

RIGHTS GUIDE

SPRING 2026

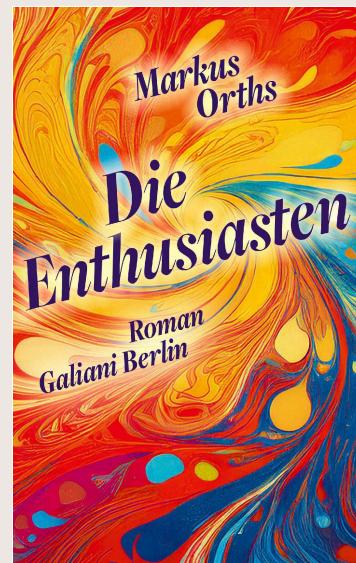
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Orths, Markus: The Enthusiasts	3
Mädler, Peggy: The Selfregulation of the Heart	4
Menschik, Kat; Helfer, Monika: Who Are You?	5
Rivera, Toni: Seeing the Family and Dying	6
Schwartz, Daniel: Journey to the World's Glaciers	7
Preisendorfer, Bruno: Keywords that Made History	8
CONTACT	9

Markus Orths

The Enthusiasts

- The story of a lost manuscript, family trauma and the consolation an obsession can offer
- For readers of Laurence Sterne, Jonathan Safran Foer and Michael Chabon
- Topics: Obsession as Escape from Reality, Family Mystery, Tristram Shandy
- English sample by Eleanor Updegraff available soon



February 2026 · 368 pages

© Urban Zintel



Markus Orths, born in 1969, has published novels such as *The Staff Room* (*Lehrzimmer*), *The Chamber Maid* (*Das Zimmermädchen*) and *Catalina*. His books have been **translated into 18 languages**, adapted into films, and have won numerous awards.

A manic trip into literary obsession that hides a deep-seated family trauma

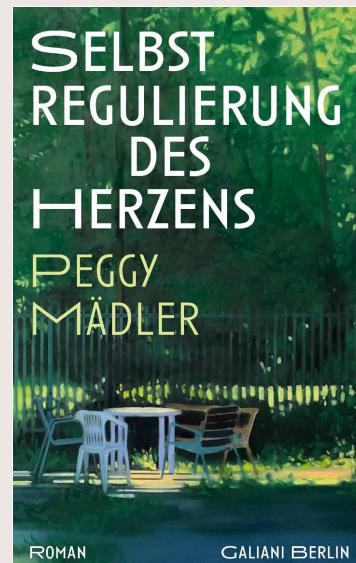
Vince is a literary scholar obsessed with the 18th-century author Laurence Sterne. He is drawn into a manipulative scheme when a mysterious man offers him the lost final book of Sterne's masterpiece. Vince's manic pursuit of the manuscript unearths his family's deepest traumas, blurring the lines between literary passion, reality, and a dark, elaborate fiction.

As the present crisis unfolds, the narrative weaves in flashbacks of Vince's mother whose sudden disappearance decades ago left a void the family tried to fill with linguistic games and various obsessions. Ultimately, Vince is forced to confront a reality that may be as constructed as the novels he adores.

Peggy Mädler

Self-regulation of the Heart

- A captivating portrait of human bonds in the shadow of state control
- For readers of Jenny Erpenbeck, Brigitte Reimann and Christa Wolf
- Topics: GDR History, Post-Reunification Society, Life in a Dictatorship
- English sample by Jamie Lee Searle available soon



February 2026 · 304 pages

© Wenke Seemann



Peggy Mädler, born in Dresden in 1976, is a dramatist and author. She is a co-founder of the artist group "Laboratory for Counterfactual Thinking", and was involved in the theater collective "She She Pop".

Peggy Mädler's novel follows the lives of a group of friends in East Germany, exploring the tension between political idealism and the retreat into private life.

In the mid-1960s, young economist Georg and his friends Roland and Marlies are captivated by the promise of cybernetics, hoping to use self-regulation to reform the socialist planned economy. However, the suppression of the Prague Spring in 1968 shatters these intellectual dreams, leading to Roland's dramatic escape across the Danube and leaving his friends traumatized. Georg retreats into the private sphere, building a bungalow in a weekend settlement in Brandenburg, while nearby, the artist Mona establishes an unconventional community in a dilapidated farmhouse.

Narrated through alternating perspectives and a collective village chorus, the story spans from these early days to 2023, following this motley group through the early days of the GDR to the end of socialism and the disillusionment with the unkept promises of freedom.

Kat Menschik, Monika Helfer

Who Are You?

- A masterful story about closeness, loneliness, and the power of storytelling
- Richly illustrated by Kat Menschik
- From the author of the #1 international bestseller *Last House Before the Mountains* (*Die Bagage*)
- Topics: Psychological Fiction, Illustrated Literature, Mystery



February 2026 · 96 pages

Monika Helfer is a multiple award-winning Austrian writer. Her novels *Last House Before the Mountains* (*Die Bagage*), *Library for the War-Wounded* (*Vati*) - both published in the English translation by Bloomsbury - and *Lionheart* (*Löwenherz*) were bestsellers. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Austrian Literature Prize, the Solothurn Literature Prize, and the Johann Peter Hebel Prize. Her works have been **translated into over 20 languages**.

Kat Menschik is an illustrator. Her books have won numerous awards.

A subtle and ambiguous story about a mysterious encounter that spirals into a psychological game of truth and lies.

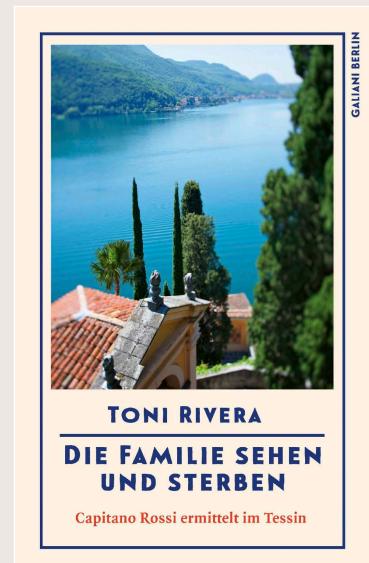
One day, a girl appears at the narrator's door with a 1,000-schilling note and an implausible story, only to disappear shortly after. Years later, a young woman forces her way into the narrator's life, claiming to be that very girl. A lurking dance begins in which closeness and distance, truth and deception blur.

Monika Helfer's narrative is a vexing game that remains exciting and abysmal to the very end, congenially accompanied by Kat Menschik's iridescent illustrations.

Toni Rivera

Seeing the Family and Dying

- Start of a new crime series set in Ticino
- Features a cynical, food-loving investigator with family troubles
- For readers of Andrea Camilleri and Martin Walker
- Topics: Mafia Mystery, Family Secrets, Police Procedural



March 2026 · 288 pages

Toni Rivera is the pseudonym of a celebrated author known for his distinct voice and suspenseful storytelling.

Two deaths where something doesn't add up. A powerful brother involved in shady dealings. An ambitious assistant who intimidates him. And an unpunished crime that still cries out for revenge.

When his assistant, Inspector Gemma Crivelli, texts him the police code for 'murder' twice, Capitano Enzo Rossi first thinks she has made a mistake because the days when there was anything to investigate in southern Ticino are long gone. When Rossi begins to investigate, admittedly a little rusty and with a pronounced tendency to improvise, he is shocked to find that his own family seems to be involved. For Rossi, a dangerous game of loyalty and betrayal begins...

Daniel Schwartz

Journey to the World's Glaciers

- A travelogue exploring glaciers as climate indicators and memory archives
- Includes photographs by the multi-award-winning Swiss photographer and author
- Topics: Climate Change, Nature Writing, Travel Photography



April 2026 · 336 pages

© Navid Kermani



Daniel Schwartz, born in 1955, is a multi-award-winning Swiss photographer and author. In 1987-1988, he was the first foreigner to document the Great Wall of China in detail. Since 1980, he has published reports, essays, and long-term projects in exhibitions and books. He has been traveling to glaciers around the world for many years.

Daniel Schwartz has spent twenty years travelling the globe - from Uganda to the Swiss Jura - to document glaciers and the fascinating stories locked within their ice.

In the Ruwenzori Mountains in Uganda, Schwartz thinks of the Greek geographer Ptolemy, who wondered in ancient times whether the source of the Nile lay there. On Nanga Parbat, he finds the remains of the failed Nazi expeditions of the 1930s in the thawing ice. At the southern foot of the Swiss Jura, he not only traces the millennia-long journey of erratic boulders, but also accompanies his nearly 90-year-old father on his last hike to one of them. He photographs the Birch Glacier from a helicopter at the last possible moment – the next day, it crashes into the valley and buries the village of Blatten.

He combines these personal experiences with literary sources from antiquity to the present day and showcases glaciers in all their diversity: as a dwindling archive of climate history, an archaeological site and an intangible repository of memories.

Bruno Preisendörfer

Keywords That Made History

- Recounts 80 years of German history through 15 legendary slogans
- Topics: German History, Cultural History, Post-War Society



March 2026 · 432 pages

© Susanne Schleyer



Bruno Preisendörfer is a renowned author of cultural-historical non-fiction. His "time travel books" to the eras of Goethe, Luther, Bach and Bismarck were bestsellers and sold rights to **China**. In 2016, he received the NDR Kultur Non-Fiction Prize. Rights to his book *Phrases that Changed the World (Sätze, die die Welt Verändern)* were **sold to Israel and Korea**.

Bestselling author Bruno Preisendörfer uses influential slogans like "Prosperity for all" and "We can do this" to explore the moods, hopes, and realities of German history from 1945 to today.

Who doesn't immediately hear the sound of John F. Kennedy's legendary 'Ich bin ein Berliner' in their ears – a sentence that seemed like a spontaneous confession, but was in fact carefully rehearsed in Willy Brandt's office. Quite different: Günter Schabowski's legendary 'immediately, without delay,' which heralded the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 – and proved Honecker's bold claim that the Wall would 'still be standing in 50 or 100 years' to be a lie.

Preisendörfer's book opens up surprising perspectives on well-known turning points and deconstructs myths such as the 'economic miracle' or the 'miracle of Bern'. An intelligent and entertaining book that shows how yesterday's words shape today's reality.

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