

# FRANKFURTER VERLAGSANSTALT

*»With a clear profile in international and German fiction, Unseld personifies the kind of publisher who has become a rarity in his generation: one who combines a nose for literary discoveries with savvy business sense.«*

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

FOREIGN  
RIGHTS  
2021

# FRANKFURTER VERLAGSANSTALT

The FRANKFURTER VERLAGSANSTALT, headed by Joachim Unseld, publishes the latest contemporary literary voices. Our program has successfully provided an important forum for significant new discoveries since we started in 1995.

Outstanding contemporary writers such as Bodo Kirchhoff and Nino Haratischwili, as well as Julia Wolf, Mareike Fallwickl, Susanne Gregor, Zoë Jenny, Ulla Lenze, Nora Bossong, Marion Poschmann, Minka Pradelski, Elsa Koester and many more have been published by the Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt. In the past years some of our authors, among them Zoë Jenny and Thomas von Steinaecker, have been awarded the ZDF Aspekte Prize for Best Literary Debut in Germany and three of them, Zoë Jenny (1997), Ulla Lenze (2003) and Sandra Weihs (2015), the Jürgen Ponto Prize for Best German Debut. Julia Wolf was awarded the 3sat Prize 2016, the Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author 2017, the Robert Gernhardt Prize 2018 and longlisted for the German Book Prize 2017 for her latest novel *Walter Nowak Won't Get Up*. And recently, Karoline Menge was awarded the Ulla Hahn Prize For Best German Debut 2018 for her first novel *Waiting For The Snow*. Two years in a row two of our authors have been awarded the prestigious Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy: Ulla Lenze (2016) and Nino Haratischwili (2015).

In 2016, our bestselling author Bodo Kirchhoff was awarded the German Book Prize for his outstanding novella *Widerfahrnis*. His novel *Dusk And Turmoil. A Novel Of The Early Years*, published in 2018, received a myriad of enthusiastic reviews.

Nino Haratischwili's brilliant and highly-acclaimed family saga *The Eighth Life (For Brilka)* has been sold to numerous countries and has become an international bestseller with more than half a million sold copies so far. Furthermore, the author has been awarded the Anna Seghers Literature Prize in 2015, the Bertolt Brecht Literature Prize in 2018 and the Schiller Memorial Prize in 2019. Her latest novel *The Cat And The General* was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018. The English Edition of *The Eighth Life (For Brilka)*, translated by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin, published by Scribe, was nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize and shortlisted for the Warwick Prize.

## Authors

### German language:

Sven Amsberg • Juliane Baldy • J.R. Bechtle • Claire Beyer • Silvio Blatter • Britta Boerdner • Antonia Bontscheva • Nora Bossong • Anne Brannys • Hans Christoph Buch • Ruth Cerha • Mareike Fallwickl • Anna Galkina • Dieter M. Gräf • Susanne Gregor • Günter Hack • Nino Haratischwili • Ernst-Wilhelm Händler • Christa Hein • Zoë Jenny • Stephan Kaluza • Fee Katrin Kanzler • Katharina Köller • Elsa Koester • Tanja Kinkel • Bodo Kirchhoff • Sabine Kray • Helmut Kuhn • Heike Kühn • Thomas Kunst • Ulla Lenze • Demian Lienhard • Gert Loschütz • Marcel Maas • Julia Malik • Thomas Martini • Karoline Menge • Alfred Neven DuMont • Christoph Peters • Marion Poschmann • Minka Pradelski • Julia Rothenburg • Stefan Scheufelen • David Schönherr • Roberto Schopflocher • Marie-Alice Schultz • Corinna T. Sievers • Hannah Simon • Stefanie Sourlier • Verena Stauffer • Thomas Strittmatter • Thomas von Steinaecker • Sandra Weihs • Julia Wolf • Peter Zingler • Marcia Zuckermann

### French language:

Geneviève Brisac • Paule Constant • Laurence Cossé • Pauline Delabroy-Allard • Nicolas Dickner • Marc Dugain • Tristan Garcia • Mathias Menegoz • Véronique Ovaldé • Yann Queffélec • Jean-Philippe Toussaint

### Spanish / Catalan language:

Juan Bas • Mario Bellatin • Javier Calvo • Vilma Fuentes • Quim Monzó • Sergi Pàmies • Fernando del Paso • Ana Maria del Rio • Isaac Rosa • David Trueba • Pablo Tusset • Angela Vallvey

### English and American language:

Margaux Fragoso • Stuart Evers • Dagoberto Gilb • Ted Hughes • Sylvia Plath • Steven Sherill

### And:

Lasha Bugadze • Christian Frascella • Anna Kordsaia-Samadaschwili • Pavel Lembersky • Guðmundur Óskarsson • Margaret Mazzantini • Menis Koumandareas • Juliana Matanović • Besnik Mustafaj • Maya Rasker • Goderdsi Tschocheli

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Publisher

Joachim Unseld

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt • Arndtstrasse 11 • 60325 Frankfurt am Main • Germany

Tel +49 69 74 30 55 90 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91 • [literatur@fva.de](mailto:literatur@fva.de)



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### **Das achte Leben (Für Brilka)**

Novel. German.

Release: September 2014

Rights held: World Rights

# ***THE EIGHTH LIFE (FOR BRILKA)***

BY NINO HARATISCHWILI

**THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER  
OF THE PRIZEWINNING AUTHOR**



**Film rights sold!**

**English, Spanish, French, Dutch  
etc. translations available!**

Rights sold to:

**Australia** (Scribe)  
**Bulgaria** (Paradox Publishing)  
**Catalonia** (Navona)  
**China** (Xiron)  
**Czech Republic** (Host)  
**Denmark** (Gutkind)  
**France** (Gallimard, folio)  
**Georgia** (Intelekti)  
**Hungary** (Európa)  
**Italy** (Marsilio)  
**Lithuania** (Alma Littera)  
**Netherlands** (Atlas contact)  
**Norway** (Aschehoug)  
**Poland** (Otwarte)  
**Russia** (AST)  
**Serbia** (Booka)  
**Slovenia** (Mladinska knjiga)  
**Saudi Arabia** (Athar)  
**Spain/Latin America**  
(Alfaguara)  
**Sweden** (it-lit)  
**UK & USA** (Scribe)  
**Ukraine** (Komora)

**»Nino Haratischwili has proved herself as one of the most interesting and original writers of her generation«,** New Books in German, US Jury Pick

**»The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« is an epochal novel about a family, a powerfully written epos about eight exceptional lives in the vicissitudes of Georgian-Russian War and Revolution.**

Georgia in 1900: Stasia, daughter of a chocolate factory's owner, and her three sisters grow up in the upper echelons of Georgian society. Stasia dreams of a life in Paris and a career in ballet but at 17 marries a White Guard soldier. When Stalin becomes the sole leader of the Soviet Union, the socialist squads enjoy the good life, whilst the country's impoverished population suffers. Stasia and her children Kitty and Kostja seek shelter in the house of Stasia's sister Christine in Tbilisi. But when Stalin's right-hand man Lawrenti Beria takes notice of Christine's astonishing beauty, it has disastrous consequences.

»The Eighth Life« is an epic family saga beginning with the Russian Revolution and swirling across a century, encompassing war, loss, love, ghosts, joy, massacres, tragedy – and hot chocolate.

**Nino Haratischwili**, born in Georgia in 1983, writing in German, is an internationally bestselling and award-winning novelist, playwright and director. »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« has been awarded the prestigious BDI Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy 2015, the Anna Seghers Prize 2015, the Lessing Prize Stipend 2017, the Bertolt Brecht Prize 2018 and the Schiller Memorial Prize 2019. Her novel »The Cat And The General« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018.

The Dutch edition (Atlas contact 2016) was longlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The English translation by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin won the PEN Translates award 2016, was nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize and awarded The Warwick Prize for Women in Translation 2020.

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de

WWW.FVA.DE



# THE CAT AND THE GENERAL

BY NINO HARATISCHWILI



**Rights sold to:**

**Catalonia** (Navona)  
**Czech Republic** (HOST)  
**France** (Belfond & 10/18)  
**Georgia** (Intelekti)  
**Hungary** (Európa)  
**Italy** (Marsilio)  
**Netherlands** (Meridiaan)  
**Poland** (Otwarte)  
**Spain/Latin America**  
 (Alfaguara)

**Die Katze und der General**  
 Novel. German.  
 Release: 31th August 2018  
 Rights held: World Rights

English sample available

## Shortlist German Book Prize 2018 – Jury evaluation:

»Every sentence here attests to the joy of storytelling. From the first page, the reader is right in the middle of this novel of guilt and atonement, feverishly following the general's plan for revenge. Narrative threads full of questions run below the novel's thriller-like surface: What effect does the ›toxic past‹ have on the present? Are wars never over? ... everything is told with powerful imagery and sensuousness: Great cinema!«

**Chechnya, 1995:** Nura is seventeen when the outbreak of war shatters her dream of seeking freedom and autonomy, born on the day that Natalia handed her a Rubik's Cube and left. She'd meant to escape the confines of the village where clans reign and Islamic guards have a watchful eye over everyday life, but the war ends up changing everything.

**Moscow, 1995:** The young Alexander Orlow fears for his future. A backpack full of books and his mother's expectations on his shoulders, he leaves behind the love of his life to fight the war at the North Caucasian front.

**Berlin 2016:** Alexander Orlow has become a multi-billion-dollar oligarch, known as »the General«. He has turned his back on Russia and moved to Germany. His nineteen-year-old daughter is obsessed with her father's past and when she begins asking questions, the images of war suddenly come rushing back to Alexander. The darkest and most violent of them: the night that left a young Chechnyan woman with nothing but a colorful cube and himself with an unbearable sense of guilt. But the General feels the day of reckoning coming ...

After her celebrated epic novel »The Eighth Life (for Brilka)« Nino Haratischwili has once again turned towards the abyss that lies beneath the rubble left behind by the crumbling of the Soviet Union. »The Cat and the General« is a gripping psychological exploration of crime and punishment. As within a Rubik's Cube, the protagonist's fates revolve around a shared axis of love and guilt – a deadly game must come to a head.

**Nino Haratischwili**, born in Georgia in 1983, writing in German, is an internationally bestselling and award-winning novelist, playwright and director. »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« has been awarded the prestigious BDI Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy 2015, the Anna Seghers Prize 2015, the Lessing Prize Stipend 2017, the Bertolt Brecht Prize 2018 and the Schiller Prize 2019.

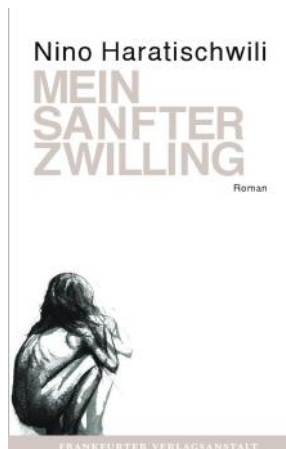
The English translation of »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin won the PEN Translates award 2016 and was nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize. Her novel »The Cat And The General« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018.

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
 Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
 hartmann@fva.de



# MY GENTLE TWIN

BY NINO HARATISCHWILI



**Rights sold to:**

**UK & Australia** (Scribe)  
**France** (Libella)  
**Slovakia** (ARThur)

**English sample available**

**Mein sanfter Zwilling**  
Novel. German.  
Release: 2011  
Rights held: World Rights

»We have a new heroine of German contemporary literature.« Deutschlandradio Kultur

»Nino Haratischwili's »My Gentle Twin« is full of life and zappy, authentic and to the point.«Welt Online

»A love affair like a suicide commando. A book like a gathering place for the world's tears, with so much courage for sentimentality.« KulturSpiegel

## An intriguing love story between a man and a woman who can impossibly love each other ...

... due to a stroke of fate that binds them together like brother and sister. A narrative about two people who can only assert their identities by being with each other and who nevertheless attempt to forge their own paths. With »My Gentle Twin«, Nino Haratischwili presents a novel that combines both her dramatic and narrative skills with a language that is pervaded by Georgian passion und images.

Ivo and Stella have been chained to each other since early childhood by a common fate and a passionate but destructive love. Each of their attempts to live without each other, to escape the vicious circle of their wild erotic encounters and quarrels filled with hatred, fails. »My Gentle Twin« narrates the story of this big love relationship and fatal passion. Step by step and layer by layer, a dire family drama is unveiled that forever binds Stella and Ivo together.

»My Gentle Twin« displays a powerful, yet melancholic voice that is grave like the autumnal sea. With a sharp eye it captures the abysses and imponderabilities of human nature and tells a shattering family drama of a lost childhood and a great love that has no place in this world.

**Nino Haratischwili**, born in Georgia in 1983, writing in German, is an internationally bestselling and award-winning novelist, playwright and director. »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« has been awarded the prestigious BDI Literature Prize of the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy 2015, the Anna Seghers Prize 2015, the Lessing Prize Stipend 2017, the Bertolt Brecht Prize 2018 and the Schiller Prize 2019. The English translation of »The Eighth Life (For Brilka)« by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin won the PEN Translates award 2016 and was nominated for the 2020 International Booker Prize. Her novel »The Cat And The General« was shortlisted for the German Book Prize 2018.

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Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





# SHEMOZZLE!

A FAMILY SAGA

BY MARCIA ZUCKERMANN

## Shemozzle!

Novel. German.

Release: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Rights held: World Rights

**Following the success of her novel *Mischpoke!*, Marcia Zuckerman returns with the next entry in her turbulent German-Jewish family story full of the twists and turns of fate, told through vivid and lively narration—a great reading pleasure.**

This turbulent family story full of twists and turns begins on the high seas between New York and London: Johannes »John« Segall, scion of a Jewish family who fled to England on the last *Kindertransport* in 1939, unexpectedly receives a photograph that sheds light on the last violent minutes of his father's life. In order to fulfill his own personal *mitzvah*, John follows the trace of trails scattered over several countries: There is Benno Kohanim-Rubin, who fought in the British Army against the Nazis, his brother Walter who raised the red communist flag over the highest factory chimney in Berlin on May 1, 1933, and Caesar and Selma Bukofzker, who set sail for Palestine, but, through the infamous odyssey of the ship *Atlantic*, land in Mauritius. Following the traces of his far-flung family and the wild ramifications of their lives, he comes across outrageous stories of great tragedy and overwhelming injustice; of luck in misfortune, unexpected rescue—and more than one *shemozzle*.

Marcia Zuckermann tells the story of a German-Jewish family, closely interwoven with historical events that reveal their fortitude in the face of a broad spectrum of persecution. With chutzpah and lively storytelling, she creates an animated panorama of characters from *Mischpoke!*, whose emigrant fates now take center stage in *Shemozzle!*

»I had set upon a vague plan to finally create a proper family chronicle, one with family trees diagraming a confusing, crazy clan that now no longer exist. The only thing we have is our history and our stories, as a last snapshot before the final demise and disintegration of the family. Fortunately, I had no idea at the time what an adventure I was about to embark upon.« From *Shemozzle!*

**Marcia Zuckermann** was born in Berlin in 1947. Her Jewish father survived the Holocaust as a political prisoner in the Buchenwald concentration camp, while her Protestant mother was active in the resistance as a communist. In 1958, the family fled the GDR for West Berlin where Zuckermann trained in advertising in the publishing industry. Today she is a freelance journalist and author living in Berlin. Her successful novel *Mischpoke!* (2016) was published by FVA.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



# WHAT A FAMILY!

A FAMILY SAGA

BY MARCIA ZUCKERMANN

**Film & TV rights sold to  
UFA Berlin**

## **Mischpoke!**

Novel. German.

Release: August 2016

Rights held: World Rights

**English sample available**

**»Seldom does one find a family novel narrated in such a lively way ... a vivid piece of contemporary history.«** Bücher und Moor, rbb (TV Show)

**»Right about noon on March 10<sup>th</sup> in 1902, nobody suspected that the downfall of the Kohanim family was about to begin.«**

Samuel Kohanim, the head of one of the oldest Jewish families in the region of Osche in Western Prussia, is used to a more than average share of sorrow. His wife Mindel, harsh and taciturn, bore him seven daughters. Each of ›seven biblical plagues,‹ as they are known in the village, tests his patience: Selma gets everyone meschugge with her religious quirk; Martha constantly makes up new ludicrous lies; Fanny proves particularly hard to marry off; Elly is a wild child ... – and finally Franziska who is ravishingly beautiful, proud, stubborn and »delivers catastrophes at the flick of a switch«. Yet, there is no heir – their only son dies just after his birth on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

At the end of the First World War the family seeks refuge in Berlin. While Martha marries into the upper class of the city, with her husband converting to Christianity, Franziska gets into a relationship with the Jewish collier Willy Rubin who is just as charismatic as he is unreliable. Together they move into the working class ›Red Wedding‹. And then there is the protestant Oda, a friend of the family who also ends up in Berlin. Throughout the difficult 1930s, Oda's fate becomes completely intertwined with that of the Kohanim, whose family tree is putting out various new shoots: Jewish, National Socialist, as well as communist.

Marcia Zuckermann has created an amazing Jewish family saga that refrains from going into epic territory. It is catchy, exciting, rich in plot and surprising up to the very last page, claiming its place in the tradition of Jewish storytelling. The line between tragedy and comedy is blurred as its protagonists survive and outwit the bitter blows of fate with unconditional irony towards themselves and that liberatingly sly humor.

**Marcia Zuckermann**, was born in 1947 in East Berlin. Her Jewish father survived the Holocaust despite being interned as a political prisoner in the concentration camp Buchenwald, while her protestant mother was a communist, active in the resistance. Nevertheless, in 1958, the family had to flee from East Berlin since they were considered dissidents there. Today, Marcia Zuckermann lives and works in Berlin as a freelance journalist and writer.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de

# THE BEAUTY OF BALCHIK IS NOT SERENE

By ANTONIA BONTSCHEVA

© Joachim Unseld



**Die Schönheit von Baltschik ist keine heitere**  
Novel. German.  
Release: 22<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Rights held: World Rights

»Borders, transculturalism, finding identity in the interplay between two cultures: the accuracy and power and defiant audacity of the portrayal in this text completely won us over.« Jury of the Bremen Literature Office in the artist's house Worpswede

»Don't touch the interesting ones, marry someone who knows how to cook.« Like all women in the Atanassov family, Grandma Denka is as happy to share her life's wisdom as her granddaughter, our narrator, is to throw it to the wind. She left Bulgaria shortly before the fall of the Berlin wall, and now lives with her husband and daughter in an apartment building in Bremen where hair curlers and soap suds rule. She feels alienated and misunderstood, even in her own marriage. When her father dies, she travels back to her hometown on the Black Sea. There, in her grandmother, mother, and mother-in-law, she encounters strong, dominant women who have always held the strings, and for the first time she investigates the blind spots that reach far back into the country's communist past. She comes to an understanding of how deeply she is woven into this colorful family web and recognizes which connections provide support and which threads need to be undone.

Antonia Bontscheva describes a generation of self-confident women, the history of individual fates in communist Bulgaria through the transition period, and the realities of migration and self-assertion. With passionate, sensual language, warm and humor, the author's human-centered gaze make this captivating novel shine.

»The sun poured its gold onto the water. A still-summery, lush, lavish gold upon a green and inviting water. Yet a thin, gauzy ache lay over it all. The beauty of Balchik is not a serene one. The beauty of Balchik is wise and somehow dramatic. It's beauty breaks your heart.«

**Antonia Boncheva** was born in Varna, Bulgaria and lives today with her family in Bremen. She studied German language and literature in Berlin, worked as a German teacher and as a journalist, including on a literary radio column for »Funkhaus Europa.« *The Beauty of Balchik is not Serene* is her debut novel, for which she received the Bremen Author's Scholarship from the Senator for Culture and a grant from the Bremen Literature Office in the artist's house Worpswede.

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Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





# *THE MOON OVER CONCRETE*

BY JULIA ROTHENBURG

**2021 WORTSPIELE  
Prize, Bavarian  
Radio 2**



**Mond über Beton**  
Novel. German.  
Release: 2021  
Rights held: World Rights

**»A great, magnificent, glorious book with a surprise ending that grips hard.«**  
Feridun Zaimoglu

**»With her third novel Moon over Concrete, Julia Rothenburg, born in 1990, has become an indispensable figure in contemporary German literature.«**  
Salzburger Nachrichten

Twelve floors of steel wrap their arms around Kottbusser Tor, where the city's heart of concrete has been beating unsteadily since the early seventies. The press regularly writes of ›Kotti‹ as a dangerous urban hotspot, a drug hub. Mutlu, Barış, Aylin, Stanca, Marianne und Günther live here, in the Neues Zentrum Kreuzberg building. Their stories, a chronicle of personal misfortunes, are closely interwoven with the life of the neighborhood. When Stanca makes a terrible discovery one night and Mutlu's sons threaten to slip into the neighborhood's milieu of drugs, an impromptu vigilante group is formed. Meanwhile, what goes unnoticed is a completely different, all-encompassing danger writing its own ending in secret.

Julia Rothenburg offers empathetic portraits of characters struggling for a self-determined existence of their own choosing. A urban polyphony emerges, illustrating the emergence of cracks that can break apart individual lives and an entire community.

**Julia Rothenburg** was born in 1990 in Berlin and studied sociology and political science in Freiburg and Berlin. Her debut *Koslik is Ill* (FVA, 2017) was awarded the Retzhof Prize for Young Literature and the Scholarship for Literature from the German State of Baden-Württemberg. The accompanying radio play was nominated for the ARD Radio Play Prize 2020. Following *bright/dark* (FVA, 2019), her third novel *The Moon Over Concrete* was published in 2021 and won the the 2021 Wortspiele Prize from Bavarian Radio 2.

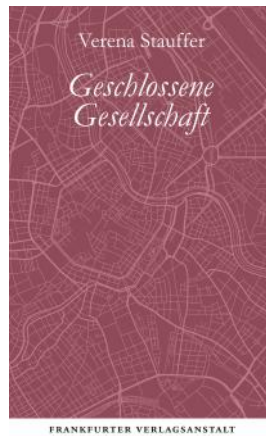
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Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



# CLOSED SOCIETY

BY VERENA STAUFFER



## **Geschlossene Gesellschaft**

German.

Release: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Rights held: World Rights

**»Stauffer's texts do not shy away from the ›sharp pains‹ that a comprehensive look at the splendor and misery of human existence brings. In addition to their formal range, the unpredictability of these texts is fascinating. Time after time, it hits its mark: straight into the heart.«** From the jury's statement of the Manuscript Advancement Award.

»I live in this text, floating from line to line, playing the dead woman. Only here in this sea can I swim, but now it freezes over on all sides.«

Only in appearance do the records oscillate between reality and dreams in their outer chronology, which begins in November 2020 in Vienna. In fact, the text immediately emancipates itself, plunging deeper into a elaborate clockwork whose hands stand still: We accompany the narrator on walks through the deserted Prater neighborhood, and stroll through the nocturnal, closed city, while her precise observations alternate small sharp sequences with lyrical passages. In what paradise can we observe ourselves living today, and what will come in the summer? Witty and cheeky, both sad and comforting, Verena Stauffer reveals an »I« as a center in a time when the longing for touch grows as people are banished to their rooms. She forms a protocol of the »madness that now reveals all the flaws in the entire construction of society,« and offers a testimony to the ways poetry and imagination can offer a lifeline. Verena Stauffer takes on a poetic and humorously biting form as she describes everyday life in times of pandemic.

**Verena Stauffer** was born in 1978 in Kirchdorf an der Krems in Austria. Her debut novel *Orchis* (2018) was nominated for the Alpha Literary Prize, the Independents' Hotlist, and the Blogger Debut Prize. Most recently her poetry collection *Ousia* was published by Kookbooks and nominated for the Austrian Book Prize. She splits her time between Vienna, Berlin, and Moscow.

Please contact:

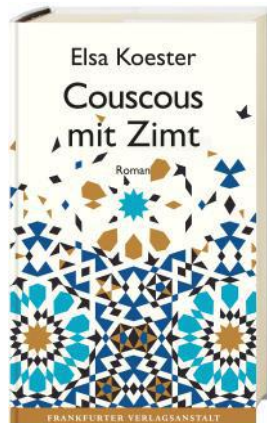
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Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



photo ©Susanne Schleyer/autorenarchiv.de

# COUSCOUS WITH CINNAMON

## BY ELSA KOESTER



Guaranteed financial support for English translation



### Couscous mit Zimt

Novel. German.

Release: August 2020

Rights held: World Rights excluding: Scandinavia

English sample available

Rights sold to:

Turkey (Ilksatir Publishing)

### Three Women. Three Political Upheavals. Three Fates – a stirring family novel full of emotional warmth, empathy and a zest for storytelling

»An absorbing family saga that readers will be unable to put down. *Couscous with Cinnamon* explores the fascinating lives of its strong female characters, as well as the emotional connections that bond the family together. *Couscous with Cinnamon* combines sharp insights into different European cultures and histories with distinctive and appealing characters whose stories are intertwined in a moving and mesmerising read.« New Books In German, US Jury Pick

Cigarettes, cognac and books – the last few years in her Parisian apartment, centenarian Lucile prefers to spend her time reading in bed. Shortly after Lucile's death, her daughter Marie also dies. What remains is the apartment on the Avenue de Flandre and the memories of two independent women, scarred by life. Lisa, Marie's daughter, who lives in Berlin, wants to make a clean break and sell the apartment. The relationship between her mother and grandmother was explosive – Lucile, a Pied-Noir from Tunisia, had to return to France with her two daughters after independence. She was a strong, but self-absorbed woman – something Lisa knew from her own experience, but above all from her mother. Marie had never recovered from the loss of her homeland. Her painful return to France, her first dramatic love in Paris in May 1968, her flight from Lucile's attacks to Berlin – she told Lisa everything. But, can Lisa really believe her mother's stories? While the protests of the Nuit Debout Movement rage in the streets in 2016, Lisa vacates her Paris apartment and tries to trace the relationship between her mother and grandmother. But the deeper she goes, the greater her doubts that there is *any* truth to her family.

Elsa Koester portrays three women of strong character whose fates are marked by social upheaval and crisis. The incredible lightness with which she interweaves the perspectives of three generations, the individuality of the characters and the author's socially perceptive view make this novel an unforgettable reading experience.

**Elsa Koester** was born in 1984 in Berlin, the daughter of a French Pied-Noir with Tunisian colonial history and a North German Frisian with US-American emigration history. She studied literature, political science, and sociology. She lives in Berlin as a political journalist. newly reignited debate about identity and homeland inspired her novel debut *Couscous with Cinnamon*, which draws on her experience as a journalist and activist with a diverse cultural background.

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





## THE TIME IN BETWEEN

### By MINKA PRADELSKI

**Es wird wieder Tag**

Novel. German.

Release: August 2020

Rights held: World Rights

English sample available

**December 1946: Bärel is the first Jewish child born in the Catholic hospital since the end of the war. His parents, Klara and Leon Bromberger, decide not to look back anymore and to only care for the future. But a fateful encounter throws Klara back into the past. She starts to write her memories down ...**

»This one makes the impression he has seen the world before«, comments the doctor on the newborn, the hospital's first Jewish child since the end of the war. The nuns, who were still in need of someone to be the Saviour in the nativity play, sneak him into the crib: »Jesus was also born as a Jew«.

Ice flowers were the only flowers Klara and Leon Bromberger had at their wedding in January 1946. It was a celebration without family since Klara and Leon are the only survivors. A golden watch is the last remaining souvenir. Less than a year later, expecting the birth of their son Bärel, they both want to move on and to look forward. But during a walk in a park, Klara is suddenly struck: The short and obviously pregnant woman is Liliput, her former camp commander! Klara can no longer speak or eat. She even stops looking after Bärel. Her husband is desperate. He sees only one way out for Klara: »Start writing, Klara, get it out there. Avert the evil on paper! Chain it with your words!«

Klara dares to look back into the abyss and writes herself back to life. She describes: Her father's elegant shoe shop, the ghetto Zamość and the hasty farewell, the escape, the strangely flashing eyes of old Piasecki, her work in the casino in Lublin – the cave of the lion. Klara writes about the camp, the hunger, the freezing cold, about Martha's bell-bright, unforgettable *Hail Mary* – and about the delicate, ice-cold commander with the child's voice, they called Liliput.

Minka Pradelski was born in 1947 in the DP camp Zeilsheim (Germany) as a child of Holocaust survivors. After her internationally successful novel »Here Comes Mrs. Kugelman« (FVA 2005) her new book is about a chapter of German history whose contemporary witnesses are dwindling. Pradelski impressively combines the voices of her three protagonists into a moving narrative: Klara's deeply tragic and touching story, Bromberger's rough, loving temperament and baby Bärels' cheeky viewpoint complement each other. Pradelski addresses the in-between her characters find themselves in during the post-war period, as close to death as they are to life. Surrounded by their memories which might light up any second, they struggle for a future.

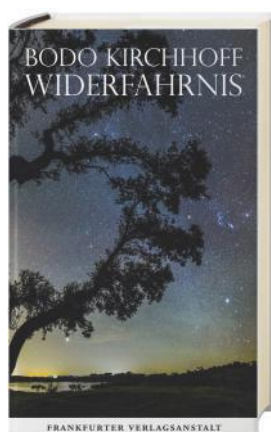
**Minka Pradelski** is a German sociologist and documentary filmmaker. She worked as an assistant with Clemens de Boor at the Sigmund Freud Institute on the project »The aftermath of massive traumatization among Jewish survivors of the Nazi era« and as an honorary member of the USC Shoah Foundation. Pradelski lives in Frankfurt am Main.



# ENCOUNTER

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF

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2016  
deutscher  
buch  
preis



## Rights sold to:

**France** (Gallimard)

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**Greece** (Aiora Press)

**Egypt** (General Authority für kulturelle  
Paläste, Ministerium für Kultur)

**Turkey** (Can)

**Hindi** (Aryan)

## Widerfahrnis

Novella. German.

Release: September 2016

Rights held: World Rights

**English sample available; French, Italian,  
Dansk, Dutch, Chinese, Koreansk, Greek  
translations available**

**»One of the best books of the season: Bodo Kirchhoff's masterly composed novella ›Widerfahrnis‹, a poetological masterpiece!«** Andreas Platthaus, FAZ

**»In the heart of presence.«** Richard Kämmerlings, Die Literarische Welt

**»One is swept along by the narrative art of Bodo Kirchhoff that is unparalleled in contemporary German literature.«** Hajo Steinert, Die Literarische Welt

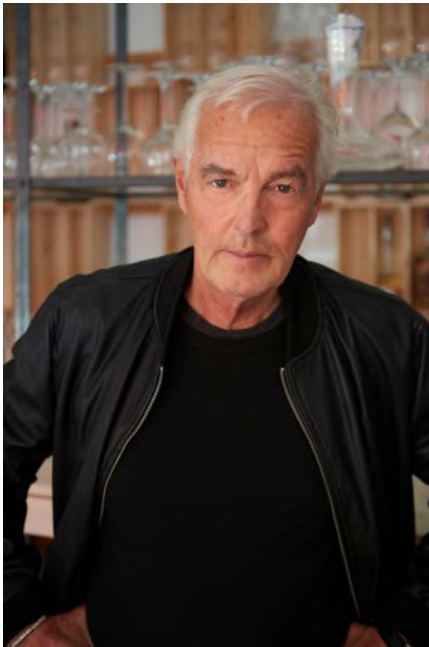
Until recently, Reither ran a small publishing company in the big city, now he lives a solitary life on the edge of the Alps. In the evening, his pondering over a mysterious book is interrupted by the sound of the doorbell. He opens the door and right there and then, the encounter which will take him to Sicily within three days, begins. The hand that takes him there is Leonie Palm's. Leonie used to own a hat-shop. But now that the world lacks faces that look good with hats on and writers have come to outnumber readers, they both had good reasons to quit. Yet, an even stronger bond between the two is provided by the fact that neither of them is prepared for true love anymore. Upon arrival on the Mediterranean, after three full days in the car, this love does hit them and they are joined by a girl who does not speak a single word. She is just there ...

In his novella »Widerfahrnis«, Bodo Kirchhoff presents the parable of a twofold fall: into love, without being able to fully feel it and into humanity, without being good enough.

**Bodo Kirchhoff**, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His last two novels »Desire and Melancholy« (2014) and »Love in Broad Strokes« (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella »Widerfahrnis« has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016 and the Dutch edition (Lebowski 2017) has been shortlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The Chinese translation of »Widerfahrnis« was announced the 21st Century Best Foreign Novel of the Year 2017.

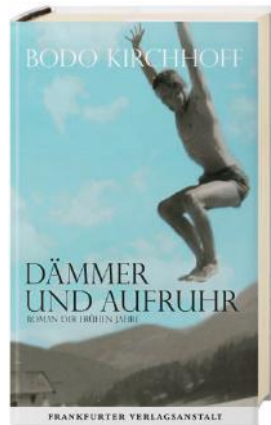
Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



# *DUSK AND TURMOIL* *A NOVEL OF THE EARLY YEARS*

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF



**Dämmer und Aufruhr**  
**Roman der frühen Jahre**  
Novel. German.  
Release: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Rights held: World Rights

**Rights sold to:**  
**The Netherlands (Lebowski)**

»Images of a dark, speechless and heart-rending post-war Germany, whose downfall is not so long ago as it sometimes seems, carefully carved sentences about his parents who are leaving their children up to themselves and who are lost themselves. (...) a reminiscent of the long gone Suhrkamp-incense that is quite wonderful and evokes a sense of melancholy. *Dämmer und Aufruhr* is possibly his most important book.« Iris Radisch, DIE ZEIT

**As he sets out to bring to life the eros of childhood and youth within an autobiographical novel, Bodo Kirchhoff takes us into narrow-minded, penny-pinching post-war Germany. It is these decades of dusk, these decades of turmoil, that will ultimately turn the boy into a writer.**

Whose voice is it we hear when someone tells a tale from way back when? From the very same room in a small hotel by the sea, his parents had occupied decades earlier, when they'd still helped themselves to large servings of bliss, the last few of those, in fact, before they'd separated, the writer seeks to explore the emergence of his sexuality. And while he does employ professional distance in the telling of the story of his youth, putting it out there for anyone to claim, this story also remains the very path that took him into writing in the first place.

In »Dusk and Turmoil«, Bodo Kirchhoff, approaches early biographical themes within the framework of a novel, telling his own but also his parent's stories. The beautiful young actress from Vienna and the dashing one-legged young man from Hannover who is talented but penniless – a match made by the war. Both are determined to escape the plight of these times, each in their own way. The marriage is doomed and the narrator sent off to boarding school at eleven, a dramatic escalation of small events, once again beyond all that is conceivable through language, a dance on an alluring blade of violence.

With this most recent work, Bodo Kirchhoff – who will be seventy on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 – continues his grand literary project to consolidate language and sexuality to a point where neither will expose the other as he tells a story of eros throughout childhood and adolescence, a story of what was and what it inspired.

**Bodo Kirchhoff**, born in 1948, is one of the most important and well-known authors of the contemporary German literature. His novels *Desire and Melancholy* (2014) and *Love in Broad Strokes* (2012) were published with Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt and celebrated by readers and critics alike. His novella *Widerfahrnis* has been awarded the German Book Prize 2016 and the Dutch edition (Lebowski 2017) has been shortlisted for the Europese Literatuurprijs 2018. The Chinese translation of *Widerfahrnis* was announced as the 21st Century Best Foreign Novel of the Year 2017.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



# THE LAST RED YEAR

BY SUSANNE GREGOR



**Das letzte rote Jahr**

Novel. German.

Release: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Rights held: World Rights

English sample available

**»An adolescent journey during the year 1989: Susanne Gregor's supremely readable novel gives readers an exceptional insight into an important chapter of recent European history«** New Books in German

Miša, Rita and Slavka have been friends for as long as they can remember. They all live in the same house in the city of Žilina: Miša, the 14-year-old narrator, and her family in the middle, Rita, also 14, in the apartment above, and Slavka in the apartment underneath. They confide their secrets in one another and speak about their first loves. And yet, they could scarcely be more different. Rita is a staunch Youth Pioneer, which makes her parents' confidential plan to escape to Austria seem all the more scandalous. Rita is outraged: she doesn't want to end up like Slavka whose father absconded to Sweden 10 years ago. Slavka cares little for politics. Rather, she is interested in the new history teacher, Comrade Baník, and in gymnastics, her real passion. Miša is the most sensitive of the three. Her love is literature, which nobody – least of all her father – can really understand. Miša has the feeling that life will always continue on in the same manner. The opposite is the case: It is 1989 and nothing will ever be as it was. Three friends and their families experience the year before the collapse of the Socialist regime in Slovakia. Opportunism or rebellion; adaption or revolt – the girls on the brink of adulthood and their parents, each face socialism's decline in their own way.

In precise, elegant language Susanne Gregor insightfully explores the external and internal worlds of the three young friends. By means of small shifts, she allows huge transformations to become tangible and with a steady hand, leads the reader through the seasons of the year 1989. It is »The Last Red Year.«

**Susanne Gregor**, born in 1981 in Žilina (Czechoslovakia), moved with her family to Austria in 1990. Since 2005, Gregor lives in Vienna where she teaches German as a foreign language. In 2009, she received the »Hohenemser Literaturpreis« Advancement Award and the »exil-literaturpreis« in 2010. Her debut novel »No Place of One's Own« was published in 2011, the novel »Territories« in 2015 and the short story collection »Under Water« in 2018.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





# ***DARK GREEN ALMOST BLACK***

BY MAREIKE FALLWICKL



**Rights sold to:**  
**The Netherlands**  
(Nieuw Amsterdam)

**English sample available**

**»Mareike Fallwicl's debut is a compelling, suspenseful novel of love, broken friendship and betrayal. Readers will delight in losing themselves in this pacey work of literary fiction about dark and light sides of friendship, desire, parenthood, and love.«** New Books in German, °43 spring 2018

**Dunkelgrün fast schwarz**  
Novel. German.  
Release: March 2018  
Rights held: World Rights

**Moritz, Raffael and Johanna are best friends. But their friendship is toxic and soon reaches a breaking point. Sixteen years later they meet again and get caught in the old web of love, jealousy and dependency – there is no way back, they have to tell each other the truth.**

Moritz and Raffael are complete opposites: Raffael is confident with a disarming smile and piercingly blue eyes. Moritz is gentle, he tends to hold back – a mere boomerang in Raffael's hands. Their friendship goes back to their childhood and even then Raffael always took the lead. Since Moritz and his mother Marie have only recently moved to the secluded village in the mountains, Marie should probably be glad that her son has made a friend but she senses the destructive force that lurks behind Raffael's steely blue eyes. Then a girl enters the picture. Her name is Johanna, she is the ›new one‹ at school. Moritz is fascinated by this girl who is so unlike all the others. Johanna ends up stretching the emotional cord that binds the two boys to each other, she turns it into a triangle whose sharp edges will end up wounding everyone involved. The friendship falls apart. Sixteen years later, out of nowhere, Raffael shows up on Moritz's doorstep. Immediately the past renews its grip on him and he is ready to jeopardize everything he's built for himself. On top of it all, Johanna also returns and the fatal triangle is once again complete. The moment of truth has finally arrived: For the very last time, they will tear open these old wounds together.

Mareike Fallwicl's literary debut is gripping and addictive: She tells the tale of a friendship filled with light and darkness, courage and weakness, longing and despair, betrayal and forgiveness. »Dark green, almost black« brings out all facets of friendship – its passion, its gentleness and love in all its healing yet also blindingly cruel glory.

**Mareike Fallwicl**, born in Hallein near Salzburg in 1983, is working as a freelance writer and editor, and has a weekly column in an Austrian newspaper. Since 2009, she hosts the literary blog. Mareike Fallwicl is living in Salzburg. In 2018, her novel »Dark Green Almost Black« was nominated for the Hotlist Prize – The Best Book of Independent Publishers, longlisted for the Austrian Book Prize and shortlisted for the prize called Favorite Book Of Independent Book Stores.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





# THE LIGHT IS MUCH BRIGHTER HERE

By MAREIKE FALLWICKL



**Film rights sold to epo-film!**

**Das Licht ist hier viel heller**

Novel. German.

Release: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Rights held: World Rights

**Rights sold to:**

**The Netherlands**

(Nieuw Amsterdam)

»This is a book as relevant as can be. This is a book that will and must be spoken about. Mareike Fallwickl dissects humanity, love, and life itself with her razor-sharp words, fascinating deeply in the process.« Florian Valerius, bookseller and bookstagrammer @literarischernerd

## »Don't you remember that words can be sharp like knives?«

Maximilian Wenger used to be a big shot. He was a best-selling author and a man of action. Now, he's standing at the edge of ruin: nobody wants to read his novels, and his wife has traded him in for a fitness instructor. In a small apartment near Salzburg, he hides himself away from the world. Wenger's eighteen-year-old daughter, Zoe, plans a future according to her own beliefs. She soon realizes, however, that she has reached her own limits –and that becoming an adult is painful. Then, Wenger starts to receive those letters. Though they are addressed to the previous tenant, he opens them and is thrilled: they are brutal and delicate, shocking and inspiring. Who is this mysterious woman that tells of fleeting happiness, injury, and dashed hope? What Wenger doesn't know, is that Zoey is also reading the letters. She has experienced something that she finds reflected in those furious words. Both father and daughter are being lead toward a crossroads at which something old ends and something new begins.

With intelligence, adroit humor, and great empathy, Mareike Fallwickl writes about the ups and downs of love, friendship, and family; illusory worlds, both digital and analog; abuse of power, and female self-empowerment, unleashing a maelstrom that thrills until the very end.

**Mareike Fallwickl** was born in Hallein bei Salzburg in 1983. She currently lives in the Salzburg region where she works as a freelance writer, pens a weekly column for a Salzburg newspaper, and, since 2009, runs her own literature blog. Her debut novel »Dark Green Almost Black,« published by FVA in 2018, was celebrated by readers and nominated for both the Austrian Book Prize and the »Favorite Book of Independent Booksellers« Award.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



# WALTER NOWAK WON'T GET UP

By JULIA WOLF



**Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author 2017**



**Rights sold to:**  
France (Le Castor Astral)  
English sample available

**Walter Nowak bleibt liegen**

Novel. German.

Release: March 2017

Rights held: World Rights

**»A strong text which thrives on its rhetoric finesse. Her language has a drive, comes in strong waves – it is an amazing study of manhood«**

Sandra Kegel, juror at the Ingeborg Bachmann Competition

**»Powerful, tender, funny and unforgiving ... This story, which begins in the swimming pool, is testimony to Julia Wolf's great linguistic talent. The author masterfully succeeded in designing a highly individual, quirky inner perspective on the Federal Republic of Germany.«**

Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author, statement of the jury

Every day, the retired entrepreneur Walter Nowak swims his laps in the outdoor pool. An encounter on a particularly hot morning throws him off kilter and the consequences are fatal: Walter finds himself stretched out on his bathroom floor, unable to move, his head throbbing. He thinks of Yvonne, but she has taken off for a conference. Walter is on his own. »From now on it's downwards, ever downwards« he thinks. And it seems to be true. He continues to lose control over the situation. He finds himself buried underneath thought fragments and images from the past: there is that Christmas Eve with Gisela, her pork roast, her tears; the look on the face of his son Felix when he learns about the separation; memories from his own childhood as the son of an American GI born out of wedlock and finally, the diagnosis his urologist has just revealed to him. While all the images get more and more blurry, his thoughts begin to move in circles that grow smaller and smaller – nearing a hidden core, the beginning or the end ... When the summer storm finally begins to thunder, his son Felix suddenly appears in front of his door.

Julia Wolf turns her protagonist inside out with great narrative authority: Walter Nowak, an aging man, a child of the post-war era, finds himself at a crossroads. His stream of consciousness takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the human psyche and showcases Julia Wolf's virtuous command of language.

**Julia Wolf**, born in 1980 in Groß-Gerau, Germany, now lives in Berlin and Leipzig. For her debut novel »All Is Now« she was awarded the Kunstpreis Literatur, a prize funded by the Brandenburg Lotto GmbH, and she also received numerous grants. At Ingeborg Bachmann Competition 2016, she read an excerpt from her novel »Walter Nowak Won't Get Up« and received the prestigious 3sat Prize in the process. In 2017 she has been awarded the Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author and selected for the Longlist of the German Book Prize 2017. For her current novel project »Old Girls« she was awarded the notable Robert Gernhardt Prize 2018.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de



# WAITING FOR THE SNOW

BY KAROLINE MENGE



**Awarded the  
Ulla Hahn Prize for Literary  
Debut 2018!**

## **Warten auf Schnee**

Novel. German.

Release: 31 August 2018

Rights held: World Rights

**»Karoline Menge tells the story of a broken family from the perspective of the sixteen-year-old girl Pauli. At the same time, it is also the story of the disappearance of a place and its inhabitants. Elements of the horror film move the plot forward. The novel impresses with its fluent metaphors and explores existential themes like the loneliness of the individual and the threat to the civilization and nature, ultimately the entire world.«** Jury statement of the Ulla Hahn Prize 2018

Ever since their mother left, one afternoon in January, the sixteen-year-old Pauli and her adopted sister Karine have had to fend for themselves. Being the elder of the two, Pauli has tried to uphold a daily routine. But the supply of preserves their mother made before she disappeared is dwindling and though it's only November, the horizon already appears rather menacing. After the last of their fellow villagers have left and as the landscape glows with sinister pale green moonlight, that Pauli begins to feel irresistibly drawn to the hills on the horizon. It's the unknown behind those hills that seems to swallow everyone, first their father and later even Powel the tall boy with the peculiar face, the only person Pauli has confided in. In search of an explanation, Pauli's thoughts wander back into the past. Dark stories come to light, her fear of loneliness, the life of an outsider, a vague threat that seems to be coming from within as much as from without. Finally, Pauli realizes that she'll have to take action, and quickly, before the snow begins to fall.

»Waiting for the snow« is a straightforward début novel. Karoline Menge's precise language creates a dense atmosphere, calm and captivating, nothing short of hypnotic. Skillfully, she employs archaic fairytale motives and weaves them into a modern story that lures the reader deeper and deeper into its uncanny fictional world. With a courageous heroine at its center who overcomes her darkest fears, »Waiting for the snow« tells the tale of a family whose members bring disaster upon each other.

**Karoline Menge** was born in 1986 in Berlin, then studied literary writing in Hildesheim. Her short stories have been published in a number of anthologies, she was voted second in the Würth prize for literature and in 2015 she received a grant from the state of Lower Saxony. In addition to her work as a novelist, Karoline Menge also writes screenplays. She currently lives in Berlin. »Waiting For The Snow« was awarded the Ulla Hahn Prize for Literary Debut 2018.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





# *I AM THE GIRL MY MOTHER WARNED ME ABOUT*

BY DEMIAN LIENHARD



**Awarded the  
Swiss Literature Prize 2020!**

&

**Nominated for the  
Klaus-Michael Kühne Prize  
of the Harbour Front Festival**

**Ich bin die, vor der mich meine  
Mutter gewarnt hat**  
Novel. German.  
Release: March 2019  
Rights held: World Rights

» *That's a whole bunch of dead people one might think, but I disagree. In the valley I come from, that's perfectly normal.* «

Except for the high bridge, there is nothing special about the little town Alba lives in. The bridge is 25 meters high, on a windless day the fall lasts 2,08 seconds and statistically the street underneath is the most dangerous in all of Switzerland: The school-year is far from over and her class is already down by three students. Meanwhile in Zurich, students are protesting, they are fighting for cultural freedom, against housing shortage and drugs on the streets. »Deflate the state!«, that's their war-cry. The world seems to be upside down and Alba is caught right in the midst of it all while dealing with her very own problems. One of them: Jack. Shortly after Alba's ›accident‹, the two of them become a couple. For the moment, Alba is happy, but no one knows better than Alba that there must be a snag – especially when it comes to happiness.

Demian Lienhard's story of the highs and lows in his protagonist's life is strikingly original, full of intelligent humor and subtle tragedy. The reader follows his refreshingly rebellious and likeable narrator through the blistering 1980's and 1990's which were informed by growing social problems and an insurgent youth movement. The narrative voice itself is the glowing core of this novel, a sparkling mix of *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, *La Boum* and an irresistible warmth, black humor and wittiness – you'll be ready to follow her wherever she goes, even if it's a trip to hell.

**Demian Lienhard** was born in 1987 in Baden/Switzerland. He has completed his Ph.D in classical archaeology and works as a research fellow at the Goethe University in Frankfurt on the Main. He has received numerous stipends and has won awards and competitions with his unpublished works. In 2016, he participated in the »24. open mike« in Berlin and in 2018, he ranked second in the »Prenzlauer Berg writing contest«. »I am the girl my mother warned me about« is his debut novel.

» *Time is a great healer. But I knew: That's a lie. Time doesn't heal anything. Going by. That's all she's capable of. And she's not even very good at that.*

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de





# ABOUT TO BURST

BY JULIA MALIK



## **Brauch Blau**

Novel. German.

Release: March 2020

Rights held: World Rights

**The heroine of the novel is a modern woman who wants it all: family as well as a career as a successful opera singer. But all of a sudden, her ex-husband crosses her boundaries. She cracks up, celebrates, drinks, takes drugs, forgets the children in a hotel. A breathless search begins.**

As she wakes up, she finds herself on the bed of a hotel room. The curtains float into the room like clouds in the sky. What the hell is she doing here? As if someone had pressed a reset button, all her memories are gone. Only slowly drizzling back into her consciousness. But then reality hits her like a stroke: She is a mum of two small children! She remembers having been at the opera, but what happened after that? One thing is for sure: she needs to find them, quickly.

A breathless search begins: She is running. She is chasing down streets. She has to get a grip on her life again and finally get the leading role in the opera.

The reader follows the heroine on her odyssey, driven by her concern for her children, in which everything is at stake: the well-being of her kids; her concept of her self, the idea that she has to combine being a career woman and mother; her feeling of having to defend herself against the self-sacrifice that everyday life as a single parent demands of her. A homeless person jumps in as a nanny, the ex-husband is replaced by a dog. She has had enough of pleasing everyone, which is why »About to burst« is the fast-paced liberation story of a mother on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It is a novel about the maternal instinct, lust, fear of failure, breakdown and self-assertion.

**Julia Malik** was born in Berlin. After finishing her acting studies at the »Hochschule für Musik und Theater« in Hamburg, she worked at various theatres, including the »Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg« and the »Thalia Theater Hamburg«, the »Schauspielhaus Hannover« and the »Theatre National du Luxembourg«. Julia Malik is working as an actress in film and TV productions and plays the violin in the Berlin band »Hands up-excitement«. She lives in Berlin.

Please contact:

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt / Nadya Hartmann  
Tel +49 69 74 30 55 97 • Fax +49 69 74 30 55 91  
hartmann@fva.de

# ELIJAS'S SONG

## BY AMANDA LASKER-BERLIN



**Elija's Lied**  
 Novel. German.  
 Release: March 2020  
 Rights: Liepman AG

**In *Elija's Song*, Amanda Lasker-Berlin presents us with a brilliant portrait of three very different sisters, boldly addressing highly topical issues in irresistible, gripping prose.**

Elija is the oldest of the sisters. Born with Down syndrome, she takes in the beauty of the world through her heavy-lidded eyes. She adores the stage. When she plays the role of Hagar who is sent to the desert, alone and with child, Elija is a mother. In real life, she will never be.

Noa works in a canteen. Every lunchtime, she hopes to spot Akim, her lover who works on the top floor of the glass tower overlooking the river Elbe. They talk about many things, her exmatriculation, her travels to East Asia, but not about where she goes every day when her shift in the canteen is over.

Loth, the youngest, is striking in her statue-like beauty. And she is angry. At demonstrations they call her a Nazi. She in turn suspects the left of being twisted fascists. She has moved to Halle, into a flat share with her like-minded friends, and she is ready to fight.

Elija, Noa and Loth used to be close before Loth changed sides. Maybe a trip to the moor, retracing their childhood footsteps can help bridge the abyss between them.

The hike is Loth's idea: so they can be sisters once again – cross the moor and climb the mountain and sing the song their father wrote for them. But the moor has changed as much as the sisters have. Elija, Noa and Loth spend the day alone together, each of them absorbed by her own thoughts and memories. Memories even the moorland can't swallow. And nothing to hold on to.

Amanda Lasker-Berlin masters the art of reduction, of leaving traces, of generating ever increasing vibrations up to a final eruption that will leave readers breathless. Her smooth, condensed language, her empathy and confidence in the power of her characters as well as her skilled portrayal of social controversies show Lasker-Berlin as an outstandingly talented debut author.

**Amanda Lasker-Berlin**, born in 1994 in Essen, staged her first play at the age of 18. Following her studies of the liberal arts at the Bauhaus University in Weimar she is currently studying directing in Ludwigsburg. For her drama *Yellow Desert / Pink Room* she was awarded the „ThOP-Nachwuchsdramatikerpreis“, her play *Amazonen verrecken* won the 3rd “Osnabrücker Dramatikerpreis“ in 2019. For her prose she was awarded the jury prize of the Münchner Kurzgeschichten Wettbewerb and she was a finalist of the Hattinger Förderpreis für junge Literatur. *Elija's Song* is her first novel and nominated for the LitCologne Debut Prize 2020.

Contact:  
[marc.koralnik@liepmanagency.com](mailto:marc.koralnik@liepmanagency.com)