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## **Rights Guide** **Fall 2016**

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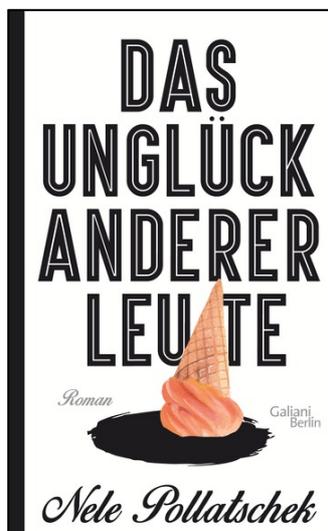
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# **FICTION**

**POLLATSCHEK**

**REICHLIN**

**SCHULZ**



**Nele Pollatschek**

## **Das Unglück anderer Leute**

*The Misfortune of Other People*

Novel – approx. 224 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-137-9

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

**Publication: August 2016**

**English sample translation by Eleanor Collins available**

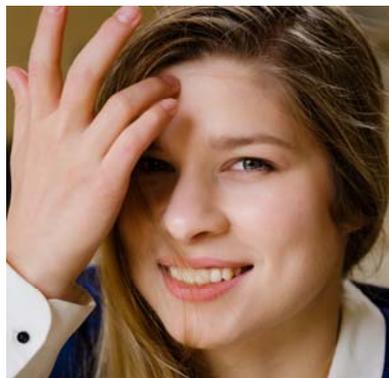
*“As is generally known, death isn’t the end, but the beginning. In this book, it’s the beginning of a family comedy, which in turn has one of the best endings I’ve ever read.” – Alina Bronsky*

Bad mothers, paternal wounds, sibling love. In her astonishing debut, Nele Pollatschek tells a turbulent, extremely funny and deeply sad story of the fate of having a family.

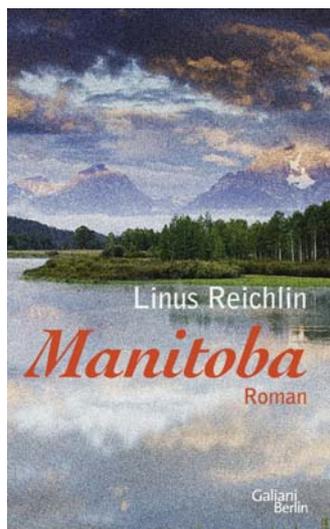
Thene, 25 years old, an Oxford student with a second home in Heidelberg, is basically living her dream: driving to her favorite clearing in the Odenwald forest with her boyfriend in an old BMW, setting up the folding table, reading, writing, now and then eating a piece of cherry pie. Unfortunately, time and again, Thene’s Odenwald idyll is invaded by something she can only handle in small doses: her patchwork family, an East-West-German mishpocha spread out all over the map. At the head of the pack, her mother Astrid – world savior, punk, highly manipulative and more interested in her good deeds than in her children. Then there’s Georg, her father, who actually would have been the better mother had he not disappeared for five whole years when Thene was ten. The others: a throng of rejected stepfathers, including Menachem, an Orthodox Jew. And – the only ray of light – Menachem’s son: Thene’s fifteen-year-old half-brother Eli, a sorcerer’s apprentice and exceptionally gifted expert on statistics, probability and magic.

When it’s time for Thene to accept her master’s degree from Oxford, her family shows up as if it were the most natural thing in the world. Who could have guessed that chance – fate? God? – would decide to intervene at this very moment to shake up Thene’s world...

**Nele Pollatschek** lives in the Odenwald and in Oxford. She was born in East Berlin in 1988 and later studied English literature and philosophy in Heidelberg, Cambridge and Oxford. She works as a university lecturer and is currently writing a thesis about the problem of evil in literature.



© Martin Phox



## Linus Reichlin

### Manitoba

#### *Manitoba*

Novel – approx. 220 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86971-131-7  
Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

**Publication: September 2016**

He was still just a little boy when his mother entrusted him with the family secret: His great-grandfather was a Native American with whom his great-grandmother, who worked as a teacher in a mission school in America, fell in love. He was murdered shortly afterwards and Reichlin's great-grandmother returned to Switzerland. The whole thing sounded like a strange, exotic fairytale. Yet, many years later – the boy having since grown up to be a moderately successful author – he sets out on the traces of his forebears, using his great-grandmother's journal entries as an Ariadne's thread to search for his Native American roots.

Yet the entries prove to be imprecise – indeed, often they seem to be wrong altogether. The story of his ancestry grows increasingly porous the deeper he delves into it, learning about the fate of the Arapaho and other Native American tribes that were forced onto reservations as settlers arrived from Europe, took the land for themselves and supposedly civilized it. The more he identifies longingly with the highly developed Native American culture, the angrier he grows about the settlers' disdain for it. Yet when he tries to live for a while like his Native American ancestors, in an isolated hut in the woods of Manitoba, he is forced to realize that he, too, is seen as an unwelcome intruder.

Linus Reichlin's suspenseful – philosophical, even –novel about the difficult path of finding and keeping one's identity is a novel full of doubts and questions that are of interest to anyone alive in our day and age.

*“An author of first-class entertainment with depth.”* – Neue Züricher Zeitung am Sonntag about *In einem anderen Leben*

*“This is great literature – excitingly told, to boot.”* – Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung about *Das Leuchten in der Ferne*

Born in 1957, **Linus Reichlin** works as a freelance writer in Berlin. He was awarded the German Crime Fiction Award in 2009 for his debut novel, *Die Sehnsucht der Atome* (The Desire of Atoms), which was translated into several languages. His 2010 novel *Der Assistent der Sterne* (The Stars' Assistant) was voted Science Book of the Year in 2010 (entertainment category). His most recent novels, *Das Leuchten in der Ferne* (The Light in the Distance, 2012) and *In einem anderen Leben* (In Another Life, 2014), won great critical acclaim.



© Susanne Schleyer



**Frank Schulz**

## **Onno Viets und der weiße Hirsch**

*Onno Viets and the White Stag*

Novel – approx. 368 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-127-0

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

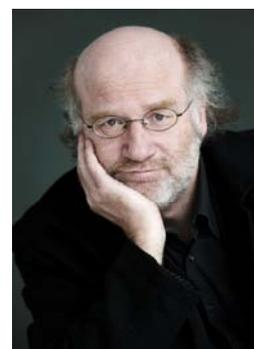
**Publication: September 2016**

In this third and last Onno Viets book Onno finds himself in the small town of Finkloch. Rarely has more small-town idyllic charm been packed into so few square meters. Yet there's a dark background to Onno's seemingly contemplative summer at his in-laws': plagued by severe post-traumatic stress disorder, the private detective has fled to the countryside from Hamburg. Since his dramatic adventure with the madman from the Kiez, he just hasn't been himself anymore. It's not just that he's no longer any good at ping-pong – he also suffers from full-blown panic attacks that turn his days into hellish torture. The idea is that village life and the cozy lap of his in-laws will provide comfort. But, of course, even in Finkloch, Onno manages to stumble unwittingly upon sinister intrigues, in which not only crucified sphinx cats and firearms play a significant part, but also the "cat sensei," an exiled Bavarian esoteric, a cast-off from astro-TV who has relocated to this northern German village, where she now makes a pretty penny giving full-moon lectures. Soon enough, the events begin to come thick and fast and a dead body even turns up... Yet, all of a sudden, out of the comedy of this regional farce, Frank Schulz begins to narrate the fate of entire generations. The book shifts from the village to global level, and Schulz writes with a vehemence that will knock his readers off their feet.

*"A first-rate book!"* – Wolfgang Herrndorf about *Onno Viets und der Irre vom Kiez*

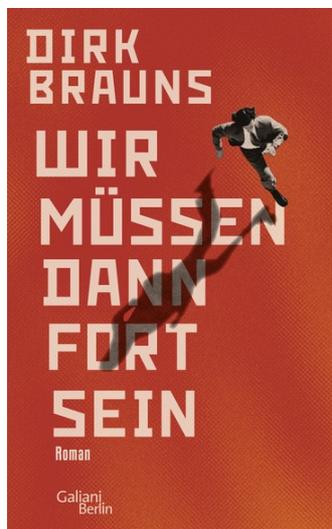
*"Onno Viets, an unforgettable fictional character. Funny, profound, brilliantly told."* – Dörte Hansen about *Onno Viets und das Schiff der baumelnden Seelen*

**Frank Schulz**, born in 1957, is a freelance writer who lives in Hamburg. He has received numerous awards for his novels, including the Hubert Fichte Prize (2004), the Irmgard Heilmann Prize (2006) and the Kassel Literature Prize for Grotesque Humor (2015). In 2012, he published *Onno Viets und der Irre vom Kiez* ( Onno Viets and the Madman from the Kiez ) and, in 2015, *Onno Viets und das Schiff der baumelnden Seelen* (Onno Viets and the Ship of Carefree Souls).



© Gunter Glücklich

## BACKLIST LITERARY FICTION

**Dirk Brauns WIR MÜSSEN DANN FORT SEIN**

336 pages, first release February 2016

Ten years have passed since Oliver Hackert last saw his despised father. Now, he's accepting an invitation to his father's 80th birthday celebration. Yet he doesn't want to reconcile; he merely wants to take up contact with his father's friend from university, Oleg Mitrochin. Mitrochin, who was stationed in East Germany as an officer of the Soviet occupying forces, went to Belarus after the fall of the Wall, where he became a prison warden. Recently, however, he disappeared because his conscience could no longer bear what was happening in the prison in Minsk. Now, Oliver has the opportunity to be the first western journalist in years to interview the notorious Belarusian dictator who is known for disposing of his political competition. On the one hand, he doesn't want to put his family in danger; on the other, the chance to pull off a journalistic coup by confronting the dictator with Mitrochin's information is extremely tempting. When he decides to go through with it, the situation escalates on all fronts: his meeting with his father ends in disaster and, shortly before his conspiratorial meeting with Mitrochin in Minsk, Oliver realizes that he's being watched. Is his interview with the dictator just a trap for Mitrochin?

**Karen Duve MACHT**

432 pages, first release February 2016

**English sample translation by Anthea Bell available**

It is 2031 and Doomsday is in the air: A government of women is in power, there are pills for eternal youth, the climate is out of control, religious sects predicting the end of the world are mushrooming, and a class reunion celebrating 50 years since its members left school is to be held in the suburbs of Hamburg. Thanks to the rejuvenation pill Ephebo, to which Sebastian Bürger, among others, owes his good looks, the former classmates, though now senior citizens, look only twenty or thirty. When Sebastian meets Elli, the secret love of his youth, he falls in love with her again. Everything could be wonderful but for Sebastian's ex-wife, the former Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation, the Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants and Radioactive Waste Management. For the last two years he has kept her prisoner in his cellar, where she has to bake his favorite cookies and serve him in every way. But now she is an obstacle to his new love. In trying to get rid of his wife, Sebastian sets off catastrophe after catastrophe...

**Heinrich Gerlach BREAKTHROUGH AT STALINGRAD**

740 pages, first release March 2016

Heinrich Gerlach, a German officer in the Battle of Stalingrad, wrote a novel while in Soviet captivity that was meant to starkly convey the horror of Stalingrad, the pointlessness of the war, and above all the spiritual transformation of a German soldier under the influence of his experiences. Gerlach managed to keep his manuscript safe even in the labor camps. In 1949, however, the Russian secret services discovered and confiscated it. Back in Germany, under hypnosis, he was able to remember parts of the book and in 1957 it was published under the title *Die verratene Armee* ("The Forsaken Army: The Great Novel of Stalingrad"). It sold millions of copies. Now, Carsten Gansel has made a sensational find in Moscow's archives: the original manuscript of Gerlach's novel which differs sharply from the previously published version. With a rich documentary annex provided by the editor, it is now available in published form for the first time, 70 years later.

**Rights sold to: France (Anne Carrière), Great Britain (Head of Zeus), Netherlands (Xander)**

# **NON-FICTION**

**ANGELE**

**BRUNNER**



**Michael Angele**

**Der letzte Zeitungsleser**

*The Last Newspaper Reader*

Essay – approx. 120 pages

ISBN: 978-3-86971-128-7

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

**Publication: August 2016**

### **A declaration of love to a disappearing medium**

Not every newspaper reader is as obsessed as Thomas Bernhard: When he was desperate to read an article in the *Neue Züricher Zeitung*, which wasn't available in his hometown of Ohlsdorf, he made his way to Salzburg; but he couldn't find the paper there either, so he continued on to Bad Reichenhall, then Bad Hall, then Steyr – by the end, he had covered 350 kilometers in search of his drug of choice. Some people have similar experiences when they can't get their hands on a paper. Yet no matter how powerful the addiction, it's unlikely that the range of German-language papers – or daily papers in general – can be saved. We're losing something.

With a wistfully sharp eye, Michael Angele (who, among other things, was editor-in-chief of the first German online newspaper and is anything but anti-innovation) reviews everything that is disappearing: not just a form of news delivery, but a cultural achievement – a way of life, even. Beginning with the environment in which we tend to read our papers, the ritual associated with it, and continuing with the exchanges set in motion (or prevented) by the paper over breakfast – some marriages probably would have taken a completely different course without newspapers.

Written with passion, grasped with acumen, Michael Angele erects a monument to the newspaper way of life.

**Michael Angele** is deputy editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *Der Freitag*. Previously, he worked for the “Berliner Seiten” (“Berlin Pages” supplement) of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and was half of the editor-in-chief duo of *Netzeitung*, the first German online newspaper.



© Monic Johanna Wollschläger



**Bernd Brunner**

**Als die Winter noch Winter waren**

*When Winters Were Still Winters.  
The History of a Season*

Cultural History – approx. 160 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-129-4

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

**Publication: October 2016**

**English sample translation available in due course**

The horror of eternal ice, the beauty of untouched landscapes, the longing for cold purity, the birth of mountaineering and winter sports – Bernd Brunner has written the first cultural history of winter

During the last two centuries, our relationship to winter has undergone a fundamental change. In the past, the weather dictated our life – but today we are largely independent of it. 2015 was the warmest year on record; instead of snowflakes, hazel pollen drifted lazily through the Christmas air. In some spots the almond trees were already blooming.

Bernd Brunner embarks on a search for the stories and moods inspired by winter in different regions and times, going back as far as the Ice Age. The phenomena he encounters along the way are fascinating, but so are the people – like the American Wilson A. Bentley, a fan of snow, who devoted thousands of hours to painstakingly creating 5,381 photographs of snowflakes. Werner Herzog closely studied the snow as he hiked from Munich to Paris, making extensive notes about it in his diary.

But the dark side of snow also gets its due: the sense of disorientation brought on by winter wastelands, along with snow blindness, landslides, and the treacherous warmth of snow-enclosed spaces that keeps hibernating animals alive but can spell death for humans. Filled with insights from the history of perception and culture, Brunner's book is an exciting and knowledgeable account of the mythology of winter.

For more than ten years, **Bernd Brunner** has written acclaimed, highly entertaining books on topics that inspire a mixture of scientific investigation and cultural inquiry.

Rights to his books have been sold to China, Estonia, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey and the USA.



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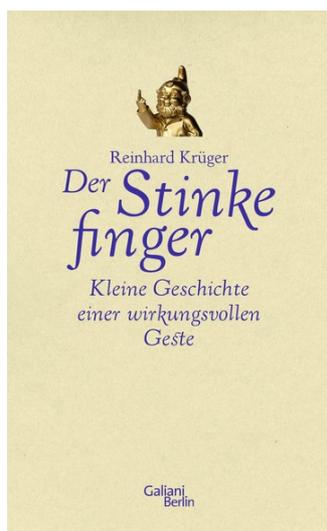
## BACKLIST NON-FICTION



### Christian Adam **THE DREAM OF YEAR ZERO** **Authors, Bestsellers, Readers: The Restructuring of the Book Industry in East and West Germany after 1945**

416 pages, first release March 2016

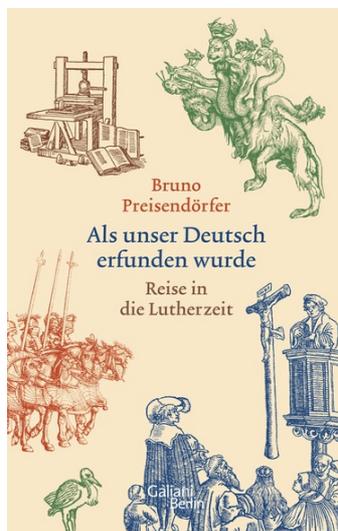
The war is over, the Germans have suffered a crushing defeat. The population has lost its sense of direction – and the occupying forces in both the East and West quickly realize that they can effectively influence people's perceptions through newspapers and books. Libraries are quickly purged of the old Nazi literature, printing licenses are granted and structures rebuilt. A radical new beginning is wanted; it's the dream of zero hour. Yet, with the Cold War, books and authors increasingly become a bone of contention between the systems; parties and secret services finance publishers, books become ideological weapons. Christian Adam examines the mindsets of the Germans based on which books were bestsellers in the East and West, telling a vast range of gripping stories in the process. His carefully researched stories about authors, books, bestsellers and readers in the post-war period shine a bright light on German-German postwar society and how it dealt with its onerous legacy and visions.



### Reinhard Krüger **GIVING THE FINGER** **A Short History of a Powerful Gesture**

160 pages, first release March 2016

Just recently, a gesture made by a Greek minister of finance provoked storms of indignation in Germany. What's the big deal anyway, some Greeks may have asked themselves. These days, in Greece, a raised middle finger doesn't mean all that much – a different gesture is really considered obscene there now. And, if the whole thing had happened on the Arabian Peninsula or in Asia, no one would have been upset: Before globalization, no one there knew what giving the finger was. For decades, Prof. Reinhard Krüger has been researching the world of body language – and, in this fast-paced, compact and richly illustrated little book, he gives us illuminating insights into the world of obscene gestures – and into giving the finger, in particular. The gesture originated in Greco-Roman society, almost disappeared (oddly enough) for centuries, before experiencing a swift revival beginning in America in the 20th century. Krüger sheds light on the history and meaning of the gesture, on which variants exist where, which artists are reinterpreting it or which finger-flipping politicians put their foot in it – accidentally or not.



### Bruno Preisendörfer **WHEN OUR GERMAN WAS INVENTED** **A Journey Back into the Age of Luther**

352 pages, first release March 2016

The art world knows her as the first wife of the artist Max Ernst, muse of the Dadaists and Surrealists. Yet Luise Straus-Ernst, born to a Jewish manufacturing family in Cologne in 1893, was much more than that: art historian, author of short stories, articles and novels, and pioneering radio writer. Luise Straus-Ernst did much as one of the first female PhDs in art history of her generation to promote Max Ernst's oeuvre and the so-called Cologne Dada. Her marriage to Ernst lasted for only a few years before he was drawn to Paris, while she and their son Jimmy stayed in Cologne. Soon, however, she too had to leave because she was Jewish. In 1933, she also emigrated to Paris. She didn't believe that Hitler's regime would prevail and hid out in a hotel in Provence, where she wrote her autobiography. Max Ernst refused an exit visa that arrived at the eleventh hour for the "married couple Ernst," citing the fact that they had been divorced for 16 years. In 1944, Luise Straus-Ernst was deported on one of the last convoys east. She died in Auschwitz, at the age of 51.

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