

Rights Guide Spring 2011

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NEW BOOKS – Spring 2011

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FICTION

**Peggy Mädler****Legende vom Glück des Menschen**
*Legend of Man's Happiness*Novel – 224 pages
ISBN 978-3-86971-032-7
Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)**Publication date: February 2011**

Almost fifteen years after the fall of the wall, the young narrator discovers in her grandparents' estate a book which her grandfather had been given on the occasion of an anniversary in the GDR. It is a propaganda volume of photos from 1968 entitled *On Happiness*. The granddaughter is outraged by the arrogance with which happiness is dictated by politics. How can an administration order its people to be happy? With other objects she finds among the belongings, she starts to piece together the story of her family.

Peggy Mädler connects each chapter from the propaganda book with "legends" from her narrator's family history. There is a chapter about the "legend of the happiness of work", one about the "legend of the happiness of being together", and we realise that whether or how people find happiness has less to do with greater circumstances than with personal encounters, small gestures and unspectacular coincidences.

Densely narrated, Mädler looks at the origins of happiness. How society functions and how private memories relate to history as a whole. The modest, shrewd and elegant way in which she circumvents the pretentiousness of these issues makes her first book a masterpiece of German literature. Mädler has produced an extraordinarily compassionate, rich and linguistically varied first novel, a book that leaves the reader somehow ... happy.

Rights sold to:

Peggy Mädler was born in Dresden in 1976. She lives and works in Berlin as a free-lance dramatic adviser and director. She co-founded the artists' collective "Labor für kontrafaktisches Denken". She was awarded a dissertation grant from the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, an authors' grant from the Künstlerdorf Schöppingen and an Alfred Döblin grant from the Akademie der Künste.

Sven Regener
Meine Jahre mit
Hamburg-Heiner
Logbücher

Sven Regener

**Meine Jahre mit Hamburg-Heiner.
Logbücher**

My Years with Hamburg Heiner. Logbooks

Blogs – 432 pages with numerous pictures
ISBN 978-3-86971-035-8
Flexcover (Galiani Berlin)

Audio Book with *roofmusic*

Publication date: March 2011

Over a period of five years and for various internet platforms, Sven Regener, musician and man of letters (or the other way round), singer with the band *Element of Crime* and creator of the *Berlin Blues* trilogy, produced the most densely dialogued, wittiest logbooks ever to be written on journeys through the stormy seas and stagnant waters of life. We learn how he stumbles around Frankfurt Book Fair while in search of the "Arno Schmidt Society", that he has an attack of paranoia during an *Element of Crime* tour, photographs the Batman Building in Nashville, Tennessee, from the wrong side, reconciles Austria and Germany, and broadcasts bus driver Udo's opinion about the makers of Wuppertal's suspended railway ("a botch job from Bavaria").

And then there's Hamburg Heiner, friend, foe, critic and taskmaster who calls Regener almost daily to update him on his deliberations – for example, about the dispute over the correct notation of "Oh Christmas Tree" or the significance of Austrian rule over Hamburg-Altona between 1864–1866.

If you read all the logbooks in one go, you realize something very unique has been created. This is a combination of journal and novel, a sailor's yarn in the tradition of the great raconteurs and ranters, windbags and goofballs, or as Hamburg Heiner would put it: "If it has to be a century, then let's make it the 18th!"

Hamburg Heiner: Do you know what I like about telephone conversations with you?

Sven: No.

Hamburg Heiner: They make me realise what an intact world we live in. One telephone call with you is like a liquid lunch or a circuit of miniature golf.

Rights sold to:

Sven Regener was born in Bremen in 1961. He is a singer and songwriter with the band *Element of Crime*. His books "Herr Lehmann" (2001), "Neue Vahr Süd" (2004) and "Der kleine Bruder" (2009) were a sensational success. All three novels remained in the bestseller charts for months. The blogs featured in "Meine Jahre mit Hamburg Heiner" were written between 2005 and 2010 for various internet bulletin boards, including *Spiegel Online*, *taz.de* and *Standard.de*. <http://www.svenregener.de/>

Berlin Blues ("Herr Lehmann") was translated into eighteen languages, the movie was launched in 2003.



Linus Reichlin

**Er
He**

Suspense – 288 pages
ISBN 978-3-86971-036-5
Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

Publication date: February 2011

Hannes Jensen is having a hard time. His blind mistress Annick, he discovers, has been seeing another man ever since the start of their relationship, and now she's run off with him to New York. All she's left behind is her guide dog who now refuses to leave Jensen's side – like a moving memorial to betrayal. Jensen takes the dog with him to Berlin for his sister's funeral and meets Lea in a flower shop. He is immediately attracted to the unconventional woman. But at the same time, he realises, there's something enigmatic and tragic about her.

Lea is not a native of Berlin. She comes from a Scottish island, a place where time appears to stand still. Generations have made a living there from sheep farming and local customs are as rough as the climate. Lea had been pregnant and escaped from the island to move to Berlin at the age of 17 because her religious father wanted her to marry. Twenty years later, after being diagnosed with an incurable illness, Lea's father asks his daughter to visit him one more time. Little does he know that her visit will reignite old conflicts and trigger a fateful chain reaction that eventually ends in a cruel death.

By the time Jensen meets Lea, this is all in the past. Although they fall in love, Jensen keeps finding evidence that there's another man in Lea's life. He starts to doubt everything and becomes so caught up in his own jealousy that it almost leads to his and Lea's downfall.

Linus Reichlin's fascinating novel deals with betrayal, suspicion and jealousy. And with the difficulty of succumbing to something as crazy as love - the most dangerous weakness in the world.

Rights sold to:

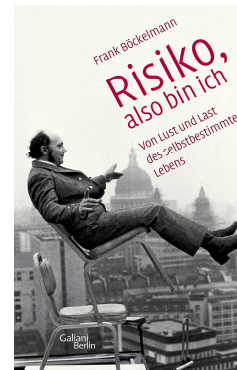
Linus Reichlin lives in Berlin. His first two Jensen novels „Die Sehnsucht der Atome“ (2008 by Eichborn) and „Der Assistent der Sterne“ (2009) remained in the *KrimiWelt* charts for months. Linus Reichlin was awarded the Deutscher Krimipreis in 2009. In 2010 the magazine *Bild der Wissenschaft* awarded „Der Assistent der Sterne“ Science Book of the Year and 15,000 copies of „Der Assistent der Sterne“ sold.

www.linusreichlin.de

„Die Sehnsucht der Atome“ was translated into Spanish (Ediciones Pardos Ibérica), Danish (Forlaget Roskilde) and Dutch (Maarten Muntinga).

„Der Assistent der Sterne“ has been translated into Dutch (Maarten Muntinga).

NON-FICTION



Frank Böckelmann

**Risiko, also bin ich. Von Lust und Last
des selbstbestimmten Lebens**

*Risk, therefore I am. About the Joys and
Burdens of a Self-determined Life*

Philosophy – 320 pages
ISBN 978-3-86971-034-1
Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

Publication date: February 2011

From taking out an insurance policy, having a medical check-up, signing a prenuptial agreement and pension scheme, to booking a holiday on the internet or deciding how to invest money – modern people constantly find themselves faced with decisions that are way above their heads.

While the broad social consensus used to be that people got married, had children and built houses, nothing is deemed generally binding any more. We are forever forced to make far-reaching decisions even though we don't know enough about the risks and side-effects they may involve. True, countless consultants are there to help us – but do they really help? Consulting a divorce lawyer often actually triggers a dispute. Consultants tend to make their clients dependent on them, encouraging them to play safe. In their eyes, the culture of pleasure-based risk is not an option.

Frank Böckelmann, author, cultural scientist and risk analyst, takes a look at the multitude of decisions we have to take every day, and asks what's really at stake. Many difficulties vanish into thin air, but often it's a case of taking our life into our own hands, and throwing ourselves wholeheartedly into new ventures. Risks often bring with them more quality of life than we imagined. And after all - you can't insure life!

Rights sold to:

Frank Böckelmann lives in Dresden. He is editor of the magazine *Tumult* and has also published numerous books. He was awarded the special prize *Das politische Buch* from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

**Karen Duve**

Anständig essen
Wie ich versuchte, ein besserer Mensch zu werden
zu werden
Eating Properly
How I tried to become a better person.

Ethics / Ecology – approx. 280 pages
 ISBN 978-3-86971-028-0
 Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

Publication date: January 2011

The most pressing question at the beginning of my 'organic phase' was: can I continue to drink Coke Light? I assumed I could. After all, Coke Light is made up exclusively of chemicals which renders the issue of organic content entirely redundant.

Karen Duve hardly qualifies as a health freak: Sausages and jellybabies were a permanent fixture in her shopping trolley, alongside bars of chocolate and 1-litre-bottles of curry-flavoured ketchup. Then she moved in together with someone, who quickly earned the nickname of Jiminy Cricket – after the personified conscience of the wooden puppet Pinocchio. For Jiminy would cry out in protest whenever Karen Duve reached for the Grilled Chicken dish for 2.99. Consequently, whenever she stood in front of the deep-freeze cabinet she was plagued by a catalogue of ethical questions: Should we really be eating animals? And if not animals, then what about plants? Where does human empathy begin, and why? What are we prepared to sacrifice out of consideration for our fellow creatures? And can we even derive some personal benefit from altering our eating habits?

Eventually Karen Duve decided to find out for herself: Since then she has been experimenting with different, ethically-sound dietary regimes for two months at a time: organic, vegetarian, vegan and finally even fruitarian, i.e. eating only what the plants yield "voluntarily". At the same time, she began analysing the underlying weltanschauung – which led inexorably to verbal battles with Jiminy Cricket.

Uncompromising, embellished with her typical bone-dry humour and free of any ideological constraints, in *Eating Properly* she explores the question of "How far can I indulge myself at the expense of others?"

Rights sold to:

Karen Duve, born 1961 in Hamburg, lives with a mule, a horse, a donkey, two cats, and two chickens in the rural region of Northern Germany. She has garnered many prizes for her work. Her novels "Regenroman" (1999), "Dies ist kein Liebeslied" (2002), "Die entführte Prinzessin" (2005) and "Taxi" (2008), all published by Eichborn, have become bestsellers and have been translated into 14 languages.

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