



Rights Guide Fall 2009

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NEW BOOKS - Fall 2009
Index

FICTION

Erpenbeck, Jenny: Dinge, die verschwinden (Things that disappear)	3
Krohn, Tim: Ans Meer (The House on the Beach)	4
Reichlin, Linus: Der Assistent der Sterne (The Stars´ Assistant)	5

NONFICTION

Urban, Martin: Die Bibel. Eine Biographie (The Bible. A Biography)	6
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Jenny Erpenbeck

Dinge, die verschwinden
Things that disappear

Essays – approx. 96 pages

ISBN: 978-3-86971-004-4

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

Publication: September 2009

A book of farewells

"One day, out of the blue, there's a bang, and suddenly the year that was called the present for a year disappears from this present and from one moment to the next turns into the past."

"I remember farewells," is one of the sentences with which Erpenbeck begins her short entries in *Things that disappear*. The keywords this book of farewells is all about include Palast der Republik, bulky waste, memories, socks, courtyard without boundaries, girlfriend, oven and coal, stolen goods, the middle of nowhere, men, the simple life, the Warsaw ghetto, politeness, words, mothers, drip catcher, years, visits to the cemetery and clever comments.

Jenny Erpenbeck bids farewell to all of these things: sometimes in deep sorrow, sometimes with one last melancholic bow, sometimes with humour. *Things that disappear* was the title of her column in the FAZ supplement, from which many of these collected scraps of everyday life have been drawn. Together they create a book about the momentariness of everything earthly. This is Jenny Erpenbeck's most personal book to date.

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Jenny Erpenbeck was born in East Berlin in 1967. Today she lives and works in Berlin as a free-lance writer and director. Her first collection of prose "Geschichte vom alten Kind" was a huge success. "Tand" followed in 2001, and in 2005 "Wörterbuch". Her novel "Heimsuchung" was published in 2008 and has since been awarded four literature prizes. Jenny Erpenbeck's books have been translated into **sixteen languages**.



Tim Krohn

Ans Meer

The House on the Beach

Novel – approx. 320 pages

ISBN: 978-3-86971-002-0

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

Publication: September 2009

A house on the beach, two couples, two girlfriends, an impossible love affair and a fateful accident.

Anna, a charming, warm-hearted young woman from Northern Germany, longs for nothing more than a family of her own. In her early youth, she did something foolish and destroyed her best friend Josefa's family during a summer holiday. And worse still, now, twelve years on, she might have been able to prevent Josefa's unexpected death. She decides to adopt Josefa's eleven-year-old son Jens to at least partially atone for her guilt. But Jens' father Livio also turns up on the scene. A not unpleasant but obviously rather unreliable person, who has never met Jens or told his own family about him. While Anna and Livio wrestle for the guardianship of the overwhelmed boy, who doesn't get the chance to grieve for his mother, one thing becomes clear: before they deal with the past, the question of guilt and atonement, forgiving and forgetting, the future cannot begin. A number of people who were present all those years ago recall the fateful incident at the house on the beach that completely changed the lives of Josefa's and Anna's families and continues to have an effect on Jens today.

Tim Krohn is an exceptionally clever storyteller. Like the changing images in a kaleidoscope, more and more aspects of the incident are highlighted, and existential questions are raised. *The house on the beach* is an impressive novel full of dramatic suspense. Above all, however, it is a book about the longing for a home, the difficulty of forgiving and about man's great ability to admit to his fallibility.

Rights sold to:

Tim Krohn, born 1965 in Wiedenbrück, grew up in Glarus in the Swiss Alps. He has been awarded numerous prizes and scholarships. He lives in Zurich and works as a freelance novelist and theatre writer. Since the publication of his novel *Quatemberkinder* (1998), he has been considered a cult novelist in Switzerland. His last novel, *Vrenelis Gaertli*, was No. 1 on the Swiss bestseller list.



Linus Reichlin

Der Assistent der Sterne

The Stars' Assistant

Novel/ Crime – 384 pages
ISBN: 978-3-86971-003-7
Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

Publication: September 2009

German Crime Award 2009 for “Sehnsucht der Atome”

There isn't such a thing as fate. Still you can't escape it.

Hannes Jensen, a former *inspecteur* with the Bruges police force, has made a fatal mistake: during a seminar in Iceland, he slept with a woman he barely knew. When he returns to Bruges and to Annick, whom he loves, he bears a telltale sign of the fateful night in Iceland on his neck: the woman bit him and his love bite becomes infected. Jensen tries to hide it with a cashmere scarf. He's convinced it would be a mistake to confess his lapse to Annick, it would only jeopardise their already rocky relationship. And Annick currently has other things on her mind, which she reveals to Jensen on his return. Her best friend has a problem: a *féticheur*, an African fortune-teller, has prophesied that her only daughter will be killed by a man who has a mark on his neck.

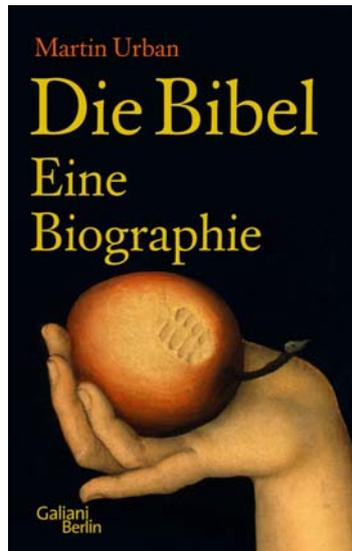
Jensen, a passionate part-time physicist, doesn't believe in fate. In his opinion, life is a series of coincidences, nothing is predetermined. But the events of the next few days make him doubt his view of the world.

The *féticheur*'s prophesy seems to be coming true. The more Jensen resists the fateful entanglements, the more difficult it is for him to escape.

A novel about fate and coincidence, love and deception – exciting right to the very last page.

Rights sold to:

Linus Reichlin, born 1957, began writing reports after spending longer periods in the South of France, Italy and Canada, winning the ZEIT's Ben Witter Prize in 1996. His first Jensen novel *Die Sehnsucht der Atome* (published by Eichborn Berlin) remained in the national crime bestseller list for months, was nominated for the Glauser Prize 2009 as the best crime debut and received the German Crime Prize in 2009. **Rights for his first book have been sold to Spain (Ediciones Paidós Iberica).**



Martin Urban

Die Bibel. Eine Biographie

The Bible. A Biography

Non-fiction – approx. 300 pages

ISBN: 978-3-86971-006-8

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

Numerous illustrations

Publication: September 2009

The Bible is the most influential book in world history. Like all creations it has a biography – a family history with parents (God the Father and the Holy Ghost) and ancestors (gods and goddesses of the Ancient Orient). It has a developmental history, a history of interpretations, effects and side-effects – each of which has its own history.

To realize this, one needs additional information: The stories of Moses, Noah or the Queen of Sheba have a historical background. Reports about and interpretations of the life of Jesus by the Evangelists and apostles cannot be understood without a knowledge of the books of the Old Testament, the Bible of Jesus and his disciples. With the help of historically critical theological research, modern linguistics, archaeology, the historical sciences and especially natural scientific discoveries, Martin Urban shows us that the Bible has to be understood in a different way today than it was two thousand years ago.

Today, we know that the Ten Commandments are a construct. The psalms of David are not really from David, Solomon's sayings are not really from Solomon. Peter was not Catholic, and most definitely not the first Pope, nor did he leave behind any letters. Only seven of Paul's 13 letters are considered genuine.

Knowing this doesn't make the Bible any less important, it makes it more plausible. Martin Urban concludes: "For me, the Old Testament together with the New Testament as *one* Bible remains the foundation of our culture and all our endeavours to seek and understand God and the world."

Rights sold to:

Martin Urban, born in 1936 in Berlin, comes from a family of theologians, although he himself studied physics, chemistry and mathematics. He founded and was head of the scientific department of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* for over 30 years. Martin Urban lives and writes in Gauting, near Munich. Several of his earlier books (including "Warum der Mensch glaubt") were declared "Scientific Book of the Year".