# International Rights Spring 2023





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# Madame Nielsen LAMENTO

Original title Lamento Original publisher Grif, 2020 174 pages

English sample and complete German translation available



German Kiepenheuer & Witsch French Notabilia Norwegian Pelikanen



"Nielsen, the great Danish author, finds a beguiling language for love, hate and everything in between."

-Welt am Sonntag

"LAMENTO is an artist's novel of relentless self-realization, a novel about love, uncompromising, tornoff sentences, pace, fire (literally), about a life of permanent excess, without a wasted moment."

-Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung

How does infatuation become love? And when does the fire go out?
An artist's novel and a romance novel, or better: a lament about the impossibility of reconciling the magic of infatuation with everyday life.

LAMENTO begins with a fire, and the fire permeates the entire novel. The narrator, a writer, meets a playwright and theater producer, also very young, at the premiere of one of her plays. They fall in love abruptly and from then on spend every minute together, completely untouched by the outside world. But when they finally marry, have a child and everyday life stifles the passion, the love turns destructive. The woman fights for every minute she can write, while the man turns more and more to his art and turns his back on everyday family life. Ultimately, everything breaks down, and the question remains: How does love turn to hate? In this short novel, Madame Nielsen manages the feat of writing very concretely and stirringly vividly about a passionate and ultimately painful love, and thus about love itself.

"A 192 pages first-person-told suggestion of how it may have been to be married with the man, she once were. She's got a nerve, this Madame Nielsen! Lamento is a genuinely sorrowful book. (...) both self-obsessed and self-tormenting and we now recognize our Madame Nielsen again!"—Information



Madame Nielsen is a novelist, artist, performer, world historv enactor, composer, chanteuse - and multi-gendered. Born as Claus Beck-Nielsen in 1963 in Aalborg, Denmark, she is the author of numerous literary works. A pioneer of "performative biographism" and "Scandinavian autofiction" the artist declared the death of Claus Beck-Nielsen in 2001, published Claus Beck-Nielsen (1963-2001) - A Biography, followed by The Suicide Mission and continues to work as Madame Nielsen. My Encounters with The Great Authors of our Nation was nominated for The Nordic Council Literature Prize and The Endless Summer became a great success in Germany and was published in English by Open Letter in 2018. Her work has been translated into nine languages so far.



"Sumptuous, virtuosic and terrifying: Madame Nielsen's almost perfect new love novel Lamento."

-Berlingske

"Falling in love is a Chernobyl-like catastrophe. Madame Nielsen closes her novel-trilogy about love with a beautiful elegy about the grand falling-in-love, which couldn't survive the everyday. Like the two previous novels Lamento is most wonderfully written."

-Politiken

## Susanne Fritz HEINRICH

Original title Heinrich Original publisher Wallstein, 2023 211 pages



"Her prose is enormously musical, artfully rhythmic and full of intense images. In this way, she succeeds impressively in making the intricate paths of memory visible in the form of narration."

-WDR3 Lesestoff

Heinrich is a creative mind, successful architect and entrepreneur. At his drawing table, he develops pioneering ideas. He comes from a troubled background: As the only child of a divorced woman and a member of the German minority, he grows up in the poverty-stricken quarter of a small Polish town. When the Germans invade in the fall of 1939, the young man was offered opportunities for advancement, which end in war service and Russian captivity. In 1949 he arrives in West Germany,where he starts a family and succeeds in a dizzying career. His unloved background, however, haunts him beyond his successes.

The story begins with an accident: a large mirror shatters. As a motive, the broken pieces reflect the process of remembering itself, its instability and its unreliability. Memory fragments become narrative fragments. Susanne Fritz combines dream and memory, chronicle and fiction. It is about nothing less than the human enigma: what can we know about the other, what about ourselves? How much do our origins and childhood shape us, and is there a second life beyond the past experiences?

A personal novel in search for the father's traces, that reflects the fragmentary process of remembering a parent. Following the widely discussed documentary exploration of her mother's life and trauma in *They Left us War and Silence* (2018), Susanne Fritz focuses again on the family's history shaped by war.

"Researching and writing my mother's story was such an intensive process that I concentrated entirely on her fate. Moreover, my inquiries to archives about my father's person and family showed almost no results. So I put his story aside for the time being. It was clear to me that I would have to approach it in a completely different way: Not documentary, but fictional, playful, experimental. The character of Heinrich came into being when I tried to remember my father, but I'm not telling about my father."



Susanne Fritz is a theater director, pianist and author of short stories, novels, dramatic and essayistic texts. Her personal search for her mother's traces, *They Left us War and Silence* (2018), was widely reviewed and nominated for the German Book Prize. She has received various prizes and fellowships, including the Albrecht Lempp Fellowship in Krakow in 2020, and was a fellow of the Atelier Mondial in Paris in 2021.



"And so, among the many father books published in recent years, "Heinrich" has become one of the most idiosyncratic and interesting. "

-WDR3 Lesestoff

"In terse, crystalline sentences, Susanne Fritz flies after her Heinrich. The rhythm is driving and probably due to the music."

-Ö1 Morgenjournal

How Susanne Fritz speculatively composes this biography, how she consciously uses the helplessness of the next generation as a stylistic device and thus triumphs over the darkness of the past is an impressive piece of literature."

-Südkurier

## Thomas Blubacher

# **WEIMAR UNDER** PALM TREES: PACIFIC PALISADES

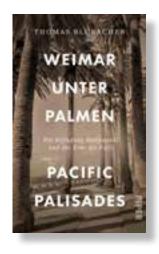
The Invention of Hollywood and the Legacy of German Exile

Original title

Weimar unter Palmen -Pacific Palisades

Original publisher Piper, 2022 272 pages

**World English** Brandeis UP



journey to a special place.

Of glamour and great minds

"A very vivid description of lives in exile under palm trees"

-Börsenblatt

Pacific Palisades - where as of 1911 Western movies were shot in America's then most modern film studio and in 1922 Method-

ists wanted to build the largest Christian centre in the world. The

place soon became the refuge of the rich and beautiful. From the

end of the 1920s, German and Austrian filmmakers, among them Salka and Berthold Viertel, also settled there. They were followed

by cultural and intellectual giants of the Weimar Republic who had

been expelled from Europe, such as Max Reinhardt, Hanns Eisler

or Max Horkheimer, who turned Pacific Palisades into a "Weimar

under palm trees". But while Vicki Baum, Thomas Mann and Lion

Feuchtwanger were also successful in exile, others felt as if they were in a "sun prison" far from home. Later, Whoopi Goldberg, Ste-

ven Spielberg, Bradley Cooper and countless other Hollywood stars

settled in the tranquil district of Los Angeles. Thomas Blubacher

tells of the history of German-speaking exile that is still alive there today, goes on a foray through the film industry and takes us on a



Thomas Blubacher, born in Basel in 1967 has a Ph.D. in theatre studies. He has written over 20 books (i.a.for Suhrkamp, Piper, Henschel, Wallstein) and many radio plays and features and works as a theatre director in Germany. Austria and Switzerland. A specialist on theatre and film of the 1930s, his books include biographies of the siblings Eleonora and Francesco von Mendelssohn, Gustaf Gründgens, Ruth Landshoff and, most recently, Ruth Hellberg. Besides, he has also dealt intensively in essays and travel features with the "invention" of the myth of Bali by the German Walter Spies and has published a bestselling book on cruises and has travelled the world on cruise ships of all sizes.



"An immensely rewarding read"

-Neue Zürcher Zeitung

"An astonishing panorama of different art movements of the 20th century and their mutual influences"

-Büchermagazin

"Blubacher tell the most wonderful anecdotes"

-Presse am Sonntag

## Ivar Leon Menger

# WHEN THE STRANGER CAME

#### Original title

Als das das Böse kam

#### Original publisher

dtv, 2022 240 pages 59'000 words

English translation by Jamie Bulloch available



English (NA)
Sourcebooks
English audio (NA)
Dreamscape
French Belfond
Czech Grada
Romanian Trei
Greek Psichigios
German audio Audible



Film rights sold to GLISK/ Federation Entertainment

World English, Scandinavian, Dutch, Italian, Greek, Baltic and Hebrew rights represented by the Blake Friedmann Agency

A tense, atmospheric, one-sitting page-turner by a new German star – perfect for fans of Stephen King, Sebastian Fitzek and Romy Hausmann

The subject of a 10-publisher German auction and was acquired by dtv in a six-figure two-book deal. Over 25,000 copies sold in first two weeks of sale in Germany.

Deep in the forests of Northland, in a lakeside cabin on a small island, with the mainland barely visible in the distance, fifteen-year-old Juno has lived in almost complete isolation since early childhood. She has only her parents and her little brother Boy for company. There is a familiar rhythm to their island days – fishing, baking and playing board games together on Sunday afternoons. Yet they live in constant fear. For danger could already be lurking on the other side of the lake, seeking them out – Strangers, as the children call them, who want to take revenge on their father and to destroy the family. Because he testified against one of them many years ago.

But Mama and Papa are wise and careful: they have taken every possible precaution, drilling the children in safety procedures, even digging out a secret shelter, so Juno and Boy feel protected and safe. For now.

Until everything changes, on Uncle Ole day. Monday, the day the children must hide while Uncle Ole visits to deliver the papers. He must not know that they're on the island. But one day, he spots Juno at the window, and suddenly her whole world tilts ... She has been careless, she has made a terrible mistake, she has jeopardised her family, and she must set things right, before anything more is revealed. She follows Uncle Ole as he heads back to the shore – and so sets in motion a chain of frightening events. Including the arrival on the island of another man, a young stranger.

Soon Juno finds herself keeping bigger secrets than she ever dreamed possible. And, in an increasingly threatening new reality, growing to suspect that more than a few secrets have been kept from her...



Ivar Leon Menger is a prize-winning writer for radio and Audible. He was born in Darmstadt, Germany in 1973. He studied graphic design and worked as a copywriter, designer, scriptwriter, director and guest lecturer at the TU Darmstadt, His radio play series Monster 1983 and Ghostbox are among the most successful productions on Audible. He has received over 30 awards, including Best Short Film in Germany (Berlinale 2002), a Golden Record (for Die Drei Fragenzeichen und der Dreitag 2011) and Best Radio Play 2019 (1st place Audience Award for GHOST-BOX). WHEN THE STRANGER CAME is his debut novel.

Watch the book trailer on YouTube



"Ivar Leon Menger has written a suspense novel of rare beauty. Thoughtful and elegant and wonderfully distinctive"

-Melanie Raabe

#### Péter Nádas

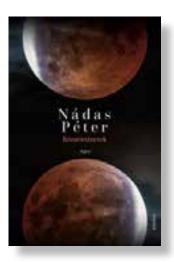
# HORROR STORIES

Original title Rémtörténetek

Original publisher Jelenkor Kiadó, 2022, 463 pages



German Rowohlt
World English FSG
Italian La nave di Teseo
Croatia Fraktura
Sweden Bonnier
Romanian Pandora
Slovanian Beletrina
Danish Sisyfos
French Noir Sur Blanc



"No writer in Europe today has dealt more eloquently with the obligations and moral conundrums of memory, private and collective."

-The New York Times

"It is high time that Péter Nádas finally received the Nobel Prize for Literature."

-SWR2

Ten years after *Parallel Stories* comes a powerful new novel, an unexpected and unparalleled late work and masterpiece.

Péter Nádas' new novel is an unexpected gift. With powerful language and many voices, he tells the life of a village by the river with all its inhabitants: there are the big farmers as well as the day labourers, the priest and the evangelical pastor, a mentally handicapped girl, a young mother, the shepherd of the village, the teacher, a woman who decades before fell irrevocably into disgrace, a baker possessed by the devil, plus uprooted aristocrats and the Grandes Dames on a country outing. A panopticon of characters driven by envy and malice. And around the people of the village: ghosts.

In the course of a few days, we encounter various versions of misery, weakness, dependence and violence, in a world reminiscent of Céline and Chekhov, where language turns into its opposite, the inability to speak, where raw greed and sudden magnanimity alternate, while demonic driving forces chaotically control people's lives. At the same time, the narrative flows calmly, in broad arcs, gathers more and more places and actors, and carries us towards an all-encompassing disaster with no prospect of rescue.



Péter Nádas, born in Budapest in 1942, is a photographer and award-winning writer. Until 1977, Hungarian censorship prevented the publication of his first novel End of a Family Story. He is the author of A Book of Memories - "The greatest novel written in our time, and one of the great books of the century" (Susan Sontag) and of Parallel Stories - a masterpiece internationally celebrated as "War and Peace" of the 21st century, and most recently, Shimmering Details, his memoirs. Among others, Nádas was awarded the Austrian State Prize for European Literature (1991), the Kossuth Prize (1992), the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding (1995) and the Franz Kafka Literature Prize (2003). In 2014 he was awarded the Würth Prize for European Literature and the Berman Prize 2022. Péter Nádas lives in Gombosszeg.



"HORROR STORIES builds tension in a maddening way, unravelling layers of sin in a world violent in language, physicality and sexuality, which, to make it really disturbing, is also a terribly entertaining read, an addictive binge read."

-Könyves Magazin

## About HORROR STORIES

Susan Sontag said about Péter Nádas' A Book of Memories that "It is one of the great novels of the 20'th century." According to the New York Times "no writer in Europe has dealt more eloquently with the obligations, and moral conundrums of memory, private and collective."



"Péter Nádas is the great surveyor of European landscapes of souls in the 20th century."

-Die Zeit

After his monumental 1200 pages memoir, *Illuminated Details* (FSG will publish in 2023) which is a Freudean-Proustian associative recollection of the writer's past, and was considered by critics the crown jewel of the oeuvre, Nádas, expectant of the literary Nobel-prize for at least a decade now, doesn't cease to surprise us. His new novel, HORROR STORIES is said by many to be just what we have all been waiting for.

HORROR STORIES has got everything from the toolkit of Nádas's narrative expertise: the virtuosity of dramaturgy (suspense, crime, surprising plot twists), all the elements that hold the reader captive, along with the shocking scenes of taboo breaking corporeality and aggression. The novel is rich and complex, yet easier to access than the earlier works of Nádas as the narrative threads untangle and meet, and this provides the reader with the feeling of a proper ending. HORROR STORIES will surely win some new admirers for the author, as it is a genuine Nádas-experience, yet easier to read.



"Nádas writes in an almost liquefied language. In a rhythm with a beat of words that make a world out of sync tangible and perceptible."

-Neue Zürcher Zeitung

HORROR STORIES does deal with issues of poverty, but not in the social-realist sense. Nádas's anthropological monitoring apparatus has received an ethnographic filter, his vocabulary broadened with vernacular registers, with a wide range of special Hungarian swearwords, but only to demonstrate that he knows everything about man regardless of the place and historical period. Although the world depicted is unsettlingly accurate the subject of Nádas's analysis is not merely sociological: he continues to speak about man in the universal sense avoiding the traps of false humanism and using his always bold and blasphemous voice.

The plot takes place in the 1960's in an unnamed Hungarian village. There isn't one plotline, rather a stream of consciousness, the polyphony

of the collective conscience of the village in which the omnipotent narrator jumps from one character to another: Róza the epileptic maid, the elderly and lonely Teréz, once a servant of aristocrats who sees ghosts, Imre, the bedeviled, gigantic son of the village's short stature prostitute Törpike, the helpful and jovial village priest father Jónás, the disabled boy genius Misike who lives in a wheelchair, and the beautiful city girl he fancies, the psychology student and future teacher Piroska, who quickly gets intertwined in the spider web of romantic emotions and animalistic instincts, constantly menaced by a young man's urge to kill. And although the story doesn't unfold this way, it still ends with a series of bloodcurdling deaths.



"A novel as powerful as the Danube on whose banks it is set. The narrative voice of Péter Nádas absorbs everything that happens in a small Hungarian village, all the voices, all the prejudices, all the violence and all the superstitions. The way Nádas moves from character to character and from voice to voice, making them all merge into one powerful and violent collective speech, is simply unique."

-SWR2

## József Debreczeni

# COLD CREMATORIUM

## Reporting from the Land of Auschwitz

Original title Hideg Krematórium Original publisher Testvériség-Egység,1950

English translation by Paul Olchváry available (60,000 words)



English NA St. Martin 's Press
English UK: Jonathan Cape
German Fischer
French Stock
Spanish Debate
Catalan La Magrana
Dutch Arbeiderspers
Italian Bompiani
Hungarian Jelenkor/Libri
Brazilian Companhia das Letras
Finnish Like
Portuguese Bertrand Editora
Czech Euromedia
Romanian Trei
Russian Eksmo



József Debreczeni was the pen name of József Bruner, a prolific Hungarian-language writer and journalist in the Yugoslav region of Vojvodina and in Hungary. He was born in Budapest in 1905 and died in Belgrade in 1978. Debreczeni's works include novels, poetry collections, and plays. He was an editor of the Hungarian daily Napló and of the illustrated weekly *Unnep*. After the war he was a contributor to the Hungarian media in the Yugoslav region of Vojvodina, both for the daily Magyar Szó and for Radio Novi Sad, as well as leading Belgrade newspapers. Debreczeni was awarded the Híd (Bridge) Prize, the highest distinction in Hungarian literature in the former Yugoslavia.



A breath-taking discovery – a lost masterpiece of Hungarian literature.

COLD CREMATORIUM is an exceptional, literary piece of narrative non-fiction, a chronic from "the Land of Auschwitz" as Debreczeni coins it, written under the immediate impression of what he had experienced, rendered in superb language and sober tone avoiding any sentimentality, thus making for a truly haunting reading experience. One reviewer called it "the harshest, most merciless indictment of Nazism ever written." Its quality as an eyewitness account as well as a literary piece is immeasurable.

In a cold, almost emotionless, analytical style Debreczeni examines the true nature of the camps, the mechanisms of slavery, the camps' social order, and the ways in which it constantly stripped people of their humanity. There is no familiarity, no comfort, no community, no heroism. "Selfishness rules the primeval forest of filth and lice."

Published originally in Hungarian in 1950 in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, this shattering account is one of the first – maybe even the first work Holocaust literature published in communist Eastern Europe, moreover, openly acknowledging the specificity and enormity of the Nazi genocide against the Jews.

Now, more than seventy years after its first publication, Paul Olchváry's translation of this short and powerful book is poised to draw the attention of critics and find a worldwide audience spanning the general readers and academia alike.



"With the exception of the work of Primo Levi, I do not know of a nonfiction book on the Holocaust as powerful as this."

 Géza Röhrig, writer, and lead actor in the Oscar-winning film Son of Saul

"In the past three decades I have translated landmark works of Hungarian literature – but never before has a book as powerful and historically significant landed on my translator's desk – a lost masterpiece of Hungarian literature."

-Paul Olchváry

# Dror Mishani CONVICTION

Original title Emuna

Original publisher Achuzat Bayit, 2021 272 pages

German translation sample available



English (UK) Riverrun German Diogenes French Gallimard Italian e/o **Option Publishers** 

English (US) Europa Editions English (CA) Anansi Spanish Anagrama Catalan Grup Editorial 62 Korean Bookrecipe Croatian Fraktura Greek Keimena Books Dutch Arbeiderspers Chinese (TWN) Ecus



"A book that unfolds with an eerie, deliberate power; one to savour."

-Martin Walker

"Another jewel in the crown of a brilliant series"

-Irish Independent

"Mishani has succeeded again in following in the footsteps of his idols Simenon and Mankell."

-WDR

Both investigations began on the same day. One seemed domestic, almost banal: a newborn is found in a bag outside a hospital and the woman who left it there is captured after a few hours. The second investigation appeared stranger and more intriguing: a Swiss tourist disappeared from a beach-hotel near Tel-Aviv, and a quick inquiry showed he had been using a fake passport and at least two names. Can he be a Mossad agent like his daughter claims? And is he in danger?

Inspector Avraham Avraham, wishing to outgrow his usual cases of domestic violence, is indifferent to the one, and seduced by the other. Soon he understands he made a wrong choice, as both investigations spiral into a maze of violence and deception, leading to Israel's darkest secrets – and threatening to put Avraham in conflict with the most powerful men in the country, who technically don't even exist.

CONVICTION is a successful synthesis of the emotionality of the previous Avraham cases and the fast-paced, highly suspenseful standalone novel, Three. Once again, Mishani delivers an almost unbearably tense story, both thrilling and emotionally involving. It is yet another triumph.

Dror Mishani proofs once again: he is the indisputable spiritual heir of Georges Simenon (Le Monde).



Dror Mishani is an international bestselling crime writer, screenwriter and literary scholar, specializing in the history of crime fiction. His bestselling Inspector Avraham series (The Missing File, A Possibility of Violence, The Man Who Wanted to Know) was translated into more than 20 languages. They were shortlisted for the CWA international dagger award and the Grand Prix de Littérature Policlière and won the prestigious Martin Beck award for best crime novel translated to Swedish and the Grand Prix du meilleur Polar de lecteurs de Points. A successful French cine movie (Fleuve Noire) and an Israeli TV series are based on the Inspector Avraham series. Its recent US adaptation is The Calling, a Peacock TV series, directed by Barry Levinson (Rain Man) and produced by David E. Kelley (Big Little Lies). Mishani's stand alone thriller Three was again an international bestseller, received the Prix Mystère de la Critique and is longlisted for the CWA Crime Fiction in Translation Dagger. An HBO TV adaptation of Three is in development.



"The psychology of the characters, the sense of atmosphere, the skillful construction: Mishani delights us once again."

-Le Figaro

"The detective story is an art of manipulating the reader. And Dror Mishani is a master of this art.

-FranceInter

## Cătălin Partenie

# **GOLDEN BURROW**

Original title Vizuina De Aur

Original publisher Polirom, 2020 176 pages



German Hoffmann & Campe Spanish Impedimenta Brazilian DBA Press

Original English manuscript available



Longlisted for the prize of the Festival international du premier roman 2021 Traian Olteanu Prize Liviu Rebreanu Prize



"A moving and funny novel that speaks about the liberating power of music, even under tyranny. It is very difficult to signal any fault, it is a book close to a masterpiece."

-La Razón

"Cătălin Partenie tells a wonderfully tender coming-of-age story with light, anarchic humour."

-NDR

We would play every single day Paul on drums, me on guitar. Then Oksana came in. She liked what we played. Then Paul left. I stayed. What about you? What would you choose? Music? Or freedom?

Bucharest, 1988. Nicolae Ceauşescu's darkest years. Paul, a first-year philosophy student, wants to play the drums in a rock band but is expelled and ends up as the guard of a forgotten depot of a theatre. He spends all his time there with his girlfriend Oksana (a waitress who just finished high school) and his best friend Stefan (a first-year high school student who plays the guitar). Using stage furniture and props, Oksana builds inside the depot the interior of a home. They call it 'The Golden Burrow' and there they have the time of their lives. Oksana is pregnant but is afraid to tell Paul.

In April 1989, without telling anything to anyone, Paul swims across the Danube and defects. He is caught by the Yugoslavian authorities but can emigrate to Canada. However, in December he returns to Bucharest secretly, just after Ceauşescu has fled his headquarters. In the chaos that follows he is shot dead in front of Muzica, the city's biggest record store.

Almost 30 years later, Paul's son Victor contacts Stefan and asks him to write down all that he can remember about his father. Stefan, however, is an unreliable narrator, and Victor will have to imagine for himself what kind of man his father was.

A funny, heart-breaking, but ultimately uplifting story about the power of rock 'n roll behind the Iron Curtain.



Cătălin Partenie is a Romanian-Canadian philosopher, teaching at the National School of Political Studies in Bucharest, he studied at the Universities of Oxford, Glasgow, Heidelberg, and Québec He is the editor of Plato. Selected Myths (Oxford's World Classics) and Plato's Myths (Cambridge UP). His short story Gudrun has earned an Honorable Mention at the Frank McCourt International Contest and has been published in The Southampton Review. THE GOLDEN BUR-ROW is his first novel.



"Catalin Partenie writes with a disarming sincerity."

-omiedesemne.ro

"This book can be read in many ways, in many keys, although its main theme is universal: music as a way to build up a strong friendship. I would also recommend it to young people."

-Deutschlandradio Kultur

"A tragicomic story from Ceausescu's final years, (...), a mixture of memoir, coming-of-age novel (...), a strong, late literary debut.

-Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung

# Aris Fioretos THE THIN GODS

Original title De Tunna Guardana Original publisher Norstedts, 2022 500 pages



English translation sample available



"An elegant novel about rockstar Ache Middler, an Apollinian figure in a Dionysian sphere, a (fairly) clearheaded artist among much wilder colleagues, which brings him success and misfortune in equal measure. The story is brittle and beautiful. Fioretos has always been a masterful narrator."

-Expressen

"I feel a strong and sinewy liberation in writing about people from other circumstances, whose experiences I have not had, perhaps cannot have. The satisifaction I get from learning what is foreign to me is that much deeper. Literature about myself?

No, thank you. I want out of my skin."

Ache Middler – aging rock musician in exile, ill of health – receives a letter from the wom-an he spent a night with twelve years ago. It's the second time she's writing, now as then about the daughter she had. The woman asks him to examine himself »inside and out«. In twenty letters to his unknown child, Ache describes proud dreams. The years of hunger. His recklessness. What happens if everything in life can become art? Is loneliness the price of independence? How do you live with a past that doesn't go away?

A novel about longing and vulnerability, nerves and electricity, The Thin Gods takes us from an imaginary Alaska to downtown New York, from Thatcherite London and Berlin af-ter 9/11 to a refugee camp on Europe's south-eastern edge, and possibly to both hell and heaven. This is the life-story of a person set aflame.

The 1970s punk scene in downtown New York is well-chronicled and much adored. The Thin Gods is the untold story of someone who, untempted by Dionysian excesses, sides with Apollo, search-ing for that elevation which alone makes art worthwhile.



Of Greek and Austrian extraction, Aris Fioretos was born and raised in Sweden, Apart from fiction and essays, he has published studies on Friedrich Hölderlin, Paul Celan, and Nelly Sachs, and translated early works by Paul Auster, ten novels by Vladimir Nabokov, and contemporary poetry by Jo Shapcott and Jan Wagner. Among numerous international awards - e.g. Swedish Radio's Novel Prize, the Jeanette Schocken Prize, the Kellgren and Essay Prizes of the Swedish Academy - Fioretos has received the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany. From 2004 to 2007, he was Sweden's cultural attaché in Berlin, between 2012 and 2019 vice president of the German Academy. Since 2022, he is also a member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. He has received several fellowships, e.g. from The Getty Center, DAAD Künstlerprogramm and American Academy, both in Berlin, as well as All Souls College, Oxford. He lives in Stockholm with his wife, who is a gallerist, and his daughter.



"This fall's Big American Novel is Swedish."

- ETC Nyhetsmagasin

"THE THIN GODS is vibrating with the ecstasy of rock'n'roll."

- Dagens Nyheter

# Five questions for Aris Fioretos

Tell us about your new novel!

It must have been in 1976. At that time there was a program on Swedish radio Sunday nights between ten and midnight. For a couple of hours, the two broadcasting anarchists, Kjell Alinge and Janne Forssell, mixed staggering prattle with music. One night they played an unknown New York band that had just released their first single. The group was called Television, the song "Little Johnny Jewel." I was blown away. This was feeling and electricity, this was night and neon and subtle chutzpah. The next day I exchanged kronor for dollars and sent the bills in an envelope to Ork Records. A couple of weeks later I was the proud owner of a record with a blood red label but no proper cover. Since then I must have played Television's records thousands of times. Theirs was the first music to make me realize that, in art, things could be combined that I thought didn't go together: coolness and nerves, serenity and transcendence. The novel is my belated thanks for this insight - twenty letters from an aging rock star to his unknown daughter, with an epiloque as long as a man's hope for redemption.

Who is the main protagonist, Ache Middler?

Born 1949 in Delaware. Twin. Still, a loner. Early aficionado of thunderstorms and fire. Un-

interested in drugs, but open to artistic forms of expansion. Lover of poetry and perfect sanity. Citizen of Alphabet City on Lower Manhattan. Frontman of The Apollo Boys, later of Transmission. Escapee from heaven. Left his band in 1978. Lived for a few years in London in the 1980s, and much longer in Berlin after 9/11. Experiences love - first with Trish Kelly, who, like him, seeks to blend rock with poetry, later with Edie, who has problems with her eyesight and always wears sunglasses, finally with the German-Turkish visual artist Ona, whom he calls Why and cannot live without. Ache commits many mistakes, almost always because he feels his independence is being threatened. Only late in life, after something he should never have done, does he change and seek to make amends.

The thin gods, who are they?

An early reviewer of Transmission, reminiscent of Patti Smith, who also reviewed concerts before her career as a musician took off, believes that the band members are "thin gods alike." She probably means they are of that lanky sort with limbs like string beans and skin the pale sheen of the moon. But before Ache's Jewish bubbe dies, she tells her grandson that people you love but lose - relatives, friends, partners - instead of disappearing live on in thinner spheres. Sometimes you feel them at the temples, fluttering. Possibly the figures in the book's title are a bit of both deceased yet undead beings with a special sense of electrified ether.

So this is a novel about sex, drugs and rock'n'roll?

Oh, my protagonist merely happens to be a rock musician. The book is really about being an artist and what happens when you sacrifice everything for your work. It examines the vexed business of keeping the flame alive in a windy world.

So no sex or drugs, and just a little rock'n'roll?!?

Rest assured, the novel gives plenty of room to various ways in which minds may be expanded. But I didn't want to portray a world familiar enough from countless accounts in papers and glossy magazines, and lately also from biopics. What interested me was the life of a man who, although boyish in many ways, grows old in a culture devoted to youth and its exuberance. It's about feeling invisible but having a spine. about Ache's "masculine material", as a person close to him puts it, as well as that vulnerability without which art oddly enough cannot survive. Apart from that, there are thunderstorms and car crashes and much fire. There are even some stairways to heaven.



"The novel is intense, beautiful, melancholy and written with great feeling for the music and literature that play such big roles in the life of its protagonist. 5 out of 5!"

- Bibliotekstjänst

# Catalin Dorian Florescu THE FIRE TOWER

Original title
Der Feuerturm

Original publisher C.H.Beck, 2022 335 pages



Romanian Humanitas



"Florescu follows with his latest novel the concept of all his previous novels: to tell adventurous, exciting stories that are captivating from the first sentence to the last."

-Die Furche

"A vivid journey through time and Bucharest."

-Kleine Zeitung

new books in german

The story of a family over five generations A novel about friendship, love and a treacherous betrayal A great social and urban novel from Bucharest

Prizewinning author Catalin Dorian Florescu has written a lucid multi-generational saga of a family of firemen in Bucharest, spanning over a century of Romanian history, and emphasising the relentless march of history, shifting perspectives and a sense of resilience through time. With a sweeping range of characters and events and its motif of the fire tower refracted through multiple timeframes, Florescu's novel is reminiscent of Seehalter's *Ein Ganzes Leben*, William Golding's *The Spire* and Koestler's *Darkness at Noon*.

When it was constructed in 1892, Bucharest's Fire Tower was the tallest building in the city. In 1989, during the uprising against the communist dictatorship, it is long gone, but it was witness to an eventful century. Victor Stoica, whose family has provided fire-fighters and lived by the tower for generations, is the first to break with this tradition. But his life, scarred by a treacherous betrayal, is nevertheless all about the tower. Victor, victim of repression, who had to go through hell, experiences in 1989, against all expectations, that it is possible to hope for freedom and happiness after all.

In his captivating novel, Catalin Dorian Florescu tells of the vicissitudes of history, of family and friendship, betrayal and love, of the power of resilience and of the changing, colorful and at times sad life in this metropolis. Featuring five generations of Stoicas and a wealth of unforgettable characters, with quiet humor, incorruptible and yet always sustained by hope, THE FIRE TOWER is a great, stirring reading experience.

Florescu's fluid and evocative prose captures the arc of history and its impact on individuals, interleaving betrayal, cynicism, humour and humanity.



Catalin Dorian Florescu was born in 1967 in Timisoara. Romania, where he spent his childhood and youth. In 1982 he and his parents managed to escape from Romania into permanent emigration in Switzerland - he now is a Swiss citizen. He studied psychology and worked for several years as psychotherapist in drug rehabilitation. His first novel Time of Wonders received great critical acclaim and several prizes, including the Chamisso-Förderpreis, the Anna-Seghers-Preis and the Hermann-Lenz Scholarship. His novel Jacob Decides to Love was awarded the Swiss Book Prize 2011. He lives in Zurich.



"A moving and stirring novel, which impressively brings the center of Europe into view for the West, especially in times of war in Ukraine"

-Frankfurter Allgemeine

"Catalin Dorian Florescu has once again written a captivating novel in which research and fiction are combined in colourful images."

-Sächsische Zeitung

"You will get carried away by this narrator let's hope he will never stop telling stories."

-Neue Zürcher Zeitung

# Christian Haller CLEARING MISTS

Original title
Sich lichtende Nebel

Original publisher Luchterhand, 2023 128 pages



"This is a magnificent book. A masterpiece. Christian Haller shows us, succinctly, what literature can do."

-SRF 1 Literaturclub

"Literature and physics are rarely as close as they are here. Christian Haller captures this closeness in a decidedly delightful, clever way."

- Keystone-SDA

A novella about Werner Heisenberg and the creation of a new world.

Copenhagen 1925: A man appears in the cone of a lantern's light, disappears again into the darkness, and reappears in the light of the next lantern. Where has he been in the meantime? For the observer of this scene, Werner Heisenberg, it leads to the development of a theory that will eventually result in a completely new view of the world: quantum mechanics. The man in the dark himself knows nothing of the role he has played in the discovery of new physical laws - he is trying to cope with the loss of his wife and giving his life a new direction. Christian Haller, who continues to narrate these two lifelines linked by chance, turns the story into a lucid literary conundrum about grief and loneliness, the limits of our knowledge, and the question of how the new comes into our world.



Christian Haller, born in 1943 in Brugg, is a Swiss "novelist of the highest rank" (Neue Zürcher Zeitung). He studied zoology at Basel University and for several years headed the department of social studies at the Gottlieb-Duttweiler-Institute. He also looked after the estate of Swiss philosopher and writer Adrien Turel. Haller has written and published over 12 novels and several novellas and short stories and poetry collections. He has been awarded many literary grants and has spent time writing in Berlin and Bucharest. In 2006 he has been awarded the Aargauer Literaturpreis, in 2007 the Schillerpreis and in 2015 the Kunstpreis des Kantons Aargau. He lives in Laufenburg/Switzerland.



"Who are we, who were we, who will we be? Haller asks this over and over again, inventing reflector figures who say 'I' for him."

-Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

"Christian Haller's story plays a philosophical game in which much is not what it seems. Facts and imaginations overlap."

-NZZ

# Peter Stamm IN A DARK BLUE HOUR

Original title
In einer dunkelblauen
Stunde





World English Other Press French Christian Bourgois Spanish Acantilado Catalan Quaderns Crema



"In a subtly sophisticated novel, the writer as voice and as person takes a step back behind the text. It is not the artist but his work that takes centre role."

-Süddeutsche Zeitung

"For a quarter of a century Stamm has been describing in an unobtrusive, almost transparent language what is hidden in unspectacular existences."

-Tagesanzeiger



For days, documentary filmmaker Andrea and her team have been waiting for Richard Wechsler in his hometown in Switzerland. During the first shootings in Paris, the famous writer had not wanted to reveal much about himself and now the whole film threatens to fail. In the small streets and alleys of the village, Andrea searches for traces of Wechsler's life, contrary to the agreement. But it is not until she starts reading his books again that she discovers a clue to a childhood sweetheart who might still be living in the small town. A childhood love that influenced his whole life and that no one ever knew about.



Peter Stamm, born in 1963, had his international breakthrough with his debut novel Agnes in 1998. Since then, his books have been translated into more than 30 languages. In 2013 he was on the shortlist for the International Booker Prize. Stamm's writing has been compared to Chekhov and Camus as well as American storytellers such as Raymond Carver, Richard Ford and Ernest Hemingway. Peter Stamm has been awarded several prizes, such as the Friedrich-Hölderlin-Prize (2014) and the Swiss Book Award (2018).



"It is a playful book, labyrinthine in construction, with as much comedy and irony as no other work by this author to date. A profound reading pleasure."

-SWR

"Stamm [is a] gifted player of the game with literary identities, builder of double bottoms and a brilliant explorer of human possibilities."

-Die Welt

"Of great comic lightness"

-Neue Zürcher Zeitung

# **INTERPLAY**

#### WHEN PETER STAMM WRITES

#### Three questions for Peter Stamm



Watch the official trailer

Your novel is about the writer Richard Wechsler. What attracted you to writing about a writer?

Two filmmakers wanted to make a film about how I write a book. So I thought it would be exciting to mirror this situation in the book and tell the story of two filmmakers making a film about a writer. The film and the book then developed in completely different directions. For me, the centre of the book is actually the friendship between the filmmaker Andrea and the pastor Judith, the writer's lover. Wechsler is the catalyst that makes this relationship possible in the first place.

The novel is told from Andrea's perspective. Did you know from the beginning that the story of the book could only be told through her?

She simply interested me more than the writer. She is volatile and unsentimental and funny. I've wanted to write a more humorous book for a long time, without distancing myself from my characters through humour. Thanks to Andrea, I think I succeeded, because the humour in the book comes from her, not from me. If Richard Wechsler had narrated the story, it would have been a very different book.

Is writing a chance for you to approach a fictional person like Richard Wechsler in a way that is not possible in real life?

On the one hand yes, on the other hand you can't or shouldn't know everything about a fictional character either. Every person needs a secret. In the best case, one can make this secret perceptible in writing and preserve it without revealing it. That would perhaps be the most beautiful task of the writer: to make us feel the richness of a character without exposing it.

How does one find one's way into this cabinet of mirrors that Peter Stamm has built around himself, his characters and his new novel?

The two film directors Arne Kohlweyer and Peter Isenmann tried, failed and suceeded:

"Our ambition was to correspond with the otherness that distinguishes Peter Stamm's nature and his work and to capture that and the new novel with the atmosphere of the film; the process however, confronted us with our own failure, put us, and Peter himself, to the test, challenged us. So ultimately it is Peter's characters, the failing documentary filmmaker couple Andrea and Tom from whose perspective we tell this mockudocumentary about the beginning of Peter Stamm's late phase of work."

"IN A DARK BLUE HOUR turns a failed film project, an intangible writer, a somewhat clueless but narratively immensely productive documentary filmmaker, and a lot of reflective and self-reflective material into a loosely joined, conceptually consistent, motivationally intricate, and stylistically coherent: a successful novel."

-Tagesanzeiger



# THE ARCHIVE OF FEELINGS

Original title Das Archiv der Gefühle

Original Publisher S. Fischer, 2021



256 pages

French Christian Bourgois World English Other Press Spanish Acantilado Catalan Quaderns Crema Italian Casagrande



"A gently told, melancholically colored novel that asks big questions without grand gestures – a gem."

Rainer Moritz, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

"Of such stylistic grace, Peter Stamm is a master of the middle tone and the floating melancholy."

-Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

"The first sforzando in the chorus of corona novels, which succeeds in bringing the social psychopathology of the past year and a half to a poetic term."

-Deutschlandfunk



#### WHEN IT GETS DARK

Original title Wenn es dunkel wird

Original Publisher S. Fischer, 2020 192 pages



World English Other Press



"Resolute laconicism from an experienced narrator and effortless artistry that impresses."

-Frankfurter Rundschau

"Stamm drills worm holes in everyday life. These stories begin quite harmlessly and stage feelings at turning points in life."

-Deutschlandfunk Kultur

"A Peter Stamm short story is still among the most remarkable things you can read."

-SRF 2

"Peter Stamm's prose is plain ... A subtle but deadly style."

-Zadie Smith



# THE SWEET INDIFFERENCE OF THE WORLD

Original title

Die sanfte Gleichgültigkeit der Welt

Original publisher S. Fischer, 2018 160 pages



World English Other Press French Christian Bourgois Spanish Acantilado Catalan Quaderns Crema Swedish Thoren & Lindskog Czech Albatros Italian Casagrande Croatian Fraktura Greek Kastaniotis Chinese Shanghai 99 Korea Moonji Publishing Turkish Paloma Yayinevi



"Excellent. This amorphous tale folds in on itself, becoming a meditation on how memory can distort reality. Fans of Julian Barnes will love this."

-Publishers Weekly

"Ordinary lives, elevated from the ground. Powerful!"

-Le Monde



# Andreas Kilcher (Ed.) FRANZ KAFKA: THE DRAWINGS With an Essay by Judith Butler

Original title Franz Kafka: Die Zeichnungen

Original publisher C.H.Beck, 2021 368 pages



World English Yale UP
French Cahiers dessinés
Italian Adelphi
Spanish Galaxia Gutenberg
Dutch Athenaeum
Polish Wydawnictwo Literackie
Japanese Misuzu Shobo
Chinese Citic
Georgian Ibis
Korean Munhakdongne Publishing



"Kafka, this absorbing book shows, was both artist and art-lover: inspired by Asian art, he explored line in defiance of gravity, drawing as a counterpoint to script. An intriguing volume, with Butler's essay as the highlight."

-Katie Trumpener, Yale University



## Madame Nielsen THE MONSTER

Original title
The Monster

Original publisher Gyldendal, 2018 220 pages



German Kiepenheuer & Witsch French Notabilia (rights reverted) Spanish Minúscula Norwegian Pelikanen



There is no comparable literary substance so addictive in contemporary literature."

-ZDF, Das Literarische Quartett

"An irresistible experiment." –WDR 5

"Madame Nielsen, or whoever she is, can write so that I sometimes levitate from the couch. It takes many exceptional authors to make one Madame, so dear reader, just let yourself get invaded."

-Weekendavisen



#### Dror Mishani THREE

Original title Shalosh

Original publisher Achuzat Bayit, 2018 245 pages



English (UK) Quercus/riverrun English (US) Europa Editions English (CA) Anansi **German** Diogenes French Gallimard Italian e/o Spanish Anagrama Catalan Grup Editorial 62 Korean Bookrecipe Croatian Fraktura Greek Keimena Books **Dutch** Arbeiterspers Chinese (TWN) Ecus **Russian** Text Film and TV rights sold



Prix Mystère de la Critique

Longlisted for the CWA Crime Fiction in Translation Dagger

Shortlisted for Grand Prix de Littérature Policlière

Shortlisted for the Sapir Prize

13 weeks the #1 bestseller in Israel

26 consecutive weeks a top-twenty Spiegel-bestseller in Germany, 80'00 copies sold



# Susanne Fritz THEY LEFT US WAR AND SILENCE

Original title

Wie kommt der Krieg ins Kind

Original publisher Wallstein, 218 268 pages



Nominated for the German Book Prize



"A very personal book, but at the same time highly elucidating and politically topical."

-Deutschlandfunk Büchermarkt

"It's hard to imagine how a contemporary work of literature could reach more deeply into the heart of current discourse than this one."

-Süddeutsche Zeitung

"For those who want to know the past in order to understand the present."

-Der Standard

"Susanne Fritz's touching and insightful book shows how deeply injuries to our parents and grandparents are inscribed in our genes and souls." –MDR Kultur



# Christian Haller THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

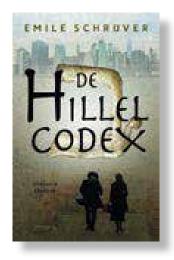
A Brief History of the Light in which We Place Ourselves

Original title Blitzgewitter

Original publisher Matthes & Seitz, 2022 108 pages



"Haller traces light through the centuries like a ray catcher with a preserving jar, across the twin forces of relativity theory and quantum physics and into the networked production machinery of contemporary social media. In this way, the history of technology intertwines with human self-exploration, physical findings with philosophical musings to form a dense narrative web that attempts to capture nothing less than light itself. As old as the question of light is, the insights are fresh and entertaining thanks to their aphoristic brevity and linguistic clarity. Reading this thought-provoking essay, one can follow the light as it constantly shapes the way we look at ourselves and the way we relate to each other."



## Emile Schrijver THE HILLEL CODEX

Original title
De Hillel Codex

Original publisher Prometheus, 2021



"A Jewish Da Vinci Code"

—het Parool

"Emile Schrijver knows the world of collectors, Bible scholars, swindlers, prophets, Jews and antisemites very well. He also knows how to write about it brillinatly."

-Arnon Grunberg

"Ambitiously planned, suspenseful and entertaining. Max Blitz travels the world like a hurricane. Recommended also for non-Jews."

-Robert Vuisje

-Die ZEIT



#### A.B. Yehoshua THE ONLY DAUGTHER

Original title Habat Hayechida

#### Original publisher

Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2021 165 pages



English (US) HarperVia English (UK) Halban Italian Einaudi French Grasset



"Israel's premier storyteller, has given us a mature masterpiece of modest proportions – fresh, surprising, polished in its every detail.

-Dan Miron, Ha'aretz

"Free of cynicism but imbued with a heartfelt and optimistic view of humanity – in other words, a book filled with feeling and moral values."

-The New York Times

"It is an extraordinary book, quite unlike anything else by [Yehoshua], a wonderful farewell from a great literary master, full of references to his own life and work."

-The Jewish Chronicle



#### Otto de Kat THE HOUR OF THE ELEPHANT

Original title Het Uur van de Olifant

Original publisher Van Oorschot, 2021 224 pages



German Schöffling & Co.



"Fascinating characters and an intriguing novel about the psychological consequences of warfare."

-NRC Handelsblad

"An inspired novel"

-De Volkskrant

"Painfully beautiful"

-De Correspondent

"Beautiful, crystal-clear prose, a pageturner"

-Medish Contact

"De Kat writes carefully, without sensationalism or sentimentality. That is what makes his story so impressive."

-Mediahuis



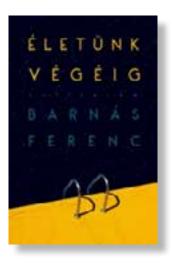
Ari Folman & Lena Gubermann WHERE IS ANNE FRANK? A graphic novel based on the new animated motion picture by Ari Folman



French Calmann Lévy
English (NA) Pantheon
English (UK) Viking
German S. Fischer
Dutch Prometheus
Italian Einaudi
Romanian Humanitas
Spanish PRH Grupo Editorial
Hebrew Kinneret
Brazil Record
Portugal Porto Editora

Watch the official movie trailer

www.whereisannefrank.com



#### Ferenc Barnás TO THE END OF OUR LIVES

Original title Életünk Végéig

Original publisher Kalligram, 2019 455 pages



German Schöffling & Co.



Winner of the Milán Füst Prize 2019

"Best book of the year" 2019 in Hungary

Shortlisted for the AEGON Prize

Shortlisted for the Libri Prize



"Barnás can be counted as one of the most important writers in Hungary."

-Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

"The sheer number of microcosms being set into motion: virtuosic."

-Rvizoronline

"Ferenc Barnás is a legend among those who know him."

-László Krasznahorkai



#### Nir Baram THE WORLD IS A RUMOR

Original title Haolam hu shmua

Original publisher Yediot Books, 2021 262 pages



Dutch De Bezige Bij



"A dazzling portrait of youth and love on the one hand, and fatherhood and love on the other. Baram's ability to crack open the nature of human existence, the fascinating plot, the combination of Israeli reality and a world of mystery – are just part of the book's power. It is a contemporary and original masterpiece."

-e-vrit, critic's choice, Anat Einhar

"Baram is a first-rate writer.
And he is a sorcerer, a master in portraying complicated and complex relationships.
An exciting book that deals with the most complex issues, and is still very readable."

-Yediot Ahronot



# Ron Leshem WHEN WE WERE BEAUTIFUL

Original title Yafım Kemo Shehayanu

Original publisher Kinneret-Zmora Bitan, Dvir, 2020



German Rowohlt Berlin



"An exquisite novel. Leshem has the rare ability to write with breathtaking authenticity and the result is a significant work of literature. Rich with empathy, written by a confident author, dramatic and astonishing. You will sink in the ocean of Leshem's creation and never want to come up for air."

-Makor Rishon

"A sumptuous book, full of surprising twists, painfully beautiful emotions, drama and poetry."

-Die Presse

David Albahari Eli Amir Nir Baram Ferenc Barnás

Anna Bikont

Thomas Buergenthal Mahmud Doulatabadi

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David Markish R.W.B. McCormack

Eyal Megged **Dror Mishani** Péter Nádas

c/o Graf & Graf

Madame Nielsen Jona Oberski Vladimir Pištalo John C.G. Röhl Göran Rosenberg Daniel de Roulet Moshe Sakal Yali Sobol Maruan Soto Antaki György Spiró Idith Zertal Monika Zgustová

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Abraham B. Yehoshua

Mirko Beetschen **Emanuel Bergmann** Michel Bergmann Thomas Blubacher Alfred Bodenheimer Lilian Faschinger Catalin Dorian Florescu Eric Franklin Ursula Fricker Susanne Fritz Roman Graf Peter Haffner Christian Haller Jürg Halter Heinrich Hannover Frank Heer Veit Heinichen Gabriele Hoffmann Katharina Kramer Dirk Laucke Charles Lewinsky Micha Lewinsky Mario Lima Verena Lütscha Tine Melzer Ivar Leon Menger Anna Mitgutsch Mathilda Prall Gert Raeithel Ilma Rakusa Jutta Reichelt Livia Anne Richard

Alexis Schwarzenbach Thomas Sparr Peter Stamm **Andreas Straub** Ulrike Ulrich Bruno Ziauddin Frédéric Zwicker

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Eva Rottmann