



VERLAGSGRUPPE
RANDOM HOUSE
BERTELSMANN

Best of
Random House Germany

Fiction
Autumn 2018

**They are mother and daughter.
They are strangers and yet they have
more in common than they suspect.**



Beate Teresa Hanika
**On the End of
a Long Summer**
[Vom Ende eines
langen Sommers]
Novel

btb
320 pages
September 2018

Beate Teresa Hanika, born in 1976, has already written several highly acclaimed young-adult novels that have been awarded, among others, the Bavarian Art Promotion Prize and were nominated for the German Youth Literature Prize. Her novel *The Apricot Girl* was translated into several languages.

Marielle lives in Amsterdam as a sculptor. On one of the first spring days the forty-year-old returns home from the Bloemenmarkt with a huge bunch of red and pale pink tulips and finds at her front door a parcel tied up with string – old fashioned and mysterious. Inside: diaries of her recently deceased mother, Franka. Her entire life, Marielle saw her mother as proud and aloof, a stranger who never understood her.

She now starts reading – of that long summer in 1944 that Franka spent on an estate in Tuscany; of an encounter that changed the life of the young woman forever. And of a calamity the results of which seem to be leaving their mark down the generations.

Previous book by the author:



The Apricot Girl
btb 2016

"A moving and tragic tale of life and friendship."
New Books in German

Rights sold to: France (Les Escales), Italy (Piemme), The Netherlands (Cargo/De Bezige Bij), Norway (Memo), Poland (Proszynski), Spain (Suma/PRH)

Fiction



Rights sold to:
Czech Republic (Host), The Netherlands (HarperCollins)

English sample translation available

Dörte Hansen, born in 1964, learned several languages such as Gaelic, Finnish and Basque and was awarded a PhD in linguistics. She then turned to journalism, spent several years working as an editor for *NDR* and is now an author for radio and print. Her debut novel *Altes Land* was a major bestseller and has been translated into numerous languages.

What do we have left when everything we knew disappears?



Dörte Hansen
Midday Hour
[Mittagsstunde]
Novel

Penguin
320 pages
October 2018

The clouds are lying low over the geest as Ingwer Feddersen, 49, returns to his home village. There is something he has to make amends for. Grandmother Ella is in the process of losing her mind; Grandfather Sönke is steadfastly holding his ground in the village pub. He has seen better days, just like the whole village. When did this decline begin? In the 1970s, when after the land reform first the hedges and then the birds disappeared? When the large farms grew and the small ones died away? When Ingwer went to university, walking out on the old man and his guest house?

Dörte Hansen has written a warm-hearted story about the disappearance of a rural world, of loss, parting and of beginning anew.

Previous book by the author:



The Old Country

Knaus 2015

"Hansen makes this story about the process of healing affecting, real, and memorable." *Publishers Weekly*

Rights sold to: Czech Republic (Host), Denmark (Rosinante), France (Kero), Italy (Salani), Lithuania (Alma Littera), The Netherlands (Harper Collins), Norway (Bastion), Spain (Maeva), Sweden (Nona), US/World Engl. (St. Martin's Press)

A heart-rendering and humorous novel about an unusual pair of friends



Angelika Waldis
I'm Coming With You
[Ich komme mit]
Novel

Wunderrraum
224 pages
August 2018

English sample translation available

Angelika Waldis, born in 1940, still does not see herself as old. After a childhood in Lucerne, she studied journalism in Zurich and married designer Otmar Bucher. They have a son and a daughter and set up a youth magazine. She now has three grandchildren and a lot of joy and anxieties when writing books.

For more than forty years Vita Maier has been living in the same apartment. She moved in as a young mother, but her son has long since left home, and her husband has died many years ago. As far as her neighbour is concerned, a student who goes by the name of Lazy, Vita is no more than the old woman upstairs, for Lazy has eyes for no one but his girlfriend Elsie. But then Lazy falls ill, and Elsie and the future vanish. One day, Vita stumbles across a thin and exhausted Lazy in the staircase and takes him up with her to put him on his feet again with the help of a few sausage sandwiches. An unusual, amusing and strangely close friendship results. Then comes the day when a new blood count puts an end to all optimism. "I'm opting out", says Lazy. "I'm coming with you", says Vita. And so two world-weary characters set off on their last crazy journey.

A book about the zest for life and its opposite, about the beauty of life and friendship, told in a unique and completely fresh voice.

Press:

"This novel will make one addicted to reading, and to life."

Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung

"Angelika Waldis tells this story ... with emotion, but also with playful wit and a good dose of humour."

Luzerner Zeitung

"Waldis narrates lightly, without sentimentality, and always very realistically. The engaging character portraits make this novel especially worth reading."

20 Minuten Schweiz

Fiction

“Maybe Juli Zeh’s best book so far.”

Süddeutsche Zeitung

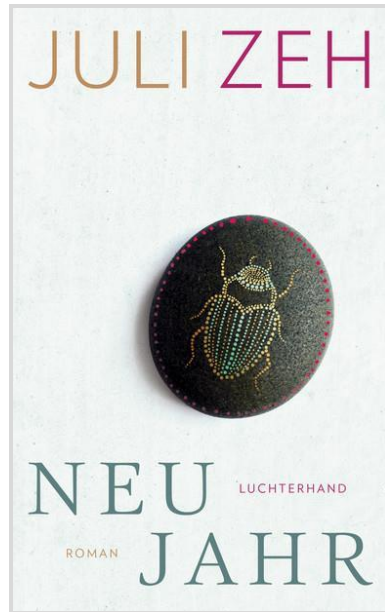


Rights sold to:

France (Actes Sud), Italy (Fazi),
The Netherlands (Ambo | Anthos)

**English sample translation
available**

**Selected by *New Books in
German***



Juli Zeh
New Year
[Neujahr]
Novel

Luchterhand
192 pages
September 2018

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* 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 Order of Merit.

www.juli-zeh.de

Lanzarote on New Year's Day: Henning is cycling up the steep path to Femés. As he is struggling against the wind and the gradient he recaps his situation in life. He is the breadwinner of the family, husband and father – yet in none of these roles can he recognise himself. He has been having panic attacks for a while, and they pounce on him like demons. When he finally reaches the pass in utter exhaustion a fluke incident takes him on a mental time journey back to his childhood. All of a sudden he relives a situation that almost cost him his life all those years ago and which continues to unsettle him.

New Year is the breath-taking story of two small children who in the middle of a holiday paradise end up in hell. It is also about the crisis of a man crushed between unclarified roles. And it deals with the existential question of whether our lives are already determined when we are children or whether it is us who decide on fortune and misfortune.

Previous book by the author:



Empty Hearts

Luchterhand 2017

"A radical, politically clairvoyant book with a laconic and powerful language." *News*

Rights sold to: France (Actes Sud), The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Norway (Gyldendal), Slovakia (Inaque), Spain (Vegueta), Sweden (Weyler), US/World English (PRH Nan Talese)



For more information please visit www.randomhouse.de

On the happiness of breaking the silence



Tanja Kokoska
**Juli Spreads Happiness
and Finds Love**

[Juli verteilt das Glück und
findet die Liebe]

Novel

Heyne Paperback
304 pages
November 2018

Tanja Kokoska is an editor for the daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* and in charge of the weekend magazine *F7*. *Juli Spreads Happiness and Finds Love* is her first novel published by Heyne.

After her mother has died Juli Mahlo inherits the house and the flower shop. Juli seems to belong to another age; she loves being with familiar things and she doesn't fear the silence surrounding her. But she notices when it bothers other people.

Just before Christmas Juli gets to know old Mr Habakuk. He lives in a world full of dark thoughts that he won't share with anyone. Yet Juli manages to make him speak and discard his sinister memories. She decides to share with others this happiness that comes from letting go, of self-liberation, and bring order into her life.

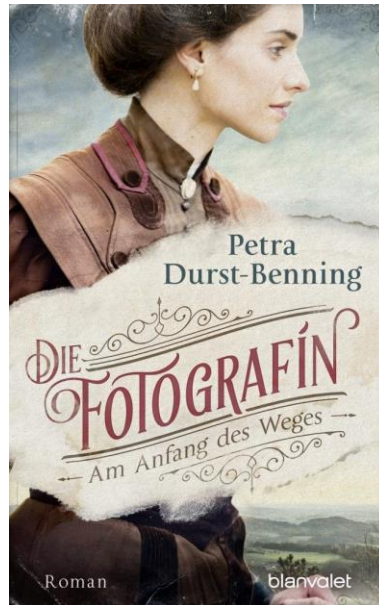
All that is standing in the way of her own happiness like a wall is Juli herself. Then she meets Oskar, with the hands of a pianist and as beautiful as Gregory Peck. And all of a sudden it seems that the time of being alone is at last over for Juli. What she does not realise is that love will lead her to a secret within her own family ...

Historical Fiction

“A historical novel that is captivating to the last line.”

Literaturmarkt Online

**Spiegel
Bestselling
Author**



**Petra Durst-Benning
The Photographer –
At the Beginning of
the Road**

[Die Fotografin –
Am Anfang des Weges]
Novel

Blanvalet
448 pages
With 9 b/w illustrations in appendix
September 2018

Rights available except:
World English

Petra Durst-Benning has been freelancing full time as a writer for ten years. All her novels have been *Spiegel* bestsellers and are available in numerous European countries. She is also a celebrated author in the US.

Minna Reventlow, otherwise known as Mimi, has always been different from other women of her time. The year is 1911, and while other women are involved in their families and households, Mimi makes her dream come true. She travels around the country as a photographer and with her pictures loves giving people beauty, just like her uncle Josef, her big hero.

When Josef is taken ill, Mimi moves to the tiny linen-weaving village to take care of him and temporarily take charge of his photography studio. For his sake she not only gives up her freedom but exposes herself to the villagers' distrust. And when before long a man makes Mimi's heart beat just that little bit faster she has to make a decision ...

For the readers of Jeffrey Archer's *Clifton Chronicles*.

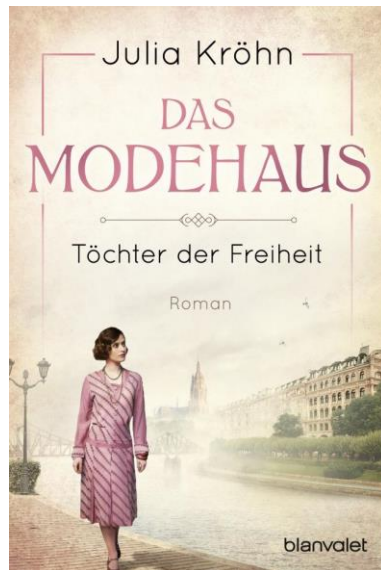
The story of *The Photographer* continues:



**The Photographer –
The Time of Decision (Vol. 2)**
[Die Fotografin – Zeit der Entscheidung]

Blanvalet
ca. 400 pages
April 2019

A hundred years, three women and a dream – of velvet and silk, of freedom and love



Julia Kröhn
**The Fashion House –
Daughters of Freedom**
[Das Modehaus –
Töchter der Freiheit]
Novel

Blanvalet Paperback
528 pages
February 2019

Rights sold to:
Italy (Giunti), Spain (PRH/Suma)

Julia Kröhn studied history. Her big passion is not only telling stories but also delving down into history, and to date she has published more than thirty largely historical novels, some of them under a pseudonym. With *The Fashion House* she has ventured to leap from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

The roaring twenties, spectacular fashion collections and ... Coco Chanel. Fanny is fed up with the dowdy fashion fostered in the family-owned imperium and wants to take off as a fashion designer in Paris.

In 1946, her daughter Lisbeth is fighting for mere survival in bombed-out Frankfurt – and for her family's fashion house. With imagination and guts she takes it into a new age, but pays a high price in the process.

In 1971, love is more important to Rieke than business. But then the family enterprise finds itself facing bankruptcy – and Rieke has to make a far-reaching decision.

For the readers of Anne Jacobs' *The Cloth Villa Saga*.

Who killed the Grande Dame of classical music?



Natasha Korsakova
Deadly Sonata
[Tödliche Sonate]
A case for
Commissario Di Bernardo
Crime novel

Heyne Paperback
448 pages
October 2018

Natasha Korsakova is of Russian-Greek stock, came to Germany when she was 19 and is a violin soloist on international stages. She has been "Artist of the Year" in Chile and Italy. She has long been fascinated by the *Messiah*, Antonio Stradivari's most famous violin.

A scandalous case is shaking Rome: Cornelio Giordano, the powerful music agent feared in classical music circles, has been savagely murdered.

Commissario Di Bernardo, who has only recently been transferred from Calabria to Rome, has to enter the world of music agents, opera houses and child prodigies for his investigations. It seems that Giordano was anything but popular. And how is the *Messiah*, Antonio Stradivari's legendary violin, connected with the case?

- The debut novel by Natasha Korsakova, one of the most popular violinists of her generation
- A gripping crime novel around Stradivari's legendary violin *Messiah*

Several missing girls, a dead body high up in the moors, and apparently not one single clue ...



Charlotte Link
The Search
[Die Suche]
Crime novel

Blanvalet
656 pages
October 2018

Rights sold to:

Hungary (General Press), Italy (Corbaccio), Poland (Sonia Draga), Spain (PRH/Grijalbo)

Charlotte Link, who was born in Frankfurt/Main, is one of today's most successful German writers. Her psychological thrillers are international bestsellers, and in Germany alone 28.5 million copies of her books have been sold.

High up in the moors of northern England a body is found – of 14-year-old Saskia Morris, who disappeared a year previously. Not long afterwards, another girl goes missing – Amelie Goldsby, also 14 years old.

The police in Scarborough are worried: is there a serial murderer at work here? The media are quick to dub the perpetrator the "Killer on the moors", increasing the pressure on Chief Inspector Caleb Hale.

Detective Sergeant Kate Linville from Scotland Yard is also in the area to sell her former family home. She happens to make the acquaintance of Amelie's utterly distraught family and without really wanting to takes part in investigations in a drama that seems to have neither a beginning nor an end. And then suddenly another girl disappears without trace ...

Previous book by the author:



The Decision

Blanvalet 2016

"Charlotte Link has once again proven that, with more than 26 million of her books sold, she is one of the most successful German authors." *dpa*

Rights sold to: Czech Republic (Euromedia), France (Presses de la Cité), Italy (Corbaccio), Latvia (Zvaigzne), Poland (Sonia Draga), Spain (Grijalbo/PRH)



Rights sold to:
The Netherlands (Cargo/De Bezige Bij), World English (Text Publishing)

Melanie Raabe, born in 1981, studied media science and comparative literature. After completing a traineeship for a Cologne city magazine, she became an actor, blogger, interviewer, stage play and screen-play writer. She has her own interview blog and has received several prizes for her scripts and short stories. Her debut, *The Trap*, was internationally one of the most hotly contested foreign language books in recent years. The novel has been sold to 21 countries and TriStar Pictures has secured the movie rights.



Melanie Raabe
The Shadow
[Der Schatten]
Thriller

btb
416 pages
July 2018

"On February 11 you will kill a man called Arthur Grimm in the Prater. Of your own free will. And for a good reason." The young journalist Norah has just moved from Berlin to Vienna in order to leave her old life behind her for good when an old beggar woman spits these words at her. Norah is unnerved, for many years ago something terrible happened to her – during the night of precisely February 11. In spite of this, she shrugs the woman off as confused, crazy, there is no other explanation – until shortly afterwards a man called Arthur Grimm appears in her life. Very soon Norah begins to have a dreadful suspicion: does she really have a good reason to take revenge on Grimm? What really happened in the worst night of her life, all those years ago? And can Norah make sure that justice is done without herself committing murder?

Bestselling author of:



The Trap
btb 2015

"A fast, twisty read for fans of Paula Hawkins and Gillian Flynn."
Booklist US

- Sold to 21 territories
- Film rights sold to TriStar

From our backlist:



Limes, 384 pages
March 2017

Alex Beer: *The Second Rider*

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 ...

- 37,500 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

Rights sold to:

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



Limes, 416 pages
May 2018

Alex Beer: *The Red Woman*

Vienna 1920: While the city is struggling with the aftermath of the war, August Emmerich is at last transferred to the Health and Life department. Yet while his colleagues there are busy with the spectacular murder case of the popular city councillor Richard Fürst, Emmerich and his assistant Ferdinand Winter have to play nanny to the famous actress Rita Haidrich, who is in fear for her life.

While on the job, however, they not only discover a dubious connection with Fürst but also get on the tracks of a perfidious murder conspiracy reaching up to the highest circles, and Rita is to be the next victim ...

Press:

"This second case [...] is impressive [...] with its historical exactitude and atmospheric density. Its style is first-class. Overall, absolutely riveting."

Brigitte

"Beer shines again with her research [...] August Emmerich's new case is even better than his first."

ORF FM4

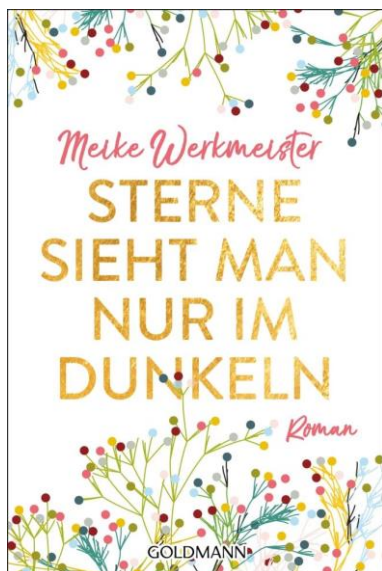
Rights sold to:

Italy (Edizioni E/O)

Upcoming Spring 2019:

Women's Fiction

A sensuous and moving summer novel about two friends, their secret, love and finding happiness



Meike Werkmeister
Stars Can Only Be Seen in the Dark

[Sterne sieht man nur im Dunkeln]
Novel

Goldmann Paperback
320 pages
With 13 b/w and 14 colour illustrations
April 2019

English sample translation available

Meike Werkmeister, born in 1979, contributes to magazines such as *Brigitte*, *Emotion*, *Grazia* and *Cosmopolitan*. She has also been writing her column "So much for that" in *Maxi* since 2010. 2016 saw the publication of her best-selling coffee table book *Sugar Girls. 20 women and their dream of a café of their own*.

When 34-year-old Anni is invited by her friend Maria to spend six weeks on a North Sea island, the game designer immediately decides that this is exactly what she needs, as she grapples with a few major issues in her life: should she marry Thies, although they had always agreed that they didn't need marriage to be happy together? Move to Berlin because there is a job waiting for her that is almost impossible to turn down, even though Thies doesn't want to move to the capital city? Anni is hoping that while on the island she will be able to work out how her life should go on.

While giving Maria a helping hand in her delightful café right on the seafront, Anni can take a deep breath and relax for the first time for ages. And there is Simon, a surfer who shows Anni round the island and reminds her of what it feels like to only do what you feel like doing. With Maria, too, Anni has magical moments, like when they swim in the sea at night.

But with the revival of their friendship, something catches up with Anni that she wanted to forget forever: it was through Maria that Anni lost her first big love, Jan. Anni realises that she can no longer close her eyes. If she is to be honest with herself regarding a future with Thies she must first face the stain on her past ...

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