

## **Film Rights Guide**

### **Fall 2025**

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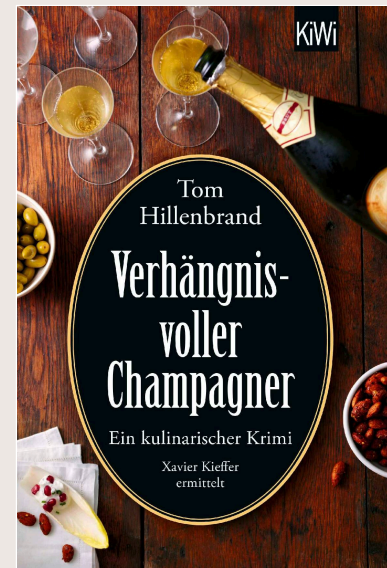
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Tom Hillenbrand

## Fatal Champagne (Xavier Kieffer 8)

- A gripping crime novel that delves into the global billion-dollar champagne business
- 850,000 copies of the Xavier Kieffer series sold
- SPIEGEL bestseller author



November 2025 · 496 pages



© Helke Bogenberger

**Tom Hillenbrand** is the author of numerous nonfiction books and novels, including the culinary thrillers featuring Luxembourg chef Xavier Kieffer as an investigator. One million copies of his books have been sold, they have won multiple awards, appear regularly on the *SPIEGEL* bestseller list and were **translated into numerous languages**.

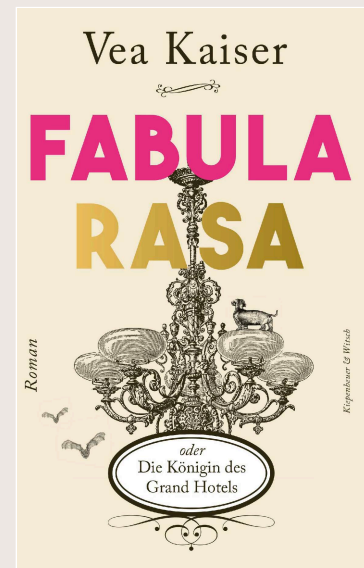
**A sensational murder at a champagne estate – and an investigation that uncorks the dark secrets of the champagne industry.**

Back in the day, Luxembourg chef Xavier Kieffer completed his apprenticeship in Champagne. Now, years later, while visiting an old friend who runs a champagne house there, he witnesses a terrible accident. Or was it murder? As Kieffer begins to investigate, he soon discovers that behind the luxurious façades of the great champagne houses lie all manner of secrets – and that not everything that sparkles and bubbles truly deserves to be called champagne. From Paris to Reims to Luxembourg, the chef delves deep into the global billion-dollar sparkling wine business – where some are willing to use any means to stake their claim.

Vea Kaiser

# The Queen of the Grand Hotel

- A novel about a woman who takes what she believes is hers – until the police catch up with her
- Bestselling author with 400,000 copies sold of her previous novels
- Recommended for translation by New Books in German
- English sample by Eleanor Updegraff available soon



October 2025 · 576 pages



© Ingo Pertramer

**Vea Kaiser** was born in 1988 and lives in Vienna. In 2012, she published her first novel *Blasmusikpop oder Wie die Wissenschaft in die Berge kam*, which reached the top of the ORF bestseller list and was named Best German-Language Debut at the international Festival du Premier Roman. *Makarionissi oder die Insel der Seligen* (2015) received the Ravensburger Verlag Foundation's "Best Family Novel" award. Kaiser's third novel, *Rückwärtswalzer oder die Manen der Familie Prischinger*, was published in 2019, and in 2024, she was awarded the international Jonathan Swift Prize for Satirical and Comic Literature. **Her books have been translated into several languages.**

**In her fast-paced new novel, Vea Kaiser tells the story of a young mother who overcomes every obstacle to build a career for herself in a traditional Viennese hotel – and takes her story into her own hands.**

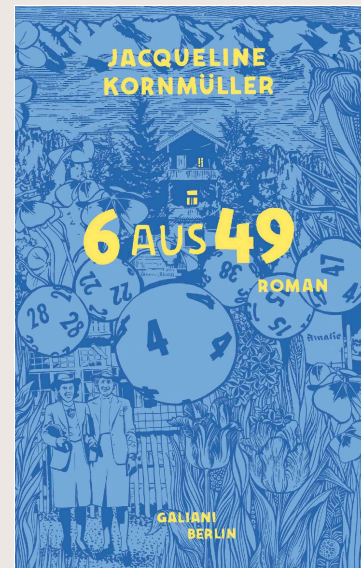
Vienna, late 1980s: Angelika Moser, the caretaker's daughter from a community housing block, spends her nights dancing through the city's nightlife. At the same time, she loves her job in a world that feels both new and elegant to her: working as a bookkeeper at the Grand Hotel Frohner. Surrounded by eccentric Viennese characters and international guests, Angelika soon finds herself entangled in shady accounting schemes to help save the hotel. When she unexpectedly ends up alone with a small child, she begins fighting for a better life – and starts cooking the books. Decades pass... until the numbers catch up with her.

*"Vea Kaiser knows how to rein in her unbridled imagination with humor, crafting books that don't take themselves too seriously – but in a very serious way."* - **Jonathan Swift Prize, Winner 2024**

Jacqueline Kornmüller

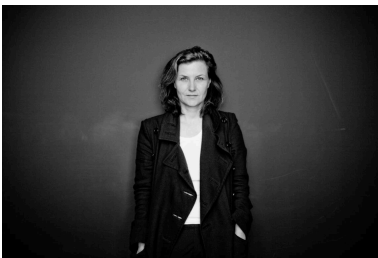
## 6 Out of 49

- "I am impressed. What a life." – Monika Helfer
- "6 out of 49 is like winning the lottery – in one word: exhilarating!" – WDR 1



August 2025 · 224 pages

© Vadim Belokovsky



**Jacqueline Kornmüller** is an actress, director, and author. She lives and works in Vienna, and her musical theater productions are loved and celebrated by critics and audiences alike. With her novella *Das Haus verlassen* (2024), published in Kat Menschik's *Lieblingsbücher* series, Kornmüller celebrated her first major success as an author.

**Jacqueline Kornmüller transforms her memories of her grandmother into literature, telling the story of a strong, indomitable woman who takes happiness into her own hands – and simply refuses to let go.**

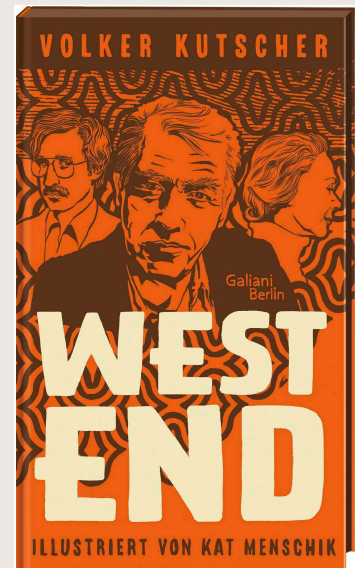
"My grandmother was a passionate lottery player. That was because, as a child, she experienced poverty so bitter that, at the end of her life, she said to me: The kind of poverty I knew as a child should be banned."

Bavaria, 1920s. At her first job, Lina is only allowed to scrub the copper kettles in the kitchen. But her fortunes soon shift, and through a back door she finds her way onto the stage of *The Clausings* – the UFA production company's favorite hotel in the mountain spa town of Garmisch. There, Lina sees the comings and goings of the guests, the reception desk, and the fulfilling of wishes as an opportunity to escape the reality of her own life. Before long, a coincidence helps her open a small hotel of her own. Busy, fateful years follow. But when Lina fills out her lottery tickets on the veranda of her own hotel, she infects everyone with her unshakeable belief in luck.

Kat Menschik, Volker Kutscher

## Westend

- The keystone of the Gereon Rath crime series
- Volker Kutscher's farewell gift to fans who want to know what became of Gereon Rath and Charly
- With illustrations by Kat Menschik



September 2025 · 112 pages

**Volker Kutscher** is a writer who lives in Cologne and Berlin. His detective series about Inspector Rath in 1930s Berlin, became an immediate bestseller. The series has been translated into many languages and is internationally known through Tom Tykwer's screen adaptation *Babylon Berlin*

**Kat Menschik** is a freelance illustrator. Numerous books designed and adorned by her have won awards. *Westend* is a companion piece to *Moabit* (2017) and *Mitte* (2021) which are also set in the world of Gereon Rath.

**Volker Kutscher writes of revenge, espionage, doom, lies, and illusions – and of how his heroes fared during the war and in the years that followed.**

Berlin-Westend, 1973. A tape, an interview, a surprise: Private lecturer Hans Singer visits 74-year-old retired detective inspector Gereon Rath in a retirement home as part of his research into the Berlin police during the transition between political regimes. The historian is particularly interested in the police murders at Bülowplatz in 1931 – and the two men wanted by the police at the time, who both went on to have stellar careers within East Germany's state apparatus.

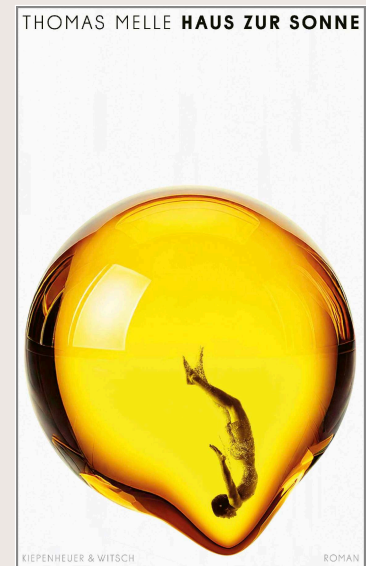
To Rath's discomfort, the conversation takes an unexpected turn. Singer knows all about his past: about his former colleagues, even his ex-wife. And he's digging into something Rath is determined not to talk about: events in East Berlin in 1953, with roots that reach back to the Bülowplatz murders more than twenty years before.



Thomas Melle

# House in the Sun

- *The Magic Mountain* meets Michel Houellebecq
- "an intricate masterpiece" – FAZ
- Longlisted for the German Book Prize 2025
- Shortlisted for the Wilhelm Raabe Prize 2025
- Recommended for translation by New Books in German
- English sample translation by Adrian Nathan West available



August 2025 · 320 pages

© Regina Schmeken



**Thomas Melle**, born in 1975, studied comparative literature and philosophy. He is the author of widely performed plays and has translated William T. Vollmann and Quentin Tarantino (among others) into German. His debut novel *Sickster* (2011) was nominated for the German Book Prize and received the Franz Hessel Prize for Contemporary Literature. He followed it up with the novels *3000 Euro* in 2014 and *Die Welt im Rücken* (*The World at My Back*) in 2016, both of which were shortlisted for the German Book Prize. *The World at My Back* has been **translated into 22 languages**. His latest novel *Das leichte Leben* (*The Easy Life*) was published in 2022.

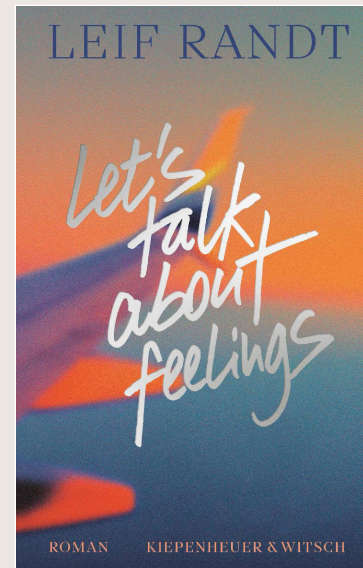
Following his internationally acclaimed autofictional novel *The World at My Back*, a brilliant literary exploration of living with bipolar disorder, Thomas Melle now presents a novel that delves deeper into the boundaries between autobiography and fiction, longing and depression, and – ultimately – life and death.

How much self-determination is possible when mental illness controls your life? What does someone who feels they have nothing left to lose truly long for? And what might ultimate happiness look like? Welcome to the “Haus zur Sonne,” an institution that is both a wish-fulfillment machine and an abolition apparatus. Here, people who are tired of life or terminally ill voluntarily enter this state-funded clinic to have every conceivable wish granted – before quietly departing from life. But do those who no longer want to live really want to die? Plumbing the depths of our longings and death drives, Thomas Melle offers a radical sketch of the human condition.

Leif Randt

## Let's Talk About Feelings

- A coming-of-middle-age-novel about grief, fashion and family bonds
- For readers of Sally Rooney and Ben Lerner
- Shortlisted for the Wilhelm Raabe Prize 2025
- English sample by Peter Kuras available



September 2025 · 320 pages

© Belle Santos



**Leif Randt** was born in Frankfurt in 1983. His books include the utopian *Planet Magnon* (2015), *Schimmernder Dunst über Coby County* (2011) and the international bestseller *Allegro Pastel* (2020) which was nominated for the German Book Prize and was awarded the Mörike Prize. *Allegro Pastel* was **translated into 12 languages**. Randt received numerous awards for his work, including the Erich Fried Prize and most recently the Hölderlin Prize as well as residencies in Japan and Ireland.

**Leif Randt has written an optimistic novel about melancholy farewells. *Let's Talk About Feelings* is a celebration of fashion, desire, and the passage into middle age**

In his West Berlin boutique, Kenting Beach Store, 41-year-old Marian Flanders sells what might be the most beautiful clothes in the world – though the shop rarely turns a profit. When his mother Carolina – once an iconic model – dies after a long illness, Marian plans an unconventional funeral for a select group of guests. Aboard his father's former party boat, he delivers a disarming speech, co-written with his best friend, and scatters his mother's ashes on the Wannsee. For Marian, this moment signals the start of life's less joyful half. Yet what follows is a year of transformation. The chill of grief gives way to warm-hearted defiance, and deep disappointment blossoms into euphoric affection.

Roman Voosen, Kerstin Signe Danielsson

# Oaths We Break. A Second Case for Svea Karhuu and Jon Nordh

- A masterpiece of Swedish suspense
- 'An immensely complex, well-researched crime novel with a surprising twist.' – krimicouch.de



August 2025 · 448 pages

**Roman Voosen**, born in 1973, studied art history and German language and literature in Bremen. He lives and works as an author in Berg, Sweden.

**Kerstin Signe Danielsson**, born in Växjö in 1983, studied history and German language and literature in Hamburg. She lives as an author and teacher in Småland. Roman Voosen and Kerstin Signe Danielsson have been married since 2013.

**A brutal serial killer leaves behind mysterious hieroglyphics. The nation is on edge. And when a popular true-crime podcaster gets involved, the investigators come under pressure.**

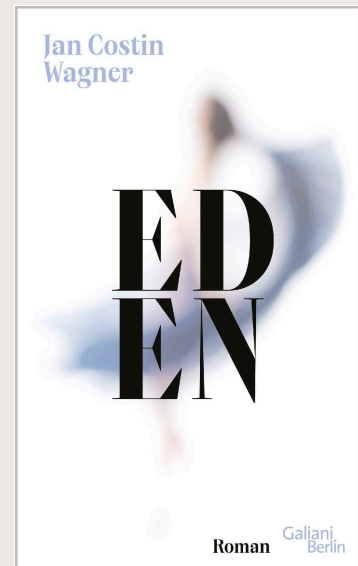
A body with a crocodile's head is found in Malmö. Recently widowed detective Jon Nordh and his colleague Svea Karhuu – transferred for disciplinary reasons – are faced with a mystery. As more bodies appear, it becomes clear they're dealing with a serial killer who stages his victims as ancient Egyptian deities and leaves cryptic messages behind. Panic spreads. And, to make matters worse, an obscure true-crime podcaster suddenly seems to know more than the investigators themselves. Then a young girl goes missing – and events begin to spiral out of control...



Jan Costin Wagner

# Eden

- A profound and moving family drama – a book that builds bridges in times of radical upheaval
- *"It is the unimaginable things and how we deal with them that Jan Costin Wagner addresses in Eden."* – Deutschlandfunk Kultur



August 2025 · 320 pages



© Urban Zintel

**Jan Costin Wagner** was born in 1972 and lives in Frankfurt, where he works as a writer and musician. His novels featuring the Finnish investigator Kimmo Joentaa were lauded by the press, received numerous awards (including German Crime Fiction Award and a nomination for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize) and have been **translated into 14 languages**.

## What do we do when everything we believe in suddenly hangs in the balance?

For Sofie, who is full of life, her family feels like a blessing. She, her father Markus, and her mother Kerstin give each other a deep sense of safety. When Markus surprises his daughter with concert tickets to see her favorite singer, it's a dream come true. But the evening takes a horrific turn: a terrorist attack strikes the concert – and Sofie is among the victims.

The once-happy couple loses their footing. As social tensions escalate, the family is forced to watch their personal tragedy being politically exploited.

In a moment of deep despair, Markus remembers his daughter's social spirit – and decides not to give in to hopelessness. He continues to seek dialogue – and ultimately makes the bold decision to visit the family of his daughter's murderer...

Christoph Biermann

## The Table Always Lies. On the Power of Chance in Football.



October 2025 · 288 pages

© Norman Posselt



**Christoph Biermann**, born in Krefeld in 1960, lives in Berlin and has worked for *taz*, *Stern*, and *Die Zeit*, and served as an editor at *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *SPIEGEL*. Since 2010, he has been working for the soccer magazine *11Freunde*, currently as a reporter. Three of his many books have been named "Football Book of the Year": *Die Fußball-Matrix* (2010), *Wenn wir vom Fußball träumen* (2015), and *Um jeden Preis* (2023). His books have been published in several languages.

**What if what we think about football isn't true? What if, despite all the efforts of coaches, managers, and players to control chance, the wrong teams are often at the top of the table and the right ones aren't relegated?**

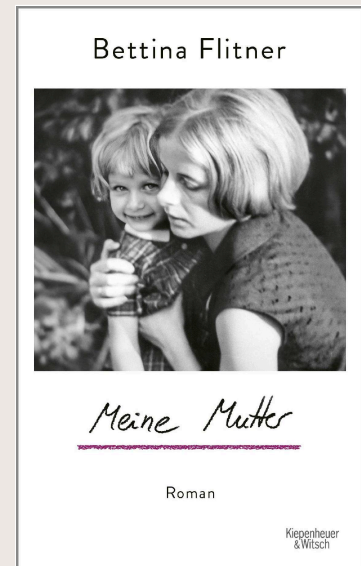
What if we're praising the wrong teams instead of criticizing the right ones? What if Real Madrid has won the Champions League a few times too often and Pep Guardiola a few times too few? What if, after a Bundesliga match, we come up with great theories about "bogey teams" or a team's current "winning streak" because we don't want to admit how random many of the results actually are? And what would be the consequences?

Christoph Biermann went in search of chance and spoke with coaches, managers, club owners, and mathematicians. He discovered astonishing things that will change how we look at football and how we talk about the magic of the game.

Bettina Flitner

# My Mother

- "A book that is as devastating as it is insightful, exploring the ramifications of misfortune within a family." – Jenny Erpenbeck
- "Her masterful language – cool, precise, sometimes harsh – transcends all the abysses of such a story." – Eva Menasse



September 2025 · 320 pages

© Bettina Flitner



**Bettina Flitner** was born in 1961. She started out as a filmmaker and works as a photographer. Her work, which has been shown in many galleries and museum exhibitions, often combines photography and text. She works for magazines (*Stern*, *EMMA*, *Cicero*) and has published numerous books. Most recently her haunting memoir *My Sister* (2022).

**When Bettina Flitner returns to Celle for a reading from her book *My Sister* – to the very place where her mother was buried 40 years ago – questions she had long kept at bay suddenly ambush her with unexpected force: questions about the great misfortune in her mother's life, and about a family catastrophe that unfolded long ago in a distant place.**

And so, Bettina Flitner embarks on a journey full of surprises and revelations to the spa resort Wölfelsgrund in former Lower Silesia – now Międzygórze, Poland – where her ancestors once owned and ran a sanatorium, until their dramatic escape in 1946. Drawing from her journey to present-day Poland, old family diaries and documents, and her own memories of her mother's life, Flitner weaves nothing less than a literary masterpiece: a gripping family narrative that becomes both a belated act of reconciliation with her mother and a testament to the redemptive power of memory and precise storytelling.

Stephan Grünewald

# Crisis Acrobats. A Psychogram of an Insecure Society

- How people master the new reality of constant crises
- A psychological analysis of how Germans tick today



October 2025 · 256 pages

© Boris Breuer



**Stephan Grünewald**, born in 1960, is a trained psychologist and founder of the Rheingold Institute in Cologne. A trained psychotherapist, he is the author of several books, including the bestseller *Wie tickt Deutschland?*

The many crises – war, inflation, migration, COVID-19, climate change – are stressing people out. On the surface, many are retreating into their private shells. The surprising finding: while confidence in society is at an all-time low, trust in the private sphere remains high. In the midst of the crisis, Germans have developed astonishing strategies for coping with change and regaining confidence. Can these personal strategies be transferred to society as a whole?

Stephan Grünewald's surprising and eye-opening analysis shows that the historical turning point is making us into crisis acrobats – walking a tightrope that involves real risks but also offers great opportunities for both individuals and society.

Maria Popov

## The "I Don't Feel Like It" Club

- On a subject that is not talked about often enough: asexuality
- From our new imprint kiwi space aimed at readers between 20-30



October 2025 · 320 pages

© Sophia Emmerich



**Maria Popov**, born in Bulgaria in 1993, is a journalist and host. For eight years, she was part of the YouTube channel "Auf Klo" (funk), where she provided information about sex, relationships, and mental health. She hosts events such as the youth fair TinCon and re:publica, and she creates documentaries and reports. Most recently, she presented the dpa news podcast "Stand der Dinge," made her acting debut in the multi-part ARD series "Made in Germany" in the fall of 2024, and hosted the German Theatre Awards.

**A reassuring read on a taboo in every relationship: not feeling like having sex.**

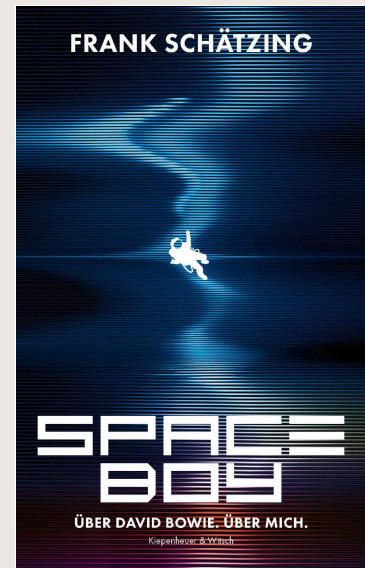
Why do we feel ashamed when we don't want to have sex? And why do we say "Maybe later" when we don't mean it at all? Even as a teenager, Maria Popov was never really into sex, and she eventually came across a word that perfectly described her feelings: asexuality. But what exactly does that mean? In *The "I Don't Feel Like It" Club* she candidly and honestly shares stories about her first period, failed attempts at flirting, and exciting ear massages. She explains how desire works, what feelings of shame reveal about our society, and where we can find the courage to finally be honest about love, sex, and relationships.



Frank Schätzing

# Spaceboy. On David Bowie. On Me

- A highly original blend of personal memories and a refreshingly subjective yet well-informed portrait of Bowie
- Packed with unexpected parallels between Frank Schätzing's life and that of his distant idol



November 2025 · 400 pages

© Paul Schmitz



**Frank Schätzing**, born in 1957, published his debut *Death and the Devil* in 1995. His eco-thriller *The Swarm* was published in 2004 and went on to sell more than 4.5 million copies. It was translated into 27 languages. This was followed by the best-sellers *Limit* (2009), *Breaking News* (2014), *The Tyranny of the Butterfly* (2018) and *Heroes* (2024). He has also written two bestselling non-fiction titles: *Notes from an Unknown Universe* (2006) and *What If We Just Saved the World?* (2021). Frank Schätzing has received numerous awards for his works and they have sold 9 million copies altogether.

**In 1969, Frank Schätzing is 12 years old and not exactly an expert on cool at his secondary school in Cologne. He may know *The Lord of the Rings* by heart but he's clueless when it comes to pop music and soccer – and he doesn't smoke, either. Then, one day, his life suddenly takes off: a new, long-haired music teacher plays a record: David Bowie's *Space Oddity*.**

From that moment on, nothing is the same – right up to the present day. This once-in-a-century artist has accompanied and enriched Frank Schätzing's life ever since, oddly mirroring it and intersecting with it time and again. David Bowie – this ever-reinventing singer, songwriter, dancer, actor, director, storyteller – became a source of inspiration for Schätzing's own creative journey: as an illustrator, musician, performer, and author of internationally bestselling thrillers and popular non-fiction.

Christian Serrer, Karoline Möller,  
Lukas Neuwirth, Franziska Koert

# Chilling in the Heat. Adapting to the consequences of climate change

- A practical guide with many illuminating illustrations
- Clear, accessible, and scientifically grounded



November 2025 · 160 pages

**Christian Serrer** has been active in climate change communication for over seven years and is one of the most successful nonfiction authors in the field. His bestsellers *Kleine Gase – Große Wirkung: Der Klimawandel* and *Machste Dreckig – Machste Sauber: Die Klimailösung* (both co-authored with David Nelles) were developed in collaboration with more than 200 scientists and have sold several hundred thousand copies. He has given many talks, including at the European Central Bank, the German Sustainability Award Congress, and companies such as EnBW and SAP. Together with his team, he works daily to make complex climate issues accessible. His ability to communicate sound science clearly and compellingly has made him a leading voice in climate communication.

## The guiding principle in the face of climate change: take action, don't despair

Climate change is already here – but how do we adapt to it? *Chilling in the Heat* explains, in an understandable and non-alarmist way, how we can all protect ourselves from heatwaves, floods, and other climate-related impacts. It offers practical tips on strengthening our mental resilience during times of climate crisis, staying productive on hot days, knowing which insurance policies are essential, and receiving timely warnings in the event of extreme weather.

With short, clear texts and plenty of illustrations, the book delivers practical solutions for everyday life. Grounded in facts and backed by numerous scientists, bestselling author Christian Serrer presents the key adaptation strategies we need in a rapidly changing world.

Volker Weidermann

## If I Were a Cloud. Mascha Kaléko and the Journey of Her Life

- "I have to rely on miracles": the story of Mascha Kaléko's first visit to Germany after years in exile
- Mascha Kaléko is one of the most beloved German-language poets and has been translated into many languages
- English sample by Ruth Martin available soon



October 2025 · 240 pages

© Vera Tammen



**Volker Weidermann**, born in 1969, was the host of Germany's most important literary talk show on TV. Since 2021, he has been head of the literature and arts section of DIE ZEIT. He is the author of numerous books, including *Ostend*, *Stefan Zweig*, *Joseph Roth and the Summer before the Dark* and most recently *Man of the Sea*. *Thomas Mann and the Love of his Life*, which were **translated into several languages**.

**January 1956: Seventeen years after fleeing Nazi Germany at the last minute, Mascha Kaléko returns. It is a journey into her past – burdened with the anxious question of whether it might also be a journey into the future.**

She travels to Berlin, the city where she had once been happy, where she had found success as a poet, which she had loved. Over the course of a year, she journeys across the country. Almost every day, she writes letters to her husband, the love of her life, who remained in New York. In them, she describes fairy-tale successes, a miracle in Berlin, and deep abysses. She writes of an old, new Germany.

Recounting the story of just one year, Volker Weidermann reveals the arc of an entire German-Jewish life. It is the story of a poet whose humor, wit, and melancholy still resonate with us today.

Rick Zabel

# On the Road. The Freedom of Road Cycling

- An ode to road cycling – from Germany's most popular cyclist
- #2 of the SPIEGEL bestseller list on publication



July 2025 · 224 pages

© Lukas Piel



**Rick Zabel**, born in 1993, left school at 17 to pursue a career as a professional cyclist. He rode in the Tour de France, the Giro d'Italia, and nearly every major race in the world. Since retiring from professional cycling in 2024, he has become a podcaster, influencer, commentator, and cycling expert.

**Why would someone ride up mountains using nothing but their own muscle power – with slim chances of success and through excruciating pain? And why would they get back on their bike the very next day and do it all over again? What is the secret behind a sport that combines immense sacrifice with unparalleled joy? Rick Zabel knows the answer.**

As the son of a successful sprinter, Zabel became a professional cyclist himself, competing in all the major races – with far fewer victories, but with the same dedication and passion. He has experienced the grind of working for team success, as well as the deep satisfaction of being paid to do what he loves.

Zabel has encountered both the dark side of road cycling – pressure, doping, and competition – and its sunny side: *On the Road* he has seen some of the most beautiful places in the world, conquered Europe's highest mountain passes solo, and relished the cool breeze and breathtaking views on the way down.

He writes about these experiences with relish and vivid detail – so much so that you'll immediately want to hop on a bike yourself.