

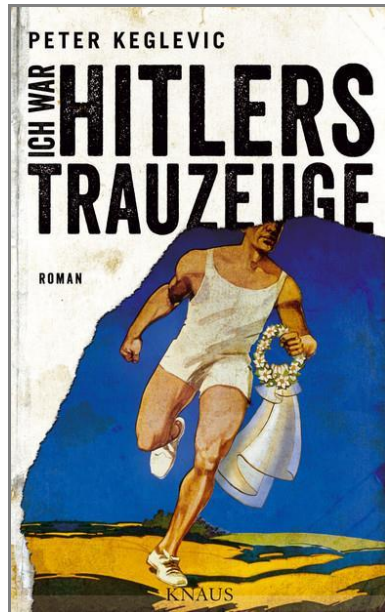


VERLAGSGRUPPE
RANDOM HOUSE
BERTELSMANN

Best of Random House Germany

Fiction
Autumn 2017

A grandiose tragicomical novel



Peter Keglevic
I was Hitler's Best Man
 [Ich war Hitlers Trauzeuge]
 Novel

Knaus
 576 pages
 September 2017

Rights sold to:
 The Netherlands (Thomas
 Rap/De Bezige Bij)

Peter Keglevic, born in 1950 in Salzburg, is an Austrian living in Berlin. He is a bookseller by trade and, most notably, a successful film director. Several of his films feature actor Christoph Waltz. He has won many awards, including the Grimme Prize, one of the most prestigious awards for German television, and the German Television Award. Twenty years of research went into his story about Harry Freudenthal and the "people's run". *I was Hitler's Best Man* is his first novel.

Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945. The small town of Berchtesgaden, Adolf Hitler's favourite place in the Bavarian mountains, prepares for the popular people's run "Running for the Fuehrer". The winner has the honour of personally wishing Adolf Hitler a happy birthday on the 20th of April in Berlin.

But unlike the years before, there are very few volunteers, and Leni Riefenstahl is less than pleased with the "people material" on offer – until a tall blonde man catches her eye. Leni is adamant that this picture-perfect Arian, Paul Renner, should take part in the run. What neither she nor the organizers know: Paul's real name is Harry Freudenthal, and he is a Jew from Berlin who went into hiding in Vienna in 1943 and is now trying to survive the last weeks of the Nazi regime.

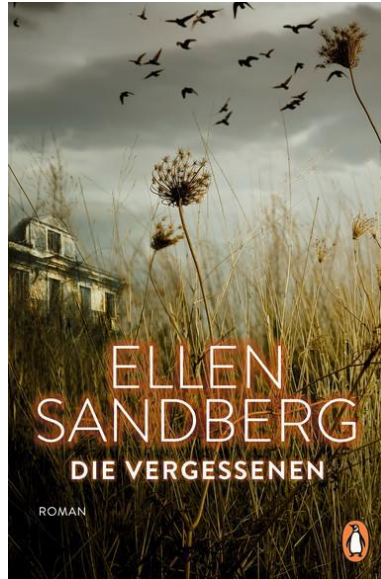
I was Hitler's Best Man is a brilliant, tragicomic novel, as grotesque as Quentin Tarantino's *Inglorious Basterds* and as moving as Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful*.

- English sample translation available
- Selected by *New Books in German*
- 9,000 copies sold

Press:

"*I was Hitler's Best Man* is a highly original novel by a gifted storyteller whose straightforward, accessible language and darkly humorous tone set the scene for a first-class tragicomedy." *New Books in German*

A major mystery novel centred on guilt, justice, and a crime that leaves no one cold



Ellen Sandberg
The Forgotten Ones
[Die Vergessenen]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
512 pages
December 2017

Ellen Sandberg is the pseudonym of a successful author whose crime novels are regularly on the bestseller lists. She first worked in advertising before devoting herself entirely to writing. With her major mystery and family novel *The Forgotten Ones* she has set off along a new path as a writer, focussing on a topic that for her personally is a top-priority issue: the crimes of the recent past and how important it is never to forget them.

Munich, 1944. Young Kathrin Mändler starts a job as a nurse and, for the first time in her life, feels she is doing something useful. When she meets the charismatic doctor Karl Landmann she can't help but feel attracted to him. Not until it is too late does she realise what Landmann's work consists of and that it is putting the lives of many people at risk – including hers.

2016. Manolis Lefteris is given the task of getting hold of some mysterious files. He does not suspect that he is on the verge of digging up a crime that has outlasted generations ...

- **Over 16,000 pre-orders**
- **Press and Marketing Highlight**

Press on the *Dühnfort* series (Inge Löhnig):

"The author has coupled brilliant narrative with psychological suspense." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

A brilliant vision of the future that sheds a revealing light on the present.



Juli Zeh
Empty Hearts
[Leere Herzen]
Novel

Luchterhand
320 pages
November 2017

Juli Zeh, born in 1974, studied law in Passau and Leipzig and took her PhD in the field of European and international law. This was followed by longer stints in New York and Kraków. Her debut novel *Eagles and Angels* (2001) was an international bestseller, and since then her books have been translated into 35 languages. She has been awarded myriad prizes for her work, including the Carl Amery Literature Prize, the Thomas Mann Prize and the Hildegard-von-Bingen-Prize.

www.juli-zeh.de

Together with IT genius Babak Hamwi, Britta Söldner has set up a small firm that has made them both rich. Luckily, no one really knows what is behind the firm, for behind the façade of their unassuming offices Britta and Babak are running a lucrative business with death. When their company threatens to get some disagreeable competition, Britta does all she can to get rid of the unknown free-rider. But she has underestimated her rival. Before long, not only Britta's company is in danger, but her life as well ...

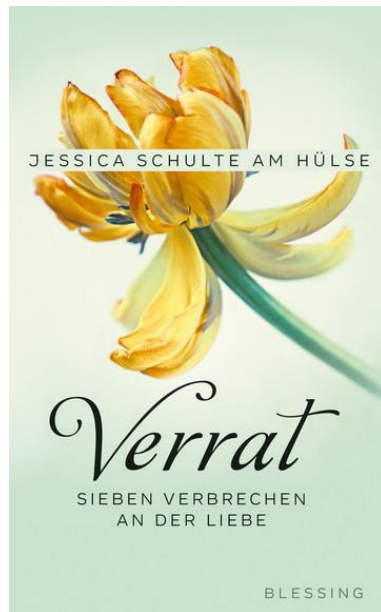
Empty Hearts is a provocative, gripping and red-hot political thriller set in Germany in the near future. And it is also a disturbing psycho thriller about a generation that is empty at heart and without belief and convictions.

- **English sample translation available**
- **Selected by *New Books in German***
- **50,000 pre-orders**

Press:

"In *Empty Hearts*, as in her previous fiction, Zeh examines 'big' themes and weaves them into a pacey narrative with plenty of psychological drama, suspense and black humour. (...) Zeh blends a suspenseful plot with an exploration of morality and politics, finding new ways to examine the age-old question of whether political violence is ever justified." *New Books in German*

Seven true stories about love: gripping, sad, disturbing and intense



Jessica Schulte am Hülse
Betrayal
[Verrat]
Seven crimes against love

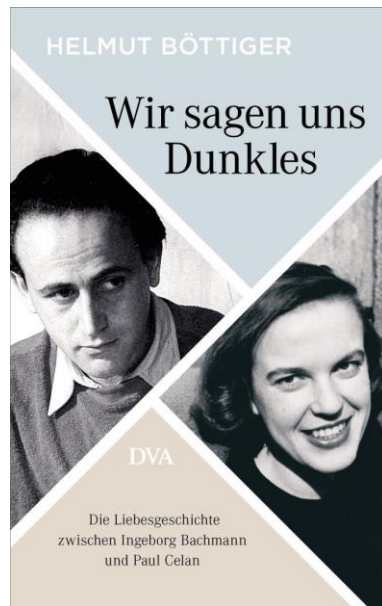
Blessing
256 pages
September 2017

Jessica Schulte am Hülse, born in 1972, studied psychology at the Free University in Berlin. She is the managing editor of the international picture and news agency *World Entertainment News Network* and a freelance journalist. She lives in Berlin with her family. *Betrayal* is her first book.

In seven stories, Jessica Schulte am Hülse delves into the big and small dramas of love. What all the stories have in common is a betrayal that harms, burdens or destroys the love or the relationship between two people. At the end of each story the protagonists find themselves unhinged, distraught, hurt, traumatised or liberated and facing the shards of what was once trust, security, joy or deep love. The untruth may approach silently, on tiptoe; at other times it strides up brutally and unfairly. Those betrayed may find a way out of the drama; or they go to pieces under the intensity of events and can only liberate themselves from the turmoil and entanglement with a radical cut.

These seven stories let us witness psychological and physical perversions willingly or unwillingly committed in the name of love.

The moving portrait of two great poets bound together by their work but unable to live together



Helmut Böttiger **We Say Dark Things to Each Other**

[Wir sagen uns Dunkles]
The romance between
Ingeborg Bachmann and
Paul Celan

DVA
272 pages
With 23 b/w illustrations
August 2017

Helmut Böttiger, born in 1956, was in charge of the literature section of the daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* and other journals. Since 2002 he has been living in Berlin as a freelance writer and critic. He was awarded the 1996 Ernst Robert Curtius Promotion Prize for Essay Writing, the 2012 Alfred Kerr Prize for Literary Criticism and the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2013.

This is a love story surrounded by many legends: Ingeborg Bachmann and Paul Celan met each other in 1948. In spite of periods of separation, their relationship lasted until the early 1960s, when they had both become two of the most important poets in post-war Germany. Scarcely anyone knew how close they were and indeed they could not bear to be together for long – too incompatible were their backgrounds, too great the injuries they inflicted on each other, too deep their individual involvement in writing.

The highly acclaimed critic Helmut Böttiger has written the first comprehensive portrait of their relationship. This is a fascinating study of two exceptional poets who together struggled for words, needed each other and yet could not live together.

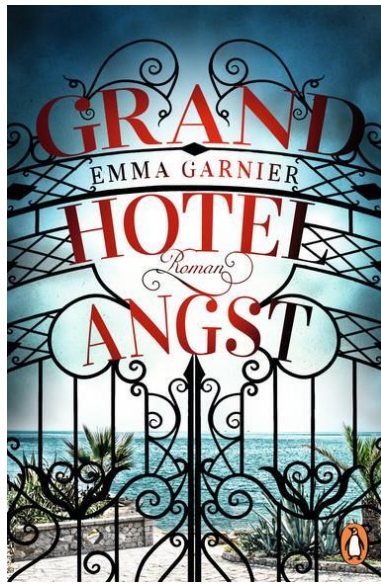
- Selected by *New Books in German*

Press:

"[Böttiger] exposes a tragic entanglement layer by layer. With a proper balance of empathy and distance, and a lucidity of language, he illuminates the depths of the human psyche." *Augsburger Allgemeine*

"... a gripping and authoritative introduction to these two outstanding poets as well as to the historical circumstances of their influential oeuvres." *New Books in German*

Place of the rich and the beautiful. Of secrets. Of dark goings-on.



Emma Garnier
Grand Hotel Angst
[Grandhotel Angst]
Novel

Penguin Verlag
320 pages
August 2017

Emma Garnier is the pseudonym of an author whose atmospheric crime stories are regularly found in the top ten bestseller lists. Years ago, while travelling in Italy, she came across an abandoned hotel in Bordighera on the Ligurian coast. She began some research and was so fascinated by the story that she vowed she would write a novel about it one day. With *Grand Hotel Angst* she has made her dream come true.

Italy in March 1899. Young Nell is travelling to the Ligurian coast with her husband Oliver to spend their honeymoon in Bordighera. The couple are staying in the luxurious Grand Hotel Angst. Nell is fascinated by the splendour of the building, by the exotic hotel park and the view over the sparkling sea.

But to Nell's surprise, Oliver not only already knows the hotel staff and some of the guests, but they seem to be sharing a secret. When one of the hotel guests unexpectedly dies, Nell starts investigating and in the process stumbles across a story of guilt and betrayal – and an uncanny legend that captures her imagination. Then she herself is suddenly suspected of having committed a crime ...

- **English sample translation available**
- **16,000 copies sold**
- **From the bestselling author of the Pierre Durand crime novels**

Press:

"A thriller with guaranteed spine-tingling effects" *Badisches Tagblatt*

"Garnier's *Grandhotel Angst* is a suspenseful thriller that is warmly recommended to all fans of Alfred Hitchcock and Patricia Highsmith." *NZZ Online*

A manor house, a family and a dramatic destiny ...



Anne Jacobs
**The Manor House –
Glamorous Times**
[Das Gutshaus –
Glanzvolle Zeiten]
Novel

Blanvalet Paperback
544 pages
November 2017

Anne Jacobs thrilled readers and took the charts by storm with her *Cloth Villa* trilogy. With *The Manor House* she is following in her own successful footsteps with her tale of an old stately home in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania and its destiny and that of its inhabitants in dramatic times.

www.anne-jacobs.net

Franziska can't believe it's true: she is at last back home on the Dranitz estate. The turmoil of World War II forced her to leave the stately home in the East. For a long time there was no return. Yet her longing never ceased to haunt her, unable as she was to forget the glamorous times before the war, her dreams of a life with Walter Iversen, her great love. Everything seemed to be possible. But the war separated the lovers and destroyed her dreams. But Franziska never gave up hope ...

After the bestselling series featuring *The Cloth Villa*, Anne Jacobs has now embarked on a new compelling saga.

- **#1 Spiegel bestselling author**
- **950,000 copies of the *Cloth Villa* trilogy sold**
- **Translation rights to *The Cloth Villa* sold to: Czech Republic (Euromedia), Italy (Giunti), Poland (Prozsynski), Spain (Suma/PRH)**

He has escaped from the horrors of war, but in the dark backstreets of Vienna evil catches up with him ...



Alex Beer
The Second Rider
[Der zweite Reiter]
A case for August Emmerich –
Crime novel

Limes
384 pages
March 2017

Rights sold to:

Italy (Edizioni E/O), US/World
Engl. (Europa Editions)

Alex Beer was born in Bregenz, studied archaeology, and lives in Vienna. *The Second Rider* is the first volume in a gripping series featuring police agent August Emmerich.

www.alex-beer.com

Vienna shortly after the end of World War I: The sheen of the one-time metropolis is a thing of the past, the city is in the quagmire of hunger and squalor.

Police agent August Emmerich, invalidated by shrapnel, comes across the body of an alleged suicide. As an experienced investigator he smells a rat. Yet he can produce no evidence and his boss doesn't believe it is murder, and so he and his young assistant investigate off their own bat. A gripping chase through the war-ravaged bleakness of Vienna begins, and before long Emmerich himself is in mortal danger ...

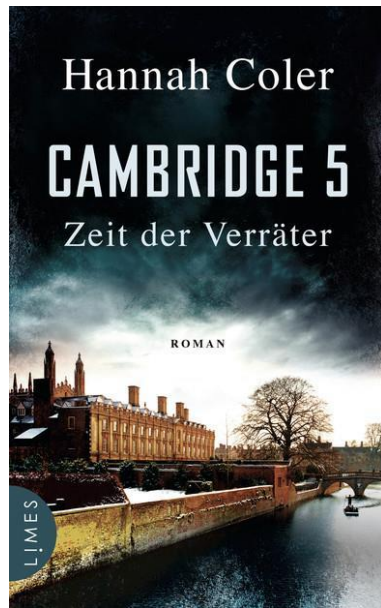
- **14,000 copies sold**
- **Winner of the Leo-Perutz-Prize 2017**

Press:

"Sinister, melancholic, merciless and thrilling." *Kronen Zeitung*

"Beer fans out society, skilfully making time into something vivid and putting life into the characters ... A historical gap has been filled – and excellently so." *Die Welt*

They were friends – until the day one of them became a traitor ...



Hannah Coler
**Cambridge 5 –
Time of Traitors**
[Cambridge 5 –
Zeit der Verräter]
Novel

Limes
416 pages
September 2017

Rights available except:
World English

Hannah Coler is the pseudonym of a German historian. She studied history in Cambridge and has taught at German and British universities. Hannah Coler has collaborated in numerous ZDF and BBC documentaries. She has been living in New York with her family since 2015. *Cambridge 5 – Time of Traitors* is her first novel.

Cambridge has always attracted spies. Here friendships have been made and betrayed. The charismatic history Professor Hunt knows this only too well: his old friends have long turned against him. Perhaps this is why he is so interested in the research of his German student Wera. She is fascinated by the Cambridge Five: some of the brightest Cambridge graduates who were recruited by the Russian intelligence services in the 1930s and passed on critical secrets to Moscow for several decades.

These times seem far distant. But then Hunt finds himself involved in a murder case. Does he have something to hide or is someone trying to entrap him? And what is Wera's role in all this? The age of spies does not seem to be over yet ...

- **8,000 copies sold**
- **A crime novel based on the true story of the Cambridge Five spy ring – excellently researched and a nail-biting narrative.**

Press:

"The author [...] blends historical facts, fiction, and personal experiences into a brilliant debut." *Myway*

"With *Cambridge 5*, Coler has written an eerily gripping novel based on true yet incredible events." *Hamburger Morgenpost*

Nobody gets as close to evil as she does.



B.C. Schiller
Targa – The Moment Before You Die

[Targa – Der Moment, bevor du stirbst]

Thriller

Penguin Verlag
400 pages
July 2017

Rights sold to:
Czech Republic (Albatros)

B.C. Schiller stands for Barbara and Christian Schiller, who are among the most successful self-publishing authors in Germany. Over a million copies of their thrillers, including several #1 e-book bestsellers, have been sold. Before Barbara and Christian Schiller devoted themselves entirely to writing they ran an advertising agency. They live on Mallorca and in Vienna.

Targa Hendricks has no friends, no love, nothing to lose. Above all, she has no fear – and that is precisely why she is so damned good at her job. As an undercover agent working for a special unit of the Federal Criminal Police Department it is her job to catch serial killers in the act, and there are only two ways to do this: either Targa has to put herself at the killer's mercy – or make him believe she is like him.

Falk Sandman is a university lecturer, charismatic and possessed by the last words of the dying, his victims. One day he meets a young woman interested in his dark side. She wants to learn from him, and Sandman is fascinated by her lack of emotion. He is initially sceptical, but then he gradually trusts her. A deadly game begins. Who will win?

For readers of Andreas Gruber and Simon Beckett.

- **18,000 copies sold**
- **Self-publishing stars: 1.3 million sold books**
- **Landing page: www.wer-ist-targa.de**

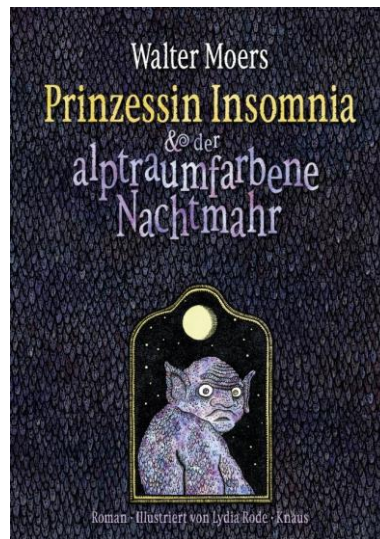
Press

“This book is so captivating that one will want to read it at one sitting.” *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*

“A suspense-filled crime story with an unexpected ending.”
Bild am Sonntag



A dreamlike love story and an adventurous journey through the human brain



Walter Moers
Princess Insomnia and the Nightmare-Coloured Nightmare
[Prinzessin Insomnia & der alpträumfarbene Nachtmahr]

Knaus
344 pages
August 2017

Walter Moers has with his fantasy novels written his way into the hearts of readers and critics alike far beyond the borders of the German-speaking parts of the world. All his novels, such as *The 13 ½ Lives of Captain Bluebear* and *The City of Dreaming Books* were bestsellers and have been translated into numerous languages.

Apart from the continent of Zamonien, Walter Moers has also created such popular characters as *Optimus Yarnspinner* and the cartoon character *Adolf*.

www.zamonien.de

Princess Dylia, whose name for herself is "Princess Insomnia", is the most sleepless princess in the whole of Zamonien. One night she receives a visit from a nightmare-coloured nightmare, a scary but likeable gnome who introduces himself as Havarius Opal and announces his intention of driving her insane. First, however, he takes her on an adventurous odyssey through the world of thoughts and dreams – one that confronts them both with a succession of new and surprising twists and turns until they finally reach the dark heart of night.

A Late Romantic Zamonian tale filled with with bizarre characters, *Princess Insomnia* is recounted by Walter Moers with his own characteristic brand of humour. Exciting and involving.

- **#2 Spiegel bestseller: 90,000 copies sold**
- **English sample translation available**

Press:

"Walter Moers, together with the sleepless Lydia Rode, has created a dream universe that is bright and bold, perilous and peculiar, and quite comforting." *Literatur Spiegel*

"A book about the power of fantasy, abounding in ideas and quotations – yet in effect very human." *Solinger Tageblatt*

"Truly grotesque!" *Hörzu*

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