

RIGHTS CATALOGUE

FICTION



KEIN&ABER

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ABOUT KEIN & ABER

Kein & Aber, founded in 1997, is an independent publishing house based in Zurich and Berlin, which covers the whole German speaking market and stands for literary and quirky stories, intelligent entertainment as well as beautifully and lavishly designed books.

Our list includes outstanding contemporary voices as well as wonderful classic writers. Many of our books have become international bestsellers or been adapted into films or television series.



NEW RELEASES

Nora Osagiobare
DAILY SOAP

You've never read about racism like this before



DAILY SOAP
Kein & Aber, March 2025
288 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
Translation subsidies
available



© Barbara Sigg

Toni Osayoghohowemwen doesn't have it easy: her mother Anneli is Swiss, her father Thor Nigerian, and her skin colour falls into the category of "cappuccino macchiato, served on a balmy November evening", according to the official Swiss categorisation of people with different skin colours. In her family, she finds herself right in the eye of a hurricane of unpredictable obsessions and passions - for love, insurance policies, affairs and garden fences. Her favourite soap opera »Sturm der Triebe« (Storm of Impulses) is all that keeps her sane. Meanwhile, the fashion company »Banal & Bodeca« faces a veritable shitstorm following their latest advertising campaign. To counter the accusations of racism, Mrs Bodeca decides to produce a Kardashian-style soap opera starring her family alongside a number of black actors.

This inadvertently brings both families together, entangling everyone in a series of coincidences and misunderstandings only possible in a soap opera.

»Nora Osagiobare is exactly the author we need right now: it's been a long time since anyone has so casually exposed the tangle that we call society. The funniest, smartest, coolest book this spring!« DANA VON SUFFRIN

»Nora Osagiobare reinvents the soap opera, in which reality itself is already a farce. She shows how courageous satire can be.« DENIZ UTLU

About the author

Nora Osagiobare, born in Zurich in 1992, studied creative writing in Biel and Vienna. Her debut novel *Daily Soap* earned her a scholarship from the Autor:innenwerkstatt Prosa at the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, for which she received a work grant from the Canton of Zurich. She lives in Zurich.

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

WHITE LIES

Only his mother knows the truth



WEISSE LÜGEN
Kein & Aber, June 2025
306 pages, Hardcover

World rights available



© Tal Shahar

Naomi isn't delighted when she finds herself home alone in her Tel Aviv flat with her one-year-old son Uri and an Arabic tradesman. Her husband Juval has asked him to renovate their balcony while he is at work. She feels unsafe in the presence of a strange man, especially as Uri is supposed to be having his morning nap and is becoming steadily crankier. While she prepares coffee, there is a commotion on the street in front of their building: a teenager has been killed by a falling hammer.

It quickly becomes clear to Naomi that her son must have knocked the hammer over the edge in an unsupervised moment. But the blame doesn't fall on them, but on the Arabic worker. When he is taken away for questioning, Naomi feels paralysed, unable to tell the truth.

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen stages an inner conflict that captivates her characters and readers alike. On this basis, she creates a compelling psychological drama about guilt and revenge, about fleeing responsibility, and about compassion that reveals itself in unexpected places.

About the author

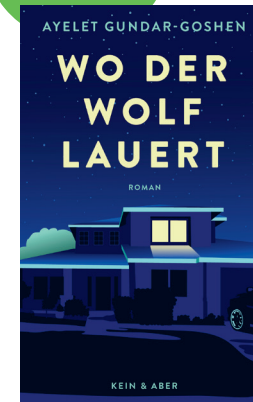
Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, born in 1982, studied Psychology in Tel Aviv and later Film and Screenplay in Jerusalem. For her short stories, screenplays, and short films she has received numerous awards. Her first novel, *One Night, Markovitch*, was awarded the prestigious Sapir Prize for the best debut in Israel and film rights have been sold for her bestselling novels *Waking Lions* (2015) and *Liar* (2017). Ayelet Gundar-Goshen lives in Tel Aviv.

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

WHERE THE WOLF LURKS

Our kids are the biggest mystery

AN
INTERNATIONAL
BESTSELLER



WO DER WOLF LAUERT
Kein & Aber, July 2021
352 pages, Hardcover

Original Hebrew title
Relocation
Published in Israel by
Achuzat Bayit

World rights available
Translation subsidies
possible
English manuscript available

sold to
Brazil (Todavia)
Czech Republic (Garamond)
France (Presses de la Cité)
Italy (Neri Pozza)
Netherlands (Cossee)
Portugal (Elsinore)
Russia (Sindbad)
Slovakia (Artforum)
UK (Pushkin)
USA (Little Brown)

Lilac Schuster lives the American dream: A house with a pool in the heart of Silicon Valley, a husband who is a CEO of an Israeli-US start-up, and a son whom she dearly loves. But then, Jamal Jones, a classmate of Adam's, collapses and dies at a party.

It is only later that Lilac learns that Jamal had been bullying her son. Lilac's concern about her son turns into a disturbing uneasiness: Maybe Jamal's death wasn't an accident after all?

Lilac sets off on a detective trail after her own son. Her journey leads her to Annabella Jones, Jamal's mother. The encounter between these very different women is a source of resentment, but also of compassion and grace. As the tension between them surges, the two mothers are looking for truth and forgiveness.

A novel of psychological ingenuity about how the people we think we know best often remain the biggest mystery to us – our children.

»Where the Wolf Lurks is a daring novel that is asking us not just what we know about our own children but what we are willing to discover about ourselves.« DROR MISHANI

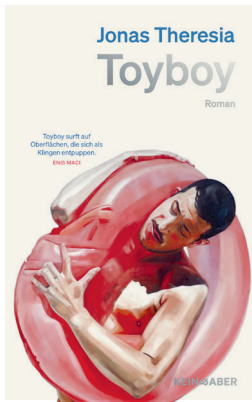
»Where the Wolf Lurks is not a thriller. But it's extremely thrilling. Human beings are thrilling when Ayelet Gundar-Goshen is the one writing about them.« ESHKOL NEVO

»Gundar-Goshen is adept at instilling emotional depth.« *NEW YORK TIMES*

Jonas Theresia

TOYBOY

Human intimacy in a decaying world



TOYBOY
Kein & Aber, Feb 2025
224 pages, Hardcover

World rights available

Levin and Gregor are brothers who couldn't be more different: one is outgoing, the other introverted, one has sex all the time while the other never does – which gets them both down. As an escort, in camshows and pornos – Levin sells his body; he never learned how to do anything else. He would actually like to be a model in LA, but now he is home, his career seems to be taking him in a different direction. Levin's family and friends are disappointed by his decisions too – particularly his brother Gregor. He spends all day online, killing virtual soldiers and fighting his own demons. They used to be so close ...

Levin puts everything on the line with a bold plan to win back his brother's trust, but which ultimately puts everyone in great danger.

A moving, melancholy, and surprising debut about our bodies, self-determination, and the attempt to create real closeness in a world that's constantly drifting farther apart.

»Two brothers, one problem: how can I overcome the limitations of my body? And what awaits on the other side? *Toyboy* skates over surfaces that turn out to be blades – sparkling and menacing.« ENIS MACI

»Jonas Theresia allows his characters closeness, precise and elegant, and uses it to create a tableau of our times like few others I have read. An unbelievably impressive debut.« MINA HAVA



© Bahar Kaygusuz

About the author

Jonas Theresia was born in 1995 and lives in Berlin. He writes prose, poetry, and essays and works with visual artists. *Toyboy* is his debut novel.

Dimitré Dinev

THE CREATION OF MANKIND

A multi-generational epic

DIE ERSCHAFFUNG DES MENSCHEN
Kein & Aber, Hardcover
approx. 1.000 pages

World rights available
English samples available

The Creation of Mankind consists of three narrative strands spanning one hundred years, beginning in Vienna on the eve of the First World War, when a servant girl tries to drown herself in the Danube. Her encounter with the man who saves her is the start of her own family history, which extends across several generations and is closely connected to the fates of two other families.

In his great new novel, Dimitré Dinev explores the big questions of how people co-exist, painting a sensitive and sweeping portrait of a whole century.

»As I read this novel, I laughed and cried. I was astonished by the wisdom of the writing and thrilled by the sensual precision of his language ... Dimitré Dinev is a wonderful storyteller.« ROBERT MENASSE



© Nurith Wagner-Strauss

About the author

Dimitré Dinev was born in Bulgaria in 1968. In 1990, he came to Austria as a refugee. He made his literary debut in 2003 with *Angels' Tongues*, which was received with great interest throughout Europe. He has spent the last fifteen years writing his new novel, *The Creation of Mankind*.

Yishai Sarid

THE PANELIST

Kein & Aber forthcoming



Am Oved, 2024

World rights available

The Panelist tells the story of Shai Tammuz, a veteran journalist who became famous at the beginning of his career thanks to his fresh writing and frequent television appearances. Over the years, however, his success waned, his columns were relegated to the margins of the newspaper, and he was almost forgotten. He feels that he is also losing the love of his wife Alona. When an opportunity arises to appear again on television, on the »patriotic channel«, he holds on to it as a lifeline. He is echoing messages dictated by the Prime Minister's office, inciting hatred and spreading lies. When war begins and his son is sent to fight in Gaza, Shai's life is turned upside down. A story of an ambitious man who is willing to sell his soul to return to the spotlight and regain attention. It is also a story about the lies that the rulers weave around us and their terrible results.



© Katarina Ivanisevic

About the author

Yishai Sarid was born in 1965 in Tel Aviv, Israel. He received prestigious literary awards, among them the Brenner Prize for Hebrew literature, Bernstein literary award, Levi Eshkol Prize for Hebrew writers, and the Grand Prix de littérature policière in France. Sarid finished his Law Degree in the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. He worked in the Ministry of Justice as a prosecutor, and has worked as a private-sector lawyer since 2002. Yishai Sarid lives in Tel Aviv with his wife Rachel, an intensive care pediatrician, and their three children.

BACKLIST

Lukas Linder

CHARLY BROM'S DILEMMA

An Unwanted Return to the Family Home



CHARLY BROMS DILEMMA
Kein & Aber, Sept 2024
288 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
English samples available

When Charly Brom, author and father, receives a mysterious phone call from his past about an unsolved murder in the village he grew up in, Charly panics and hangs up.

He finds he has no choice but to return to Neubad, where his mother and grandmother lead reclusive lives surrounded by memories, junk, and homemade cat portraits. When he learns that his mother is involved with one of the victim's friends, he decides to find out what really happened – and who knows what. But the deeper he delves into the web of lies and half-truths in which he himself is entangled, the further he drifts from the needs of his own family.

»Linder's style is swift, energetic and pithy. He has a knack for situational comedy, absurdity, and word play.« *BUCHKULTUR*

»This Swiss writer and dramatist has a flair for the tragicomic.« *DER FREITAG*



© Agnieszka Cytacka

About the author

Lukas Linder, born in 1984, studied Linguistics and Philosophy. Author and playwright, he has been honored with various awards, such as the Kleist Advancement Award and the 2021 Kassel Advancement Award for Comic Literature. Lukas Linder lives in the Zurich region. *Charly Brom's Dilemma* is his third novel.

Sven Pfizenmaier

BULLSHITTER

The new novel by the rising star of contemporary German literature



SCHWÄTZER
Kein & Aber, Aug 2024
288 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
English samples available

When Meikel agrees to accompany his friend Eddi on a crazy hunt for meteorites on the outskirts of Berlin, he has his misgivings. It wouldn't be the first time that Eddi's bullshit has thrown his life into chaos. What Meikel doesn't know is that this is only the start of a chain of events that will redraw the boundaries of his world. It's impossible to tell where the real danger lies – in his drug addiction, the ghosts from the former club scene or the moneygrubbing members of the Dental Association.

Sven Pfizenmaier's humor and acute observation hit home with the energy and momentum of meteorites. Before long we're asking ourselves: Who is telling the story here? And who is the real bullshitter?

»Sven Pfizenmaier can write – on all levels. As in his debut, his characters are brilliantly developed, each one a work of art...« *WDR 5 SCALA*

»From the very first sentence it's clear that this is no ordinary book.« *HANNOVERSCHER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG* on his debut novel



© Bahar Kaygusuz



Film rights optioned

About the author

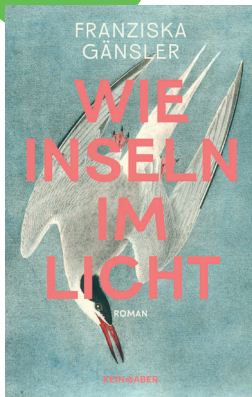
Sven Pfizenmaier was born in 1991. His novel *Draußen feiern die Leute* (*Outside the people are celebrating*) was awarded the Aspekte Literary Prize for best debut, the Kranichstein Literary Prize and the Hannover Literary Prize. Sven Pfizenmaier lives in Berlin.

Franziska Gänsler

ISLANDS OF LIGHT

A stirring quest through the past
full of grief and love

RECOMMENDED
BY NEW BOOKS
IN GERMAN



WIE INSELN IM LICHT
Kein & Aber, March 2024
208 pages, Hardcover

World rights available

When Zoey's little sister disappears, Zoey is still a child herself. Her memories of that time are fragmented and contradictory. Why didn't anyone search for her sister? And why did her mother act so strangely, as if her sister had never even existed? After her mother's death, Zoey travels to the Atlantic coast of France, back to the place where the three of them had lived happily together, before the night that changed everything. Here, Zoey begins to dig deeper. She immerses herself in the long forgotten and memories well up to the surface, slowly rising from the deep ocean of the past, appearing like islands in the light.

Suddenly Zoey is forced to ask questions that she has suppressed, had been forced to suppress, for decades. What really happened back then? Along with Marlène, whom Zoey meets at her hotel, she starts to uncover the secret of Oda's disappearance, while at the same time bidding farewell to her mother, who gradually emerges in a different light.

»In her second novel, Franziska Gänsler proves once again what an accomplished storyteller she is.« SRF2



© Bahar Kaygusuz



sold to
USA, Spain, France

Film rights optioned

About the author

Franziska Gänsler, born in 1987 in Augsburg, studied art and English in Berlin, Vienna, and Augsburg. In 2020, she made the shortlist for the Blogbuster Prize and was a finalist in the 28th Open Mike competition. After her highly acclaimed debut, *Eternal Summer* (*Ewig Sommer*), which was sold to several territories, she now released her second novel *Islands of Light*. Franziska divides her time between Augsburg and Berlin.

Simone Meier

IGNITED

On Johanna van Gogh-Bonger – the woman
who made Vincent van Gogh world famous

BESTSELLER



DIE ENTFLAMMTEN
Kein & Aber, Feb 2024
272 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
English samples available
Translation subsidies
possible

sold to
Netherlands (Meridiaan)



© Ayse Yavas

Art history student Gina, the daughter of an author who has tried unsuccessfully for the past twenty years to write his second novel, is young and pretty, though not very diligent. But then she stumbles across Jo van Gogh-Bonger. Jo was 28 when her husband Theo van Gogh died due to syphilis, not long after Theo's brother Vincent had shot himself. This tremendous love, which only lasted two years, resulted in one of the most spectacular success stories in the history of art, because Jo – whose marriage left her with nothing but a baby and hundreds of works by the unknown artist Vincent van Gogh – decided to make her deceased brother-in-law world-famous. And the young woman succeeded.

Fascinated, Gina follows Jo's trail, reflects on the similarities between her own family history and Jo's, and gradually blends the two into one. Eventually her preoccupation with Jo becomes a passionate and ecstatic novel about love and art.

»Simone Meier writes like an artist painting backwards: layer by layer she reveals the story behind the story – stylish, elegant and also a little bit magical.«
KATJA KULLMANN

»A new novel that has completed enchanted me. A feast, not just for Vincent van Gogh fans.« DEUTSCHLANDFUNK KULTUR

Chosen for
Books at Berlinale 2024



About the author

Born in 1970, Simone Meier is an author and journalist. After completing degrees in German literature, American studies and art history, she worked as a culture editor for *WochenZeitung*, *Tages-Anzeiger*, and since 2014 for *Watson*. She has won an array of prizes and grants. Kein & Aber has published her novels *Fleisch*, *Kuss* and *Reiz*. Simone lives and writes in Zurich.

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