Foreign Rights Guide
Autumn 2026

FICTION

dtv

motive by Lino Lago

Fiction

Literary Fiction page 3

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page 30

Ruth-Maria Thomas: The Second Greatest Love

- A modern love story that shows how big and how small the divides in our society can be
- For readers of Coco Mellors, Emma Cline and David Szalay
- Instant #3 *SPIEGEL* bestseller

BEST SELLING AUTHOR

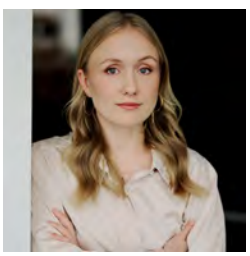
Falling in love across the fault lines of class
When her life in eastern Germany falls apart, Michelle leaves everything behind and starts over. Working at an upscale hotel, she suddenly finds herself in a world of luxury and privilege. Then she meets Henry: charming, wealthy and born into opportunities she never had. Falling in love with him feels like stepping into a different future, one free from scarcity, fear and constant struggle. But the promises of social mobility come at a price.
A novel tackling the two great narratives of our time: the idea that everyone is the architect of their own fortune on the one hand, and the widespread experience of being at the mercy of circumstance on the other.

»One of the most terribly beautiful love stories right now.« – *NDR Buch des Monats*
»It's a novel which draws you in with wild intensity, right up to its spectacular ending.« – *DIE ZEIT*

Ruth-Maria Thomas
The Second Greatest Love
304 pages
July 2026

Genre: Fiction, Literary Fiction

ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

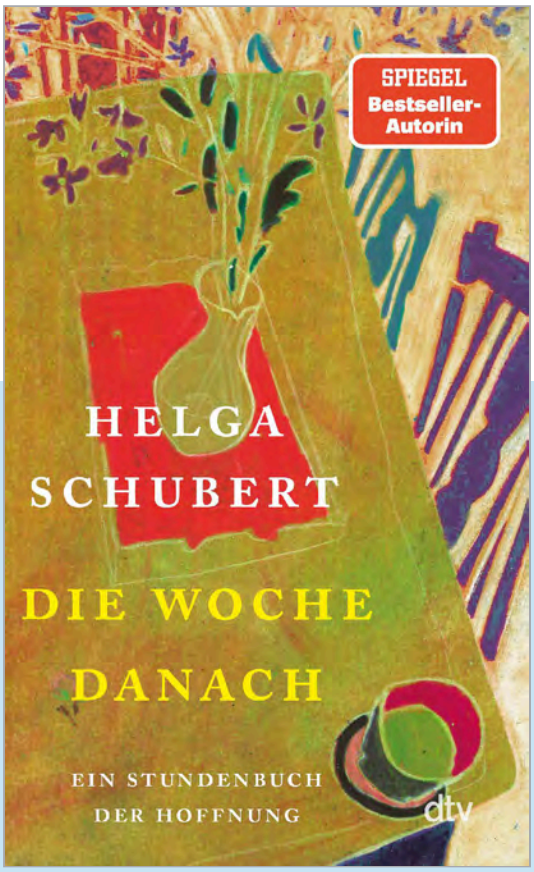


© Jonas Holthaus

Ruth-Maria Thomas, born in 1993 and raised in Cottbus, worked as a social worker in youth welfare. She studied at the German Literature Institute in Leipzig. Her bestselling debut novel was nominated for the *German Book Prize* and won the *Ulla Hahn Prize*. '*The Second Greatest Love*' is her second novel.

Helga Schubert: The Week After – A Breviary of Hope

- Bestselling author Helga Schubert explores grief and loneliness, release and freedom in her heartening, pithy prose
- For readers of Joan Didion's '*The Year of Magical Thinking*' and Siri Hustvedt's '*Ghost Stories*'



Helga Schubert
The Week After – A Breviary of Hope
176 pages
October 2026

Genre: Fiction, Literary Fiction

»I'm living in another world now.«
What happens when the person you have loved for over sixty years and have cared for for over a decade passes away? In her unmistakable, crystal-clear prose, Helga Schubert describes her own state of mind in the early days, the first week, after her husband's death. She sees herself caught between grief and release.
If you have to, you can start over, even when you're almost 90 – a book about love, death and a new beginning.

»Helga Schubert is an inspirational author« – Melanie Mühl, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

© Eddy Zimmermann / Rabauke Filmproduktion

Helga Schubert, born in 1940 in Berlin, was a psychotherapist and writer in the GDR. She had withdrawn from public literary life until she won the *Ingeborg Bachmann Prize* in 2020 with her story *'On Getting Up'*. The eponymous volume of short stories was published by dtv in 2021. In 2024, Helga Schubert was awarded the *German Federal Cross of Merit*.

Contemporary Classics by Helga Schubert

Helga Schubert
On Getting Up
224 pages
September 2022
First published in 2021

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction

Licenses sold: Italy, Korea, The Netherlands, Serbia

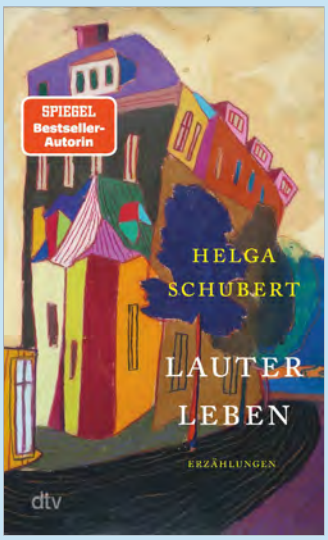
Helga Schubert
The Present Day
272 pages
December 2024
First published in 2023

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction

Licenses sold: Arabic language (Al-Turjman), The Netherlands (Pluim)

Helga Schubert
Breathing Life – Stories of Transition
288 pages
October 2026
First published in 2025

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction



Helga Schubert
Plenty of Life – Stories
176 pages
September 2022
First published in 1975

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction

Helga Schubert
The World Inside
296 pages
August 2021
First published in 2003

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction

Helga Schubert
Judas Women
176 pages
August 2021
First published in 1990

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction

Licenses sold: The Netherlands; Rights available again: France

Jochen Missfeldt: Summer of Farewell

Jochen Missfeldt's most autobiographical novel yet shines a light on universal questions of memory, identity and heritage

For readers of Per Petterson, Kent Haruf and Annie Proulx

Jochen Missfeldt
Summer of Farewell
240 pages
July 2026

Genre: Literary Fiction, Fiction

It all happened one summer, fourteen years after the war

Flensburg, 1959: Gustav spends his summer holidays on a campsite at the Baltic Sea. He can't get his mind off Johanna, the daughter of a corsetière originally from East Prussia. If only he hadn't slapped her out of jealousy ... He feels guilty, but what does guilt mean for him? His art teacher is the painter Gerhard Fritz Hensel, whose sister Hedwig was married to Auschwitz commander Rudolf Höß, though nobody knows about it. In everyday life, tales of people escaping from East Prussia and Silesia are more common – and popular – than stories about the Third Reich. More and more, Gustav gets to the bottom of abominable things, both great and small.

»Jochen Missfeldt knows every shade a story can take and how to make each one shine.« – Ulrich Rüdenauer, *Literaturen*

© Holger Rüdel / holger-ruedel.de

Jochen Missfeldt, born in 1941 in Northern Germany, was an aviation officer for the German Air Force and went on to study Musicology and Philosophy. He has published several novels, short stories and poems as well as a biography about Theodor Storm. Jochen Missfeldt has won a number of literary awards and lives in North Frisia.

Haneen Al-Sayegh: Happiness in the Lion's Mouth

- Perfect for readers of Rabih Alameddine, Marjan Kamali and Maggie O'Farrell
- Haneen Al-Sayegh is an upcoming, award-winning author in the Arab world

About the vastness of life in a narrow world
Nabila and Ali have been married for 45 years. But when Fairuz' love songs on the radio float through her kitchen, Nabila rather thinks of her first love, a Syrian migrant worker. Even though she didn't leave her mountain village with him at the time, she has felt a deep longing ever since. Now that her daughters have left home, the old longing feeling is back and Nabila sends Ali a message on Facebook. He doesn't recognise his wife behind the pseudonym and she doesn't let on, so a long and surprising conversation unfolds between the old, stubborn couple. A touching tale of a strong-willed woman holding on to her inner independence.

© Bettina Theuerkauf

Haneen Al-Sayegh, born in 1986 in Lebanon, studied English Literature at the American University of Beirut and works as a lecturer and translator. Her debut novel '*The Invisible Tie*' was shortlisted for the *International Prize for Arabic Fiction*. She lives in Beirut and Berlin.

Backlist

Haneen Al-Sayegh
The Invisible Tie
336 pages
March 2024

Licenses sold: English World Rights (Interlink Publishing)

Haneen Al-Sayegh
Happiness in the Lion's Mouth
304 pages
September 2026

Genre: Literary Fiction, Fiction

Beatrix Gerstberger: The Lobster Years (vol. II)

- Sequel to the successful 2025 debut novel '*The Lobster Women*': #1 *SPIEGEL* bestseller, 21 weeks in the top 20
- »You can feel that Beatrix Gerstberger lived what she writes about. An entertaining, powerful novel« – *Brigitte*
- For readers of Claire Lombardo and Maggie O'Farrell

BEST SELLING AUTHOR

Beatrix Gerstberger
The Lobster Years (vol. II)
352 pages
August 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Can love survive every wound?
Returning to Eagle Island brings three generations face to face with the past. While Richard longs for one last summer on the Maine coast, his daughter Mina must confront a love she never truly left behind. Julie refuses to let grief define the rest of her life, and Judith can no longer outrun the memories of a tragedy that changed her family forever.
Rich in emotion and psychological insight, this is a novel about the choices that shape us, the secrets we carry and the healing power of facing the past.

© Sonja Tobias c/o Wildfox Running

Beatrix Gerstberger, born in 1964, is a freelance author for various magazines. Since first publishing her memoir about the untimely death of her partner, she has written further novels and become an internationally acclaimed author.

Backlist

Beatrix Gerstberger
The Lobster Women (vol. I)
432 pages
July 2026

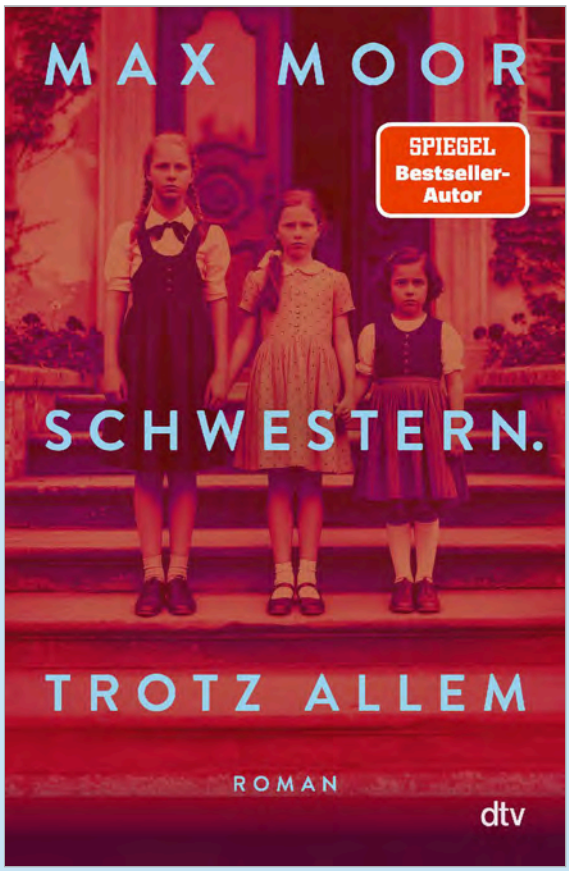
Licenses sold: France, Italy, The Netherlands, Turkey

Max Moor: Sisters Despite Everything

- A family saga about guilt and survival told in powerfully eloquent prose by the spellbinding storyteller Max Moor
- Inspired by true events
- For readers of Trude Teige and Ann Napolitano (‘*Hello Beautiful*’)

BEST SELLING AUTHOR

Three sisters – three lives
At the end of World War II Gerti loses everything. Her father has disappeared, her mother has died and her two sisters are put in a home. She is the only one who gets to stay with her grandparents. All she has left are three buttons torn off an old jacket from her days in the League of German Girls, which were supposed to bring the sisters luck. With Austria still in ruins, Gerti has to learn quickly to survive on her own and assert her own worth despite all the prejudices of the time. Through it all, however, she never gives up on the search for her sisters.
In 2010, Gerti finally looks back on her life – on work, children, love and loss – and thinks, »It wasn’t a great life, but it was mine«.
A love story about female self-assertion at a time when there wasn’t even a word for it.



Max Moor
Sisters Despite Everything
560 pages
October 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

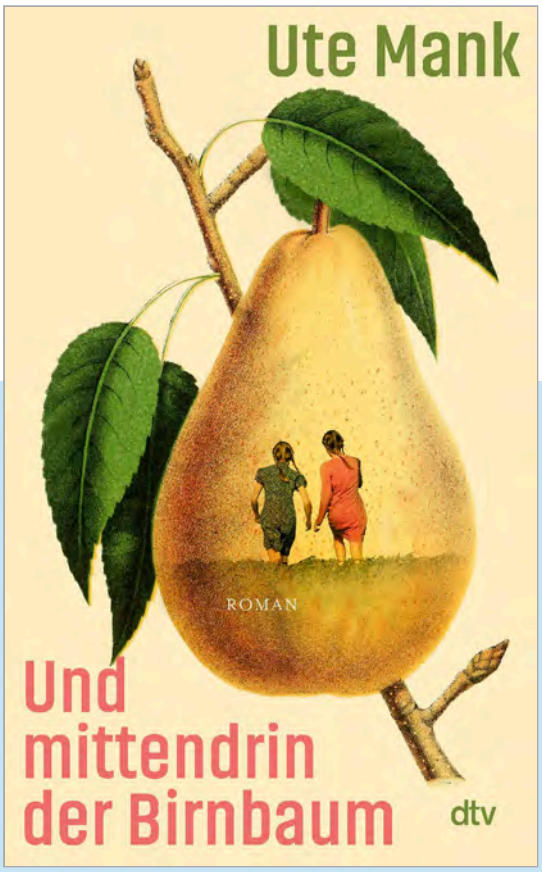
© Astrid Eckert

Max Moor, born in Zurich in 1958, is an actor and tv-presenter. Up until 2024, he presented the renowned German TV culture show *Kulturmagazin*. He lives in Berlin with his wife.

Ute Mank: And the Pear Tree at the Heart of It All

An emotional, brilliantly researched and engrossing narrative – sparkling and moving

As profound as Daniela Krien and as atmospheric as Dörte Hansen



Ute Mank
And the Pear Tree at the Heart of It All
336 pages
September 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

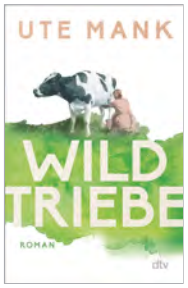
When knowing is not enough – a novel about silence, complicity and hope

Decades after she left, Dora returns to her hometown. For hours, she walks through strange yet familiar streets to her parents' house but also passes the half-timbered house where her best friend Fanny used to live. Dora is flabbergasted when she discovers the memorial stones outside of her friend's house. There are only four stones, but Dora knows for sure that there should be five. One is missing, the one commemorating Fanny. What happened to her back then? In this captivating novel, Ute Mank tells the story of a village living through dark times, of two girls separated by war and of a fortuitous rescue.

© privat

Ute Mank was born in Marburg. She is the mother of two adult daughters, and has a PhD in Educational Science. Her first novel 'Wildtriebe', published in 2021, was nominated for the *Klaus Michael Kühne Prize*. She lives in Hesse with her family.

Backlist



Ute Mank
Wild Shoots
288 pages
November 2022

Ute Mank
Childhood Home
304 pages
July 2023

Tanja Kokoska: What Is Your Wish?

- Another deeply moving novel by bestselling author Tanja Kokoska whose latest novel reached a print-run of over 45,000 copies within the first two months of publication (#5 *SPIEGEL* bestseller)
- For readers of Virginia Evans and Cecilia Ahern

Discovering the magic moments in everyday life

Juli Mahlo seems to belong to another era. Living alone in an apartment, she finds her greatest joy in the quiet sanctuary of her flower shop. A woman of few words, Juli possesses a remarkable gift: With a bouquet of flowers, she can encourage others to open their hearts. There is Hans, haunted by a childhood mistake, and Martha, whose deeply rooted fears have shaped her entire life. However, Juli herself remains unable to confront her own struggles. Everything changes the day the charming Mr. Lensky walks into her shop. For the first time, Juli is forced to face what she has long kept buried and discovers that happiness often begins where fear ends.

© Salome Roessler / lensandlight

Tanja Kokoska was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1971, was an editor at the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper for many years and now works as a freelance journalist and author. She still lives in Frankfurt.

Tanja Kokoska
What Is Your Wish?
ca. 352 pages
December 2026
First published in 2018

Genre: Contemporary Fiction, Fiction

Backlist

Tanja Kokoska
Good Morning, Dear! Lovely Weather, Isn't It?
352 pages
June 2026

Dora Heldt, Anouk Schollähn: Middle Aged Women Who Spend Too Much Time Sitting

- The perfect gift for your best friend
- Dora Heldt's total print-run with dtv: approx. 7 million copies

BEST SELLING AUTHOR

Dora Heldt, Anouk Schollähn
Middle Aged Women Who Spend Too Much Time Sitting
224 pages
July 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Two women – heaps of opinions
About impossible yoga poses, lurking double chins and other joys: Dora Heldt and Anouk Schollähn's humorous, thought-provoking and comforting columns about age differences, relationships, mothers' words of wisdom and adversities best faced together.
For anyone who wonders why people hold their mobile phone like they'd hold crispbread, for anyone who has trouble getting up after crouching – and who wants to find out that they're not alone with their problems.
Authentic, funny and surprising ruminations – fantastic entertainment!

© by Gunter Glücklich - www.guntergluecklich.com

© by Gunter Glücklich - www.guntergluecklich.com

Dora Heldt was born on Sylt in 1961 and has written herself to the top of bestseller lists and into the hearts of millions of readers. As a trained bookseller, she worked as a sales representative for a large publisher for over thirty years.

Anouk Schollähn, born in 1976, is a radio and TV journalist and podcaster. She has also made a name for herself internationally as a presenter of readings and has been living in Hamburg for many years.

Christoph Merker: The Midnight Break

A plea for the power of friendship – and good food

For readers of Julie Caplin, Jenny Colgan and Carsten Henn

Johann Glück is unlucky ...
After a deal falls through, banker Johann Glück finds himself out on the street and shortly afterwards back in his office – however, with a mop and bucket in his hand and definitely after office hours. The only highlight of his new job is Team Four's midnight breaks, when former chef Valea serves delicacies from her Romanian homeland. Johann suggests a competition, with the other team members as the jury. The motley crew becomes a close-knit community that soon throws in the towel, or rather buckets and mops, and develops a new business idea ...
A warm-hearted, charming and humorous feel-good novel.

Christoph Merker
The Midnight Break
320 pages
December 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

© Rita Niehues

Christoph Merker, born in 1969 in Bavaria, attended the vocational school for wood carving and carpentry in Berchtesgaden. He went on to study Philosophy and Art History in Salzburg and lives as an author and artist in Schönau am Königssee.

Lucien Marant: Next Time Is Forever

- The perfect escape route to Paris: romantic streets, fresh croissants, good music and a love story
- For readers of Jojo Moyes and all fans of the Netflix series '*Emily in Paris*'

Lucien Marant
Next Time Is Forever
320 pages
August 2026

Genre: Fiction, Love / Romance

A Summer for Eternity
Paris, 1999: Student Mona gets to stay in the city of her dreams for one semester. The day she arrives she meets Thibauld and actually finds the pretty boy's arrogance insufferable. Yet, there's something about his dreamy persona and his unique way of looking at the world that she can't get out of her head. So she embarks on an emotional rollercoaster full of happy moments and disappointments.
Paris, 2019: When Mona returns to the city, which had been her home for one summer, she unexpectedly finds herself looking into a pair of sparkling eyes. Thibauld! She has run straight into the very person who made her happier than she has ever been in her life but also hurt her most deeply. Is this fate's way of making sure that they both get a second chance?

© Susi Neumair

Lucien Marant studied Literature and works as a freelance editor in Berlin. He discovered his love for the French capital during plenty of visits.

Anna Hensel: Love's Anatomy – What We Risk When We Love

- Penned by a doctor: Anna Hensel's writing is truly authentic
- Tropes: boss x employee, enemies to lovers, secret relationship, forbidden love, emotional scars
- For readers of Abby Jimenez and fans of '*Grey's Anatomy*'

When love gets under your skin
Never show any sign of weakness – that has long been 26-year-old Leevke's motto. After studying medicine and working as an orthopaedic trainee doctor, she moves to Hamburg. As she urgently needs the money for a place to stay, she has to take a job in trauma surgery. Despite the gruff manner of the male-dominated team, Leevke fights for every patient's well-being, whereas it would seem that the consultant in charge, the boss's attractive son, thinks that the hospital's finances are more important. Leevke doesn't want him of all people to find out that she herself is still feeling the effects of an accident: The pain in her wrist makes every surgery a challenge for her.
A gripping love story set in day-to-day hospital work between pounding hearts, disagreements and second chances.

Anna Hensel
Love's Anatomy – What We Risk When We Love
432 pages
November 2026

Genre: Fiction, Love / Romance

© privat

Anna Hensel, born in 1990, studied Medicine in Jena and has worked as a doctor in several hospitals. She discovered her passion for writing during her second pregnancy and lives in Lower Saxony with her husband and her three children.

Andreas Suchanek: The Deadly Artefact – The Seal Keeper of London (vol. II)

- '*The Forgotten Museum*' (vol. I) was nominated for the *SERAPH Prize* 2026
- Perfect for readers of Ben Aaronovitch and Benedict Jacka
- Third volume in preparation

Andreas Suchanek
The Deadly Artefact – The Seal Keeper of London (vol. II)
384 pages
August 2026

Genre: Fantasy / Science Fiction / Horror, Fiction

A dangerous lodge. A deadly artefact. A magical adventure.
Liam, the fledgling seal keeper of London's magical museum, has a new mission: He and his colleague Julia are being sent to Paris to help the seal keeper of Paris. A headless body has been found lying in front of a French Revolution painting at the Louvre. Clues hinting at artefact magic point to the magical museums' enemy, the Lodge. On the trail of the killers Julia and Liam do not only stumble on a guild of thieves, but also find clinching proof of Operation Great Devastation and the end of the museum network. Can the secret network of magical museums stop evil from taking over the world before it is too late?

© Dennis Wendlinger

Andreas Suchanek was born in 1982, started writing as a teenager and later worked as a co-author for major German pulp fiction series, including '*Perry Rhodan*'. Since 2012, he has (self-)published his own book series at his publishing house Greenlight Press.

Backlist

Andreas Suchanek
The Forgotten Museum – The Seal-Keeper of London (vol. I)
400 pages
September 2025

Licenses sold: Spain (Maeva)

Julius Arth: The Frost Fair Conspiracy

- A fast-paced story about an unlikely friendship and the first female spies
- Fascinating and brilliantly researched historical setting of the spectacular River Thames frost fairs
- For readers of Daniel Wolf, Oliver Pötzsch and Jeffrey Archer

A chilling conspiracy in 17th-century London
In the icy winter of 1683, the paths of two women cross: enigmatic Ruth and strong-willed Emma, who was forced to marry an old nobleman. Ruth plots revenge after finding out that her husband, a spy working for the Crown, conspired to kill her. When it transpires that both their husbands are tangled up in a plot against King Charles II, the two women join forces to stop the coup d'état. Drawing on Ruth's espionage skills and Emma's "undercover" work at the stall of an attractive silversmith at the frost fair on the frozen Thames, they succeed in thwarting an attempt on the king's life. But when the women find themselves in the plotters' sights, the frozen river becomes the scene of a race against time.

© Henning Mack - ego-shooters.com

Julius Arth studied Literature at the University of Reading and lived closed to London. After completing his PhD, he worked as a lecturer of English Literature at German and US universities. Today he lives and works as a freelance writer in the Rhineland.

Backlist

Julius Arth
The London Bridge
560 pages
February 2025

Julius Arth
The Frost Fair Conspiracy
576 pages
October 2026

Genre: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Felicity Whitmore: The Godmother of New York

- Print-run of Felicity Whitmore at dtv: over 250,000 copies
- Based on the true story of Fredericka Mandelbaum
- For readers of Lucinda Riley and Kate Morton

Felicity Whitmore
The Godmother of New York
352 pages
July 2026

Genre: Historical Fiction, Fiction

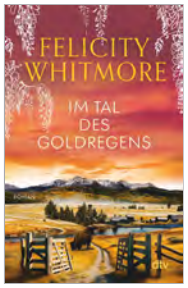
Licenses sold: Hungary (Kossuth)

Family heirloom or stolen goods?
At the grand unveiling of a monument commemorating her ancestors as “parents of orphans”, Mallory Taunton wears a priceless diamond necklace, a family heirloom. But then a man gets up and claims that Jesse and Georgiana Birnbaum had not been philanthropists at all but part of an organisation run by Fredericka Mandelbaum, New York’s notorious queen of crime. Worse still, he claims the necklace Mallory is wearing was stolen from his family 150 years ago. An incredible story unfolds on the trail of the diamonds. From starting out a peddler to rising in rank as head of a criminal organisation: the incredible life of Fredericka Mandelbaum.

© Melanie Grande

Felicity Whitmore has four big passions: England, her cats and dogs, the theatre and creative writing. She regularly travels to England and writes whenever she can find the time. Her bestselling novels often deal with the secrets of old mansions.

Backlist



Felicity Whitmore
In the Valley of the Golden Rain
416 pages
July 2025

Lori Kilian: The Lighthouse Nurse

‘*Call the Midwife*’ meets ‘*The Light between Oceans*’

Based on a true story: District nurses braved the elements to help others on the bleak coast

Love on the turning tide

1923, Scotland: After years of having been away from home, Eliza returns to Scotland’s windswept Outer Hebrides to work as a nurse. She is supposed to care for the isolated lighthouse keepers and their families and hopes to get close to her sister Màiri again. However, she is put to the test by the harsh living conditions, the locals’ mistrust and memories of the night that changed her life forever. Then she meets Aidan who sought solitude as a lighthouse keeper after experiencing the trauma of war. Between storms, dangerous operations and hours of silence by the sea, Eliza has to learn to let go of guilt and work out whether she has the courage to trust her heart a second time.

Lori Kilian
The Lighthouse Nurse
384 pages
August 2026

Genre: Fiction, Historical Fiction

© Sarah Kastner

Lori Kilian is the pseudonym of a bestselling German author who lives in Frankfurt. When the History graduate is not writing at her desk, she’s working as a tour guide at The History Museum in Frankfurt, sharing her knowledge with visitors.

Moritz Matthies: Switzerland Is Not Enough (vol. XI)

- The 11th volume of the cult bestselling series about the Meerkat Detectives from the Brandenburg Forest
- Moritz Matthies' print-run at dtv: over 90,000 copies

Moritz Matthies
Switzerland Is Not Enough (vol. XI)
272 pages
October 2026

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

The meerkats who emerged from the cold
In wintry St. Moritz of all places, Rufus and Ray are supposed to play bodyguard to Kelly along with Phil, though the meerkats are like fish out of water in the mountains. The rebellious goddaughter of Interpol's Chief Mary Montgomery is trying to track down her missing father. Upon their arrival Kelly disappears in the Swiss Alps and, like it or not, the meerkat duo has to throw themselves into a mountain adventure. Unfortunately, not even a brown bear and a few enthusiastic mountain goats drafted in to help can stop everything from going horribly wrong ...

© Sophie von Heppe

Moritz Matthies is the pseudonym of two successful Berlin authors: Hans Rath and Edgar Rai. They have garnered much praise and a large fanbase with their bestselling series about the adventures of the lovable meerkats Ray and Rufus.

More Meerkat (Mis-)Adventures

Moritz Matthies
The Forest Calls (vol. VI)
336 pages
April 2021

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

Moritz Matthies
Something Is Rotten in the Bushes (vol. VII)
336 pages
June 2022

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

Moritz Matthies
Sinking Ships (vol. VIII)
288 pages
April 2023

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Moritz Matthies
Ass Full of Money (vol. IX)
304 pages
May 2024

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

Moritz Matthies
Boom Boom Babuschka (vol. X)
304 pages
May 2025

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

Rita Falk: Meatball Misery (vol. XIV)

- Franz Eberhofer's brand new 14th case, long-awaited by fans
- Print-run of Rita Falk's novels at dtv: over 8 million copies
- Cozy crime in the tradition of Osman, Beaton and McCall Smith, blending mystery, eccentric characters, local culture and laugh-out-loud humor

BEST SELLING AUTHOR

Rita Falk
Meatball Misery (vol. XIV)
320 pages
November 2026

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

A body in a pond, a burning Rudi and a frazzled Eberhofer

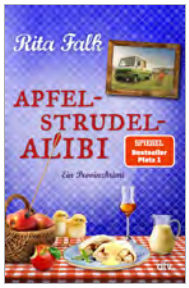
The over-excited ex-mayor has chosen New Year's Eve, of all nights, to screech his unfounded theories into Eberhofer's phone. He claims he's heard gun shots and no, a mistake is totally out of the question. So what else can a dutiful village policeman do except hang up on the caller asap?

At least until a corpse is in fact pulled out of Mill Pond a few days later. As if Franz didn't have his hands full dealing with his ambitious girlfriend, now a call to Rudi becomes inevitable. At the crime scene investigation however, Rudi's initial enthusiasm instantly cools down ...

© Astrid Eckert

Rita Falk was born in Bavaria in 1964 and still lives there. With her rural mysteries centered on village constable Franz Eberhofer, she has written her way into the hearts of her readers – including those far beyond Bavaria's borders. The films based on her Franz Eberhofer books enjoy huge popularity as well.

Backlist



Rita Falk
Apple Strudel Alibi (vol. XIII)
336 pages
October 2025

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Let Us Entertain You ... The Eberhofer Series (I–VI)

Rita Falk
Winter Potato Dumplings (vol. I)
256 pages
February 2012
First published in 2010

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: France (J'ai lu), Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
Steam-Bread Blues (vol. II)
272 pages
June 2012
First published in 2011

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Estonia (Kirjastus Tänapäev), France (J'ai lu), Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
Boar's Head, Rare (vol. III)
256 pages
February 2013
First published in 2011

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: France (J'ai lu), Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
The Semolina Dumpling Affair (vol. IV)
256 pages
February 2014
First published in 2012

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
Sauerkraut Coma (vol. V)
288 pages
December 2014
First published in 2013

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
The Plum Stew Conspiracy (vol. VI)
288 pages
April 2016
First published in 2015

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra), Latvia (Zvaigzne)

Let Us Entertain You ... The Eberhofer Series (VII–XII)

Rita Falk
The Meatloaf Addict (vol. VII)
320 pages
January 2017
First published in 2016

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra), Latvia (Zvaigzne)

Rita Falk
The Weisswurst Connection (vol. VIII)
320 pages
November 2017
First published in 2016

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
Kaiserschmarrn Drama (vol. IX)
304 pages
April 2019
First published in 2018

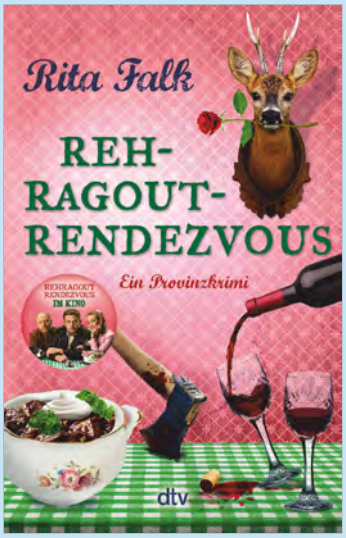
Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
Guglhupf Squadron (vol. X)
320 pages
September 2020
First published in 2019

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)



Rita Falk
Venison Ragout Rendezvous (vol. XI)
320 pages
July 2023
First published in 2021

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Rita Falk
The Bavarian Fish Fiasco (vol. XII)
304 pages
June 2026
First published in 2023

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

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True crimes, researched down to the last detail and transformed into a compelling thriller by a criminal court judge: a must-read for fans of true crime and historical murder mysteries

For readers of Niklas Natt och Dag and Kerri Maniscalco

Four bodies. Four dark secrets. One hunter. London, 1888: The Metropolitan Police is recruiting more officers because of the dire situation in the ghettos, and new headquarters are being built. However, the building work is brought to a screeching halt after a gruesome discovery: a strange package in the newly built strongroom. Wrapped up inside is a hideously mutilated woman's torso, but there's no sign of her head. Is someone making a mockery of the police? The well-connected escort Irene Adams and the taciturn bodyguard William Berger investigate the case their own way and come up against a wall of silence. Soon afterwards another body is dredged out of the Thames, its head also missing. The hunt for a faceless phantom begins.

© Inga Jockel

Thorsten Schleif is both a book author and a judge. He has written several highly successful non-fiction books and a humorous crime series featuring Judge Siggi Buckmann.

Thorsten Schleif
Four Heads Missing – A True Crime Thriller (vol. II)
336 pages
September 2026

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Historical Fiction

Backlist

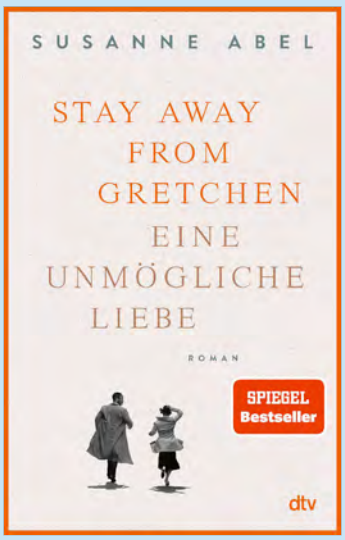
Thorsten Schleif
Killing Red Jack – A True Crime Thriller
352 pages
October 2025

dtv's SPIEGEL bestsellers in 2026

Susanne Abel
Hold My Hand Tighter, No. 104
544 pages
August 2025
First published in 2025

Genre: Historical Fiction, Fiction

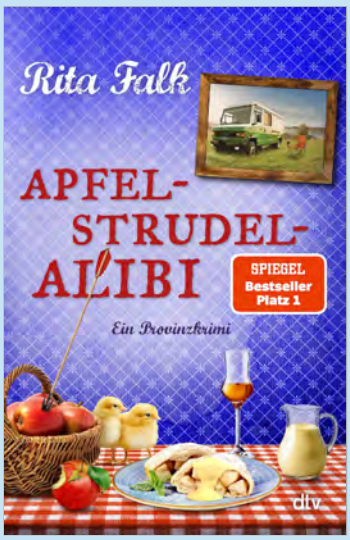
Licenses sold: Arabic language (Bayt el Kotob), Finland (Gummerus/Juju)



Susanne Abel
Stay away from Gretchen (vol. I)
560 pages
February 2023
First published in 2021

Genre: Historical Fiction, Fiction, Love / Romance

Licenses sold: Arabic, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia / Film rights optioned



Rita Falk
Apple Strudel Alibi (vol. XIII)
336 pages
October 2025

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

Licenses sold: Hungary (Magistra)

Beatrix Gerstberger
The Lobster Women (vol. I)
432 pages
July 2026
First published in 2025

Genre: Fiction, Family / Friends

Licenses sold: France, Italy, The Netherlands, Turkey

Dora Heldt
The Family Affairs of Johanne Johansen
464 pages
November 2025
First published in 2024

Genre: Fiction, Family / Friends

Licenses sold: Hungary (Alexandra Könyvesház Kft), The Netherlands (Houtekiet)

Torsten Woywod
Mathilde and Marie
336 pages
January 2026

Genre: Contemporary Fiction, Fiction

Licenses sold: Italy (Giunti), The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos)

dtv's SPIEGEL bestsellers in 2026

Helga Schubert
Breathing Life – Stories of Transition
288 pages
November 2025
First published in 2025

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction

Alena Schröder
My Whole Life, Oil on Canvas, Untitled
352 pages
January 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Licenses sold: Slovenia (Mladinska Knjiga)

Dora Heldt
Between Good and Evil – Sönnigsen's Final Case (vol. III)
368 pages
March 2026

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense

Christian Huber
While the Match Burns
352 pages
March 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Krischan Koch
One Flew Over the Gull's Nest (vol. XIV)
320 pages
February 2026

Genre: Fiction, Crime / Thriller / Suspense, Humor

Lukas Rietzschel
Sanditz
480 pages
March 2026

Genre: Fiction, Literary Fiction

Licenses sold: English Rights, Common Wealth (Arboretum Books)

dtv’s SPIEGEL bestsellers in 2026

Lena Kupke
Pause
320 pages
May 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Tanja Kokoska
Good Morning, Dear! Lovely Weather, Isn’t It?
352 pages
June 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Ruth-Maria Thomas
The Second Greatest Love
304 pages
July 2026

Genre: Fiction, Literary Fiction

Beatrix Gerstberger
The Lobster Years (vol. II)
352 pages
August 2026

Genre: Fiction, Contemporary Fiction

Tarkan Bagci: In the Life of an Owl

Tarkan Bagci
In the Life of an Owl
320 pages
January 2027

Genre: Fiction, Love / Romance, Contemporary Fiction

What if the woman you love believes the world will end in six months?
Elias feels that time is getting away from him. Now in his early thirties, he must finally find the right woman for the rest of his life, marry, start a family ... And then he meets Leah. She seems to be the perfect match. She's a paediatrician, charming, smart, funny – and with her, everything suddenly feels so easy! The future Elias longs for appears to be within his grasp. There's just one problem: Leah is absolutely convinced that the world will come to an end in six months' time.
An uplifting tale that proves love can flourish against all odds.

Anton Weil: Unwanted Goods

Anton Weil
Unwanted Goods
ca. 200 pages
April 2027

Genre: Literary Fiction, Fiction

»Definitely not fit for purpose. Please return.«
In a near-future Berlin, Bruno drifts through life as a city tour guide, film-set worker and reluctant survivor of his own past. When episodes of blackouts and flashbacks start, Bruno is forced to confront the events he has spent decades avoiding: a childhood marked by violated boundaries, experiences of sexual coercion and the habit of making himself smaller for the comfort of others.
Told in a darkly funny voice that never shuts up because silence seems too dangerous, this novel moves between present-day absurdity and painful recollection, revealing a profound story about shame, male vulnerability, trauma and love.

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