About Hoffmann und Campe Verlag

Hoffmann und Campe, founded in 1781, is a publishing house with a long tradition and today one of Germany’s largest and most successful general publishers with a portfolio that embraces the works of famous authors and young writing talents. Since 1951, all works by the eminent narrative writer Siegfried Lenz have been published by Hoffmann und Campe.

About Atlantik Verlag

In spring 2014 Hoffmann und Campe has launched the new imprint called Atlantik. Atlantik focuses on well-told novels, popular non-fiction, great anthologies and beautiful gift books. The Atlantik list features such acclaimed authors as Agatha Christie, José Saramago, Paul Theroux, Grégoire Delacourt, Natalio Grueso and Romain Puértolas.

We control translation rights for all the titles listed in this catalogue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to receive reading copies. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes from Hamburg,

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A spectacular novel about men and women – and an extraordinary historical character who was both

- One of the most extraordinary books in a long time – an unbelievable yet true story!
- All of the author’s books have been bestsellers – over 150 000 copies sold

An incredible story about men and women, betrayal and intrigue, affairs, escape and triumph: this is the true story of the Chevalier d’Éon.

Irene Dische tells us the true story of the Chevalier d’Éon de Beaumont, who was born in France in 1728 and died in London in 1810. D’Éon was a diplomat, soldier, book lover, Freemason, swordsman, writer and spy – and he lived most of his turbulent life as a woman. Right up to his death, he posed what Voltaire called a ‘riddle for posterity’: the question about the true identity of the militant Madonna who defeated all her male opponents in public duels.

»In my day, in my circles, everyone said what they wanted and how they wanted to say it. In the uppermost ranks of society, at the world’s most highly cultured court, men dressed like women and women dressed like men, and nobody got worked up about such trifles.«

Irene Dische
The Militant Madonna
October 2021
182 pages
Hardcover
€ 22,–
ISBN 978-3-455-01196-8
German Title:
Die militante Madonna

IRENE DISCHE was born in 1952 and raised in a German-speaking household in a German-Jewish neighbourhood in Upper Manhattan. Eventually she moved to Germany, where her career as a writer got started – in German. Since then, all her books have been published in German first, appearing in English a year or two later. Her books, published in twenty-two countries, have included international bestsellers.
Irene Dische –
Selected Backlist

At the end of the 1960s, Duke Butler, naïve and uneducated, stumbles into the life of an intellectual family on New York’s upper west side, who admire the young man from Florida like a Kaspar Hauser and take him in. Before he knew what was happening, the Southerner is married to Lily, the only daughter, and develops into a wine connoisseur and role-model intellectual. Dreamy Lily on the other hand is discovered as a model and becomes the talk of the town. And Duke must learn that a real New Yorker gets by without a heart, but not without using his elbows. He realizes that it’s difficult to free himself from the past, and that family and marriage can keep you above water, but you can also drown, which in a cultivated shark pool like New York can have devastating consequences.

Having problems is a classic reason for travelling. Clarissa is a young American immigrant who foolishly falls in love with the wrong man. She has spent more than five years in Europe without once coming home, enjoying her life there so much that she had no time to miss America. But lovesickness makes her board an aeroplane on impulse to get over it in New York. She lands in the middle of a heated electoral spring season and while she is there it turns into summer. She has no interest whatever in politics but by chance finds herself increasingly drawn into the electoral battle. And it is in fact her complete indifference which makes her perceive things which no-one else does.

Alan Korkunc is a notorious Kurdish assassin who is perhaps not strong or mean enough to work in New York City. Known as the ‘Black Stone’ back in Istanbul, he has recently escaped from prison after being convicted of murdering a Turkish businessman. Now in a cockroach-infested Manhattan apartment, without his accustomed bespoke tailoring, he prepares for a new assignment against an old enemy of the Kurdish people. But his instructions are not to wipe out the big-wig himself, but his two little daughters and the lovely woman they call ‘Mommy’. Although Alan doesn’t understand English, or any other gibberish that turns the Big Apple – he thinks ‘Mommy’ is one of the prettiest names for a woman he has ever heard. As the infamous heartless killer makes his cool, controlled preparations, he has not reckoned on New York’s bustling anonymity and its squirting jam donuts, nor on the distractions of an elderly neighbour who shares her tinned sardines with him in his lonely hours.

A mix of satire, intrigue and odd-ball lethal suspense, The Job is a deft tale of light and shadows which hits unexpected targets of human emotion.

Sold to: Denmark (Samlerens Forlag) and Italy (Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore)

This is the celebratory edition of Irene Dische’s acclaimed debut work from 1989. The seven stories in this book are all about outsiders – emigrants, refugees, re-settlers, people who are stranded, and also with the everyday exile of old age. Irene Dische’s heroes are: the old man in New Jersey, who his own grandchildren think is Adolf Hitler; the down-at-heel Nobel Prize-winner living on ready meals; the bewildered pathologist in the confessional; the female Jewish black marketeer in Berlin. Her favourite settings for these stories are New York and Berlin – the two poles between which she moves – in her life, her language and her writings.

Sold to: Denmark (Samlerens Forlag), Finland (Kirjayhtymä), France (Editions du Seuil), Israel (Zmora Bitan Publishing House), Italy (Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore), Netherlands (Uitgeverij Van Gennep), Portugal (Difel, Difusao Editorial Lda.), Sweden (Gedins Förlag), Spain (Editorial Anagramma), Czech Republic (G + G Ltd), Hungary (Europa Könyvkiado).


Love is a matter of taste. Some people like it sweet, some like it sharp and others are sour anyhow. Irene Dische has written 25 love stories and divided them into three chapters: heaven, purgatory and hell. They end sadly or finish on a happy note – but each one has a surprise in store.

A happily married couple is torn apart prematurely but their relationship continues in heaven. An old, grieving widow has also arrived, missing her dead husband painfully and wanting to give away her money, but no-one takes her seriously. In purgatory, on the other hand, a couple who bore each other to death just carry on as before and nothing changes. Then there is the narcissistic beau in the company of several ladies at once. His love affair with his own image leaves him wandering through hell on his own.

All these stories are based on true encounters and incidents and out of them Irene Dische has skillfully composed a paean of praise to love.

Sold to: Netherlands (Em. Queridos Uitgeverij BV) English sample translation available

At the end of what is (she cannot help observing) an extraordinary life, Elisabeth Rother has decided to write her memoirs. She brushes aside her narrow escape with her Jewish husband from the Nazis, and the perilous voyage to the New World of New Jersey. The subject that really consumes her is the waywardness of her impossible daughter, Renate, and her granddaughter, Irene.

Renate performs autopsies on the bodies of politicians whom death has harvested in the nighttime arms of their mistresses. Worse, she sleeps on unironed sheets. Irene drops out of school to roam the world, refuses to correct her nose with plastic surgery, and shows alarming signs of enjoying sex. What is to be done with such women? A curiously touching love letter to the difficult but sustaining love of mothers and daughters. *The Empress of Weehawken* is a masterpiece of comedy with an unexpected lilt of redemption at its close.

Sold to: Denmark (Tiderne Skifter), France (Editions du Seuil), Italy (Neri Pozza), Korea (By Books), the Netherlands (Em. Querido Uitgeverij BV), Norway (KA Forlag), Poland (Wydawnictwo Nisza) and Czech Republic (Nakladatelstvi JOTA)

Three friends – and the dark side of a glittering city

- An unusual investigator trying to escape his pain
- An outstanding crime story about Munich, rental arrangements and greed

**Betongold** (*Golden Cement*) is both a crime story and a great novel, masterfully succinct and intense, a brilliant study of human nature and social environment. The portrait of the dark side of a city whose glitter isn’t all gold for everyone.

Josef Frey, nicknamed Smokey, grew up in the Obergiesing district of Munich, together with his friends Schani and Moni. Smokey has spent his life investigating murders, but five years ago he got out: Bechterew’s disease, an incurable condition, bends his spine and forces his eyes down towards the ground, that golden Munich ground. He tries to escape the pain by means of marijuana and endless walks through the city.

Until a specific corpse turns up: a man who has recently come to nefarious fame as a real estate agent. The man now lying face down in a construction site ditch is Smokey’s old friend Schani. Smokey’s quest to find the truth about his friend’s death drives him on and on through Munich, for he knows: the answer is out there, in the streets of his beautiful, cruel city.

**Tanja Weber** spent equal amounts of time in Berlin and in Munich, working as a dramaturge and as a screenwriter for a television series. Her first novel *Sommersaat* (2011) was nominated for the Glauser prize for literary debuts. She lives near Munich with her family.
Trouble in paradise – Luc Verlain’s fifth case is a real challenge

The loveable commissaire is back!

Over 350,000 copies sold of the first four books in the series

The bestselling series continues. In the Rue de Paradis, a street nestling between the sea and the bay of oysters, Luc Verlain gets entangled in a web of lies, envy, and secrets that have long been kept under wrap.

In a small village on the Cap Ferret peninsula, a storm surge claims an entire street. An old woman dies that night. Fact is that here, in the Rue de Paradis, no house should ever have been built. Now all the houses have to go, and the inhabitants must leave their idyll at the end of the world to be resettled elsewhere.

In this heated atmosphere, Luc Verlain is asked to mediate – and soon finds himself faced with his most challenging case to date. The very same night another storm surge is coming and the village mayor is drifting in the water, dead. Was his murder an act of revenge by the grandson of the old woman who died in the first storm? Or is the perpetrator one of the inhabitants of the houses that are to be demolished? It soon transpires that the rich politician had nothing but enemies in the Rue de Paradis.

ALEXANDER OETKER, born in 1982 in Berlin, worked for the Berliner Zeitung, the Bayerische Rundfunk and the Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk. Viewers know him as reporter for RTL and n-tv. He lived and worked in Paris for four years as France correspondent for the media group RTL. Since 2012, he is political correspondent for RTL and n-tv with focus on European issues. Alexander Oetker lives in Berlin with his wife and two sons.
Alexander Oetker –
Selected Backlist

This is where he is meant to live? In a region where Jacques closes his boulangerie for four hours at lunchtime. Where all there is are vineyards and endless forests – instead of his beloved wide boulevards and Haussmann balconies in the Quartier Latin. Where the village tobacconist only has filterless Gitanes and not his specialist Swiss cigarettes. Here, where the phone network is weaker than anywhere in France – but who was he going to call anyway? His lovers were all in Paris. But he was here: In Aquitaine. Back home. He had wanted it. What a dumb idea that had been.

Luc Verlain loves good food, women and his carefree life in Paris. But when his father falls ill, Luc asks for a transfer. Bordeaux of all places, in the Aquitaine region, where he had fled from as a young policeman. Back home, Luc has to face his memories. And shortly after his arrival, a murder shocks the region: A girl lies battered to death. The victim had ended her relationship with an Algerian boy from the neighbourhood shortly before her death, who is now considered a strong suspect. The girl’s stepfather wants to take matters into his own hands. Luc’s investigations lead him to the beaches and vineyards of the region and back to Paris. Always by his side, his colleague Anouk, whose charms he finds hard to resist.

»In Retour, Alexander Oetker has succeeded not only in writing a thrilling story but in sparking the urgent desire to go on holiday at once.« BZ am Sonntag

»Luc Verlain’s first case is the ideal opener for a new crime series, and will be enjoyed by more than just friends of French savoir-vivre.« News

Luc Verlain’s first summer in Aquitaine is drawing to a close – yet shortly before the noblest grapes are picked, France finds itself in the grip of a heatwave. Unfortunately, this is exactly when the Marathon du Médoc is due to take place, during which the runners don colourful costumes and quaff red wine along the way.

There’s a huge party, made even better for Luc because his adored Anouk has returned to Aquitaine after her mysterious trip to Italy. Together they stand in the grounds of a castle owned by Luc’s best friend Richard, who supplies the marathon runners with a fine red wine. Suddenly people start dropping like flies – a politician barely escapes with his life, while Hubert, a likeable vintner, is killed. No matter how hard Luc tries to pretend otherwise, all clues point to Richard, who is apparently mired in serious financial difficulties. The inspector is faced with a choice between loyalty to his old friend and his feelings for his charming partner Anouk, who is certain Richard is their man.

»Château Mort is a firework of the senses. Joie de vivre, death and passion. I don’t know anyone at the moment who can describe France like Alexander Oetker. He lays the land at our feet by telling us things to think and feel about.« Adrian Arnold, Swiss Television
Winter envelops the Bassin d’Arcachon. This means excellent business for the oyster farmer, as in France there is no such thing as a holiday without seafood. However, it is also high season for the infamous oyster thieves.

Commissaire Luc Verlain, too, is on a tour of the Bassin, taking his sick father on a last visit to the area where the old man used to work as an oyster farmer. But their boat trip is cut short abruptly when they come upon the corpses of two young men tied to mooring poles. Are they oyster farmers who tried to get their share of the local oyster baron’s holiday profit? Or is this a distraction created by another oyster thief?

Luc and his partner Anouk begin their investigation, which takes them deep into an industry racked by greed and competition.

»An exciting thriller in the beautiful landscape of Aquitaine during Advent.« Oste-Anzeiger
Sabah Hussein is the candidate. And she’s on the road to power

- A bold thought experiment and a dramatic, gripping story
- By the author of the Number 1 Spiegel Bestseller Inside Islam

This thrilling and politically explosive novel by Constantin Schreiber – a bestselling author, Grimme Prize winner and presenter on the Tagesschau news programme – tells the story of the first Muslim woman to run for the office of German chancellor.

Germany in the near future. In politics, there is a quota for women who wear the headscarf. In the churches, statues of Jesus are being replaced with gender-neutral figures in flower crowns. At the Erdogan School in Berlin, all of the students are from a migrant background. Meanwhile, right-wing extremists who want to create a state within the state are carrying out deadly attacks. Due to the unresolved housing crisis, container settlements are being built to house the lower classes. And on the international stage, China and Russia are striving for world domination. German society is completely polarised.

Against this backdrop, Sabah Hussein is running for chancellor – the first Muslim woman ever to do so. And thus a fierce battle for the future of a deeply divided country begins.

CONSTANTIN SCHREIBER, born in 1979, presents the Tagesschau news programme and is one of Germany’s top authorities on the Arabic world. In 2016 he was awarded the Grimme Prize for the German-Arabic talk show Marhaba – Ankommen in Deutschland (Marhaba – Arriving in Germany), in which he explains to refugees what to expect from life in Germany. Through his Deutsche Toleranzstiftung (German Tolerance Foundation), founded in 2019, he works to promote intercultural exchange both at home and abroad. His books Inside Islam and Kinder des Koran were Spiegel Bestsellers. His last book published by Hoffmann und Campe was Marhaba, Flüchtling! in 2016. Schreiber lives with his family in Hamburg.
Until the end of 2015 more than one million refugees came to Germany – thousands of people from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan. For most of them we’re a foreign nation. There is only one thing they know about our country: It is safe. It is rich. Unlike their homecountry. But how different our everyday life and our culture are – most of them don’t know. TV-host Constantin Schreiber explains what Germany is like, how refugees but also the Arabic world in general perceive our values and our lifestyle and how their picture of Germany and our self-image differs. This bilingual handbook is the first step for a mutual understanding.
»So what’s it like in this house you inherited?«
Max asks. »Are your father’s bones still lying around somewhere?«

»The funniest of all chronicles of the Federal Republic of Germany.«
Ursula März, Die Zeit

»Very entertaining. Because it is both critical of and sensitive to language, as well as funny and impertinent.«
Jörg Magenau, Süddeutsche Zeitung

Spring 1992: Martin Schlosser, 30, writer, lives in a flat share in Berlin-Kreuzberg. It’s a rowdy environment, but his first books are progressing, Lady Luck is on his side. He paints the town, frolics around on Helgoland with Max Goldt and Rattelschneck, makes friends with Eckhard Henscheid, finds himself (much to his own surprise) singing a canon with the street worker Domenica Niehoff under the full moon, and on his reading tour encounters the darkest sides of the new German ‘Länder’ in the former East. As all this happens, he also keeps falling in love and yet remains steadfastly single, regarding the formation of couples as an evolutionary folly.

Autumn 1993: Martin Schlosser joins the editing team of the satirical magazine Titanic in Frankfurt. For him, this is the beginning of a new life; at the same time, in the small town of Meppen in Lower Saxony, his widowed father slowly deteriorates, and a horrific end looms.

GERHARD HENSCHEL, born in 1962, works as a freelance writer near Hamburg. His epistolary novel Die Liebenden (2002) delighted the critics as did the adventures of his narrator Martin Schlosser, which first appeared in 2004. Novel of Success (2018) is the eighth volume of this series. Henschel is also the author of numerous works of non-fiction. He was awarded the Hannelore Greve Prize for Literature, the Nicolas Born Prize and the Georg K. Glaser Prize.
Gerhard Henschel –
Selected Backlist

She pulled a copy of *Capital* from the bookshelf. »I tried to read it once. All good and well, but somehow I thought there would be more Indians in it … «

The young woman interested in Marx is Kathrin Passig, a student from Regensburg studying English. Martin Schlosser meets her in the early nineties as the winner of a competition for the satirical magazine *Kowalski* that he organised himself. He currently works there as a freelancer. Because the *Merkur*, the *Frankfurter Rundschau* and *konkret* are printing his texts, he can finally live off his writing. From now on, he no longer works behind the bar of a Friesian disco, instead traveling as a reporter: to a juggling festival in Oldenburg, for example, to a reunification celebration outside the Reichstag in Berlin or to an Atheist conference in Fulda. He also takes care of his grandmother in Jever, occasionally visits his father in Meppen or hangs out at tantra workshops. Then he’s drawn to Berlin. Everything changes, as it seems, always for the better: Publishers offer him book contracts, there are invitations to readings, the nights grow longer, and life is good.

»There is no author in these parts who writes so consequentially for his generation what Walter Kempowski produced for his generation in the German Chronicles.« *Deutschlandradio Kultur*

»This is top quality stuff – full of life, funny, direct.« Wiglaf Droste

Martin quit university and starts working at a carrier. He imagined his career as an author differently. Only as tragedy befalls his parents house, his girlfriend leaves him and the Berlin Wall is torn down, his luck seems to change.

It’s the mid-eighties and the German Studies student Martin Schlosser does not really have an aim in life. When he is not pondering about Chernobyl, the historian discussion or the Barschel affair, he participates in spiritual sessions and practices the art of life. Because his new girlfriend Andrea is studying in Aachen, Martin Schlosser decides to shift his studies from Berlin to Cologne. He moves into a chaotic flat share and is presented with constant new challenges by Andrea: She drags him to bioenergetics seminars and Tantra courses and makes him realise that a classical relationship with her is impossible. In the following years he travels to Madrid, Paris and Nartum, has to move several times and is the cause of irritation in his hometown of Meppen. In between odd jobs for Tetra Pak, Uniroyal and Edeka and philosophising about houseflies, Turkish folklore and monogamy, he one day suddenly realizes what he wants to be: a writer.
Germany 1983. Helmut Kohl is in power, The Green Party have entered the Bundestag, the Stern has published Hitler’s Diaries. Martin Schlosser meanwhile goes to study in Bielefeld and meets the love of his life. After his civilian service, Martin Schlosser decides to study the classic taxi-driver subjects, German studies, Sociology and Philosophy. But student life is not as fun as he’d imagined. He spends more time in the university cafeteria than in lectures, begins to drift and falls in love unhappily. Besides the letters from his countless female pen-friends, who are all too keen to share their inner feelings with him, he reads Arno Schmidt. But Martin knows that Bielefeld is not the town for him and he moves to Berlin. Here, in this city which is surging with life, he hooks up with a music therapy student and through her, gets to know the new love of his life, a social pedagogy student called Andrea. But she does not necessarily make his life any easier.

At last Martin Schlosser has found a girlfriend, and already the tedious relationship discussions have begun. It’s the early eighties, and there’s nothing Martin wants more desperately than to escape from the small town in the Emsland. But first of all he has to pass his Abitur. Will he manage? Will he become a soldier, or end up doing community service? How will he get on with his drug experiments? How will he like life in a flat-share? And will his relationship survive? Martin’s journey through life takes him to Hamburg, Amsterdam, Osnabrück, Bielefeld, Munich, Venice, Vienna and Göttingen – and more often than not, back to his home town.

Novel of Love is the third book about the experiences of young Martin Schlosser: It begins in 1978 on the first day of school after the Christmas holidays with a bold plan to win the heart of a fellow pupil he deeply loves and then takes the reader through two years full of harrassment, emotional anguish and growing doubts – about the meaning of life in the little Emsland town of Meppen and about the justice of not being allowed to give up maths in the sixth form. Martin Schlosser lets the readers in on all his doings, from cleaning the hamster’s cage, through his grandparents’ awful Golden Wedding party and his parents' Silver Wedding party – which ends even worse – to his understandably looking forward to a future in which everything, everything, will change.
Federal Republic of Germany, 1964 to 1975: A child tells from his life, from the sandbox to puberty, from the first love beads in the backyard to the dream of becoming the new Eddy Merckx, the new Mark Spitz, the new Gerd Müller or, best of all at once.

To celebrate his seventh birthday in April 1969, Martin Schlosser would like to invite Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, whom he knows well from the famous ZDF Christmas TV series. But nothing will come of it, and things will turn out differently than planned.

In his epistolary novel *Die Liebenden (The Lovers)* Gerhard Henschel told the story of the Schlosser family from 1940 to 1963. Now the young Martin Schlosser has the floor. And he dishes the dirt – and tells what he thinks of Mecki, Lurchi, Gustav Gans, Freddy Quinn and Percy Stuart, and of his own three siblings, as he becomes an arso-nist and shoplifter, why he does not like T. Rex and what he experiences as a fan of soccer club Borussia Mönchengladbach and so on… meanwhile the narrator’s family climbs the social ladder during this time.

A wonderful portrait of family life in Germany – from the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s.
We are becoming ever more lonely – it’s time for new ideas about new ways of being together

- The future of our society is being decided right now
- Surprising ideas about how to promote a new sense of social cohesion, from one of our wisest political thinkers

A new loneliness is on the rise. Our society pushes people towards consumption instead of intimacy, flexibility instead of commitment, and ever-increasing profits instead of stability. With the growing dominance of digital worlds, familiar structures are crumbling, elderly people are being left behind, and young people are being catapulted into a rootless future. This new collective disconnectedness is the defining issue of our times.

In Germany alone, 14 million people say they feel lonely. And since the advent of the corona crisis, if not before, social isolation has been the global status quo. Experts are already talking of an epidemic of loneliness, not only in Germany but worldwide. Digitalisation and globalisation are ushering in a new form of collective loneliness, which has been little studied until now. The consequences are dangerous: societies are becoming more divided and radicalism is on the rise, threatening our democracy.

Diana Kinnert’s *The New Loneliness* is a well-researched and urgently needed call to reflect anew on whether our society, so strongly defined by capitalist principles, does enough to promote our social welfare as human beings – and how, in future, we can reconcile individuality and social cohesion.

**DIANA KINNERT**, born in 1991, is a German CDU politician and an independent entrepreneur, consultant and journalist. She has a degree in politics, philosophy and social sciences. At the request of the Jo Cox Foundation, she advised the British government on the appointment of a ‘minister for loneliness’. She is a member of the German Commission on Social Cohesion, and advises various civil society organisations as well as regional state governments on the issue of isolation. Her bestseller *Für die Zukunft seh’ ich schwarz* was published in 2017.

**MARC BIELEFELD**, born in Geneva in 1966, is a German journalist and author. He has written numerous articles and reports for publications such as mare, Merian, National Geographic, Die Zeit and Süddeutsche Zeitung. He is the author of *Wer Meer hat, braucht weniger*, published by Ludwig, and the co-author of *Ungebremst leben* with Heidi Hetzer and, most recently, *Der Krebs-Kompass* with Verena and Achim Sam (2020).
All you need to know about the rest of your life

- A great present for everyone and every occasion
- Surprising and enlightening

How probable is it that you have a tattoo of an avocado? Or that you will reach the ripe old age of 100? This book is a highly entertaining look at what – statistically speaking – is likely to have happened, or will still happen, over the course of your life.

Have you ever wondered what your chances are of reaching a specific life goal? Of climbing Mount Everest? Of earning a million? This book not only offers answers but also shows how the corona crisis has changed the odds.

The renowned data journalist Tin Fischer has researched surprising facts relating to any and all phases of life and presents them together with the entertaining, full-page graphics created by Mario Mensch.

Non Fiction
Tin Fischer and Mario Mensch
One among a hundred will turn 100
Just about everything you need to know about life
October 2021
208 pages
Hardcover
€ 25,–

German title: Einer von Hundert wird 100
So ziemlich alles, was man über das Leben wissen muss

TIN FISCHER is a freelance journalist focusing on data and statistics. He works mainly for Die Zeit, but also for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung am Sonntag, Neon, Neue Zürcher Zeitung and many other media outlets. His most recent publication with Hoffmann & Campe was Gute Karten. Deutschland, wie Sie es noch nie gesehen haben, together with Mario Mensch.

MARIO MENSCH, born in Berlin, grew up in Oberhausen near Cologne. He studied illustration in Hamburg and has been working as a freelance illustrator for, among others, Die Zeit, Gruner+Jahr and the Stiftung Warentest. His book Planet der Hühner was published in 2017.
Tin Fischer –
Selected Backlist

«Thinking of Germany at night puts all thoughts of sleep to flight» – Heine’s Night Thoughts are probably shared by many these days who think of the new climate package, the decline of the catch-all parties, a possible combat mission in Syria or the attack on the synagogue in Halle. Tin Fischer, Swiss by birth and data expert for Die Zeit newspaper, has given his very own thoughts to the ever-present topic of ‘Germany’. By showing unusual statistics and exciting maps, he manages to paint an entirely new picture of how Germans see themselves. We learn not only where Germany really is most beautiful, but also about who has the farthest way to get to a pharmacy, where people have drilled for oil, which influencers reach more readers than Bild tabloid and which chancellor’s first name parents most frequently choose for their newborns. This is definitely Germany as you have never seen it before!
»Surprising, illuminating and supremely entertaining.«
Ferdinand von Schirach

Peppered with anecdotes from legal and criminal history

In this book, lawyer and award-winning author Bijan Moini talks about the genesis of the German legal system: Who came up with it and why, and how does it manifest in our daily lives?

Presumption of innocence, freedom of opinion, the right to go on strike – these are among the many rights that the Germans take for granted. Bijan Moini paints a colourful picture of the long path that has led to a position where the Germans can claim their rights – and of the people who paved that way. He uses many examples to show that, despite widespread doom-mongering, the German legal system is ruled by justice; it is a system that protects individuals from the state, the weak from the powerful, or suspects from mob justice. A thrilling look at both the history and the present-day status of German laws.

DR BIJAN MOINI studied law and politics in Munich and Paris; his doctoral thesis was supervised by Hans-Jürgen Papier, judge at Germany's Federal Constitutional Court. Since 2018, he has been coordinating constitutional complaints for the 'Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte' ('Association for the Promotion of Freedom Rights'). After his legal internship, he worked as a lawyer for a corporate law firm in Berlin for three years, then turned to writing about topics of politics and society and published the award-winning novel Der Würfel. As an expert for freedom rights, he frequently appears in print and online media as well as on television and radio.
The story of a passionate pianist called Helmut Schmidt

For readers who appreciate Helmut Schmidt and classical music

Reiner Lehberger’s bestsellers about the Schmidts have sold 140,000 copies in total

The German Chancellor and his music: this book portrays Helmut Schmidt from a little-known perspective, as a passionate lover of art and music who, whenever the opportunity arose, sat down to play the piano.

Helmut Schmidt was the first German Chancellor to ever make a record: in the 1980s, he recorded concerts by Mozart and Bach together with Justus Frantz and Christoph Eschenbach. Reiner Lehberger tells the story behind Schmidt’s love for the piano. The beginnings, as a young student learning from Lilly Sington-Rosdal, who the Nazis considered to be a ‘half-Jew’; time spent in the Fischerhude artist colony, where Schmidt improved his skills at the village organ and the grand piano. For him, there always had to be a piano within reach; even during the war he would rent one again and again. Following Schmidt’s love for the piano, Lehberger uncovers new facets in the life of the great statesman and finds some inconsistencies in Schmidt’s own narration of his life.

Non Fiction
Reiner Lehberger
Helmut Schmidt and the Piano
A Life Filled With Music
November 2021
344 pages
Hardcover with photographs
€ 22,–

German Title: Helmut Schmidt am Klavier
Ein Leben mit Musik

On occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Elbphilharmonie:
The secrets of the world’s most famous concert hall

- The perfect gift for any music lover who wants to take a peek behind the scenes of famous premises
- Contains many high-quality photographs

During its construction period, it was considered a bottomless money pit – today, the Elbphilharmonie is not only the shining symbol of the city of Hamburg but also the world’s most famous concert hall. On occasion of its 5th anniversary, this book and its many photographs tell tales of secrets big and small surrounding this once-in-a-century building.

Joachim Mischke knows the Elbphilharmonie like few others do. In this gorgeous volume, he gathers surprising stories of the first five years since its inauguration. He takes us into the mysterious storage space for grand pianos, the special acoustics in the halls, and encounters in the foyer. Accompanied by Thomas Leidig’s brilliant photographs, this volume is a unique, valuable gift for anyone who has already fallen in love with the Elbphilharmonie – or wants to do so.

Non Fiction
Joachim Mischke
Stories and Secrets of the Elbphilharmonie
November 2021
176 pages
Hardcover, with many colour photographs
€ 26,–
ISBN 978-3-455-01257-6
German Title: Geschichten und Geheimnisse der Elbphilharmonie

J O A C H I M M I S C H K E studied musicology, and his life is ruled by classical music. Since the early days of the Elbphilharmonie, he has spent most of his professional life in Hamburg, where he has been an editor for the Hamburger Abendblatt for many years now, reporting on the classical music scene. He is a member of the jury for the prize awarded by the association of German record critics (Deutsche Schallplattenkritik e.V.) and has published several books, among them Elbphilharmonie (2016) and Klassik-Kanon (2020).
Meaningful essays by a great German author

»There are women who are able to embody an era in its contradictions. Monika Maron has the temperament for it, not only literarily.«
Jürgen Verdofsky, Badische Zeitung

»[...] in any case, Monika Maron is one who pushes the boundaries of the mainstream.« Die Welt

Monika Maron’s novels and essays published by Hoffmann und Campe: The oeuvre of a pre-eminent writer who has always taken a stand in matters of society and politics and refused to be co-opted to any cause. Fearless and full of poetry, elegance and humour.

»Monika Maron’s impressive vita contains Jewish, Polish, socialist, East and West German and bourgeois elements. In her essays and novels, she traces history as something that not only occurs in and around families and relationships, but that has genuine impact by requesting action.«
Jürgen Kaube, Executive Editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Literary Fiction
Monika Maron
What’s Going On Here?
May 2021
192 pages
Hardcover
€ 22,–
ISBN 978-3-455-01163-0
German Title: Was ist eigentlich los?

MONIKA MARON, born in Berlin in 1941, is one of Germany’s most distinguished contemporary authors. She grew up in the GDR, moved to Hamburg in 1988 and has made her home in Berlin since 1993. She has published numerous novels and several essay collections. She has received numerous awards, such as the Kleist Prize (1992), the Friedrich Hölderlin Prize (2003), the German National Prize (2009), the Lessing Prize of the free state of Saxony (2011) and the Ida Dehmel prize for literature (2017).
An unknown text by Siegfried Lenz – in an amazing book about man and fish

- A great storyteller and the fish of his life


A fairy tale by Siegfried Lenz entitled Florian, the Carp is the focus of this bibliophile volume with texts about the great storyteller’s special relationship with nature, water, fishing – and fish.

«When we learned that the carp would be chosen as the Fish of the Year we could no longer stay at home. We had to rush to our house on the edge of the forest to teach our scaled friends what an honour they had received. This is as good as the Nobel Prize, we thought.»

With a foreword by Lenz expert Maren Ermisch

SIEGFRIED LENZ is one of the most important and most widely read writers of the German-language post-war and contemporary literature. Since his debut novel Es waren Habichte in der Luft (There were hawks in the air) in 1951, he has published all his novels, short stories, essays and stage works by Hoffmann und Campe publishing house.

He has received many awards for his books, including the Goethe Prize of the City of Frankfurt am Main, the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade and the Lew-Kop Prize for Peace and Human Rights.
A summer in Brittany – Changed by a letter and a boundless love

- A book full of sun, sea and love
- The perfect holiday reading for a ‘voyage of the imagination’
- A love story with a unique French flavour

Bestselling author Alexander Oetker writes intensely of a passionate love affair in a little guesthouse by the sea.

Every Wednesday, Maurice travels from Paris to a sleepy little harbour town in Brittany for work. The quiet man from the capital is met with mistrust and hostility by the gruff locals, fishermen and working men. But then, one Wednesday, the beautiful receptionist at his hotel sends him a love letter and a book of poetry. Maurice is enchanted by the woman’s words. They go out together, get to know each other and fall in love. It is the beginning of a passionate affair, rekindled every Wednesday, and lasting all summer. The couple feels as though they are in a dream, which turns into a journey and ultimately leads to a surprising realisation.

»Once you start reading, you don’t want to put the book down. (...) It is Oetker’s journalistic style and the mixture of the accurate descriptions of people, landscapes and restaurants and the anecdotal events that make it exciting.«
Anton Ottmann, Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung about Alexander Oetker’s Retour

ALEXANDER OETKER, born in 1982 in Berlin, worked for the Berliner Zeitung, the Bayerische Rundfunk and the Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk. Viewers know him as reporter for RTL and n-tv. He lived and worked in Paris for four years as France correspondent for the media group RTL. Since 2012, he is political correspondent for RTL and n-tv with focus on European issues. Alexander Oetker lives in Berlin with his wife and two sons.
Love in times between dream and reality

- The first novel by the actor famous for the series *Babylon Berlin* and *Ku’damm 56/59/63*
- A modern urban love story in the tradition of great romances

Anna and Anno complement each other in ways we all wish for. Their life is that of a modern big-city couple, with parties, friendships and the emotional ballast they both carry over from their adolescent days. When Anno dies in a tragic accident, Anna finds a way to live the life with him that they have promised each other – and sets out on a journey that takes her to the edge of her sanity.

*Nightlife* is a unique and fascinating story about love, life, and the realisation how beautiful everyday life can be when looking back at it and it is not yet too late.

»Actor Tambrea’s novel debut enchants with a pictorial, idiosyncratic linguistic style.« *HÖRZU*

»[…] a book that goes far beyond the theme of love by asking the big question about the origin of the universe.« *SWR 2*

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**Literary Fiction**

Sabin Tambrea

*Nightlife*

October 2021

176 pages

Hardcover

€ 20,–

ISBN 978-3-455-01235-4

German Title: *Nachtleben*

- Sample Translation available!

**SABIN TAMBREA**, born in 1984 in Târgu Mureș, Romania, studied acting at the Ernst Busch School. As a member of the Berlin Ensemble, he appeared, among others, in *Frühlingserwachen* and *Peter Pan*. His film work comprises leading roles in *Ku’damm 56/59/63* and in *Babylon Berlin, Ludwig II* and *Narciss and Goldmund*. Sabin Tambrea lives in Berlin.
Dangerous secrets in Piemont – Simon Strasser’s third case presents challenges like never before

- Over 25,000 copies sold of volumes 1 and 2

During the annual Lake Orta half-marathon, Franco Borletti, manager and owner of a rice company, collapses: he is dead. Poisoned by a pesticide that had caused a scandal in his own company: traces of the toxic product had been found in his company’s rice. But even if the list of Borletti’s enemies is long – who would go so far as to kill him? His apparently hard-nosed wife, who seems to care more about the horses she breeds than about her unfaithful husband?

Simon Strasser had been looking forward to enjoying the Easter holidays with Luisa. But his architect girlfriend has had to cancel at short notice due to a building project, so when the attractive detective inspector Carla Moretti asks him to help her with her latest case, he is happy to say yes. Simon has no idea what danger he is getting himself into…

GIULIA CONTI is the pseudonym of a German journalist and travel writer. For many years, she has lived and worked in Frankfurt/Main, but for over twenty years now has made a second home in a small town on Lake Orta in northern Italy.
Giulia Conti –
Selected Backlist

After a stormy night in December, the body of a woman washes up on the shore of Lago d’Orta. It soon becomes clear that she did not just capsize in her rowing boat. The dead woman is a young and extremely beautiful nun who had recently come to Isola San Giulio to look for her missing mother. Did she find out something that cost her her life? What are the owners of the nearby rice farm hiding? When also a wrecked car with two corpses is recovered from the bottom of the lake, it’s time for Simon Strasser once again. In a case where nothing is what it seems, the former police and court reporter stands by the local commissioner again.

People lead a quiet life at the Lago d’Orta, the little brother of the Lago Maggiore. But treason makes even the calmest water churn.

Simon Strasser has exchanged the hectic life of a police and court reporter in Frankfurt for the calm and poetic beauty of the Lago d’Orta where he enjoys the pristine nature, good wine and delicious food of the Piedmont. He lives in a converted boathouse – together with his willful foster daughter Nicola. Nicola’s mother is a past girlfriend of Simon who’s in a relationship with Frankfurt based Luisa. One hot August morning, Simon encounters a sailing boat drifting on the lake – and on it, the body of Marco Zanetti, the son of a local factory owner. Accident or murder? Simon sticks hard to the heels of the investigating officer, his old acquaintance Carla Moretti. His instinct as a reporter tells him that there is more to this accident than it appears. Unauthorised, he digs deeper and deeper into the history of the mighty Zanetti family and discovers a love that had to be stopped at all cost. But knowing this secret means that now Simon himself is in danger!
BACKLIST
HIGHLIGHTS
Matthias Politycki

This marvelous novel tells the story of two very different traveling companions, each of them marked by love in their own way – and it deals with an important topic for modern society: How to bridge deep trenches and bring together what does not seem to fit.

Hans from Hamburg, open-minded and yet reserved, has finally reached the place he’s been dreaming of for half his life: the peak of the Kilimanjaro. Here, on Africa`s roof, he wants to come to terms with his past. But at the bottom of the crater, someone has already pitched a tent – and this someone is Tscharlie, the prototype of a plebby Bavarian. No respect, no manners, but plenty of insufferable opinions.

At night, a sudden blizzard throws these two together against their will. The story of a joint journey begins, told with authenticity and incredible speed as only Politycki can tell it, a tale filled with absurd and ludicrous adventures. When the two men finally confide in each other and talk about the loves of their lives, they realise that they are not done yet with life. But in Africa, death is a constant travel companion, and only one of them will embark on the journey home.

“There is probably no one more entitled than Politycki to write about what it means to travel, not least because for him, travelling is not a leisure activity. It is a drug, the elixir of life, and staple food in one.”
Jakob Strobel y Serra, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

When he sees the Taj Mahal for the first time, Matthias Politycki is convinced that this is the most beautiful building in the world. But how can he be so sure? This question is the starting point for another journey to the Taj Mahal.

By now it is a top tourist destination with up to 80 000 visitors a day. How can one discover the secret of beauty in this hustle and bustle? And what adventures, what risks await until in the end, one is granted the joy of pure contemplation once again?

Together with his Indian friend Sanjay, Politycki goes on a journey far into India for an in-depth look behind the scenes, a journey that suddenly opens up a completely new perspective on the Taj Mahal.

In his poems Matthias Politycki summons a whole panopticon of lyrical characters. Lovers, dreamers, travellers and drifters, barflies, grumps and the walking wounded tell their stories – sometimes in free verse, sometimes under the romantic spell of rhyme – about the real fundamentals of life. Formally strict sonnets sit side by side with concrete poetry, throwing an unerring spotlight on love, death and the ostensible banality of everyday life. From the mysterious “dumpling paradigm” to the nonchalant Botswana blues, Politycki guides the reader on a journey that moves between local history and worldly wisdom. For thirty years he has struck his own unique tone, which makes audible even “the rustling of time behind the light and the things”.

This volume gathers his complete poems for the first time, including those initially printed in a wide variety of publications; it also features a new cycle that leads behind the temple of Angkor Wat.
This epic so rich in imagery is adventure novel, love story and novel of decline and fall all rolled into one. It describes one man’s confrontation with a foreign place where the big existential questions take on new meaning. The world is in disarray. Where the silk road used to be is now, in 2026, the epicentre of the crisis. Alexander Kaufner, mountain ranger and frontiersman, is travelling in legendary Samarkand and sets off in search of a mysterious place of worship. But is it really possible that victory or defeat, war or peace depend on a heap of sacred bones? Together with his mountain guide, Odina, who is bound to him by oath, and protected by the fantastical girl, Schochi, who can dream the future, Kaufner roams the immense mountainous world of Central Asia and soon finds himself in a life and death race, not least against himself.

Sold to: France (Actes Sud)
Hinrich Schepp has regained his sight. After decades of severe myopia he at last hopes to get to the bottom of women and their magnificent incomprehensibility. All the more when he notices a seductive beauty at the bar in his local being first kissed and then bitten in the neck by her female companion – something Schepp finds simultaneously dreadful and auspicious. His life gets really problematic when the very same woman turns up there again shortly afterwards – as a waitress. But what has all this to do with his wife Doro’s notes, which he finds one morning on the desk? Or with the cold, dark lake down into which, according to Doro, all newly dead people must go, to die there for the second time? A compelling story of both love and its worst nightmares.

Sold to: France (Actes Sud), Italy (CartaCanta Editore Srl.), Portugal (Estrofes & Versos – Unipessoal), UK (Peirene Press)
Janna Steenfatt

Ina has arranged the world around herself so that no one has any expectations of her. She and her flatmate Falk turn night into day on the streets of St Pauli; all she needs is enough sleep, a bit of sex and gin tonic. When her mother dies in a car crash, Ina finds her childhood days in the theatre catching up with her – and thoughts of a father, a stage director, she never knew. A father who precisely now returns to Hamburg to stage Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream. Ina, who finally has something approximating a plan, takes on a job in the theatre canteen. But before she can make up her mind whether to approach her father, she meets the actress Paula. Ina has never given her heart to anyone or anything, but now she learns to love – and she learns about love betrayed.

In her debut, Janna Steenfatt tells the story of a dawdler seized by desire, in clear, gruff words and imbued with a special kind of comedy.

Michel Abdollahi

Michel Abdollahi is a genuine ‘Hamburg lad’ – at least that’s what he used to think. Until the right-wing party AfD (Alternative for Germany) starts gaining seats in parliaments across the country, effecting a radical change in social debates. All of a sudden, black-haired people are ‘rapists’ and ‘headscarf girls’, every Muslim is about to plant a bomb somewhere. Dismayed, Michel watches statements like this being picked up by large parts of the media and the democratic parties, which only triggers more outbursts of hatred.

Michel’s life has changed radically. Each public appearance, each statement he makes is followed by hate mail and threats to his life. He is harangued by strangers on the street. Now he has put into words what this new Germany means and does to him and millions of other Germans with a migration background. His chronological account of the profusion of verbal abuse by politicians, talk show participants and journalists in Germany Defeats Me paints a harrowing picture of a society that increasingly sees right-wing thinking as normal and people with a migration background as objects of their hatred.
‘G’ is the only letter with an identifiable progenitor: the Roman teacher Spurius C Ruga was bothered by the fact that the Latin C could be read as either K or as G, so he simply added a line and thus made history.

Likewise, we can trace the rest of our alphabet back to a single source with surprising precision. Approximately 4 000 years ago, Semitic workers on the Sinai shortened the Egyptian hieroglyphs into symbols of sound. The letter ‘B’ originated from the hieroglyph for the Semitic word beth, meaning ‘house’. A brilliant economisation of writing. The letters set forth on a journey into the wider world, eventually leaving their imprint – via Greek – on all modern European written languages. Even South-east Asian languages such as Indian or Thai can be traced back to this original alphabet.

Matthias Heine’s new book is a hugely entertaining and enlightening journey on the traces of an ancient, incredibly modern invention.

How did the mouse hook up with the computer? What do you mean, there’s a draft as if I’ve been angling for pike? How does a canard survive in the day and age of fake news? And no, life is no dog and pony show.

We encounter far more animals in our daily use of language than in real life: in metaphors and turns of phrase. When and how did these become proverbial? Matthias Hein has tracked them down. There is the mole, which is indebted to a famous spy novel for learning its trade as a secret agent in the times of the Cold War. Or the bull which entered the china shop for the first time in the German parliament building, the Reichstag. And there is the “inner pig dog”, whose career is so shady that there should be no doubt it should be let off the leash once and for all.

A book full of curious and revelatory discoveries, making connections that we have only had vague notions of.
Language is a living thing – it’s constantly changing. Lots of people like to bemoan these changes, especially with English-isms popping up everywhere. Much more decisive and of far greater importance than the current changes for the German language, however, was the First World War.

Until 1914, the spread of German seemed unstoppable. A leading language of scholarship, it was also an administrative language in the colonies and Eastern Europe. Conquerors and emigrants brought German not only to exotic regions in Africa and the South Pacific but also to the USA. In many areas, what force alone couldn't accomplish was achieved through the cultural influence of Germany – when the Austro-Hungarian monarchy gathered people in some corner of Eastern Europe to hear the music of Richard Wagner, for instance. Then came the First World War. After 1918 German disappeared from various Slavic nations, as well as Alsace and Lorraine and several countries below the equator, where it had been forced on the local population, but its influence also waned in areas like South Tyrol, where nothing but German had ever been spoken. Kaiser-Wilhelmsland became New Guinea, the house of Saxe-Coburg was suddenly called Windsor, and even the German Shepherd was redubbed the Alsatian. Even the Swiss no longer wanted to sound like Germans, so they started speaking dialect again. It proved the beginning of a gradual process which ended with Germany losing its significance in the global world of science and with the dramatic decline of the German language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and a few other leftovers. Journalist, linguist and historian Matthias Heine explores how the World War led to the downfall of German as a language.
Raimund Wilhelmi

A hundred years ago, the medical doctor Otto Buchinger took the first steps on an entirely new path when he started treating patients by submitting them to fasting. Fasting as a healing method was then practically unknown. For quite a while now, this once unusual method has been gaining recognition within the field of clinical medicine. Like his grandfather Otto Buchinger, Raimund Wilhelmi has dedicated his life to therapeutic fasting; as the director of the globally renowned Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic, he has accompanied patients in making these extraordinary experiences for many decades. Now more than ever, he is convinced that abstinence and fasting can lead to a spiritual transformation. Therapeutic fasting means more than just losing weight and foregoing food, rather: it is the path to an encounter with oneself. In this book, Wilhelmi returns to the roots and thoughts of his legendary grandfather, and to his treasure-trove of knowledge and experience. His answers to the question what therapeutic fasting means today, in the 21st century, are full of wisdom, charm and clarity – not least due to decades of personal experiences with fasting.
The Art of Democracy
Why Culture is relevant for an open Society
February 2020
280 pages
Hardcover
€ 24,–
Hoffmann und Campe
ISBN 978-3-455-00840-1
German Title:
Die Kunst der Demokratie
Die Bedeutung der Kultur für eine offene Gesellschaft

Carsten Brosda offers a superbly clear-eyed analysis of the reasons why the big catch-all parties are rapidly slipping in voter popularity. He draws a picture of the new, often uncompromising political landscape between right-wing xenophobia and the green battle against climate change, and of the growing influence of social media where calls for the destruction of the catch-all parties are spreading. Indeed, a lot got broken over the past few years. However, destruction also means that we gain an obstructed view of the foundations of our democracy. Can politics that allow no balancing, no compromises, be successful in the long run? How can we master the complex tasks ahead of us? Is there perhaps still room for the ‘catch-all’ parties in Germany after all? And how can the SPD succeed in future?

Carsten Brosda sketches the central role of art and culture in the effort to secure freedom and to enter into discourse as a society. Art irritates and inspires. It is a motor of our democracy and the foundation of creativity and innovation. It gives meaning and establishes social cohesion – even if, or rather because, it questions this cohesion. In this paradox lies a power that we must preserve at all cost. Perhaps more than at any other time since the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, we are challenged to ensure the freedom of the arts.

An incisive analysis of the cultural and political challenges of our time; a visionary book about what is required to preserve a free and diverse society.

Nothing happens just like that. And very little is of permanence." These are the words of former Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1992, referring to political certainties in a time when many people thought that democracy had won the day. But it is dangerous to see any status as permanently 'achieved' and secure. As recent developments clearly show, our society's value must be constantly re-established and re-affirmed.

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An incisive analysis of the cultural and political challenges of our time; a visionary book about what is required to preserve a free and diverse society.
Olaf Scholz

We currently experience a fundamental change in the perception of our country. Germany has become a country of hope for many people. Our open, liberal and secular society promises a life in peace and freedom. Immigration has become the new German reality that has to be shaped. What is most needed is a pragmatic politic which weighs the risks carefully but at the same time realizes the opportunities that immigration offers. Olaf Scholz, former mayor of Hamburg and Chancellor to be, pleads for a policy of self-reliant confidence and depicts ways how Germany can master this global challenge – and even benefits from it.

Kai Kupferschmidt

Blue is a rare colour. You may look up at the sky in protest, but if you submit your environment to closer scrutiny, you will soon realise that blue occurs very rarely among animals and plants. Since their beginnings, humans have been searching for uniquely blue stones and dyes to transform fabric, porcelain or paintings. Blue has always had a fascinating quality, as is shown in the Romantic authors’ quest for the blue flower or the magical blue of a bird’s feather coat.

Kai Kupferschmidt succumbed to this fascination as a child, and it has stayed with him ever since. His investigation into the mysteries of this colour led him to Japan, a volcanic lake in Oregon, and on to the last few Spix’s macaws in Brandenburg, Germany. Rocks, plants, animals or the distant view of our planet from the depths of space, they all bear witness to an overwhelming beauty that is reflected in our language and the written word. And it all starts with light and our ability to see.

Poets, painters, psychologists – what fascinates them about the colour blue? This book shows it, in word and design.

Susanne Mayer, Die Zeit

«How beauty comes into the world? As a book.«
Barbara Weitzel, Welt am Sonntag Kultur
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