FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE
Spring 2021
FICTION
After the dark years of World War I, the glamour and new-found radiance of the metropolis Berlin is attracting people from all over the world. Among them is Magda Fuchs, who hopes for a fresh start in life after losing both husband and child. However, working for the police as a medical consultant, she is confronted with the underbelly of the dazzling city. Every day she sees the bitter fate of orphaned and starving children. When she realizes that these children are being sold into slavery as the police looks the other way, Magda decides to fight for those who have to live in the shadows.

The doctor courageously takes on this world of corruption and crime, reclaiming her own life in the process. She receives support from the most unexpected of people – the abrasive social worker, Ina Dietrich, as well as the rather erratic but dedicated young police inspector, Kuno Mehring.

Helene Sommerfeld’s novel unfolds as a plethora of strong women struggle to find their place in a world of extremes – Berlin in the Roaring Twenties.
HELENE SOMMERFELD, is the pseudonym of a married couple who write together from their home in Berlin. Their trilogy about Dr. Ricarda Thomasius has won the hearts of their readers, landing them at the very top of the SPIEGEL bestseller list. The captivating combination of historical precision and passionate, believable characters makes Helene Sommerfeld's novels a gripping experience for readers.

- The great Berlin saga about the Roaring Twenties - the decade of strong women
- Now with dtv: the Nr. 1 SPIEGEL-bestselling author Helene Sommerfeld
- Over 300,000 copies sold in the previous "Ärztin"-Trilogy
- Rights of the previous "Ärztin"-Trilogy were sold to Italy (Giunti) and Spain (PRH)
A body has been found in a pond in a quarry close to Munich. Superintendent Katja Sand and her assistant Rudi Dorfmüller head the investigation. The victim was a low-ranking officer on a naval corvette – and he couldn't swim. Is this suicide? But another corpse is soon discovered, this time in a refrigerator at a recycling facility. The detectives soon learn that both men had been clients of well-known psychoanalyst Dr. Alexander Hanning, who was helping them cope with personal trauma. The parallels between the two causes of death are also striking: in both instances, a severely traumatized man died under strange circumstances reminiscent of the catalyst event that had caused the initial trauma.

Katja and Rudi dig deeper into the cases and stumble across a hushed-up scandal involving the Navy. The more gruesome the details they find, the greater the pressure they come under from their supervisors. And so, Katja is forced to do something reckless – in order to figure out the role Dr. Hanning might have played in these crimes, Katja becomes a patient at his practice, finding herself in mortal danger.
• A page-turner combining a classical whodunit with a very modern and surprising whydunit
• A new take on the classical theme of trauma – as the great equalizer of victims, investigators and culprits alike
• For readers of Michael Robotham und Romy Hausmann

After completing his degrees in philosophy, German studies, and history, CHRISTOPH WORTBERG, born in 1963, initially worked as an actor and audiobook narrator. For many years, he has been a successful screenplay author, as well as a writer of young-adult fiction. His thriller debut Trauma - No Escape is the first instalment in a three-part series.
As Helga Schubert’s mother explains to her daughter, she has accomplished three acts of heroism in her lifetime: refusing to abort her daughter, taking her along when fleeing from enemy troops during World War II, and not shooting Helga before the Russians invaded.

In brief episodes and crisp, emotional words, Helga Schubert tells the story of a century of German history - her own history, in an account that seamlessly combines fiction and truth. For over ten years, she was watched by the Stasi. She was almost fifty years old by the time she could vote in her first free election. However, it wasn’t until after her mother’s death that she could find reconciliation, both with her mother, with a life filled with resistance, and with herself.

„HELGA SCHUBERT IS THE MISTRESS OF ACCURACY IN OBSERVATION AND PRECISE NARRATION“
INES GEIPEL, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG
HELGA SCHUBERT, born in 1940 in Berlin, studied psychology at Humboldt University. She worked as a psychotherapist and writer in East Germany. As press officer for the Central Round Table, she helped prepare for the first free elections. After publishing numerous books, she retreated from the public literary space. This changed in 2020 when she won the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize for her story Getting Up.

- From the winner of the Ingeborg Bachman Award 2020
- For readers of Annie Ernaux and Monika Helfer
- Previous books by the author have been sold to Japan (Amusuku), France (Stock) and Italy (Costa & Nolan)
A young woman, an African-American GI and the secret of a forbidden love

The well-known Cologne news anchor Tom Monderath is worried about his 84-year-old mother Greta, who is growing increasingly forgetful. What was initially an annoyance in his seemingly perfect life becomes an unexpected gift. Greta tells the story of her life, bit by bit - of her childhood in East Prussia, her escape from the Russian soldiers during an icy winter, her longing for her missing father, and her success in Heidelberg's black market. However, when Tom comes across a photo of a little girl with dark skin, Greta falls silent. For the first time, Tom begins to grapple more deeply with his mother's past. Not just to finally understand her sadness – his own happiness depends on it, too.

• For the first time, the story of the Brown Baby Plan and the fate of the children of German women and African-American GIs in the post-war period is being told
• A sensational debut novel - Susanne Abel's style is highly emotional, smart and insightful in this multigenerational family novel
The zoo in Berlin needs money, and so director Windhoeck unceremoniously sells the beloved mob of meerkats to a garden centre in ice-cold Oslo. At the last second, the mob manages to escape, thanks to Ray and Rufus. Totally exhausted after a long odyssey and with nothing in their possession except their furry lives, the clan arrives in a secluded forest that promises them some security. This paradise is short-lived, however – the forest dwellers, especially Herrmann the boar, are anything but enthusiastic about the newcomers. When Rufus falls for a female rabbit, Ray opens a disco, and several young meerkats decide to experiment with hallucinogenic fruits, conflicts start to escalate...

The new meerkat novel from the bestselling author Moritz Matthies

Moritz Matthies is the pseudonym of a Berlin writing duo. Their bestselling novels about the meerkats Ray and Rufus from the Berlin Zoo - Ausgefressen, Voll Speed, Dumm gelaufen, Dickes Fell, and Letzte Runde - have all been highly successful, as have the audiobook editions.

Approximately 600,000 novels and audiobooks sold in the previous titles of this series, making the SPIEGEL-bestseller list
Dresden, November 1944: the population is groaning under the strain and dire privations of an increasingly menacing war. Detective inspector Max Heller is summoned to the scene of a crime, where he is confronted with the savagely battered body of a woman. Very soon, the rumour mills start to grind: it’s the Fright Man, prowling the ruins at night.

A Thousand Devils (vol. II)
Dresden, 1947: The city lies within the Soviet occupation zone and is still a desert of rubble and ruins. Inspector Max Heller is summoned to the scene of a crime in Dresden Neustadt by the newly-instigated People’s Police. The victim seems to be a Red Army soldier. But before he gets a chance to begin his investigations he discovers that the Russian military has removed the corpse from the scene...

The Forgotten (vol. III)
Dresden 1948: a hot summer, 3 years after the end of the war. The great currency reform throws occupied and divided post-war Germany into a crisis. In the midst of the arduous reconstruction work, Detective Inspector Max Heller finds himself entangled in a case involving a 14-year-old boy, whose cause of death is anything but clear. While investigating this case, Heller runs up against a wall of silence.

Red Raven (vol. IV)
In late summer 1951, Detective Inspector Heller is worried, but his new case isn’t leaving him any time to brood. Two men, Jehovah’s Witnesses, being held under suspicion of espionage die in their prison cells. And other mysterious deaths follow. A cryptic message is found next to one of the victims and a horrifying suspicion rises in Heller.

June ’53 (vol. V)
Daily life in the new German Democratic Republic (GDR) is becoming difficult. The population’s dissatisfaction grows, and the number of those fleeing the country increases continuously. The government of the Socialist Union Party harshly imposes its demands and mercilessly hunts down its opponents. On June 17 1953, the political situation escalates as large-scale protest movements grow everywhere.
During the dark fall evenings of 1956, woman after woman is brutally raped in Dresden. When a body of a woman is found in the Elbe, calls for vigilante justice grow louder amongst the rattled population. Detective Inspector Max Heller and his team are running their investigation under heavy pressure. With the help of a female decoy, they succeed in arresting a suspect. The man, disfigured by scars, admits to the rapes, but denies the murder. Are the Russian military deserters whom everyone despises perhaps guilty after all? The situation escalates when Heller’s 13-year-old foster daughter Anni disappears without a trace after an argument. A feverish search begins, and the murderer still hasn’t been captured...

Like a shadow in the night

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Frank Goldammer was born in Dresden in 1975. A painter and varnisher by trade, he began writing in his early twenties, self-publishing his first novels. For dtv he has written several successful historical crime thrillers set in Dresden and its surroundings. A single parent, he lives with his twin children in Dresden.

- Book 6 in this spectacular post-war crime series (7 volumes in total)
- The dramatic story of the Heller family in divided Germany
- Spiegel Bestselling series in Germany: over 175.000 copies sold
One stormy autumn night, a call is made to the emergency room. An accident has occurred at the Gretzky family estate. Upon arrival, the detectives find a barely responsive woman on a swing in front of the villa. Inside, her husband is lying in a pool of his own blood. Years later, another crime occurs in the unoccupied house. This time the victim is the woman whom everyone had thought was the murderer. Why did she come back? And who had been waiting for her there? Reluctantly, Tess Gretzky, the daughter of the murder victim and stepdaughter of the suspected murderess, starts to investigate the past. There, she discovers a network of lies and deception in which the people she feels the closest to are disastrously entangled.

It was rather by chance that 24-year-old student Coco Frahm came to head the new party, “Future”, in the months following lockdown. At the party’s founding meeting, Coco had offhandedly expressed her thoughts on the so-called “new slowness”. With her plea to finally get serious about “escaping this society dominated by consumerism and pressure”, she struck a chord with the people there. And now, suddenly, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that she could become Chancellor of Germany. At 24! But soon “concerned citizens” are determined to stop Coco – using violence if necessary. They just need to make sure that it looks like a suicide. As it turns out, Coco’s ex-boyfriend Maikel has been tasked with carrying out the dirty work. On the night before the decisive election Sunday, Coco faces Maikel...

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CHRISTIAN LINKER, born in 1975, studied theology in Bonn and worked in politics before dedicating himself fully to writing. His novels, which always grapple with controversial themes, have received numerous awards.

ILDY BACH, worked for stage companies. Along with her partner, she writes children’s and teen books as well as crime novels, in addition to works for theater, film and television.
Charismatic bodyguard Nicolas Guerlain is led by his sixth sense back to his hometown, Deauville. The international film festival taking place there is drawing actors and directors from all over the world to Normandy. But a few days before its opening, the festival director is brutally murdered. This turns out to be the opening act to a series of baffling crimes. For Nicolas, it is the start of a murderous hunt for a violent, hate-consumed serial killer. As he tries to protect a young actress, Guerlain is forced to confront the past that keeps catching up with him.

Normandy crime series: 160,000 copies sold
Romy, 36, is running a fairly unsuccessful food truck. When several disastrous things happen all at once – the permit to her unattractive parking spot at the train station is cancelled, she is threatened with some rather hefty tax payments, and her boyfriend breaks up with her – her life is in shambles.

She reluctantly agrees to sell her beloved truck to her obnoxious neighbour Leonard, but only under one condition… She wants to travel with it one final time to Italy, where street food artist Quinto is supposedly living, a kind of culinarily-oriented Banksy. To her dismay, Leonard stipulates a condition, too. He wants to come along with her to Italy. So, unexpectedly, a crazy, adventurous and memorable road trip begins, one that takes many long detours before leading to happiness.

When Luna returns to Hamburg, she wants only one thing: to start over, forget the fear that drove her out of the city a year ago, and take control of her life once more. On her first day at university, however, it becomes clear that this will be anything but easy. Her ex-boyfriend Eli suddenly appears before her -- and he still makes her heart race. Until today, Luna had made no mention to Eli of why she suddenly left him after his serious accident. Luna soon realises that she needs to face up to her past. For both herself and for Eli. Even if it means risking everything and possibly losing everything along the way.
When erotic fantasies become reality

“I still can’t even put into words what it was like in bed with Tom. He could transport me to another world.”

Fifty-year-old Nina should be as content as can be. She is a passionate cookbook author and happily married — although she can’t help but feel that something is missing.

When she meets the much younger Tom at a cooking class, her fantasy carries her away. She dreams of having an affair with him, and he also seems to feel attracted to her. When her dream eventually becomes reality, she and Tom enter completely new sexual territory and Nina can finally act out her erotic fantasies.

In the course of their affair, Nina begins to find herself caught in a game of power, sex and codependency…

• An erotic reading pleasure that once again proves that sexual desire knows no age boundaries

Tarja Sohmer
Nights with Tom

272 pages
February 2021
The true, world-spanning story of an extraordinary book

Two men, two centuries – bound together by one extraordinary book. Thomas Bridges, the author, grows up as the foster son of a British missionary at the end of the world, in Tierra del Fuego, among the children of the Yaghan tribe. Fascinated by the rich world and language of this indigenous tribe, Thomas begins to obsessively collect their words – words like tūmūhaimana, which means “disappearing into the depths of the water like a stone”.

He never leaves Tierra del Fuego but his book is stolen from him, and, decades later, it falls into the hands of the German ethnologist Ferdinand Hestermann. Hestermann suspects that he has found a unique treasure. He, too, devotes his life to the book, hides it during the 1930s from the Nazis, rescuing an entire library in the process.

- During his 13-year world tour, Michael Hugentobler came across the history of this dictionary and its author in the depths of Patagonia; this served as the basis of his enlightening novel about the unconditional determination to preserve a culture - whether in South America or in a country and at a time in which books are being burned.
- For readers of Cees Nooteboom

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Louis or The Ride on the Ocean Turtle

192 pages
Pub. date: 2018

Rights sold: Serbia
Mirna Funk
Between You and Me

304 pages
February 2021

Violence of the past, love of the present

When Nike leaves her apartment in the Berlin-Mitte district, she has to pass her great-grandmother's Stolperstein. Stones like this are small memorials for the victims of persecution and murder during the Third Reich, and there are many of these in Berlin. Nike grew up Jewish in East Berlin, and every street carries memories for her, many are very painful. When she receives a job offer in Tel Aviv, she decides to accept it. In Israel she meets Noam who is a journalist, and his story is deep and complex. Nike allows him into her life, the first man in many years. But Noam's Uncle Asher stands between her and Noam. He is possessive and brutal and does everything in his power to keep Nike out of Noam's life.

Fearless and touching, Mirna Funk tells the story of the violence embedded in Nike's and Noam's family histories, violence that has shaped both of their lives. How can they both live with their emotional scars? And how can they find a way to love each other?

- From Germany’s most provocative Jewish, feminist voice
- For readers of Sibylle Berg, Olga Grjasnowa and Lisa Taddeo
Romy Hausmann

**Dear Child**

A windowless shack in the woods. Lena’s life and that of her two children follows the rules set by their captor, the father: meals, bathroom visits, study time are strictly scheduled and meticulously observed. One day Lena manages to flee – but the nightmare continues. It seems as if her tormentor wants to get back what belongs to him. And then there is the question whether she really is the woman called ‘Lena’, who disappeared without a trace over thirteen years ago...

- Spiegel bestseller: 330,000 copies sold
- Best sold thriller debut in Germany in 2019

Rights sold: English World Rights, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey

**PRAISE**

"Outstanding debut"
Booklist

"I just kept turning pages, wondering what the hell was going to happen until I had finished the book in one sitting, in the small-numbered hours of the late night" BookPage

**Marta, Asleep**

A murder has occurred, and it must be undone. This leaves only one possibility. The murder has to happen again, and the real culprit has to provide the police with a different course of events – as well as a plausible culprit. And he finds one in the mentally unstable young woman who works as an assistant at a law firm. Her past alone makes her the perfect victim – or, the perfect murderer.

- Spiegel bestseller: 110,000 copies sold
- Highly emotional, top-class psychological thriller

Rights sold: English World Rights, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Sweden, The Netherlands
The heritage of our mothers

Berlin, 2017: 27-year-old Hannah finds a letter from a lawyer, identifying her grandmother and herself as possible heirs to a Jewish art collection which had been confiscated under the Nazi regime. However, this is the first time the young student hears anything about possible Jewish roots. And why has her beloved grandmother Evelyn, her only living relative, never lost a word about the past?

Rostock, 1924: 18 year-old Senta Köhler unintentionally falls pregnant by a highly decorated war hero from WWI. They do get married but the marriage fails within two years. In the end, Senta's husband will only agree to a divorce if Senta leaves their daughter, Evelyn, with him, thus forcing her to decide between her freedom and her child.

Berlin 1927: The metropolis is the hub of life itself and more specifically of a new life for Senta who has found work at a newspaper and quickly rises from typist to journalist. She marries a Jewish colleague, Julius Goldmann, whose father is a respected art dealer and enters Berlin's vibrant art and culture scene. When the Nazis rise to power, Senta and her husband decide to flee abroad, leaving everything behind … their family as well as priceless pieces of art. Young Woman, Standing by the Window, Evening Light, Blue Dress by Vermeer becomes the epitome of loss for Senta, as she will not see any of them ever again.

Interweaving the fate of these women, Alena Schröder empathically traces the question of how we deal with our personal history and the legacy of our ancestors.

- Top 10 SPIEGEL-bestseller list
- A page-turning read for fans of Dörte Hansen and Annette Hess
- An exciting setting well-known and beloved from the series Babylon Berlin
For generations, the Grand Arnold Hotel atop the Piz Palü mountain has been a family-run affair. As far back as 1957, illustrious guests would travel to the Swiss luxury hotel to enjoy the refreshing summer climate. The visitors - bored widows, general directors and their spouses, mountain enthusiasts, the rich and famous (such as movie star O.W. Fisher, wishing to flee his fame but whose notoriety soon follows) - have no idea about the Arnolds' convoluted family relationships, or the resentment and jealousy that bubble between them. It isn't until the hotel director's children vanish without a trace, followed by a gruesome murder, that the wind around Piz Palü starts to blow with a growing chill. Inspector Tschudi, head of the murder commission in Graubünden, takes on the case despite his declining health. What he discovers at the foot of Piz Palü tells the tale of long-suppressed hatred and smoldering family secrets.

- **Family Secrets, Intrigue and Murder**
- **1957 - The World during the Post-War Period**
- **For readers of Vicki Baum's Grand Hotel**

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**BY THE SAME AUTHOR**

- **The Simple Life**
  - 272 pages
  - Pub. Date: 2018

- **Wolf**
  - 260 pages
  - Pub. Date: 2019
Dora Heldt
Three Women, Four Lives

“What’s the deal with these letters?”
“They’re the invitations for Julie, Alexandra and Friederike to come to the lake for Pentecost weekend…”
A deep rift separated the three childhood friends for years. It took the death of the fourth member of their group, Marie, to bring them back together again a year ago. Now the next Pentecost meeting is approaching rapidly. Much has happened since the last time they saw each other: Alexandra recently lost her job as a publisher, Julie’s daughter Pia has unexpectedly become pregnant, and Frederike has finally been forced to say goodbye to her lifelong dream. But their meeting at the house on the lake sets forces in motion that will take their lives in completely unexpected directions.

The sequel of the SPIEGEL bestseller Three Women at the Lake

dtv preview + dtv p review + dtv preview + dtv preview + dtv

Ingo Schulze
Tasso in the Madhouse

Stories

Art and life — when one throws us off track, the other puts us back on the rails. Or is it the other way around?

In the first of three stories, a dissident author retreats from the public eye in order to save his life and finds in the art exhibit entitled “The German Device” a pattern that can interpret the present age.

Standing in front of Delacroix’s painting “Tasso in the Madhouse,” a publisher entangles in the second story in an ambivalent conversation that generates a moment of rare clarity: “Even when you know something, there’s always something more that you don’t know.”

And finally, the painter Grützke holds joyously court in a hospice, providing his visitors with hours of delightful intensity.

Art and life: tragic and funny.