

**FOREIGN
RIGHTS
NEWS**

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

we proudly present our latest Foreign Rights Guide and we are very much looking forward to meeting you again in Frankfurt to talk about all our new titles!

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2025
208 pages
Hardcover
€ 24.00

- A family novel set against the backdrop of contemporary German history
- *Poetically courageous and psychologically confident, Lina Schwenk tells of the fatal happiness drug of symbiotic closeness. A beguiling debut!* – Angelika Overath
- *Not a superfluous word, not a dispensable twist in Lina Schwenk's work.* – taz
- **Longlisted for the German Book Award (Deutscher Buchpreis)**

Lina Schwenk

Blind Ghosts

A Novel

In *Blind Ghosts*, Lina Schwenk tells a touching family story from the 1950s to the present day. In her haunting debut novel, she explores a period when urgent questions collide with profound silence.

Olivia, Rita and Karl's daughter, has always been aware of the adults' fear of another war after 1945, even though there has been peace in Germany for years. Karl persistently checks the pantry for supplies, and time and again the family seek refuge together in the cellar when their father fears the invasion of the Russians. For Olivia and her sister Martha, it's a game that they quietly submit to, partly because they have long known that their parents don't have the words to explain and that the more they ask, the louder the silence becomes. 'Soon I'll be dead,' thinks Olivia too, as her parents' anxiety gradually becomes her own. In her first flat of her own, Olivia misses the cellar - the small shelter of her childhood, which at least meant one thing: family time. She only realises the long cracks that extend from her parents to her generation, when she later tries to protect her own daughter from this feeling of threat. But then February 2022 arrives, and what previously seemed like a phantom suddenly becomes frighteningly real. *Blind Ghosts* is a multi-layered and moving novel that exposes deeply rooted fears against the backdrop of contemporary German history and explores the strange and enraptured in people with a keen instinct.

Lina Schwenk, born in Bochum in 1988, initially worked as a nurse and in medical refugee aid. She then studied medicine in Witten, St Etienne and Cardiff and has been working as a doctor ever since. Her texts have appeared in numerous anthologies. This text was nominated for the Alfred Döblin prize.

Martina Clavadetscher

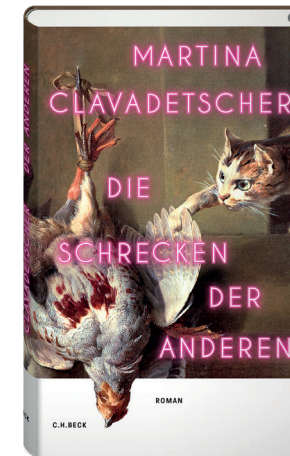
The Frights of Others

A Novel

How do you show something that everyone can see? Martina Clavadetscher, winner of the Swiss Book Prize and one of the most renowned German-language authors, makes the invisible elephant in the room visible and asks about the responsibility of literature. Skilfully told and full of impressive images, this novel's frightening topicality is already evident in its title: This could be anyone's story. In any country, at any time. As long as no one learns from the horrors of others.

While ice-skating, a boy comes across a dead body in the ice, which marks the beginning of a series of events. Kern, a wealthy heir, can no longer ignore the fact that his eyesight is deteriorating. But does he even want to see clearly? Then there's Kern's centenarian mother, who spends most of the day in bed on the top floor of the villa yet still manages to pull the strings with brutal consistency. Then there's Schibig, a lonely archivist who gets swept away by Rosa, an old woman from a caravan who takes a spectacular interest in unspectacular events — because she understands that nothing ever comes to nothing, but that everything is connected: the dead man in the ice, the top-hat-wearing lords at the Adler inn, Kern's wife who refuses to eat chalk (to get pregnant), and a planned NS-memorial, money on Argentinian number accounts, menacing mountain dragons, and other persistent legends.

Martina Clavadetscher is a writer and playwright. After studying German literature, linguistics and philosophy, she worked for various German-language theatres. She was awarded the 2021 Swiss Book Prize for her previous novel.



2025
336 pages
Hardcover
€ 25.00

- Family secrets at the foot of the Frakmont - how a mysterious dead body in the ice leads to the dark side of Swiss history
- *Clavadetscher cleverly mixes various literary forms, plays with sound and rhythm and convinces with a precise and at the same time very poetic language.* — SRF, Luzia Stettler
- *A tribute to the primal human power of storytelling.* — From the laudation for the Swiss Book Prize

Jochen Schmidt

Hoplopoiia

A Novel

With *Hoplopoiia*, Jochen Schmidt paints a trenchant portrait of society that shows the excessive demands placed on people in our fast-paced present, while repeatedly looking at his hapless hero Sparka with merciless humour.

While everything changes far too quickly, Richard Sparka can only look on in amazement and resignation. His relationship with Klara is over, his children are growing up and his parents are getting old. Life in the town where he was born and which has always been his home also seems increasingly impossible. The newspaper stand in his favourite late-night shop has had to make way for a shelf of crisps - nothing less than a disaster for Richard. He is convinced that the hip new ice cream shop around the corner will change his neighbourhood until the rents are unaffordable. How do others manage to keep their heads above water in the face of these drastic developments? Another topic is his school 'career' in the GDR: Does this education in a strict regime have an impact on his helplessness today?

Hoplopoiia is a clever, profound and hilarious view of the world by a masterful doubter who has by no means given up the search for the right life.

Jochen Schmidt was born in Berlin in 1970 and lives there. Several novels have already been published by C.H.Beck. His novel *Phlox* (2022) was nominated for the German Book Prize.



2025

356 pages with
12 vignettes by
Line Hoven
Paperback
€ 25.00

- *Jochen Schmidt is a master of fine observations and sharply paraphrased insights.* – WDR5, Claudia Cosmos
- *So hilarious and bitterly evil at the same time.* – Joachim Meyerhoff on *An assignment for Otto Kwant*
- For fans of Woody Allen's *The Urban Neurotic*



2025
304 pages
Hardcover
€ 24.00

- From the often unbearable distance to those who are closest to us and the desperate desire to catch up on love
- About a farewell to Turkey and a new beginning in Germany

Fikri Anil Altıntaş

Between Us Is August

A Novel

The literary exploration of a mother-son relationship, which is both farewell and rapprochement.
– Christian Dittloff

Altıntaş writes with such a big heart as you rarely encountered in this country. – Daniela Dröscher

Between us is August tells the story of a Turkish-German family. An adult son loses his mother. In the weeks leading up to her death, everyday life sets the rhythm: cooking, waiting in hospital corridors, hoping and mourning. Stories creep into everyday life. The ones that have always been told and the ones that shine through behind them. What does the son, at home in Germany, know about his mother's youth in Turkey?

While Anil and his family in the present try to understand the impact their mother's approaching death has had on them all, Mürüvvet, the woman his mother once was, searches for memories back to her life in Aydin in western Turkey in 1973. In the midst of political upheaval, she does everything she can to stop her father from taking her to Germany. She fears for her dreams, until the thought of Germany will not let her go.

Fikri Anil Altıntaş, born in Wetzlar in 1992, lives and works in Berlin. In his texts, including for ZEIT, taz, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, ZDF and Berliner Ensemble, he deals with masculinities, anti-feminism and the (de)construction of non-white, Muslim-read masculinities in Germany. He has a large following on social media under @_faanil. His debut novel *Im Morgen wächst ein Birnbaum* was published in 2023.

Markus Thielemann

A Thunder Rolling In From The North

Paperback Edition

An exceptional, clever and literary highly interesting book. – SWR Kultur, Christoph Schröder

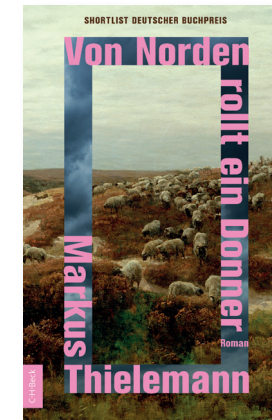
Thielemann portrays a world in upheaval. – FAZ, Tilman Spreckelsen

This is how we like German social novels: clever, multi-layered and slightly creepy...

– TikTok@BR_literally, Knut Cordsen

The wolf is back on the Lüneburg Heath. And while Jannes – like his father and grandfather – herds his sheep across the heathland every day, emotions run high in the village, the wolf is back. Sheep killings increase and with them conflicts in the village, which quickly become political. While ethnic settlers try to hijack the issue for their own purposes, the situation escalates and threatens to escalate into vigilante justice, Jannes takes refuge with his sheep on the heath. But there, a ghostly encounter suddenly opens up the dark history of the village, which casts its long shadow into the present. Can homeland security justify violence? Where it is primarily about wolf politics, he soon encounters hatred, nationalist ideology – and a profound silence. *A Thunder Rolling In From The North* is a search for clues in the West German provinces, the story of a fragile 'original German' idyll.

Markus Thielemann, born in 1992, lives in Hanover. He studied geography and philosophy in Osnabrück, then literary writing in Hildesheim. *Von Norden rollt ein Donner* is his second novel and was shortlisted for the German Book Prize in 2024.



2025
287 pages
Paperback
€ 16.00

- German Book Prize shortlist 2024
- A literary examination of the social and political climate in the West German provinces
- About homeland and violence, repression and silence, tradition and responsibility
- Sold to Estonia
- Stage rights sold

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