



I WANT YOU ALIVE

By JULIA MALIK



Ich will dich lebend

Novel. German.

Release: September 3rd 2026

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Selma and Jeanne are best friends until Selma falls in love with Jeanne's brother Mischa. But her passion is not love, it is life-threatening. Jeanne decides to save her friend, at any cost.

»With gripping realism, Julia Malik reveals the intricate fabric of violence and how difficult it is to escape. Yet because this is literature, we as readers are ultimately rescued as well – and left happy.« **Marlene Streeruwitz**

»Julia Malik writes precisely and authentically about the dynamics of violence that is all too often disguised as love. We must look, even if it is painful, in order to understand.« **Christina Clemm**

»You only realize how much this book has been missing once you resurface, because it sweeps you away so completely. It is told with such lucidity and intensity.« **Daniela Dröscher**

Selma and Mischa hadn't been interested in each other all these years. Until she, the successful architect, catches him, the owner of a fancy restaurant, stealing from the organic supermarket. When he's about to get caught, she covers for him. »Criminal's bride,« Mischa whispers. Jeanne, Mischa's sister, is Selma's best friend, until Selma suddenly belongs entirely to Mischa. When the dream of passionate love turns into a nightmare, Jeanne loads up the car and kidnaps Selma from a Berlin café. They remain in hiding until the day arrives when they get back in the car and drive to court.

Julia Malik uses literary language and compelling imagery to show how perpetrators lure their victims into a spiral of seduction, isolation, alienation, powerlessness, and shame. How destructive and perfidious passion, manipulation, and raw violence often go hand in hand. »I want you alive« is a fast-paced, furious, and ultimately liberating chase that leads over bureaucratic hurdles, through humiliating interrogations, and into the gray zone between saving lives and violating boundaries. Throughout, the author never loses sight of her protagonists, their fierceness, their resistance, and their dignity.

Julia Malik, born in Berlin, went to the University of Music and Theater in Hamburg to study acting. This was followed by engagements at various theaters. She appears in film and television productions, most recently starring alongside Thomas Thieme and Robert Stadlober in the feature film »Las Vegas« (2023), and is a member of the Berlin band Elementarstrategien. Her debut novel, »Brauch Blau«, was published by FVA in 2020.