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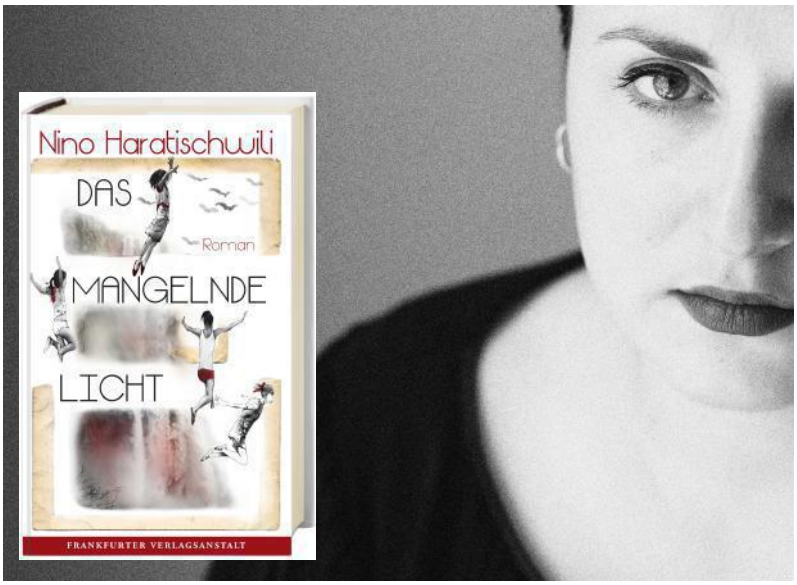

Foto © Dina Oganova

Lack Of Light

by Nino Haratischwili

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Das mangelnde Licht
Novel. German.
Release: 25.2.2022
Rights held: World Rights

The new novel by the internationally bestselling author of
The Eighth Life (For Brilka)

***Lack Of Light* is the story of four outstanding women bound in absolute friendship during their adolescence in post-soviet Tbilisi during the 90ies, fighting for their right for a future and their right to love – and trying to save their friendship after the harrowing death of one of them.**

> *'Here we stand, the trio that got away, that made the leap into the present; we, the survivors, who try to go on living as proxies for all those to whom this was not granted, and who will remain young for all eternity in these photographs.'*

As the end of the century approaches, the voices calling for independence are growing ever louder. In this period of great upheaval, which culminates in chaos for the young state of Georgia, Keto, Dina, Nene and Ira grow up alongside each other in an 'Italian courtyard' typical of Tbilisi's Sololaki neighbourhood. Their lives play out between damp walls, and on enchanted wooden balconies; their families' backgrounds and social status are as different as the four girls are from one another: Dina, hungry for freedom, fatherless, living with her unconventional mother; Ira, the clever outsider; Nene, the romantic, niece of the most powerful criminal in the city; and the sensitive, motherless Keto. The first love that can only blossom in secret, the violence that erupts with the country's new-found independence, the bloody street battles and civil wars, food rationing and power cuts – despite everything, the four women's friendship seems indestructible, until at last it is shattered by an unforgivable betrayal and another tragic death.
In 2019, they are reunited at a major retrospective of their late friend's photographs in Brussels. These pictures recount their story, which is simultaneously the story of their country. And so, this very intimate retrospective forces them to lift the veil drawn over their past. Suddenly, after all these years, a light is shone into the shadow world of their memories; something new is glimpsed, and forgiveness seems possible.

Lack of Light is the story of a lost land and a lost generation; of a revolution that devours its children; of a friendship that defies death; of phantom pain, a battle with oneself and the world, a struggle with fate. It is also a homage to Georgia, the city of Tbilisi, and its people: a declaration of love across the ages.

Nino Haratischwili, born in Tbilisi in 1983, is a multiple-award-winning novelist and dramatist and one of the most important authors of contemporary German literature. Her worldwide bestseller, the epic family saga *The Eighth Life (for Brilka),* was translated into numerous languages and nominated for the International Booker Prize. Her novel, *The Cat and the General* was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2018. Nino Haratischwili lives in Berlin.

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The Eighth Life (For Brilka)

By Nino Haratischwili

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER OF THE PRIZEWINNING AUTHOR;
over a million copies sold worldwide

Film rights sold!

Das achte Leben (Für Brilka)
Novel. German.
Release: September 2014
Rights held: World Rights

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

»**Heart-stopping, sublime. (...) The book concludes with a devastatingly brilliant announcement of hope.«** The New York Times

»**Harrowing, heartening and utterly engrossing epic novel.«** The Guardian

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»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.

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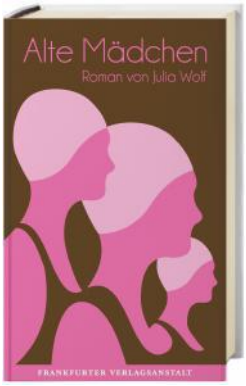
photo © Franziska Rieder

Old Girls

By Julia Wolf

Release date:
September 15th, 2022



Robert Gernhardt Preis

Nicolas Born Prize
for Best Young Author

Alte Mädchen
Novel. German.
Release: September 2022
Rights held: World Rights

In *Old Girls*, Julia Wolf lets three generations of women have their say – and sketches a panorama of female life in the Federal Republic that hasn't been seen before in contemporary German literature.

»*Old Girls* has everything you could want from a contemporary German-language novel: The failure of a petty-bourgeois family, silence, and the experiences of powerlessness in German post-war history, all told as a kaleidoscopic exploration of female subjectivity. Julia Wolf writes a history of consciousness, creating a picture of the postwar milieu that has not been seen before.«

Laudatio for the Robert Gernhardt Prize

It's always the daughters who ask! The three ›girls from East Prussia‹, Anni, Else and Hannelore, are asked to model for a photography campaign for their senior citizens' residence. While *Germany's Next Topmodel* plays on television, these three women in their mid-nineties negotiate what they want to say about their lives – and what not.

In the car on the way to Poland, Gudrun sends a voice message. She wants her niece to know about her grandmother's death. But she digresses, talks about her escape at the end of the war, her childhood in the 1950s. Suddenly it becomes clear: she has something she wants to confess.

Undine, Jenny and Thao spend a weekend in Berlin before Jenny has her first child. Along with memories of their childhood and youth in the 1980s and 1990s, social differences come to light again. As they reevaluate their life choices, the contractions begin.

Written in three parts – »Marjellchen,« »Neue Heimat, altes Haus,« and »MILF« – Julia Wolf portrays three generations of women, tracing the wounds, values, and experiences of wartime. With this novel, she contributes an important narrative of female subjectivity to German post-war history, opening our eyes to where we come from, where we are going, what we should take with us, and what we should let go.

Julia Wolf is an author and translator. Her debut *Alles ist Jetzt* (FVA 2015) was followed by the novel *Walter Nowak bleibt liegen* (FVA 2017), which won the 3sat Prize and the Nicolas Born Debut Prize, and was nominated for the German Book Prize 2017. She received the Robert Gernhardt Prize for *Old Girls*. As part of the author collective »Writing with CARE/RAGE,« Julia Wolf has worked on the topic of care work and artistic production. She lives with her family in Leipzig.

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RELEASE DATE:
AUGUST 25TH, 2022

SPES MEANS HOPE

BY AMANDA LASKER-BERLIN

photo © Nora Battenberg

Spes heißt Hoffnung
Novel. German.
Release: September 2022
Rights held: World Rights

»**Atmospherically dense like Marguerite Duras.**« DIE ZEIT, reviewing *Iva Breaths*

»**Her art is political. The fact is: she has something to say, and say it she does it. Amanda Lasker-Berlin is a name to remember.**« MDR, reviewing *Elijah's Song*

»**The author, only 27-years young, has succeeded in writing a novel of great psychological depth with the power of language. Often, after a highly acclaimed debut, the second novel cannot reach the level of the first. With Amanda Lasker-Berlin this fortunately is not the case.**« WDR5, reviewing *Iva Breathes*

The skin of ten-year-old Spes is as sensitive as a butterfly's wing. When will she throw off her gauze cocoon and finally be able to fly? Mirjam travels to a country in upheaval. How do you tell a story when everything is in ruins? Paul is on the run from his photo, plastered on front pages. It's only an accusation, but what is the truth? Achura fears a catastrophe, the end of her political career. But would she take back what she said?

Spes, Mirjam, Paul and Achura are each at a turning point. How do you reinvent yourself without losing yourself? Can enough strength be found for a utopia, for a new beginning? Amanda Lasker-Berlin tells the story of four characters, trying to break free from classifications and overcome a crisis. Rapidly intercut perspectives, colliding points of view and voices form together an energy that gathers its power with each page. *Spes Means Hope* is a novel that is bursting with our present moment, and one that widens our view of what is important.

Amanda Lasker-Berlin, born in Essen in 1994, studied fine arts at the Bauhaus University in Weimar and studied stage direction at the Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg, where she lead a production of Herta Müller's *Atemschaukel*. Her drama *ICH, WUNDERWERK AND HOW MUCH I LOVE DISTURBING CONTENT* premiered in 2021 as part of the Autor:innentheatertage at the Deutsches Theater in Berlin and was awarded the Hermann Sudermann Prize. Her first novel *Elijas Lied* (FVA, 2020) was awarded the debut prize at lit.COLOGNE, followed by the novel *Iva Breathes* at FVA in 2021. She lives in Frankfurt am Main.

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The Cat And The General

By Nino Haratischwili

Foto © Danny Merz/Sollsuchstelle*

Shortlist

English sample available

Rights sold to:

Catalonia (Navona)
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Georgia (Intelekti)
Hungary (Európa)
Italy (Marsilio)
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Poland (Otwarte)
Spain/Latin America (Alfaguara)

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

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.

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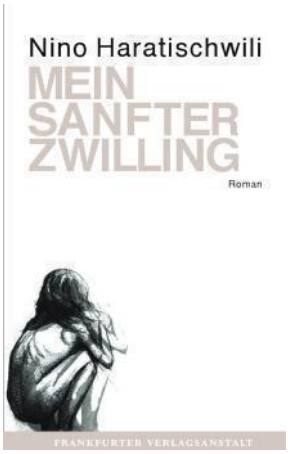
My Gentle Twin

By Nino Haratischwili

Foto © Danny Merz/Sollsuchstelle*



Rights sold to:

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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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photo © Henning Christiansen

The Half Apple
By Marie-Alice Schultz

Der halbe Apfel
Novel. German.
Release: March 2022
Rights held: World Rights

»Marie-Alice Schultz writes with great subtlety and arresting accuracy about disappearances. In her crystal-clear view of what is lost and what is added, one always recognizes oneself.« Isabelle Lehn

»Behind every story is a second story that must be told before it can begin to exist.«

What happens when someone leaves – but then returns after seven years? Unannounced, Ben bursts back into Pia's life, and the lives of Vinz, and of Janis, who is his son. Now, suddenly, Janis has two fathers and Pia finds herself wondering why it is that only others can come and go as they wish. Marie-Alice, the narrator, learns the news of her Viennese friends while in Hamburg. There was briefly something with Vinz before, but now there is a new triangle. Marie-Alice is herself a writer and currently in a liminal place: between projects, between plans for the future and the memories of her French mother, who many years ago ate half an apple before she suddenly died. Increasingly, Marie-Alice wonders just what family is, and how responsibility, inheritance, happiness, and identity relate to each other. She begins thinking her way into the lives of her Viennese friends, until something that no one had expected occurs, and one piece of the triangle changes sides.

In *The Half Apple*, Marie-Alice Schultz tells a story of unusual family arrangements and modern life choices, with a playful tone of radical self-interrogation. The novel's way of reversing the roles and points of view of its characters and weaving them into an exciting plot reveals extraordinary literary skill. The author's voice is reminiscent of Rachel Cusk's or Lisa Halliday's indirect self-examinations, but reveals how one can sometimes only find oneself in a roundabout way, in a style all her own.

Marie-Alice Schultz was born in Hamburg in 1980. She studied theater and German language and literature in Berlin, and fine arts in Vienna. In 2016, received a scholarship to the Jürgen Ponto Foundation's writing workshop, and she was a participant in the 20th Klagenfurt Literature Course. For her 2019 debut novel *Mikadowälder*, she was awarded a literature prize by the city of Hamburg. In 2021, she received a working fellowship at the Roger Willemsen Foundation's artist's house. She lives in Hamburg.

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photo ©Izaquiel Tomé Photography

THE VANISHED MOON
BY ZOË JENNY

Der verschwundene Mond
Novel. German.
Release: March 2022
Rights held: World Rights

»It was too late, he had already let him share his thoughts. He could not get away from them, they created an unrest in him, made something deep inside him move, like a surgically precise surface damage and the echo of a pain; an echo that grew louder in the emptiness of the house and forced him to listen, amid silence, effective as the pause of a symphony.«

As the head of Vienna's Astronomy Institute, Marty's life revolves around the vastness of the universe. He gladly allows it to push the reality of his own life aside; the fact that his wife Marlene is already secretly making completely different plans for the future, and that his daughter is beginning to question her gender, remains hidden from him. At a conference he meets the psychoanalyst Steindorfer, who asks him why it is man actually knows more about distant planets than about his own consciousness, and who then gives him a manuscript he has been writing, the reading of which deeply disturbs Marty.
Zoë Jenny's long-awaited new novel is brimming with an unsettling atmosphere. The silent, distant stars of the galaxy seem at great odds with the ominous and ever-more-rapidly unfolding events on Earth. Jenny writes of artificial intelligence and the question of what consciousness is; of gender reassignment, personal freedom, a lack of alternatives, climate crisis, light pollution, and more, moving along the edges of a recognizable reality in the midst of our stellar chaos.

> »Zoë Jenny offers up strong, poetic images like wondrous, melancholic Instagram photos. She is undoubtedly a master of the short form.« MISSY MAGAZINE on *Latest Tomorrow* (*Spätestens morgen*)

> »Omission is an art, and Zoë Jenny masters it in these terse, precisely condensed stories. Her narration is casual, stylistically appropriate, and practically perfect. The tone is simple, matter-of-fact and it touches and resonates.« SRF 2 on *Latest Tomorrow* (*Spätestens morgen*)

Zoë Jenny was born in Basel in 1974. Her first novel *The Pollen Room* (*Das Blütenstaubzimmer*, FVA, 1997) was a global bestseller translated into 27 languages, and awarded the 3sat scholarship, the Jürgen Ponto Foundation Literature Prize, and the aspekte Literature Prize. Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt also published her novels *Der Ruf des Muschelhorns* (2000) and *Das Portrait* (2007), as well as her short stories *Spätestens morgen* (2013). She lives near Vienna.

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© Marion Vierling

Shemozzle!

A Family saga

by Marcia Zuckermann

Shemozzle!
Novel. German.
Release: 12th 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.

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© Marion Vierling

What a Family!

A Family saga

by Marcia Zuckermann

Film & TV rights sold to UFA Berlin

Rights sold to:
US (Clevo Books)

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 10th 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 March10th.
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 Kohanims, 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.

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THE BEAUTY OF BALCHIK IS NOT SERENE

BY ANTONIA BONTSCHEVA

© Joachim Unseld

Die Schönheit von Baltschik ist keine heitere
Novel. German.
Release: 22th 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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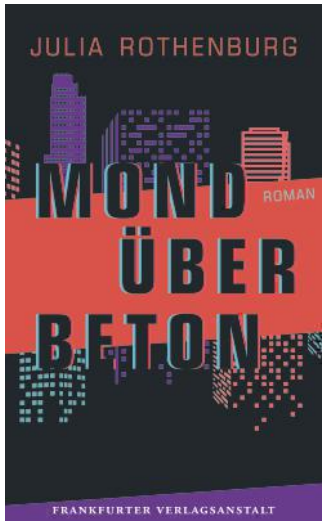
Foto © Jutta Rothenburg

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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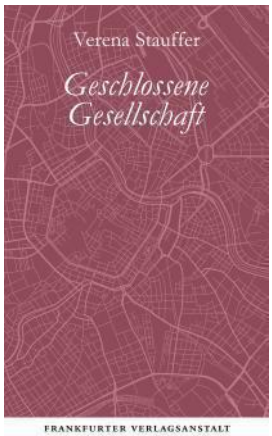
© detailsinn.at

Closed Society

By Verena Stauffer



Geschlossene Gesellschaft
German.
Release: 26th 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 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.

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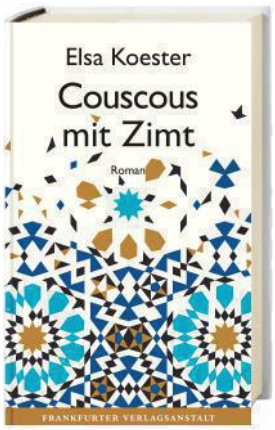
photo ©Susanne Schleyer/autorenarchiv.de

Couscous With Cinnamon
By Elsa Koester



US Jury Pick

Guaranteed financial support for English translation

GUTEKUNST PRIZE OF THE FRIENDS OF GOETHE

Couscous mit Zimt
Novel. German.
Release: August 2020
Rights held: World Rights excluding: Scandinavia

English sample available

Rights sold to:
Turkey (Ilksatır 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 Lucille'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.

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photo © Joachim Unseld

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 crip: »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.

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ENCOUNTER

BY BODO KIRCHHOFF

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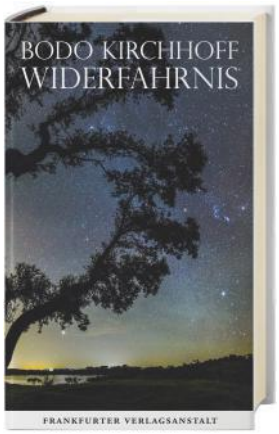

2016 deutscher buch preis

Widerfahrnis
Novella. German.
Release: September 2016
Rights held: World Rights

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

Rights sold to:
France (Gallimard)
Italy (Neri Pozza Editore)
The Netherlands (Lebowski)
Denmark (Bechs Forlag)
Czech Republic (Akropolis)
China (People's Literature Publishing House)
Korea (Redsamnamu)
Greece (Aiora Press)
Egypt (General Authority für kulturelle Paläste, Ministerium für Kultur)
Turkey (Can)
Hindi (Aryan)

»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.

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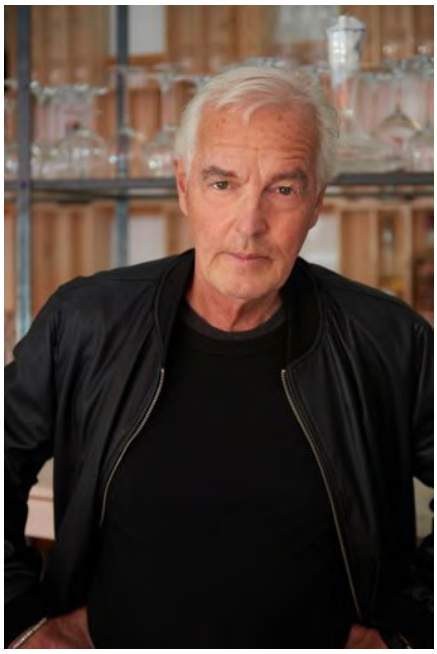
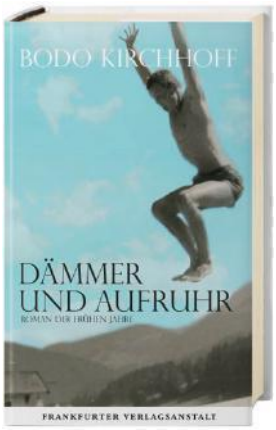


Foto © Laura J Gerlach

Dusk and Turmoil
A novel of the early years
By Bodo Kirchhoff



Dämmer und Aufruhr
Roman der frühen Jahre
Novel. German.
Release: 29th 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 6th 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.

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The Last Red Year

By Susanne Gregor

Ö1 Buch des Monats

ORF.at

NEW BOOKS IN GERMAN FICTION

Das letzte rote Jahr
Novel. German.
Release: 30th 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.

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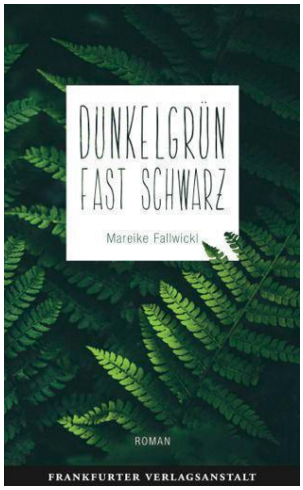
Photo © Gyöngyi Tasi

Dark Green Almost Black

By Mareike Fallwickl



Nominiert
Österreichischer Buchpreis 2018

Woche unabhängiger Buchhandlungen

Rights sold to:
The Netherlands
(Nieuw Amsterdam)

English sample available

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

»Mareike Fallwickl'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

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 Fallwickl'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 Fallwickl, 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 Fallwickl 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.

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Photo © Gyöngyi Tasi

The Light Is Much Brighter Here

by Mareike Fallwickl

Film rights sold to epo-film!

Das Licht ist hier viel heller
Novel. German.
Release: 30th 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, Wegner 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.

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Walter Nowak won't get up

By Julia Wolf

© Franziska Rieder

Walter Nowak bleibt liegen
Novel. German.
Release: March 2017
Rights held: World Rights

2017 deutscher buch preis
Longlist

'16 40. TAGE DER DEUTSCHSPRACHIGEN LITERATUR
3sat Prize

Nicolas Born Prize for Best Young Author 2017

Robert Gernhardt Preis

Rights sold to:
France (Le Castor Astral)

English sample available

»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.

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Photo © Max Menge

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.

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Photo © Laura J Gerlach

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 début 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.*

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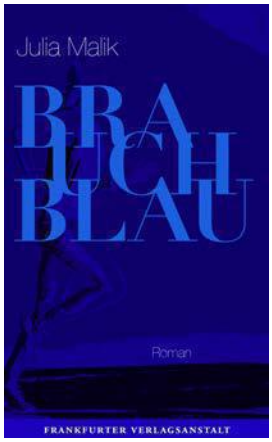
photo © Joachim Unseld

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.

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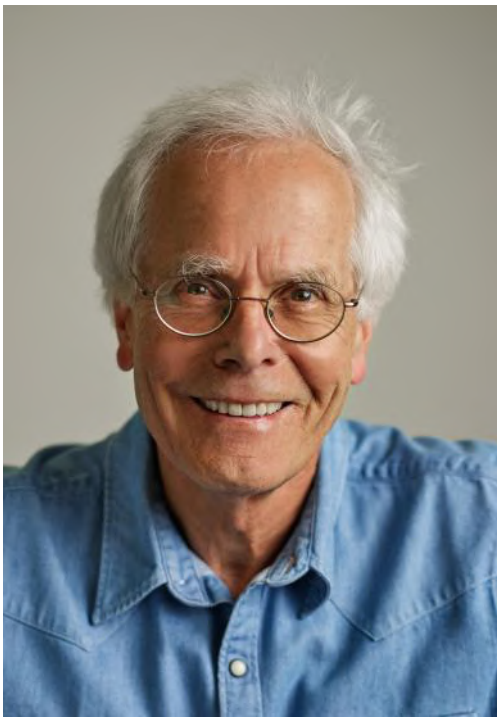
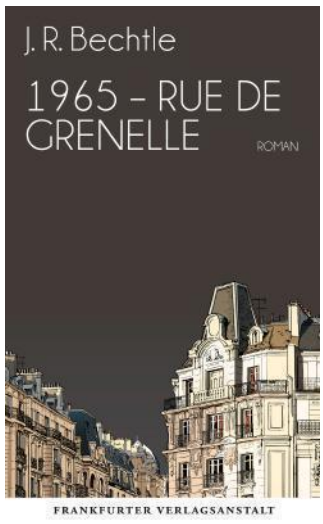


Foto © Studio Olivia Hellman

In Sarah's Paris

By JR Bechtle



Full English translation available

JR Bechtle lives in San Francisco

»Fast-paced cinematic story-telling for sleepless nights.«
Schwäbische Zeitung

1965 – Rue de Grenelle
Novel. German.
Release: 2015
Rights held: World Rights

»The new novel from J.R. Bechtle is many things at once: a political thriller, a love story, historical fiction, a snapshot of the mood in France and Germany in the 1960s and, last but not least, a love letter to Paris. Bechtle has written a many-facetted, many-layered book.« Deutschlandradio Kultur

»His second novel *1965 – Rue de Grenelle* concerns itself among other things with coming to terms with the Nazi past, the question of guilt for the later-born generation, and the fraught relationship between Israelis and Germans.« Deutschlandfunk

In Sarah's Paris is the love story between Steffen, a German student, and Sarah, a mysterious Jewish woman. It takes place in Paris in 1965, a sensitive time between Germans and Jews in the aftermath of WWII. Sarah works with Aaron, a survivor of Auschwitz, on a secretive project, which is wrapped suspensefully around the historical abduction of the influential Moroccan politician Mehdi ben Barka, orchestrated by the French and Moroccan secret service, assisted by the Mossad. In the course of the abduction, Steffen gets in a near fatal confrontation in the little known vast underground tunnels of the Left Bank.
The novel's underlying themes deal with overcoming deeply rooted national and religious prejudices, a topic with heightened relevance in our own time. *In Sarah's Paris* was first published in 2015 by Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, Germany. The German title was *1965- Rue de Grenelle.*

JR Bechtle was born in Belgium in 1943 and grew up on a small village on the Rhine River. He received a law degree and PhD in law from the University in Munich. He moved to the US in 1971 and has lived in San Francisco since 1975. His fourth novel *The Shadow of Tulum* was published for the Frankfurt Book Fair 2021.

Translator: Marshall Yarbrough lives in Brooklyn, New York. He has translated among others authors like Gregor von Rezzori, Wolf Wondratschek and Anna Katherina Hahn. He has worked with such publishers as New York Book Review, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

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