

## **Film Rights Guide**

### **Spring 2026**

**For more information please contact:**

Rowohlt Verlag GmbH - Agentur für Medienrechte

**Kristina Kromholz**

+49-(0)30-285384-12

kristina.kromholz@rowohlt.de

---

**Verlag Kiepenheuer & Witsch GmbH & Co. KG**

Iris Brandt

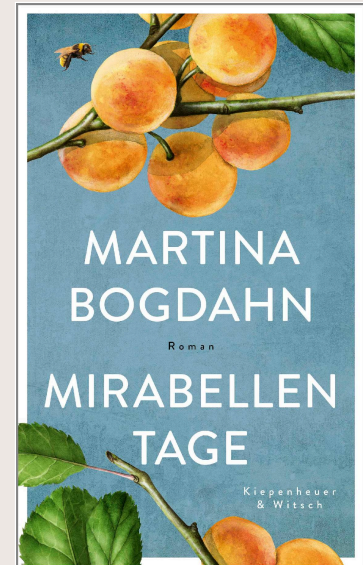
+49-(0)221-37685-22

ibrandt@kiwi-verlag.de

Martina Bogdahn

## Where the Mirabelles Grow

- A story about letting go and finding a second spring in life
- 70,000 copies sold of her debut *Summer at the Old Mill*
- For readers of Dörte Hansen, Mariana Leky, and Ewald Arenz
- Topics: Feel-Good Literature, Grief & Loss, New Beginnings



April 2026 · 352 pages

© Berppo Minx



**Martina Bogdahn**, born in 1976, grew up on a remote farm in Franconia. She works as a photographer in Munich. Her debut novel, *Summer at the Old Mill* (*Mühlemsommer*), was a major success and remained on the SPIEGEL best-seller list for months.

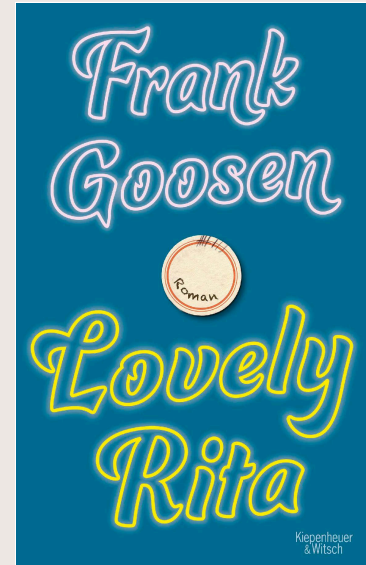
**Martina Bogdahn takes us on a journey through an eventful summer, telling a humorous story of a life between routines, duties, and a sudden new perspective.**

When the local priest of the quaint village Blumfeld dies unexpectedly, the orderly world of his housekeeper, Anna, is thrown into turmoil. She must organize his funeral and transport his ashes to the sea. To do this, Anna, in her early fifties, takes driving lessons from her former instructor and secret crush. As they explore the area around Blumfeld, enjoying the scent of ripe mirabelle plums, Anna begins to question her life of service and faces a decision that could lead her into the unknown.

Frank Goosen

## Lovely Rita

- A warm and humorous novel about a disappearing biotope: the corner pub
- For readers of Nick Hornby, Roddy Doyle, Fredrik Backman
- Topics: Pub Culture, Disappearing Communities



February 2026 · 256 pages



© Martin Steffen

**Frank Goosen** lives in Bochum and has published numerous successful books many of which have been adapted for stage or film.

### In Frank Goosen's new novel, we journey through the life stories of three unconventional women

The legendary Haus Himmelreich pub, one of the last of its kind in a dying coal-mining town in the Ruhr area, is set to close. The narrator uses this as an opportunity to visit for the final hours, encountering quirky regulars and wild stories. However, the true spirit of the pub, landlady Rita Urbaniak, is missing. Though she has run the place since the 1970s and raised her niece there, she doesn't show up for the finale. As the narrator digs deeper, he begins to suspect a major secret behind her absence.

Kat Menschik, Monika Helfer

## Who Are You?

- A masterful story about closeness, loneliness, and the power of storytelling
- Richly illustrated by Kat Menschik
- From the author of the #1 international bestseller *Last House Before the Mountains (Die Bagage)*
- Topics: Psychological Fiction, Illustrated Literature, Mystery



February 2026 · 96 pages

**Monika Helfer** is a multiple award-winning Austrian writer. Her novels *Last House Before the Mountains (Die Bagage)*, *Library for the War-Wounded (Vati)* - both published in the English translation by Bloomsbury - and *Lionheart (Löwenherz)* were bestsellers. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Austrian Literature Prize, the Solothurn Literature Prize, and the Johann Peter Hebel Prize. Her works have been **translated into over 20 languages**.

**Kat Menschik** is an illustrator. Her books have won numerous awards.

**A subtle and ambiguous story about a mysterious encounter that spirals into a psychological game of truth and lies.**

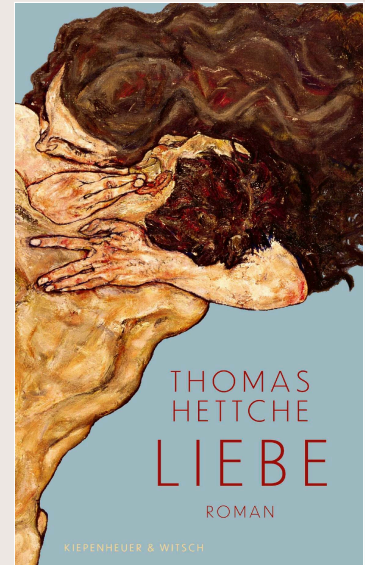
One day, a girl appears at the narrator's door with a 1,000-schilling note and an implausible story, only to disappear shortly after. Years later, a young woman forces her way into the narrator's life, claiming to be that very girl. A lurking dance begins in which closeness and distance, truth and deception blur.

Monika Helfer's narrative is a vexing game that remains exciting and abysmal to the very end, congenially accompanied by Kat Menschik's iridescent illustrations.

Thomas Hettche

## Love

- A philosophical meditation on late love and the fragility of happiness by a multi-award winning bestselling author
- For readers of Julian Barnes and John Williams
- Topics: Late-Life Romance, Existential Questions, the Essence of Love
- English sample available soon



March 2026 · 176 pages

© Joachim Gern



**Thomas Hettche's** essays and novels have been **translated into more than a dozen languages** and have won numerous awards, including the Premio Grinzane Cavour and the Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize. His novels *Heartstring* (*Herzfaden*) and *Peacock Island* (*Pfaueninsel*) sold over 100,000 copies and were shortlisted for the German Book Prize.

**In his new novel, award-winning bestselling author Thomas Hettche explores the greatest of all emotions, telling the tender and passionate story of a late, unconditional love.**

Max is an ocularist who makes artificial eyes. In his workshop, he shapes delicate glass spheres, adding coloured veins, irises and pupils. Max understands the silent language of glances. But at the age of sixty, he no longer believes in love at first sight. Until one summer evening, when he meets Anna and is overwhelmed by feelings of unprecedented intensity.

Anna feels the same way, but she is married, and so the two only ever have a few days to live out what cannot be. But the memories, the dreams, the shadows are always there. This plunges Max into despair, because he knows he has found his great love. And he senses that she will put him to an eerie test.



Judith Holofernes

# Bumblebee Brain

- A memoir about neurodiversity and growing up "different"
- Tender, tragicomic, and inspiring
- Topics: Neurodiversity, Music, Creativity



March 2026 · 304 pages



© Marco Sensche

***Bumblebee Brain* is a story of adaptation and the comical failed attempts to fit in, told by a dreamer who moved through the world like a "drunken bumblebee."**

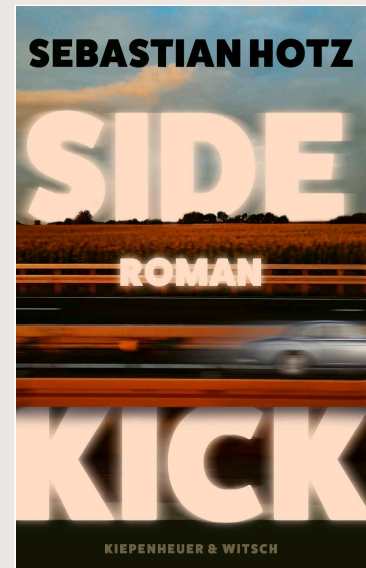
Judith Holofernes looks back on her childhood in the 70s and 80s, before terms like neurodiversity were common. She tells of her training as a people pleaser, her nonconformist mother, and her journey to becoming a rock star. It is a book about how she managed to carry her own unique qualities into adulthood, proving that one can be both nice and special.

**Judith Holofernes** is a singer, songwriter, and author. As the lead singer of *Wir sind Helden*, she shaped a generation of German music fans.

Sebastian Hotz

## Sidekick

- A sharp media satire for media-savvy millennials
- 60,000 copies sold of his debut *Mindset*
- For readers of Marc-Uwe Kling and Heinz Strunk
- Topics: Media Satire, Show Business



April 2026 · 304 pages

© Max Sand



**Sebastian Hotz**, born in 1996, is known as "El Hotzo". His social critiques on Instagram and Twitter reach over a million people daily. His debut novel *Mindset* was published in 2023 and was a major bestseller.

**Sebastian Hotz's second novel is a masterful play on the cultural conflicts of our time, telling a fast-paced story about generational shifts in show business.**

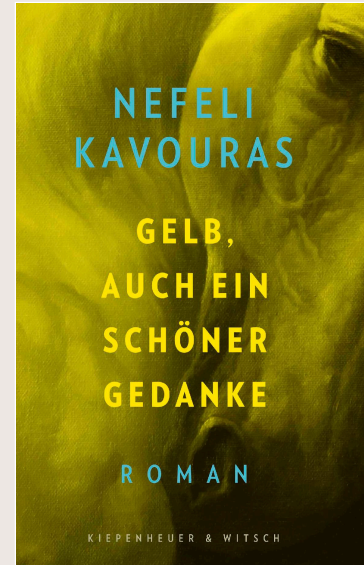
After decades of TV history, legendary showmaster Falk Anders announces his retirement. His long-time sidekick, Boris, firmly believes he is the natural successor. However, their boss Marianne has other plans, favoring an influencer to reach a younger demographic. When Falk decides he isn't ready to quit after all, a shocked - and drunk - Boris takes matters into his own hands: he shoves Falk into the trunk of his car and drives off.

A dramatic and absurd chamber drama unfolds on the German autobahn orchestrated by Marianne who exploits the situation and spurs on both men to sell the kidnapping as a planned mockumentary.

Nefeli Kavouras

# Centaur

- A light novel about a heavy topic: death as transformation
- Ingeborg Bachmann Competition 2025 and Hamburg Literature Prize 2023
- For readers of *Grief is a Thing with Feathers*, Karen Köhler and Jasmin Schreiber
- Topics: Magical Realism, Grief & Loss, Mother-Daughter Relationships
- English sample by Jamie Lee Searle available



February 2026 · 240 pages

© Stephan Obel



**Nefeli Kavouras**, born in 1996, works for mairisch publishing house and curates literary programs. In 2023, she was awarded the Hamburg Literature Prize for the manuscript of this novel, and in 2025, she read an excerpt from it at the prestigious Ingeborg Bachmann Prize.

***Centaur* is a wonderful, sometimes angry, and often humorous book about a mother-daughter relationship in an exceptional situation.**

Georg has been dying for far too long. While his wife Ruth selflessly cares for him at home, she becomes estranged from their 15-year-old daughter Lea, who just wants a normal teenage life. But then, something unexpected happens: instead of dying, Georg transforms into something quite different. Confronted with this absurd new reality, Ruth and Lea must navigate their fractured relationship and find a way to finally let him go.

*'Welcome, Nefeli Kavouras, to German-language literature. What a tender commotion you have created here!' - Saša Stanišić*



Maxim Leo

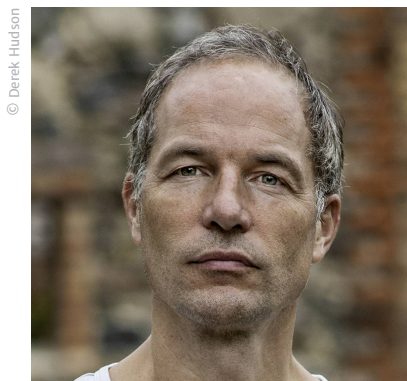
# Inhale. Exhale.

- Career madness meets the coaching circus – a funny and touching novel about the search for the right life
- For readers of Matt Haig, Fredrik Backman, and *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*
- Topics: Mindfulness, Corporate Burnout, Midlife Crisis
- English sample by Jamie Bulloch available

**Rights sold to:** France: Actes Sud



March 2026 · 256 pages



© Derek Hudson

**Maxim Leo** was born in East Berlin in 1970. In 2011, he was awarded the European Book Prize for his autobiographical book *Red Love. The Story of an East German Family* (*Haltet Euer Herz Bereit*). His books *Where We Are at Home* (*Wo Wir zu Hause Sind*), *The Hero of Friedrichstrasse Station* (*Der Held vom Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse*) and *When We Were Young* (*Wir Werden Jung Sein*) became bestsellers and were **translated into several languages**. His novel *Frankie* (together with Jochen Gutsch) has been **translated into 24 languages**.

**A hilariously funny and deeply moving novel about the search for the right life - and the masks we wear to survive the wrong one.**

Ruthlessly efficient Marlene Buchholz is set to become the CEO of the Aviola Group. There is just one problem: while her numbers are perfect, her colleagues view her as a complete disaster on a personal level. Facing an ultimatum to fix her "unempathetic" leadership style or lose the promotion, she is forced into a mandatory mindfulness retreat at a castle in rural Brandenburg.

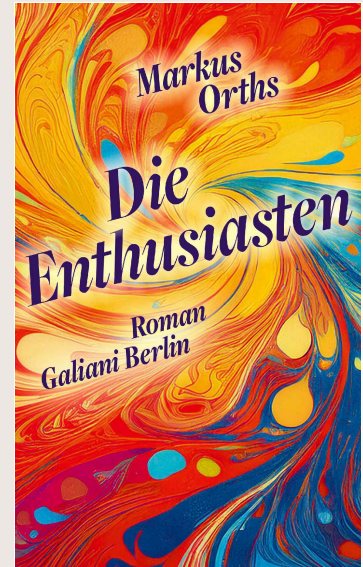
Her coach is Alex Grow, a famous "soul whisperer" and celebrity wellness guru. But behind the facade of mindfulness, Alex is secretly on the verge of bankruptcy and battling debilitating panic attacks. What begins as a battle of wills soon spirals out of control.

Maxim Leo tells the gripping story of two people who must crash to find themselves, transforming a mandatory exercise into a profound journey through intergenerational trauma toward a truly authentic future.

Markus Orths

## The Enthusiasts

- The story of a lost manuscript, family trauma and the consolation an obsession can offer
- For readers of Laurence Sterne, Jonathan Safran Foer and Michael Chabon
- Topics: Obsession as Escape from Reality, Family Mystery, Tristram Shandy
- English sample by Eleanor Updegraff available soon



February 2026 · 368 pages



© Urban Zintel

**Markus Orths**, born in 1969, has published novels such as *The Staff Room* (*Lehrerzimmer*), *The Chamber Maid* (*Das Zimmermädchen*) and *Catalina*. His books have been **translated into 18 languages**, adapted into films, and have won numerous awards.

### A manic trip into literary obsession that hides a deep-seated family trauma

Vince is a literary scholar obsessed with the 18th-century author Laurence Sterne. He is drawn into a manipulative scheme when a mysterious man offers him the lost final book of Sterne's masterpiece. Vince's manic pursuit of the manuscript unearths his family's deepest traumas, blurring the lines between literary passion, reality, and a dark, elaborate fiction.

As the present crisis unfolds, the narrative weaves in flashbacks of Vince's mother whose sudden disappearance decades ago left a void the family tried to fill with linguistic games and various obsessions. Ultimately, Vince is forced to confront a reality that may be as constructed as the novels he adores.

Toni Rivera

## Seeing the Family and Dying

- Start of a new crime series set in Ticino
- Features a cynical, food-loving investigator with family troubles
- For readers of Andrea Camilleri and Martin Walker
- Topics: Mafia Mystery, Family Secrets, Police Procedural



March 2026 · 288 pages

**Toni Rivera** is the pseudonym of a celebrated author known for his distinct voice and suspenseful storytelling.

**Two deaths where something doesn't add up. A powerful brother involved in shady dealings. An ambitious assistant who intimidates him. And an unpunished crime that still cries out for revenge.**

When his assistant, Inspector Gemma Crivelli, texts him the police code for 'murder' twice, Capitano Enzo Rossi first thinks she has made a mistake because the days when there was anything to investigate in southern Ticino are long gone. When Rossi begins to investigate, admittedly a little rusty and with a pronounced tendency to improvise, he is shocked to find that his own family seems to be involved. For Rossi, a dangerous game of loyalty and betrayal begins...

Lea Banasch

# The Anchor Within. 33 Essays on Change, Trust and Inner Strength

- From a SPIEGEL bestselling author and holistic therapist
- Provides concrete, scientifically sound tools for everyday life
- For readers of Brianna Wiest, Leon Windscheid and Karin Kuschik
- Topics: Mental Health, Self-Help, Resilience



February 2026 · 288 pages

© Boris Breuer



**Lea Banasch**, born in 1993, is a holistic therapist, nutritionist, and naturopath with her own practice. She has been sharing her expertise on social media since 2021 to educate and inspire a large following.

**Therapist Lea Banasch invites readers to change their perspective with clear, empathetic essays that address the often invisible inner struggles we face.**

Banasch writes about the fear of failure, unhelpful patterns, and blocking thoughts, offering the core message that you are not alone. She integrates central psychological concepts in an understandable way, providing readers with concrete solutions and "coaching to go."

The book is a guide to finding clarity, confidence, and serenity in turbulent times, helping readers lead a self-determined life.

Gesina Demes, Annika Prigge

## For the First Time. On Growing Up, Being a Woman and All the Feelings In Between

- "Real Girl Shit": Relatable stories about and for women in their 20s
- For readers of Dolly Alderton and Florence Given
- Topics: Female Friendship, Quarter-Life Crisis, Millennial/Gen Z Life



March 2026 · 320 pages

**Gesina Demes** is a content creator and consultant. **Annika Prigge** is a journalist. They have hosted the *End Zwanni* podcast together since 2024.

**Gesina Demes and Annika Prigge touchingly, honestly, and hilariously write about breakups, new beginnings, self-doubt, and the moments that shape life in your twenties.**

The authors share funny and touching stories from all aspects of life—from first jobs and moving in with grandmothers to sexual anxieties and the search for self-worth. This narrative non-fiction book invites readers to feel seen and understood, emphasizing that friendship is the bond that holds everything together.

*"A love letter to friendship and to life." - Caroline Wahl*



Joschka Fischer

## Who Are We? Germany in Search of its Identity

- A visionary roadmap for Germany's geopolitical future from its former Foreign Minister
- For readers of Henry Kissinger, Timothy Garton Ash, Francis Fukuyama, and those interested in the future of the transatlantic alliance



May 2026 · 160 pages



© mauritius images / Guido Schiefer / Alamy / Alamy Stock Photos

**Joschka Fischer**, born in 1948, served as Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany from 1998 to 2005. Following his active political career, he held a guest professorship at Princeton University and established himself as a globally sought-after consultant and strategic analyst. His numerous best-sellers have cemented his reputation as a leading international voice on foreign policy and geopolitics and were **translated into several languages**.

**Joschka Fischer delivers a penetrating analysis of German politics amidst a global era of disruption, asking how the nation must adapt to secure its sovereignty.**

As the first quarter of the 21st century concludes, the world is undergoing radical transformations: intensifying great power rivalries, the AI revolution, and the rise of the Global South. What does this mean for Germany - the world's third-largest industrial power, yet a country that remains militarily hesitant and historically post-national?

Fischer argues that with the US retreating as a security guarantor and Europe facing existential threats, the status quo is no longer tenable. He explores how Germany can justify the trust earned from former enemies after 1945 while courageously confronting the new military, technological, and political realities required to survive in a transformed world.

Dagmar Kieselbach, Thomas Hallet

# Should I Stay or Should I Go. 20 Questions for Your Relationship

- A self-help guide for people in midlife questioning their long-term relationships
- For readers of John Gottman, Julie Schwartz Gottman and Esther Perel
- Topics: Relationship Counseling, Marriage Therapy



January 2026 · 288 pages

**Dagmar Kieselbach** and **Thomas Hallet** have been married for over 30 years and have two adult children. Both had successful careers in the media industry but also completed training in systemic couple's therapy, now running a joint couple's counseling practice. They consistently advise couples together, offering a powerful dual perspective on the dynamics of long-term partnership.

***Should I Stay or Should I Go?* explores the complex situation of mid-life partnerships - has the relationship run its course, or can it be revived through active effort?**

Written by a couple who work as couples therapists, this book dismantles romantic myths and offers a realistic path to renewal or a self-determined ending through 20 central questions, workbook parts, honest case studies, and concrete, actionable rituals without tired advice clichés.

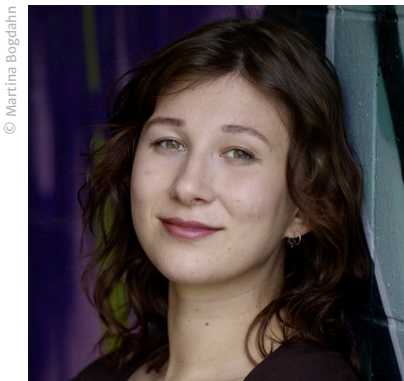
Leonie Lippl

## Pillow Talk. How to Have Really Good Sex and Say What You Like

- Your pleasure guide to the sex you desire from a certified counselor
- Includes tips, myth-busting, and communication exercises
- For readers who are too young for *Come as You Are*
- Topics: Sex Education, Intimacy & Communication, Sexual Health



February 2026 · 272 pages



**Leonie Lippl**, born in 1998, is a certified sexual and couples counselor who shares her expertise on relationships on Social Media. Her English language Instagram account @itsleoneida has over 300,000 followers.

**Sex therapist Leonie Lippl explains how to get the most out of sexual encounters with yourself and others, covering everything from fun facts to serious questions about pain or desire.**

The book answers questions like "What do I need for good sex?" and "How do I communicate what I want?". Lippl provides concrete tips on techniques and facts about the body, while also addressing how to handle situations where sex isn't working as imagined. Her guide is designed to help readers discover their own sexuality in a relaxed and confident way.

Sophie Passmann

## How Dare She?

- On the daily madness of being a woman on the internet – highly relatable
- #1 bestselling author with 350,000 copies sold
- For readers of *Trick Mirror* and observers of pop culture and feminism
- Topics: Digital Feminism, Pop Culture Analysis, Online Misogyny
- English sample by Lizzy Kinch available soon



March 2026 · 240 pages

© Max Strohe



**Sophie Passmann**, born in 1994, is an author and presenter. Her books *Old White Men (Alte Weisse Männer)*, *Growing Pains (Komplett Gänsehaut)* and *Pick Me Girls* were chart-topping bestsellers. Rights to her books have been **sold to China and the Netherlands**.

**Sophie Passmann examines the zeitgeist like no one else: smart, self-reflective, and highly entertaining**

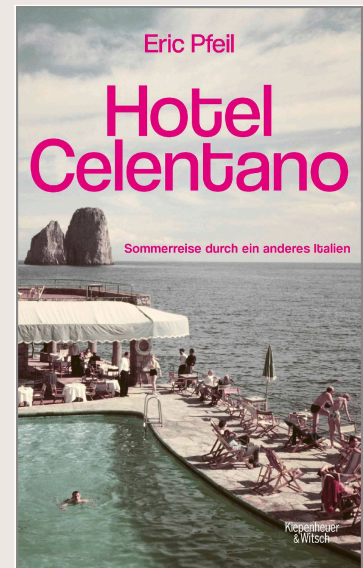
Botox or aging gracefully, posting too many selfies on Instagram, or jumping on every beauty trend on TikTok? Women on the internet are under constant scrutiny. Every like can become an indictment, every comment a political issue. "How dare she?"

Sophie Passmann is herself part of this contradictory world of female self-representation on social media. With radical self-criticism, she dissects the phenomena shaping an entire generation: from the ascetic discipline of Hailey Bieber to the calculated "brat" attitude of Charli XCX, all the way to the neurotic perfection of Taylor Swift. Why are we all so fascinated by women who are performing for us - while hating them for exactly that?

Eric Pfeil

# Hotel Celentano. A Summer Trip Through a Different Italy

- A narrative travel guide to the mythical Italy of pop culture
- Topics: Travel Literature, Italian Pop Culture, Music History



May 2026 · 304 pages



© Ina Kalvelage

**Eric Pfeil takes us on a summer journey through Italy, visiting places that have been unjustly forgotten or never became famous but hold the key to lightheartedness.**

During a dreary winter, Pfeil maps out the locations where the mythical Italy of songs and films was born. He visits the Tuscan club where Mina gave her farewell concert, the sets of spaghetti westerns, and the retreats of jet-set stars, searching for the unsung attractions of the Bel Paese, combining a spirit of discovery with a deep love for Italian culture.

**Eric Pfeil**, born in 1969, writes about film, literature, and music for publications like *FAZ* and *Rolling Stone*. His previous books on Italian music were major successes.



Bruno Preisendörfer

## Keywords That Made History

- Recounts 80 years of German history through 15 legendary slogans
- Topics: German History, Cultural History, Post-War Society



March 2026 · 432 pages



© Susanne Schleyer

**Bruno Preisendörfer** is a renowned author of cultural-historical non-fiction. His “time travel books” to the eras of Goethe, Luther, Bach and Bismarck were bestsellers and sold rights to **China**. In 2016, he received the NDR Kultur Non-Fiction Prize. Rights to his book *Phrases that Changed the World* (*Sätze, die die Welt Verändern*) were **sold to Israel and Korea**.

**Bestselling author Bruno Preisendörfer uses influential slogans like “Prosperity for all” and “We can do this” to explore the moods, hopes, and realities of German history from 1945 to today.**

Who doesn't immediately hear the sound of John F. Kennedy's legendary ‘Ich bin ein Berliner’ in their ears – a sentence that seemed like a spontaneous confession, but was in fact carefully rehearsed in Willy Brandt's office. Quite different: Günter Schabowski's legendary ‘immediately, without delay,’ which heralded the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 – and proved Honecker's bold claim that the Wall would ‘still be standing in 50 or 100 years’ to be a lie.

Preisendörfer's book opens up surprising perspectives on well-known turning points and deconstructs myths such as the ‘economic miracle’ or the ‘miracle of Bern’. An intelligent and entertaining book that shows how yesterday's words shape today's reality.

Daniel Schwartz

# Journey to the World's Glaciers

- A travelogue exploring glaciers as climate indicators and memory archives
- Includes photographs by the multi-award-winning Swiss photographer and author
- Topics: Climate Change, Nature Writing, Travel Photography



April 2026 · 336 pages



© Navid Kermani

**Daniel Schwartz**, born in 1955, is a multi-award-winning Swiss photographer and author. In 1987-1988, he was the first foreigner to document the Great Wall of China in detail. Since 1980, he has published reports, essays, and long-term projects in exhibitions and books. He has been traveling to glaciers around the world for many years.

**Daniel Schwartz has spent twenty years travelling the globe - from Uganda to the Swiss Jura - to document glaciers and the fascinating stories locked within their ice.**

In the Ruwenzori Mountains in Uganda, Schwartz thinks of the Greek geographer Ptolemy, who wondered in ancient times whether the source of the Nile lay there. On Nanga Parbat, he finds the remains of the failed Nazi expeditions of the 1930s in the thawing ice. At the southern foot of the Swiss Jura, he not only traces the millennia-long journey of erratic boulders, but also accompanies his nearly 90-year-old father on his last hike to one of them. He photographs the Birch Glacier from a helicopter at the last possible moment – the next day, it crashes into the valley and buries the village of Blatten.

He combines these personal experiences with literary sources from antiquity to the present day and showcases glaciers in all their diversity: as a dwindling archive of climate history, an archaeological site and an intangible repository of memories.