



VERLAGSGRUPPE  
**RANDOM HOUSE**  
BERTELSMANN

# Best of Random House Germany

**Fiction**  
**Spring 2017**

## A compelling novel about five children fleeing homewards in 1945



Frank Baer  
**Max's Gang**  
[Die Magermilchbande]  
Novel

Penguin Verlag  
416 pages  
March 2017

Full English translation  
available

**Frank Baer**, born in 1938, grew up in Würzburg, studied history and philosophy in Munich and then worked as a regular freelancer for various editorial desks at Bavarian broadcasting. *Max's Gang* was his first novel and was made into a film.

April 1945: led by Maxe Milk, a group of Berlin school children sent to Pilsen wander through the turmoils of war in the direction of home – among defeated soldiers, colonies of prisoners and refugee treks, cross-country through woods and over fields, on foot, in freight trains, on trucks and horse carts. They see the dead by the side of the road, encounter American soldiers and people who have barricaded themselves in their homes and farms.

When at last they are back home in a Berlin of ruins and rubble, none of them find what they have been dreaming of during their long journey.

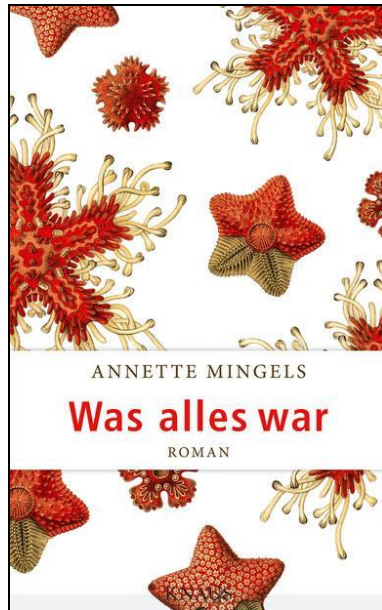
The modern classic available again at last.

### **Praise for *Max's Gang*:**

"Baer vividly projects the characters, their relationships, the dangers and hurdles on their way, and the atmosphere of turmoil, without sensationalism, sentimentality, or moralizing. The account makes compelling reading."

*Kirkus Review*

## A novel about family and belonging



Annette Mingels  
**What There Was**  
[Was alles war]  
Novel

Knaus  
288 pages  
March 2017

English sample translation  
available

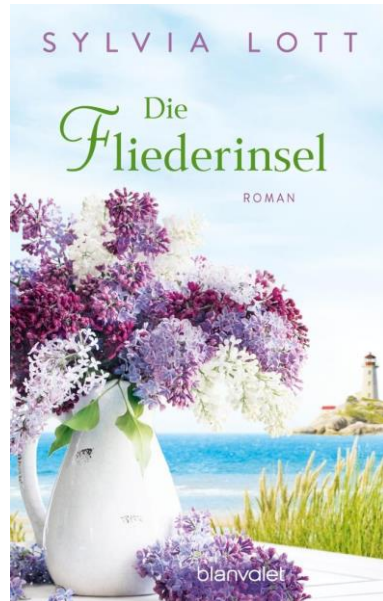
**Annette Mingels**, born in 1971, studied German and wrote her PhD thesis on Dürrenmatt and Kierkegaard. She then worked as a lecturer and journalist. 2003 saw the publication of her first novel, which was followed by three more and a volume of short stories. After stints in Zürich and New York, Annette Mingels has been living with her family in Hamburg since 2011.

[www.annettemingels.de](http://www.annettemingels.de)

For her parents, Susa was the long-awaited child; she wanted for nothing. The fact that she was adopted didn't bother her in the slightest. As a grown woman she is vaguely curious about her biological mother, but when she does get to know her, Viola is a stranger. The encounter, however, sets more in motion than expected. The question about what a family really is takes on a new meaning for Susa, not least because she falls in love with Henryk, who brings two daughters into their relationship.

Annette Mingels sets out along the tracks of our most formative and fascinating web of relationships: the family. She tells of the many forms of modern relationships and what really goes to make a family; of proximity and feeling secure; of distance and rivalry; of the impossibility of ever completely understanding one another; of the fragility of the whole setup; and also of its resilience.

**They have to flee to save their lives.  
But they leave their greatest treasure  
behind ...**



Sylvia Lott  
**The Lilac Island**  
[Die Fliederinsel]  
Novel

Blanvalet Paperback  
430 pages  
May 2017

**Sylvia Lott** is a freelance journalist and writer and works for various women's, lifestyle and travel magazines. Her novels *The Happiness Baker of Long Island* and *The Island Women* are bestsellers.

[www.romane-von-sylvia-lott.de](http://www.romane-von-sylvia-lott.de)

After having to flee from the Nazis, Ruth and Jacob Liebermann find a new home on the Danish island of Funen. The magnificent lilac bushes round their house inspire Ruth to wonderful paintings and here their daughter, Ingrid, is born.

Yet the happy time is but short and they must flee again, leaving their little girl behind with her nanny. It is years before the family is at last reunited. But the separation has left deep scars. All that is left of their old life are the wonderful colours and scents of lilac. Will Ruth, Jacob and Ingrid be able to become a happy family again?

**Press:**

"Sylvia Lott enchants readers with atmosphere and emotions." *Für Sie*

## A small island off the western coast of Scotland and a secret that changes everything ...



Anne Sanders  
**My Heart Is an Island**  
[Mein Herz ist eine Insel]  
Novel

Blanvalet  
384 pages  
March 2017

**Anne Sanders** works as an author and journalist. Under another name, she has already published bestselling novels for young adults.

Isla Grant has had better days. Nowhere to live, no job: she has no other choice than to go back home to Bailevar, a tiny island off the rugged western coast of Scotland – although she scarcely has any contact to her family.

When she then bumps into her teenage sweetheart, Finn, of all people, all those terrible memories come flooding back. Her only glimmer of hope is the elderly lady Shona, who can tell stories as no other, especially legends of the vanished island. Before long, however, Isla realises the secret Shona is trying to hide. And then Isla's own past catches up with her ...

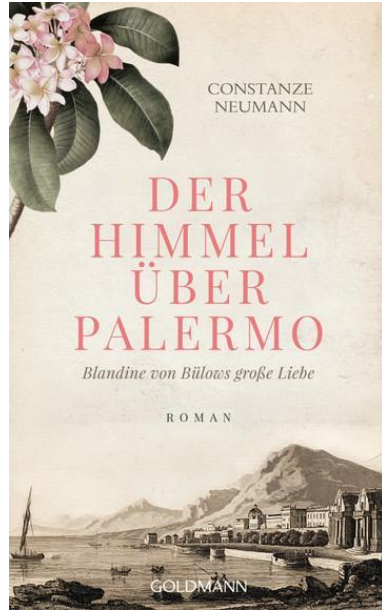
A feel-good summer novel by bestselling author Anne Sanders – charming, funny and heartfelt.

### Press on *Summer in St. Ives*:

"Beautifully eccentric." *Für Sie*

"Anne Sanders' *Summer in St. Ives* is a light-footed, grandly witty novel, a dashing journey to England, whence all will return changed." *buchmedia magazin*

## Richard Wagner's stepdaughter discovers love – and a strange and exciting world.



English sample translation available

Constanze Neumann  
**The Sky Over Palermo**  
[Der Himmel über Palermo]  
Blandine von Bülow's great love  
Novel

Goldmann  
180 pages  
May 2017

**Constanze Neumann** was born in 1973 and studied English, Romance languages and German. She spent 15 years working in various publishing houses in Munich, Frankfurt and Hamburg and has now been living in Palermo for four years, where she works as a translator from the Italian.

Palermo 1881: Richard Wagner travels to Sicily with the whole family, driven by a longing for the mild climate of the south. His stepdaughter, Blandine von Bülow, Cosima's daughter from her first marriage, is also one of the party. While Wagner retreats in order to complete *Parsifal*, Cosima and her daughters are very soon participating in the social life of the town. Blandine in particular – not quite twenty, blonde and blue-eyed – causes quite a stir – and is herself spellbound by the magnificent old palazzi, the sumptuous festivals and a region that knows no winter.

At a New Year's ball, she meets Count Biagio Gravina, the son of one of the oldest families of nobility on the island, and very soon he starts courting her. What is he interested in – her father's prominence? Or has he fallen in love with Blandine? And could she be happy in this strange and exotic world?

## Max Bentow's latest thriller – so close to the villain that you can feel his heart beating ...



Max Bentow  
**The Porcelain Girl**  
[Das Porzellanmädchen]  
Psychological thriller

Goldmann  
380 pages  
July 2017

English sample translation available

**Max Bentow** was born in Berlin. After studying acting he performed at various theatres, and he has been awarded many prestigious prizes and stipends for his work as a dramatist. The crime novels he has hitherto written featuring the Berlin detective inspector Nils Trojan have all made the *Spiegel* bestseller lists.

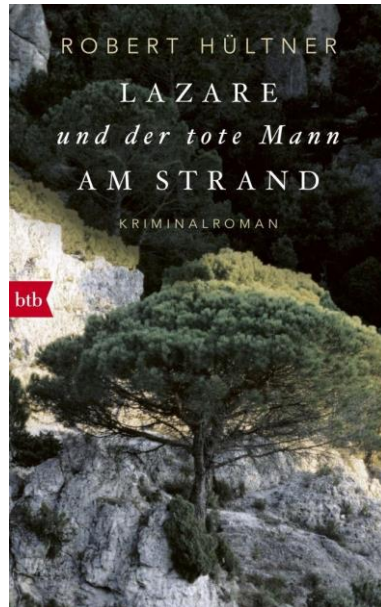
[www.max-bentow.de](http://www.max-bentow.de)

Luna Moor is a celebrated young author at the zenith of her success. No one else writes such gripping page-turners about the abysses of the human soul as she does, and her books send shivers down readers' spines.

Nobody suspects that as a young girl Luna herself fell into the hands of a madman and only just managed to get away. Ever since, memories of the villain have been haunting her, and one day she makes the bold decision to go back to the place of her martyrdom. She wants to immerse herself in the menacing atmosphere of the remote building in which she was once imprisoned in an attempt to understand what happened all those years ago.

Together with Leon, a friend's son, she sets herself up in the abandoned house in the woods. She very quickly realises, however, that she has got caught up in a nightmare she can't seem to be able to wake up from. But is Luna really the innocent victim she claims to be?

## A murderous conspiracy in idyllic south of France – the new crime novel by the award-winning author Robert Hültner



Robert Hültner  
**Lazare and the Dead Man on the Beach**

[Lazare und der tote Mann am Strand]  
Crime novel

btb  
320 pages  
June 2017

**Robert Hültner** was born in 1950. He has worked, among other things, as an assistant stage director, drama adviser and director of short films and documentaries, has travelled with a movie company bringing films to villages with no cinema of their own, and has restored historic films for the Museum of Film. He has won many awards for his Inspector Kajetan novels, including the German Prize for Crime Fiction (twice), the prestigious Glauser Prize and the Tukan Prize.

[www.robert-hueltner.de](http://www.robert-hueltner.de)

A body in the canal: tragic, but in the picturesque town of Sète, the Venice of southern France, not a rare misfortune. It has probably only got something to do with the quarrels the gitanes have among themselves, the gypsies who have been living on the edge of the town for years.

So it is indeed strange that an inspector is called in from Montpellier to look into the case. The local authorities are consternated and welcome Siso Lazare accordingly. They do not realise that Lazare has come to uncover a – murderous, if necessary – conspiracy of wangling, corruption and fraud that has the entire region in its stranglehold. What Lazare does not realise is that on top of it all there is a score from France's recent past waiting to be settled.

**Press on *At the End of the Day*:**

"Hültner's crime stories are among the best in the genre." *ZDF*



## He hates them, he hunts them, he kills them ...



Uwe Wilhelm  
**The Seven Colours of Blood**  
[Die sieben Farben des Blutes]  
Thriller

Blanvalet Paperback  
480 pages  
July 2017

**Uwe Wilhelm**, born in 1957, studied German and acting. Since 1987 he has been working as a screenplay writer, playwright and non-fiction author. He has written more than 120 screenplays for Bernd Eichinger, Katja von Garnier and Til Schweiger, to mention only a few.

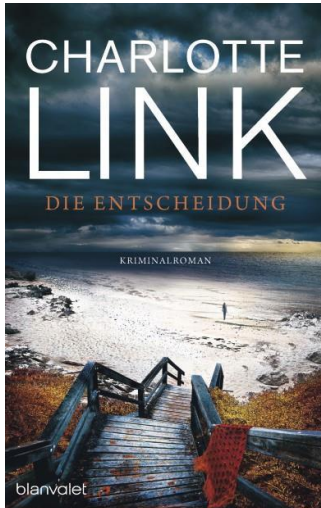
[www.uwewilhelm.de](http://www.uwewilhelm.de)

Three murders in three months. Three women. Three proclamations in which the murderer mentions seven "healings". The Berlin police are under pressure. But then the murders come to an abrupt end and get forgotten – only public prosecutor Helena Faber is convinced that this was just the beginning.

When a year later a fourth woman is brutally murdered, Helena starts a hunt for the man who calls himself Dionysus and is a ruthless woman hater. It is not only the beginning of a race against time but also a fight for survival, for Helena herself has been targeted by the perpetrator. And Dionysus is not going to give up as long as she has not been "healed" ...

*The Silence of the Lambs* meets *Memento* – a thriller that teaches you fear!

# Highlights Autumn 2016



Blanvalet, 576 pages,  
September 2016

## Charlotte Link: *The Decision*

All Simon has really planned to do is spend Christmas quietly with his children in the south of France. But while walking on the beach he comes across a young dishevelled and unkempt woman. Nathalie has neither money, nor papers nor a place to stay. Simon offers her his help – not suspecting that with this decision he will be dragged into a criminal network that involves murder, girl trafficking and forced prostitution ...

- #1 *Spiegel* bestseller: 345,000 copies sold

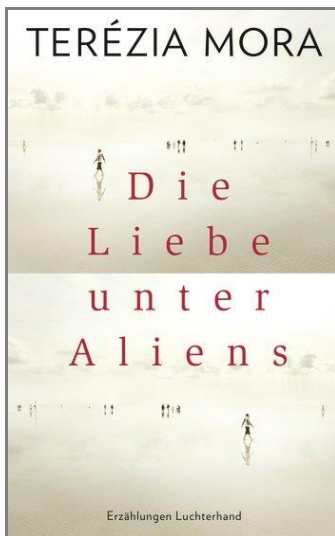
### Press

"Germany's most successful author has again created a complex, multifaceted crime story. The subject of human trafficking makes this novel all the more spectacular." *Hörzu*

"Charlotte Link allows readers a very deep look into the psyche of the various characters, and she builds such high suspense throughout particular scenes that readers will be breathless." *freundin*

### Rights sold to:

Czech Republic (Euromedia), France (Presses de la Cité), Italy (Corbaccio/Garzanti), Latvia (Zvaigzne), Poland (Sonia Draga), Spain (PRH)



Luchterhand, 272 pages,  
September 2016

## Terézia Mora: *Love Among Aliens*

In *Love Among Aliens* Terézia Mora skilfully writes about people who lose themselves but don't give up; who are lost but continue to hope. In these ten stories we meet women and men who are strangely at odds with themselves but want to find the way to each other; loners who won't admit their own feelings; dreamers who stubbornly stick to their ideals.

- Selected by *New Books in German*
- Awarded the Bremer Literaturpreis 2017

### Press

"*Love among Aliens* is interwoven with fine lines of melancholy. These are stories that one will long remember [...]" *RBB Inforadio*

"Practically no other author has so much empathy for her 'heroes' as Mora – and none can express this closeness more precisely or more beautifully." *NZZ am Sonntag*

### Rights sold to:

Italy (Keller Editore)

## Contact

### **Verlagsgruppe Random House**

#### **Rights Department**

Neumarkter Str. 28

81673 München

Germany

Fax: ++49 (89) 4136-3733

[www.randomhouse.de](http://www.randomhouse.de)

### **Gesche Wendebourg**

Foreign Rights Director

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3313

[Gesche.Wendebourg@randomhouse.de](mailto:Gesche.Wendebourg@randomhouse.de)

English speaking countries; French speaking countries; Portuguese speaking countries; Greece; Israel; Arabic countries; Hungary, The Balkans

### **Susanne Seggewiss**

Foreign Rights Manager

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3321

[Susanne.Seggewiss@randomhouse.de](mailto:Susanne.Seggewiss@randomhouse.de)

Italy; The Netherlands/Belgium; China; Taiwan; Korea; Japan

### **Eva Maria Kunze**

Foreign Rights Manager

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3716

[Eva-Maria.Kunze@randomhouse.de](mailto:Eva-Maria.Kunze@randomhouse.de)

Spanish speaking countries; Scandinavian countries; Poland; Russia; Czech Republic; Slovakia

### **Nicola Bieg**

Foreign Rights Assistant / Junior Rights Manager

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3470

[Nicola.Bieg@randomhouse.de](mailto:Nicola.Bieg@randomhouse.de)

Baltic States; Bulgaria; Romania; Turkey