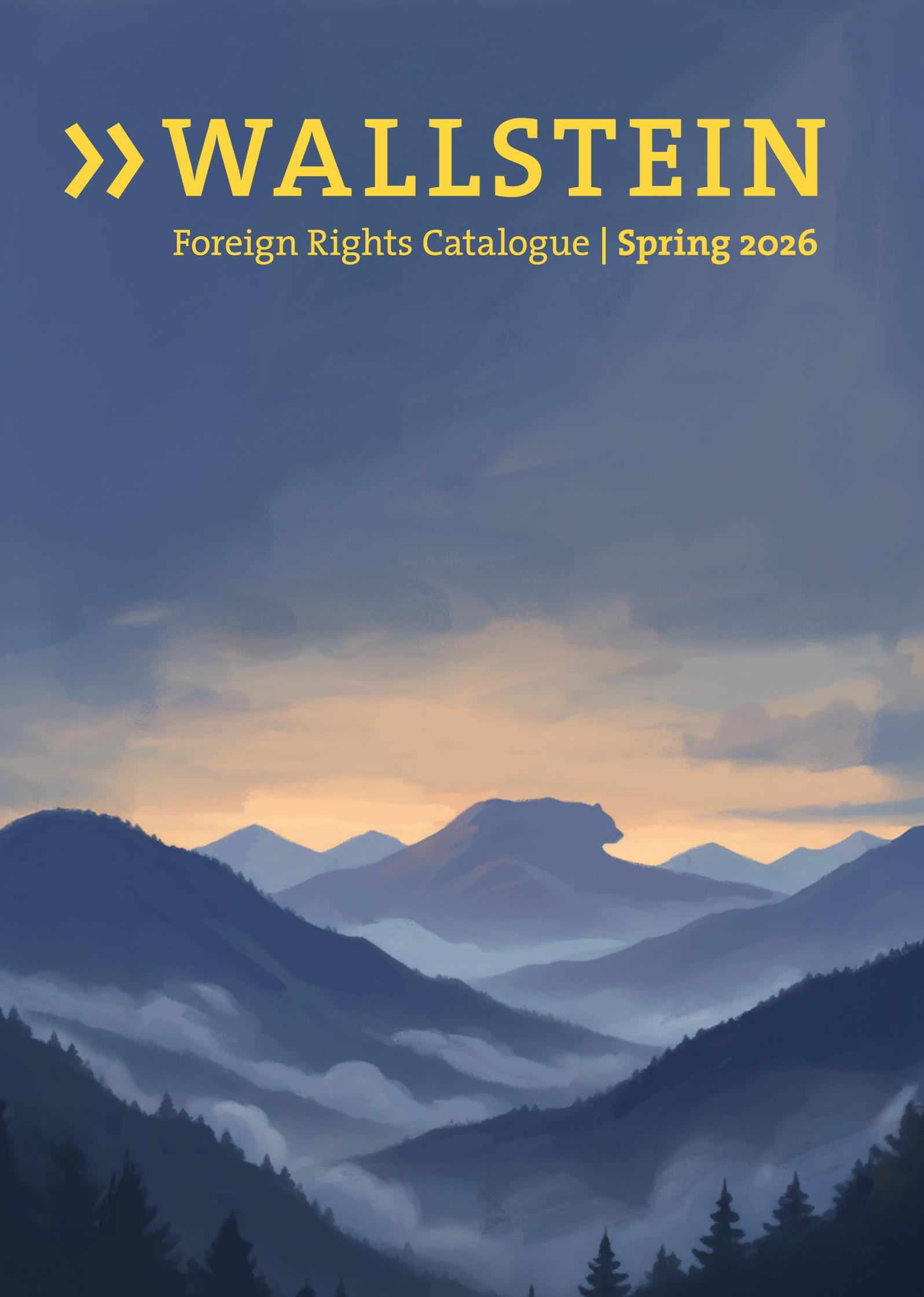


# »» WALLSTEIN

Foreign Rights Catalogue | Spring 2026



# 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 180 books per year to its list, with an annual turnover of approximately two million euros.

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**Shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2025 – 30.000 copies sold – Recommended by New Books in German: A quiet yet eloquently powerful book on the loss of home through war, about pain, and being deprived of language.**

## Jehona Kicaj

ë

Novel

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

She experienced the Kosovo War of the 1990s from a safe distance, but war and death also reach 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. Following a number of academic publications, she has been releasing literary texts since 2020. ›ë‹ is her debut novel, which was shortlisted for the ›German Book Prize‹. Jehona Kicaj was also awarded with the ›Debütpreis des Buddenbrookhauses‹ as well as the ›HANNA Literaturpreis‹ for literary debut.



Jehona Kicaj

ë

Novel

176 pages

07/2025

### Rights sold

- Albanian: PEMA
- Swedish: Lindelöws



How do I want to live? What do I need to lead a fulfilled life, and is a fulfilled life even achievable given the crises in the world?

## Selene Mariani

# Seeing Clouds Through the Skylight

### Novel

Leading up to her thirtieth birthday, the narrator questions her life choices. While working in a café, she has been dreaming of finally writing a novel for years. Instead, she observes and describes the people she encounters at work. She imagines how different her life could be if she had a luxurious apartment with a skylight like her friend Janu has. And she witnesses women her age one by one slipping into lifestyles that seem almost alarmingly conservative to her. When her sister's marriage falls apart she comes to stay with her, accompanied by a child. Over night the narrator's life changes.

Mariani's novel deals with the tension between what one longs for and what seems possible – the search for a way of life that actually feels truthful and aligned. And narrator quietly realizes that taking care of others can take many forms. A touching and multi-layered narrative on growing up female in our time.

**Selene Mariani**, born in 1994, grew up in Verona and Dresden. She studied at the Hildesheim Literature Institute and now lives in Hanover. Her short story collection ›Miniaturen in Blau‹ was published in 2021, her debut novel ›Ellis‹ followed in 2022. Her texts have been nominated for ›Literaturpreis Prenzlauer Berg‹, ›Berliner Hörspielpreis‹ and ›BücherFrauen Literaturpreis‹ among others.



Selene Mariani  
**Seeing Clouds Through the Skylight**  
Novel

192 pages

02/2026



A virtuoso journey through history and genres – a magnificent epic, finally available again.

## Wilhelm Bartsch

# Meckel's Transections

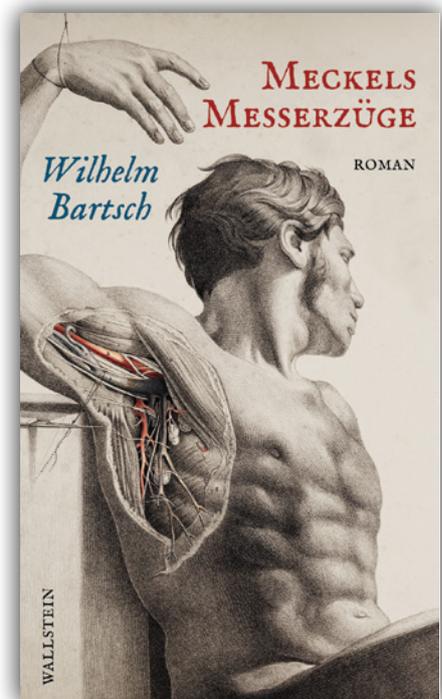
### Novel

The Meckel family is considered ›the Bachs of medical history‹. Johann Friedrich Meckel the Younger (1781–1833) is the main character of this novel, which his half-brother Albrecht August narrates. Anatomists by trade, they take part in the Wars of Liberation but have to flee to Naples after becoming tangled up in a murder plot. There they come close to solving many mysteries.

Through adventurous twists and turns, Albrecht and Friedrich encounter such illustrious contemporaries as the militia commander Ludwig von Lützow, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, the ›father of gymnastics‹, poet-turned-soldier Theodor Körner, and his soulmate, the ›Joan of Arc of Potsdam‹, Eleonore Prochaska. Other characters include author E. T. A. Hoffmann, the ›Einstein of the 19th century‹, Georges Cuvier, and Napoleon Bonaparte. The narrator's most faithful companion, however, proves to be his unquenchably thirsty horse, Jean Paul.

Combining virtuosity with mischief, Wilhelm Bartsch blends a grotesque crime story with elements of Gothic romance into a magnificent epic.

**Wilhelm Bartsch**, born in Eberswalde in 1950, lives in Halle/Saale. He studied Philosophy in Leipzig and has worked in various professions. He has received numerous scholarships in Germany and abroad, as well as ›Brüder-Grimm-Preis‹, ›Wilhelm-Müller-Preis‹, ›Rainer-Malkowski-Preis‹ and ›Bremer Literaturpreis‹ in 2025, among others. Bartsch writes poems, novels, stories, and essays, his most recently published work is the 2024 collection of poems entitled ›Hohe See und niemand's Land‹.



Wilhelm Bartsch  
**Meckel's Transections**  
Novel

419 pages

02/2026



›Draw into the sky. Draw into the sky, something with your hand, I whisper. As often as possible. And he doesn't hear me. No matter how loud the thought.‹

## Verena Gotthardt

# The Most Recent Past

### Stories

Lyrically condensed, the stories in this volume explore memory, time, and transience. In poetic language and fragmentary form, they close in on the moments when the world slows down: an empty square, a sky cracking open, the silence between two people. Pausing, watching, tentatively thinking – when looking at photographs, exploring family histories, or when the protagonist decides one morning that he no longer wants to get up.

The characters rarely speak aloud, often only in their thoughts: inner monologues that lead like thin threads through changing landscapes – cities, fields, trains, the sea. At the centre, there is the question of how the past is reflected in the present, what traces we leave behind in a world constantly changing. Again and again, the motif of drawing into the sky returns – as a gesture of holding on, of remembering, of resisting disappearance.

The stories alternate between poetry and prose, dream and reality, speech and silence. The prose feels cautious, observant, almost whispering. This book is a literary search for clues: words for the inexpressible, images for the fleeting, forms for what remains.

**Verena Gotthardt**, born in Klagenfurt/Austria in 1996, completed her studies in Fine Arts and Photography in Vienna and Paris. In 2021, she was nominated for ›Ingeborg-Bachmannpreis‹ for her short story ›Die jüngste Zeit‹, which lends this volume its name. Her first poetry collection was published in 2013. She writes in Slovenian and German, mainly poetry, but also short prose. In addition to numerous other awards, she won ›Literaturpreis der Stadt Bleiburg‹ and the Carinthia State Prize as part of ›16. Kärntner Lyrikpreis‹. She lives in Vienna.



Verena Gotthardt  
**The Most Recent Past**  
Stories

141 pages

02/2026



A novel from the 1920s that is a worthwhile rediscovery, tracing the longing for reconciliation of human beings and machines, of peace between man and nature.

## Heinrich Hauser

# Thunder Over the Sea

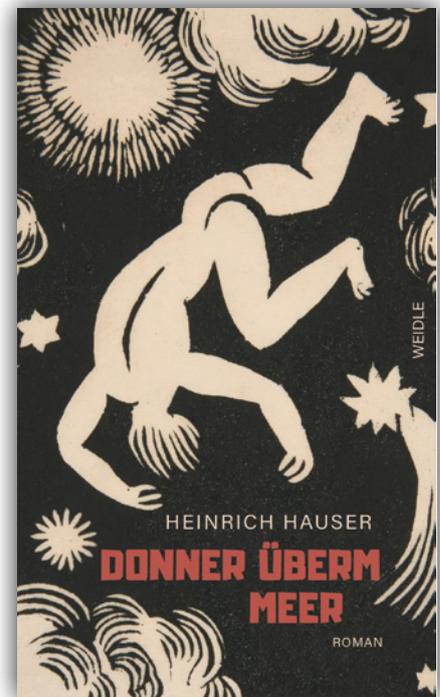
### Novel

In unrelenting Irish rain, a writer laboriously scales the tower of a derelict castle. Seeking solitude, he wants to finish his novel about a man and a woman meeting at night in a metropolitan setting: him a pilot, her just having come from a dubious doctor's office. He invites her to his room but before they can get to know each other, he has to call an ambulance...

The narrator recounts their story in fragments, repeatedly breaking off to describe his own vagabond life in Ireland and his move to Hamburg, where he rents a room close to the harbour. Somehow, his life seems interwoven with his story; there is a sense that he is not just writing fiction.

'Thunder Over the Sea', first published by S. Fischer in 1929, is a remarkable book. It is a novel, yet somehow it is not; a travelogue, but not entirely. It is the open-minded approach to topics, form, and language that captivates the reader. Hauser succeeds in creating powerful descriptions of nature, reconciling seemingly contradictory entities: man and technology, woman and man, city and nature, noise and silence, life and death.

**Heinrich Hauser**, born in Berlin in 1901, wrote novels and travel books, he translated works by Liam O'Flaherty among others, and also took photographs, made films, sailed the seas, and flew aeroplanes. In 1938, he emigrated to the United States. He returned to Germany in 1949 and briefly became editor-in-chief at ›Der Stern‹. He died in 1955.



Heinrich Hauser  
**Thunder Over the Sea**  
Novel  
Afterword by Stefan Weidle  
192 pages  
02/2026



The rediscovery of a female Berlin author of the 1920s, next to Gabriele Tergit, Mascha Kaléko, Vicki Baum, and Irmgard Keun. Witty, ironic, and critical!

## Polly Tieck

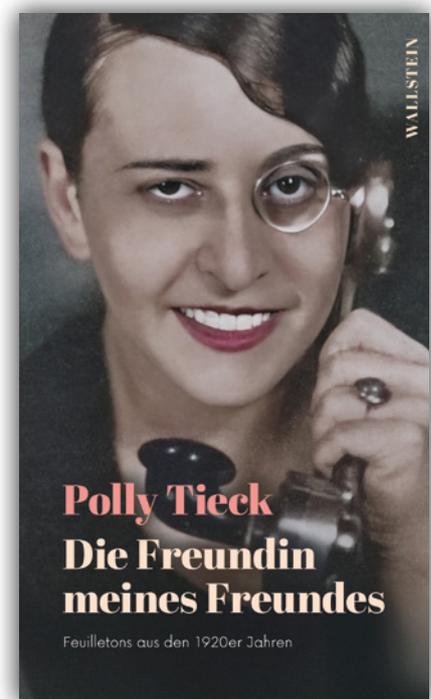
# My Boyfriend's Girlfriend

### Features From the 1920s

Polly Tieck's literary works date from 1925 to 1933 and, like their author, are largely unknown today. The fashion designer, journalist, and feature writer published prose and poetry under the pseudonyms Polly Tieck and Katta Launisch. Her witty, ironic, profoundly thoughtful, and occasionally critical feature articles and lyrical contributions focused on the so-called ›New Woman‹ and what moved this emerging type of females: the role of women in a society undergoing deep changes after World War I, the relationship between the sexes, love and eroticism, and also fashion in all its facets.

In the second part of this book, Hans-Joachim Heerde reconstructs Polly Tieck's life story on the basis of archive research and contemporary press reports. For the first time, readers are presented with a biography that covers the decisive periods of her life in the Jewish educated middle-class of Berlin, the period from 1933 to 1939, and her emigration to Chile.

**Polly Tieck**, whose real name was Ilse Amalie Ehrenfried (1893–1975), was a German journalist and feature writer. During the Weimar Republic, she worked as director of the pattern workshop at Ullstein Publishing House in Berlin. In 1939, she emigrated to Chile with her second husband, the merchant Hans Georg Aufrechtig.



Polly Tieck  
**My Boyfriend's Girlfriend**  
Features From the 1920s  
Edited by Hans-Joachim Heerde  
362 pages, 22 illustrations  
03/2026



With heavy guitar riffs, dystopian lyrics, and a ›devilish‹ image, Black Sabbath launched heavy metal.

## Frank Schäfer Black Sabbath

### The Invention of Heavy Metal

Working in a Birmingham steelmill, guitarist Tony Iommi loses two fingertips. To reduce the pain when playing, he tunes his guitar lower, which not only influences the sound of his band Black Sabbath but also creates a new style. With heavy riffs, dystopian lyrics, and a ›devilish‹ image, they establish heavy metal.

In this band biography, music journalist and critic Frank Schäfer tells the band's eventful story for the first time, from its founding in 1968 to the death of Ozzy Osbourne in July 2025, paying tribute to their influential and tradition-forming musical work.

**Frank Schäfer**, born in 1966, works as a writer and critic. His work appears in taz, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Rolling Stone, and Rock Hard, among others. He recently published books on AC/DC as well as Motörhead.



Frank Schäfer  
**Black Sabbath**  
The Invention of Heavy Metal

160 pages

03/2026



A multi-faceted double feature of the two most sensational female pop stars and multiple Grammy Award winners.

## Jörn Glasenapp

# Beyoncé and Taylor Swift

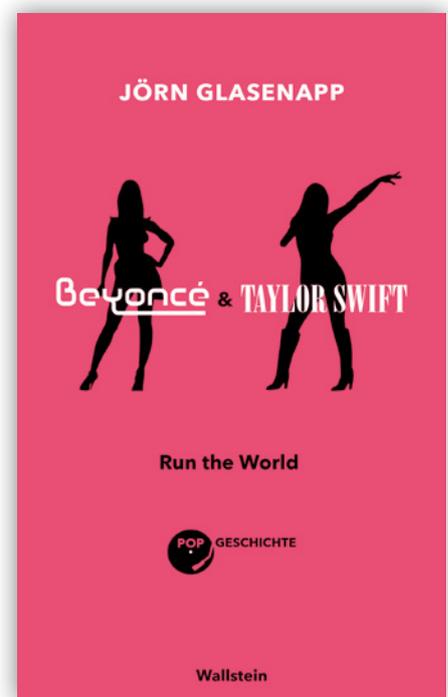
### Run the World

Beyoncé is the first Black artist to receive a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Country Album. Taylor Swift causes the internet to crash with her engagement photos. In this entertaining and insightful double feature, Jörn Glasenapp shows that these two seemingly different superstars have more in common than one might think.

For decades, Beyoncé and Taylor Swift have embodied the increasingly dominant position of female artists in pop music. Their tours and album releases are considered major cultural events, their fan bases promote tolerance and equality.

What makes these two megastars so special? What do they have in common and how are they different from each other? Considering feminist discourse and the Black empowerment movement, the book provides fascinating insights into 21st-century pop culture.

**Jörn Glasenapp**, born in 1970, studied English and German literature in Hanover and Göttingen. Since 2010, he has held the Chair of Literature and Media at Otto Friedrich University in Bamberg. His research focuses on pop culture, his publications include works on Nicolas Roeg and Wim Wenders among others.



Jörn Glasenapp  
**Beyoncé and Taylor Swift**  
Run the World

116 pages, 7 illustrations

03/2026

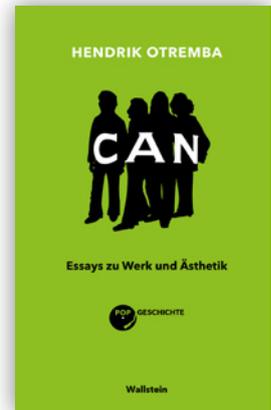
## »» Hendrik Otremba Can

Essays on Work and Aesthetics | 120 pages

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

The band Can – although loosely associated with the term Krautrock – is hard to pin down. Between 1968 and 1979, they released albums now regarded as modern classics. Somewhere between pop and avantgarde, they also composed film music and held sprawling live performances.

Today, the band enjoys legendary status in international circles. Auteur filmmakers such as Roland Klick and Wim Wenders benefited from the group's talent for composition. In his book, Hendrik Otremba follows the band and its protagonists, illuminating their work and aesthetics in eight essays as emphatic as they are knowledgeable. Otremba was fortunate to meet three members of Can: Damo Suzuki (1950–2024) and Holger Czukay (1938–2017), as well as founding member Irmin Schmidt (\*1937), the latter of which he interviewed in detail.



## »» Nicolas Pethes Springsteen

A Lifetime Conversation | 216 pages, 7 illustrations

As a rock star, Bruce Springsteen has managed to build a special and heartfelt relationship with his fans. How does he do it?

In his study, media scholar Nicolas Pethes finds that this is not only due to precisely designed, musically diverse albums. Moreover, Springsteen finds his artistic message in close contact with the audience. Physically intense concerts combine rock'n'roll tradition with emphatic anthems; personal stories go hand-in-hand with unapologetic political stances.

Choosing Springsteen's 2023 tour as a point of departure, Pethes explores the singer's ›lifetime conversation‹ with the audience through fan testimonies, highlighting that communication between performer and recipient is not an illusion. It is, instead, based on profound emotions and practices, which Nicolas Pethes compiles in entertaining and informative fashion.



Rights sold

- English: Bloomsbury



In the age of technical reproducibility, scissors have revolutionised the way we engage with texts and images. This book traces their history, from everyday objects to central tools of modern artistic processes.

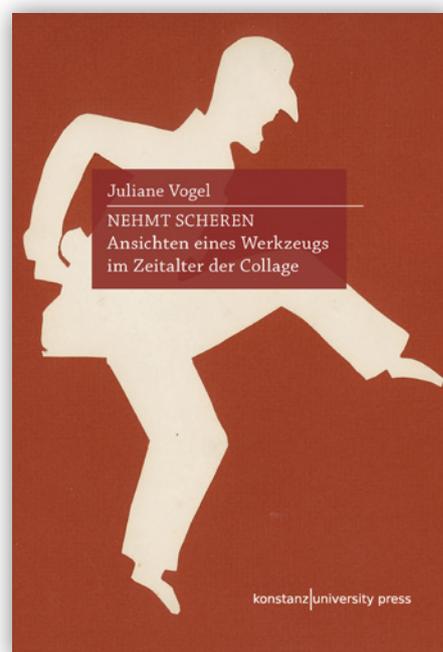
## Juliane Vogel Take Scissors!

Perspectives on a Manual Tool in the Age of Collage

‘Take Scissors’ tells the unlikely story of an inconspicuous tool and its popularisation. Juliane Vogel shows how scissors became an indispensable means of production in the age of mass media. After 1900, they helped establish a new model of creativity, breaking with traditional concepts of originality and authorship. Yet scissors had been popular long before they were adopted and reflected upon by the Dadaists and Surrealists.

The book focuses less on the functions of scissors than on the ideas and frameworks accompanying them in their rise: concepts of secondary originality, inclusivity, sexual ambiguity, transience, but also violence emanating from scissor blades, marking them as tools of modernity. From their contact with paper to the meanings attributed to scissors, Juliane Vogel is interested in the way they continue to influence our understanding of collage and montage to this day.

**Juliane Vogel**, born in 1959, is Professor of Modern German Literature and General Literary Studies at the University of Konstanz. She is interested in dramatic composition, scenography, and modes of text production in cultural perspective, with a focus on avantgarde theatre.



Juliane Vogel  
**Take Scissors!**  
Perspectives on a Manual Tool in the Age of Collage  
ca. 300 pages, ca. 75 illustrations, partly in colour  
04/2026



What happens when a historical era suddenly turns pop and becomes a reservoir of material for militant political spectacles?

## Valentin Groebner

### More Radical, More Intense?

#### The Middle Ages of the Counterculture

The Middle Ages are not just an era but a signifier for an affective regime, for strong, contagious feelings – not only in the 19th century, the heyday of passion for monks, knights, heretics, and their supposedly ›authentic‹ ways of life.

Utopian visions of regaining a more authentic alternative way of life in the 1970s and 1980s also enthusiastically referred to medieval models. They saw them as precursors, ‘traditions’ and ‘roots’ of the movements and subcultures that made headlines throughout Europe at the time with their violent appearances.

References to a rebellious, wild Middle Ages came with new forms of political affect and evocations of ›purity‹. What connects the radical poverty movements of the High and Late Middle Ages with militant activists – and how have medievalists responded to the challenge of appropriation?

**Valentin Groebner**, born in 1962, is Professor of History at the University of Lucerne, specialising in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. He has published numerous books on the history of science and the culture of consumerism.



Valentin Groebner  
**More Radical, More Intense?**  
The Middle Ages of the Counterculture

57 pages

01/2026



How did European queens and princesses, despite being forced into marriages abroad, gain political influence and personal mobility during the High Middle Ages?

## Michael Borgolte

### Queens Abroad

#### Marriage Migrants of the High Middle Ages and the Political Integration of Europe

Aristocratic marriage politics, a hallmark of dynastic rule, intensified in the 11th to 13th centuries, forming a network spanning almost the whole of Europe. Although princesses and the sisters of kings were not expected to take an active role at foreign courts, they still contributed to peacekeeping efforts. Furthermore, as wives or widows, they were able to use liberties to promote culture and religion, pursue special political ambitions, or fulfil personal goals.

Letters from queens dating back to the High Middle Ages provide insight into their life stories. Ingeborg, a strong-willed Dane, becoming Queen of France, and Sophia, daughter of a Hungarian king, who gained influence in the German Empire. Even more captivating is the story of a Russian princess who thwarted the plans of Henry IV of the Salian dynasty to make her a sex slave at his court.

Building on his earlier research into the subject, Michael Borgolte demonstrates how ›marriage migrants‹ shed the ascription of passivity and became serious political actors successfully expanding their radius of mobility.

**Michael Borgolte**, born in 1948, is Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at Humboldt University in Berlin. Works of his have been translated into English and French among other languages.



Michael Borgolte  
**Queens Abroad**  
 Marriage Migrants of the High Middle Ages  
 and the Political Integration of Europe  
 450 pages, 6 illustrations, partly in colour  
 03/2026



The marriages of royal daughters to foreign rulers contributed to the emergence of a community of communication in Europe – many women played their roles as ›marriage migrants‹ with great self-confidence.

## Michael Borgolte

# Queen in a Foreign Country

Early Medieval Marriage Migration and the Beginnings of European Alliance Politics

›Political‹ and ›diplomatic‹ marriages are not a medieval invention. Since time immemorial, such marriages usually involved brides moving to their grooms' countries. As a predominantly Christian community of communication, Europe relied on its marital networks.

Although this finding is not new, Michael Borgolte's book is the first to consider the beginnings of European alliances between the 5th and 11th centuries, with a focus on political marriages. In tracing the fates and actions of female migrants, their conforming to or rebelling against norms and expectations, it connects medieval history with the challenges of today.

**Michael Borgolte**, born in 1948, is Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at Humboldt University in Berlin. Works of his have been translated into English and French, among other languages.



Michael Borgolte  
**Queen in a Foreign Country**  
Early Medieval Marriage Migration and the  
Beginnings of European Alliance Politics  
472 pages, 14 illustrations in colour



The Order of the Illuminati was the most ambitious society of the German Enlightenment, but also an organisation rife with internal tensions. Here, for the first time, the Illuminati's history is reconstructed in its entirety.

## Martin Mulsow, Markus Meumann, Olaf Simons The Illuminati

Metamorphoses of a Secret Society, 1776–1787

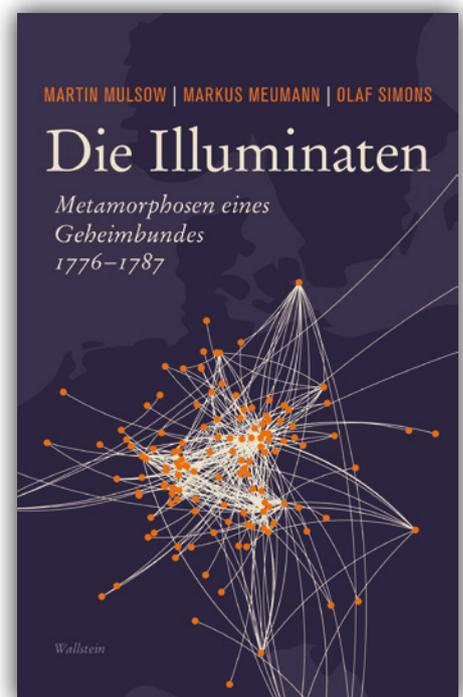
In popular culture, the Illuminati are often portrayed as an all-powerful, global secret society that is still active today. The reality is quite different. Founded in 1776 by students at the University of Ingolstadt, the group first spread throughout Bavaria, then Germany. Only in the beginning was the self-titled ›Order‹ controlled centrally and relatively closed off for outsiders. When its membership grew to nearly 1,400, internal struggles and splinter groups were the result.

After the order was banned in Bavaria in 1784/85, its focus shifted to central Germany, with Gotha as its most important branch, before disbanding in 1787. This book is the first to recount the Illuminati's intentions, procedures, and debates in detail, employing new sources on their internal communication. It demonstrates that, despite their secret leadership structure, the Illuminati pursued an agenda that was typical for the Enlightenment.

**Markus Meumann**, born in 1965, studied History in Göttingen and Caen. Since 2017, he is Managing Director of the Gotha Research Centre (FZG). His research focuses on communication and knowledge in the Enlightenment, with a focus on Freemasonry and secret societies in the late 18th century.

**Martin Mulsow**, born in 1959, is Professor of Knowledge Cultures at the University of Erfurt. He is interested in Renaissance philosophy, radical Enlightenment, and the history of knowledge.

**Olaf Simons**, born in 1961, works as a research assistant at the Historical Data Centre Saxony-Anhalt at the University of Halle. Before, he spent many years at the Gotha Research Centre. He has conducted research on early-modern knowledge production, particularly the history of books and publishing.



Martin Mulsow, Markus Meumann, Olaf Simons  
**The Illuminati**  
Metamorphoses of a Secret Society, 1776–1787  
ca. 688 pages, ca. 30 illustrations, partly in colour  
06/2026



Teresa Präauer

## Cooking in the Wrong Century

Novel | 198 pages

Being a hostess actually means: having grown up.

The novel about a dinner invitation. Full of recipes for a successful life as well as an unsuccessful evening, which always starts anew: clever, funny, cheerful; accompanied by the at times subliminal, then openly articulated aggressions of the people involved. In conversations, hosts and guests discuss issues big and small, from ›foodporn‹ and cooking to shopping and lifestyle.

Increasingly, the evening turns comical, tragic, erotic, with the not-so-hospitable hostess repeatedly feeling transported to the wrong century. Along the way, the history of goods, food, and cooking is recounted anecdotally.

### Rights sold

- Danish: Klara W.
- Dutch: Meridiaan
- English: Pushkin Press
- French: Flammarion
- Italian: Marsilio



Thea Mengeler

## After the Ferries

Novel | 175 pages

On a formerly popular vacation island, the tourist ferries suddenly stop coming – and with them the visitors. Life comes to a halt; most of the residents leave the island, only a few hold out. Hoping for the ferries to return, isolated from each other, they carry on with their lives.

Things only change when a girl called Ada suddenly inexplicably appears at a hotel and gets close to its 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 appeared. Coming to terms with their past, the islanders begin questioning whether a return of the ferries is something to wish for after all.

Thea Mengeler's novel tells of (over)tourism and reclamation. In concise yet sensitive language, she describes the island and its inhabitants, whose life choices are put to the test.

### Rights available



Anselm Oelze

## Upstairs

Novel | 275 pages

When Tess moves into a beautiful apartment in the centre of Leipzig with her girlfriend Moyra, their dreams come true. They finally share a home and, with the support of Moyra's parents, Tess can even open her own tailor shop on the building's ground floor. There, the neighbour Rolf used to sell beverages, until he had to shut down due to competition and rising rent.

For more than thirty years, the elderly Rolf and his wife Heike have lived in an apartment on the top floor. When their lease is terminated, Tess and Moyra offer to help. But the more Heike and Rolf get worked up about the ›broken system‹ and ›corrupt elites‹, sensing conspiracies everywhere, the more resolutely Moyra distances herself from them. Tess, on the other hand, has conflicting loyalties. Ultimately, everyone must 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 its residents. He also addresses the divisions in society, asking how living together can succeed against all odds.

Rights available



Hinrich von Haaren

## Wilderness

Novel | 290 pages

Can the survivors of a catastrophe simply remain silent? Is this silence their, and our, only chance for future happiness?

Gottfried Schult teaches history at Cambridge University. On his 60th birthday, he meets Ely, a man half his age. Their relationship gradually uncovers a long-hidden trauma in Schult. Memories of the 1943 bombing of Hamburg resurface; of his sister Toni, who died in the fires. Is he to blame for her death, Schult asks? What could a six-year-old have done?

He will no longer lead a silent existence. Only through language will he find peace. Alternating confidently between campus novel, romance, and historical fiction, ›Wilderness‹ portrays a man grappling with the repressed, attempting to create a new past for himself.

Rights available



## Ofer Waldman **Fought Over Land**

Observations | 152 pages

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

Children stand in a circle, 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 fails, stutters.

You start over. With a mother whose son wanted to be Peter, from ›Peter and the Wolf‹ but was murdered on October 7th. Or with an English teacher from Gaza, who can see the silent question of time in the faces of his pupils. With a journey to Jerusalem to say goodbye to one's dying father.

The intimate back-and-forth between conversations and personal remnants becomes a look at a family history, from Chernowitz to Vienna to Jerusalem. ›Fought Over Land‹ is an essayistic mosaic, spanning past and present, and sometimes the surreal. Searching for language, knowledge, and the power of perception in a land beyond recognition.

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## Ofer Waldman **Singular Collective**

Stories | 152 pages

It's unimaginable: the rush, the fear, the heartbeat, the breath, the emotion, the heat. ›Singular Collective‹ dives into a world beyond the glamour usually associated with classical music. A world beneath the thin cover of tailcoats and bow ties, where the orchestra resembles a vast plain, a stationless place. Where it smells of tin and oil, wood and sweat.

Fantasies, observations, aphorisms appear from the thin gap between the solitude of the practice room and the anonymity of the orchestra rows. The violinist only pretending to play, celebrating her silent art. The rejected trombonist who fears for the a new director. The overwhelmed cellist hanging on to his instrument like a castaway to a plank. The illusions of dress rehearsal.

In ›Singular Collective‹, characters and scenes come from the orchestral world and are read as commentaries on life.

**Rights available**



Valentin Groebner

## Fully Booked

Travelling for Pleasure | 136 pages

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

Five years after the pandemic, more people than ever are travelling for pleasure, and everybody is talking about overtourism. Is travel a trap, and self-deceit the reward?

Following his highly acclaimed essay ›Ferienmüde‹ (›Holiday Fatigue‹), Valentin Groebner embarks on another journey, from beaches with camper vans to wellness resorts on tropical islands. Where does the tourist anxiety of missing out on genuine beauty come from? What do you see when you finally arrive at the spot where all those enticing social media pictures were taken?

In any case, the future of travel will be full of tourists, all plagued by the anxious dread of missing out. However, there is enough authentic experience for everyone. You just have to be willing to embrace it – and let yourself be surprised.

**Rights available**



Valentin Groebner

## Holiday Fatigue

When Travel Didn't Help Anymore | 152 pages, 7 illustrations

The term ›Overtourism‹ has become commonplace, describing overcrowded cities, beaches, and other popular destinations. But with the shutdown of 2020, borders and airports were closed, city centres deserted. With normality, however, wanderlust will most likely return. But where to go?

The idea of holidays was not part of any of the great social utopias of the last few centuries: it was not considered in Tommaso di Campanella's City of the Sun, not in the communist paradise, and not in the supposed dissolution of all bodies and boundaries in the self-governing Digitalia of the 1990s. Rebellion? Revolution? To people on vacation, none of that was interesting. At the beginning of the 21st century, vacation was the last perfect idyll, a space of freedom, three weeks a year.

Unfortunately, this space has become crowded and cramped, filled with litter and weariness. The pandemic will have only temporarily put a halt to all of that. Still, reason enough to take stock.

**Rights available**



In early modern Europe, purity emerged as a cultural code.

Peter Burschel

## The Invention of Purity

A Different History of the Early Modern Period

Ideas of purity serve to transform ambiguity into clarity, thereby homogenising, stabilising, and, above all, harmonising interpretations of the self and the world.

Elaborating on this thesis, Peter Burschel investigates the place of purity in early modern Europe. He concludes that, in the post-medieval period, purity emerged as a cultural code. It guided fundamental processes of social and religious discipline in the 16th and 17th centuries, thereby tying the era together in historical and anthropological terms: establishing order, creating symbols, guiding action, and exerting a lasting influence.

**Peter Burschel**, born in 1963, is Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Cultural History at the University of Göttingen and Director of the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel. He conducts research in historical anthropology, with a focus on self-testimonies and cultural translation.



Peter Burschel  
**The Invention of Purity**  
A Different History of the Early Modern Period  
62 pages, 7 illustrations, partly in colour

Rights available



## Carolin Emcke **What Is True**

On Violence and the Climate | 124 pages

How can we talk about violence? How can we convey experiences that should fall outside of what humans will do to each other?

Carolin Emcke investigates the ethics of storytelling. For her, searching for the truth must always involve reflecting one's own position. Anyone writing about violence and trauma must also write about what remains a basic norm: human dignity.

Considering the climate crisis means considering its violence. How it destroys people. What role does factual storytelling play in climate discourse? Emcke casts a light back on what went wrong, who was responsible. But she also looks ahead, mapping out spaces of possibility.

›What Is True‹ is a plea for ethical storytelling, and also for utopian thinking.

### **Rights sold**

- Catalan: Arcadia
- Spanish: Penguin Random House



## Riccardo Nicolosi **Putin's War Rhetoric**

191 pages, 7 illustrations

Vladimir Putin rhetorically prepared and escalated the war against Ukraine. The web of justifications may seem disturbing but it ties in with the expectations of a broad national and international audience. The Russian President is not a charismatic or eloquent politician. But Putin's words are the origin of all political communication strategies in present day Russia.

Riccardo Nicolosi dissects this violent rhetoric. Putin parodies Western reasonings for military intervention, presenting Russia as the eternal victim of others' hegemonic aspirations. He stirs resentment and mystifies the Second World War. He models the aggression against Ukraine as an anti-colonial shift in the geopolitical order. And he elevates war as the only option for Russia to continue existing.

Words thus have the power to legitimise the use of force, as much as they have the power to make war appear to be the solution to all problems.

### **Rights sold**

- Russian: Freedom Letters
- English: University of Wisconsin Press



A philosopher in the city of lagoons – Nietzsche expert Renate Müller-Buck shares her insights.

## Renate Müller-Buck

### »... Trembling With Colourful Bliss«

#### Nietzsche in Venice

Between 1880 and 1887, Friedrich Nietzsche visited Venice a total of five times. It was the only city he loved, a ›consecrated place‹ for him and, as the site of ›100 deep solitudes‹, an ›image for the people of the future‹. He was welcomed and cared for by Heinrich Köselitz, a musician and Nietzsche's former student.

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, demonstrating the significance the lagoon city held in his thinking.

We accompany Nietzsche through the shady alleyways, follow him to the Calle Nova, where Köselitz spent entire mornings playing him music in his room, and we browse through his Venice readings with him: Lord Byron, George Sand, Stendhal.

**Renate Müller-Buck**, studied German and American studies in Tübingen and Berkeley. From 1980 to 1985, she was a lecturer in German language and literature at the German Department of the University of Florence, then a research assistant at the Technical University of Berlin for the preparation of the post-report volumes for the historical-critical edition of Nietzsche's correspondence by Colli and Montinari. She also works as a translator from Italian and French, has written radio essays and in 2017 was involved in a documentary about Nietzsche and his sister's forgeries.



Renate Müller-Buck.  
»... Trembling with Colourful Bliss«  
Nietzsche in Venice

199 pages, 34 illustrations

- Italian rights not available



## Franz Kafka Stories

Vol. 1 | ed. by Reiner Stach | 392 pages

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

Central motifs of these stories include the dark origins of power and its abuse; the overlapping of horror, absurdity, and comedy, which we now recognise as a distinct feature of Kafka's writing.

The detailed commentary investigates the essential themes, style, and narrative techniques, as well as significant changes made by Kafka to the manuscript. The edition reveals a densely woven texture, a virtuoso play with different levels of reality, with irony and hidden references.

### Rights sold

- Chinese: Lucida Books



## Franz Kafka The Trial

Novel | ed. by Reiner Stach | 397 pages

After a century of sprawling interpretations, the fate of enigmatic protagonist Josef K. continues to captivate readers. His entanglement in an eerie and inscrutable bureaucracy makes it impossible for him to find his bearings and does not allow for simple analysis. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely for this reason, reading Kafka's ›The Trial‹ is a pleasure which sometimes feels like an intense dream.

Newly edited and annotated by Kafka biographer Reiner Stach, this volume focuses on one question: How did Kafka do it? The answer lies in the author's masterful creation of atmosphere, layering contradicting perceptions and realities. In addition, the editor's afterword provides an overview of the genesis, transmission, and impact of ›The Trial‹.

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