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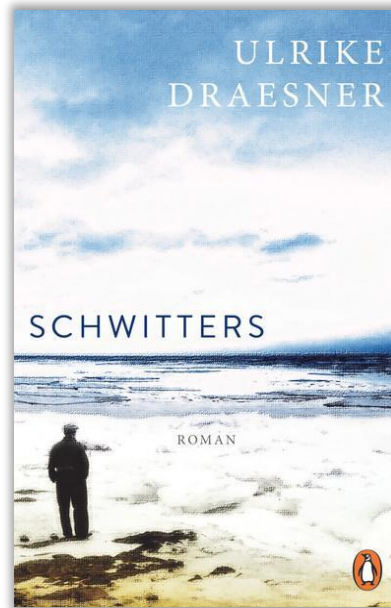
Fiction
Autumn 2020

English sample translation
available

Ulrike Draesner, born in 1962, is a lyricist, novelist and essayist. She studied English, German and philosophy, and has worked as an academic, translator and editor. She has published poetry collections, short stories, and novels, and held posts at several renowned universities such as the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel. She was a Visiting Fellow at New College, Oxford and at the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities and is professor for German Literature and Creative Writing at the Deutsche Literaturinstitut Leipzig. Ulrike Draesner has received numerous awards.

www.draesner.de

A profound yet witty novel about the power of art in dark times



Ulrike Draesner

Schwitters

[Schwitters]

Penguin
480 pages
August 2020

How do you begin a future that has essentially already ended, separated from your home, your language and yourself by a stretch of water? Kurt Schwitters is forty-nine years old when the Nazis force him to flee Germany. His success, work, possessions, parents, and wife Helma stay behind – and art gives way to the art of survival.

In *Schwitters*, Ulrike Draesner follows the writer and artist into exile, giving voice to Kurt, his wife, his son and his lover. Through a virtuoso blend of fact and fiction, she has created a panorama of a time when the struggle for freedom and art was renewed in the face of a world on fire.

- ♦ **Selected by New Books in German**
- ♦ **Nominated for the Bavarian Book Prize 2020**

Press

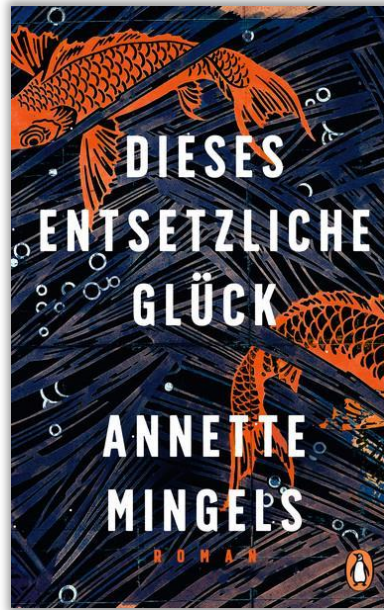
"Her 'Schwitters' is intelligent, her novel a trenchant portrait of the times, her book compelling." *Buchkultur*

"Draesner has written a new, great novel. [...] With *Schwitters*, [she] makes the world shine – more brightly than anyone else in contemporary German literature could do." *Passauer Neue Presse*

"Rarely have the wounds of exile been more precisely, astutely and sensitively recreated and described. [...] An artful, rich and courageous novel." *Neue Buchtipps*

"Draesner follows Virginia Woolf when throwing her web of language over the events. She virtually slips into the words with ever new poetic forms." *NRZ Neue Ruhr Zeitung*

A novel about the difficult yet wonderful togetherness called life



Annette Mingels
This Terrible Happiness
 [Dieses entsetzliche Glück]

Penguin
 352 pages
 August 2020

English sample translation
 available

Annette Mingels, born in 1971, studied German and wrote her PhD thesis on Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Søren 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, and seven years in Hamburg, Mingels has been living with her family in San Francisco since 2018. For her novel *What There Was* she received the 2017 Book Prize of the Ravensburger Verlag Foundation.

Hollyhock, a small town somewhere in Virginia. A place that people come from, shelter in, and return to – sometimes forever. *This Terrible Happiness* tells the stories of fifteen people and their interconnected lives. Among them are Robert and Amy, who a year ago agreed to sleep with other people, even though Robert doesn't actually want to; Dan, whose marriage has broken down, and who suspects that his sister Amy's, too, is falling apart; Kenji, who's trying to be a writer; and Lucy, who to her own surprise falls in love with a woman. And then there's Basil, hiding a secret that no one in Hollyhock suspects.

With great warmth, cheerful melancholy and great virtuosity, Annette Mingels tells the story of people who are merely passing through their lives, and explores the impossibility of the closeness we all yearn for – and sometimes spend our lives desperately trying to attain.

- For readers of Alice Munro, Elizabeth Strout and Peter Stamm

Press

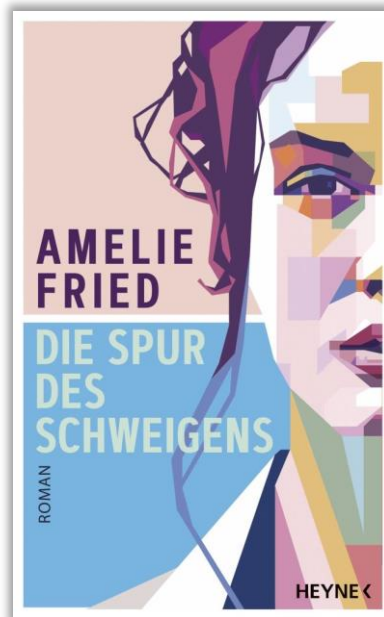
"Mingels' joy in telling stories can be felt through her sensitive look at the inner life of her protagonists." *Kulturnews*

"An extraordinary book that makes you want to read more of Mingel's stories." *BuchMarkt*

"A literary round dance in which people and stories intertwine and destinies merge into a serenely sad novel." *Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Buchkritik*

Nothing is what it seems. No one is who they claim to be. Will the truth come out?

Spiegel
BESTSELLER



Amelie Fried
The Trace of Silence
[Die Spur des Schweigens]

Heyne
496 pages
August 2020

English synopsis available

Amelie Fried, born in 1958, presented various TV programs. All her novels are bestsellers and were made into successful TV films. She has received numerous awards for her children's books, including the German Youth Literature Award.
www.amelifried.de

Journalist Julia struggles to make ends meet as a freelance writer and dreams of the big, investigative story. She receives a tip-off about possible sexual assaults at a renowned research institute. Tired of the me-too debate, she only half-heartedly pursues the suspicion at first. But as soon as the first victim contacts her and Julia meets the attractive prime suspect, her journalistic instinct is awakened.

At the institute she encounters a dangerous mixture of abuse of power, silence and cover-ups – and a shocking connection to her brother Robert, who disappeared without a trace twelve years earlier. Suddenly Julia has to ask herself unpleasant questions: What does Robert have to do with the suicide of a Chinese doctoral student? Why was his body never found? Has she been missing something all these years?

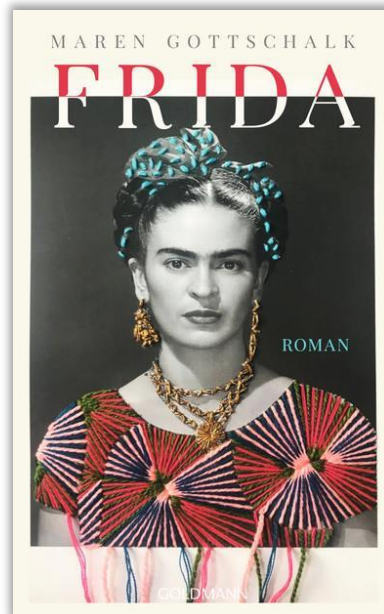
- **Spiegel Bestseller – 10,000 copies sold**

A biographical novel on Frida Kahlo's years in New York and Paris

English sample translation available

Rights sold to: Czech Republic (Metafora), Hungary (Helikon)

Maren Gottschalk was born in Leverkusen in 1962. She studied history and politics in Munich and wrote her PhD thesis on historiography. Since 1991 she has contributed to the WDR radio programme *ZeitZeichen*, while also writing biographies and novels.



Maren Gottschalk

Frida

[Frida]

Goldmann
416 pages
August 2020

Dazzling, charismatic, spectacular: that's how Frida Kahlo appears on the New York scene in 1938. Her marriage to Diego Rivera has hit a low, but she's determined to satisfy her lust for life in the metropolis.

And it looks like it's working: Her first ever solo exhibition is a triumph, she is surrounded by friends and admirers, and revels in her love affairs – including one with the photographer Nickolas Muray, for whom she's long harboured deep feelings. As life takes her from New York to Paris and back again to her home in Mexico, Frida Kahlo conquers new territory and coolly follows her own path – both as an artist and as a lover.

Press

"Maren Gottschalk [...] finds beautiful pictures, concise descriptions and trenchant dialogues for the life of the painter whose portrait is known by virtually everyone." *Monopol*

"Gottschalk describes Frida Kahlo's art with stupendous knowledge of the matter. You can watch the famous self-portraits being created almost in real time [...] when she talks about this vulnerable and proud painter with great sympathy." *BuchMarkt*

A new instalment of the *Cloth Villa* – the opulent success story continues

INTERNATIONALLY
BESTSELLING
SERIES

Rights sold prior publication:
Czech Republic (Euromedia),
Italy (Giunti), The Netherlands
(Xander), Spain (PRH/Suma)

Under another name, **Anne Jacobs** is the author of historical fiction and exotic sagas. *The Cloth Villa*, her family saga set against the backdrop of German history, shot up the best-seller lists in several countries; and following her equally successful *Manor House* trilogy – about an old and noble manor house in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and its inhabitants – Anne Jacobs has finally written the long-awaited fourth book in her *Cloth Villa* series.

www.anne-jacobs.net



Anne Jacobs

Return to the Cloth Villa

[Rückkehr in die Tuchvilla]
The Cloth Villa saga (Vol. 4)
Novel

Blanvalet Paperback
624 pages
November 2020

Augsburg, 1930. Marie and Paul are basically happy: Their love is stronger than ever before, and they now have a son, four-year-old Kurt. But the global depression brings tough times, and Paul has to fight hard for the Cloth Villa's survival. When he's diagnosed with an inflammation of the heart, Marie has to give up her beloved atelier in order to save the family business from ruin. But then she makes a shattering discovery, which threatens to change the family's life forever. Can she preserve the legacy of the Cloth Villa, and return it to its former glory?

For fans of *Downton Abbey* and Kate Morton

- **International Bestselling Series** – More than 650,000 copies of foreign language editions sold
- **German Bestselling Series** – More than 1.3 million copies sold in Germany alone

Anne Jacobs writes also as Leah Bach:



The Island of a Thousand Stars

The untamed savannah and exotic islands shelter the secret of her true origin ...

More than 55,000 copies sold

Penguin, 704 pages, August 2020

Spiegel
BESTSELLER

The thrilling final book in the bestselling trilogy

BESTSELLING
SERIES



Maria Nikolai **The Chocolate Villa – Days of Destiny**

[Die Schokoladenvilla – Zeit
des Schicksals]
Chocolate Villa saga (Vol. 3)
Novel

Penguin
640 pages
October 2020

Maria Nikolai loves the stuff of history, tender love stories and chocolate. With her debut *The Chocolate Villa* she wrote her way into the hearts of her readers, and spent many months in the bestseller lists.

The Chocolate Villa – Days of Destiny is the concluding instalment of this major, bestselling trilogy about the chocolate manufacturers Rothmann.

It's the summer of 1936. The young chocolatier Viktoria is forced to break off her apprenticeship in France when her family's business in Stuttgart, Germany's chocolate capital, desperately needs her help. These are uncertain times, and there is a conspiracy to push the Rothmann family out of the firm.

While Viktoria and her mother Judith do all they can, the chocolate entrepreneur Andrew Miller arrives in town. The handsome American not only throws Viktoria's emotions into turmoil, but also offers the Rothmanns a way out. But is he really who he says he is? Events happen thick and fast – and then a long-hidden family secret is uncovered ...

- **More than 300,000 copies sold in Germany alone**

Spiegel
BESTSELLER

The Chocolate Villa Saga:

(Vol.1 sold to Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Spain.
Vol.2 sold to Italy, Spain)



The Chocolate Villa (Vol. 1)

Spiegel bestseller:
More than 190,000
copies sold

Penguin, 656 pages, October 2018



The Chocolate Villa – Golden Years (Vol. 2)

Spiegel bestseller:
More than 110,000
copies sold

Penguin, 720 pages, June 2019

They hunt you down. And then they kill you.

Spiegel
BESTSELLER



Jan Beck

A Game of Life and Death

[Das Spiel – Es geht um Dein Leben]

Penguin Paperback
480 pages
July 2020

Jan Beck, born in 1975, is the pen name of a successful German-language author and former lawyer. With his action-packed debut thriller *A Game of Life and Death*, Beck takes the reader all the way into the darkest reaches of the human soul.

When someone asks Mavie about her cool glow-in-the-dark tattoo at a party, she thinks they're joking. But then she sees it herself, in the light on the dancefloor – and panics. How did the scorpion get on her skin? Mavie has no idea that the sign makes her the target of a sinister game.

Meanwhile, detectives Inga Björk and Christian Brand are investigating the case of a jogger found brutally murdered in a forest. They don't know that this is just the beginning of a sadistic series of murders – and that the only way they can stop it is by changing sides and joining in the deadly game ...

- ***Spiegel bestseller* – More than 58,000 copies sold**

Press

"This case gets right down to business in typical FitzeK fashion. An enthralling book." *Sonntag Express*

"With his new investigator duo, Jan Beck has hit the mark. This is great fun to read, with a tension that [...] will leave readers breathless." *hrz 'Krimi mit Mimi'*

"A blockbuster! Incredibly riveting, almost impossible to stop reading, with a dazzling finish." *Mainhattan Kurier*

"A thrilling debut that leaves you almost breathless." *Tiroler Tageszeitung*

Two victims, one murder weapon, no motif – the perfect crime and a marvellous thriller!

Rights sold prior publication:
Hungary (General Press), Italy
(Corbaccio), Latvia (Zvaigzne),
Poland (Sonia Draga), Spain
(PRH/Grijalbo)



Charlotte Link
Without Guilt
[Ohne Schuld]

Blanvalet
544 pages
November 2020

Charlotte Link, born in Frankfurt am Main, is the most successful contemporary German author. Her crime novels are international bestsellers. Her latest books *The Decision* and *The Search* once again conquered the *Spiegel* best-selling list. In Germany alone, more than 30 million copies of her books have been sold so far. Her novels have been translated into numerous languages.

A cloudless summer day, the heat is pressing down on the country. On the train from London to York, a stranger points a gun at a woman. She can escape at the last second.

Two days later. A young woman falls with her bike over a thin wire stretched across the track, immediately losing her consciousness. She can no longer hear the following shot. The women have no connection to each other, but the murder weapon is the same.

Kate Linville, new to the Scarborough CID, is immediately drawn into the investigation. She uncovers a terrible secret and finds herself in mortal danger. Because the perpetrator, who wants to avenge a supposed guilt, does not give up ...

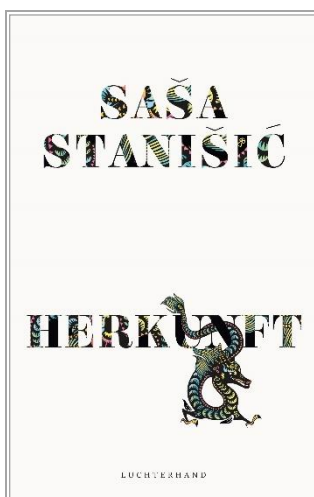
- **Bestselling author - More than 30 million copies sold**

Press

"Charlotte Link is the master of creeping suspense." *Stern Crime*

"Her trademark are psychological thrillers, intelligently designed page-turners, ... in which the characters' souls are given just as much room as the murder investigations." *Brigitte*

From our backlist:



Luchterhand, 368 pages
March 2019

English sample translation
available

Winner
GERMAN BOOK PRIZE
2019

#1 Spiegel
BESTSELLER

Saša Stanišić: **Where You Come From**

"Saša Stanišić is a poet and revolutionary who has found his true home in language." *Rolling Stone*

"*Where You Come From* is a book about the first chance event in our life: being born in a particular place. And about what happens afterwards.

Where You Come From is a book about the places that are my home, both the ones I remember and the ones I've invented. It is a book about language, moonlighting, youth, and summers, lots of summers: The one when my grandfather stepped on my grandmother's foot while they were dancing, which meant I was almost never born. The one when I nearly drowned. The summer when Angela Merkel opened the borders, which was very much like the summer when I fled across borders to Germany.

Where You Come From is a farewell to my grandmother, who has dementia. At the same time as I am gathering my memories together, she is losing hers.

Where You Come From is sad because my origins are connected with what I can no longer have.

My autobiographical writings, including this book, are like a name on a doorbell: the name of someone long since dead, whom I can no longer remember. They are trying to preserve something that used to be important – preserve it, but also to develop it further in my mind, like a photograph; they are trying to get to the bottom of it." *Saša Stanišić*

- **#1 Spiegel bestseller (75 weeks on the list)**
- **More than 380,000 copies sold**

Rights sold to 24 countries:

Bosnia (Buybook), Bulgaria (Colibri), **China (Horizon)**, Croatia (Fraktura), Denmark (Batzer), France (Stock), Greece (Hestia), Iceland (Bjartur & Veröld), India/Marathi (Rohan Prakashan), Italy (Keller), Korea (EunHaeng NaMu), Macedonia (Antolog), The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos), Norway (Cappelen Damm), Poland (Klimaty), Romania (Paralela 45), Serbia (Booka), Slovakia (Ikar), Slovenia (Založba), Spain/Castilian (Alianza), Spain/Catalan (Angle), Sweden (Tranan), Turkey (İletişim), UK/CW (PRH/Jonathan Cape), US/World Engl. (Tin House)

Press:

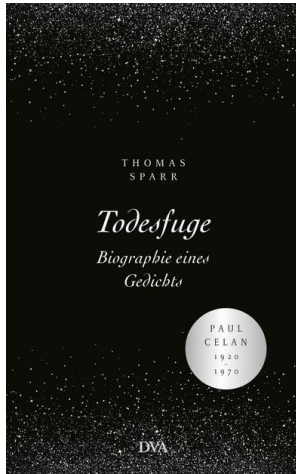
"Smart, heartbreaking, crazy. It couldn't be better. Absolutely read this!" *NDR, Kulturjournal*

"*Where You Come From* is a narrative shape-shifter. And that's what's so moving, miraculous, and breathtaking about this book." *FAS*

"One of the most intelligent, high-spirited, and – last but not least – formally innovative books of the season. A true pleasure to read." *ARD, druckfrisch*

"It's easy to say that a book is important; this one – especially now, especially here – is of major importance." *Die Welt*

"*Where You Come From* is a cornucopia of stories, a poetic plea for the ambiguous, the multilingual, the polyphonic, and the digressive – the only things that makes it possible to rediscover what has been lost." *SWR, Forum Buch*



Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 336 pages
With 30 b/w illustrations
March 2020
With illustrations and facsimiles



Thomas Sparr: Death Fugue – Biography of a Poem

The story of Death Fugue: the first account of the international impact of Paul Celan

No other poem after 1945 is as well-known as Paul Celan's Death Fugue. Written under the impact of the murder of his parents by the National Socialists, it is seen as one of the earliest literary testimonies in face of the Shoah.

Thomas Sparr has written a history of this poem which, as no other piece of post-war writing, paints a picture of an entire epoch and which even to this day still has a lasting international impact. The author starts out with the poem's genesis, covers its initially controversial reception in the 1950s and ends with writers and artists who have been inspired by it. His narrative also demonstrates that the poem, in a very special way, is an account of Celan's biography.

- Selected by *New Books in German*

Press:

"Sparr envelopes the poem in new perspectives without draining any of its power [...] An imminently important work" *SWR2*

»Thomas Sparr's study is notable through mastery of an enormous wealth of material.« *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

"[Celan's] poetry and his personal fate are surprisingly closely intertwined, and it is Sparr's merit to display this circumstance in an atmospherically dense narrative." *Nürnberger Nachrichten*

Contact

Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe GmbH

Foreign Rights Department

Neumarkter Str. 28

81673 München

Germany

Fax: ++49 (89) 4136-3733

www.penguinrandomhouse.de

Gesche Wendebourg

Foreign Rights Director

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3313

Gesche.Wendebourg@randomhouse.de

English speaking countries; French speaking countries; The Netherlands/Belgium; Greece; Israel;
Arabic countries

Eva-Maria Kunze

Senior Foreign Rights Manager

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3716

Eva-Maria.Kunze@randomhouse.de

Italy; Portuguese speaking countries; Spanish speaking countries; Czech Republic; Slovakia; Korea;
Japan

Stephanie Gerdeissen

Foreign Rights Manager

Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3470

Stephanie.Gerdeissen@randomhouse.de

Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic and Slovakia) and the Balkans; Scandinavia; China; Taiwan;
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