

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 and wonderful classic writers alike. More than once we have published exceptional books that have become international bestsellers or were adapted into film and TV series.

FICTION



Simone Meier

IGNITED

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

A SWISS
BESTSELLER



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

World rights available
English samples available
Translation subsidies
possible

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. Shortly before that, 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



Chosen for
Books at Berlinale 2024



© Ayse Yavas

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.

Franziska Gängsler

ISLANDS OF LIGHT

RECOMMENDED
BY NEW BOOKS
IN GERMAN



WIE INSELN IM LICHT
(working titel)
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.

About the author

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

By the same author

Ewig Sommer (Eternal Summer), Kein & Aber, 2022, 208 pages



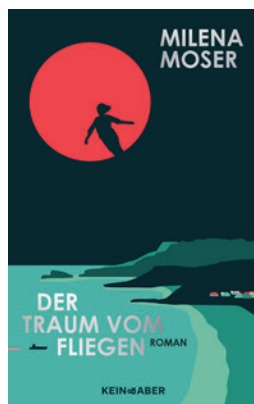
© Bahar Kaygusuz



Milena Moser

DREAMING OF FLYING

About growing up and gaining strength



DER TRAUM VOM FLIEGEN
Kein & Aber, Nov 2023
260 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
English samples available
Translation subsidies
possible



© Barak Shrama

When Sofia is taken by her fathers to the Los Pajaritos private clinic on the northwest coast of the United States, she is not planning on losing weight; after all, she put the weight on for a reason. Sofia wants to avoid losing her grip on reality at all costs, and her excess weight gives her support.

But she hadn't reckoned with the other residents at the clinic. Not with her roommate Emerald, who has decided to befriend Sofia, nor with Zach, who seems so strange at the beginning but ends up being the one who manages to see her for who she is.

Milena Moser's character Sofia, whom we already know from *Land der Söhne* (*Land of Sons*) and *Mehr als ein Leben* (*More than One Life*), is now twenty years old and the protagonist of the story. She finally gets her own book, because, as she herself says: 'I have more to say than all of you put together.'

» [An] entertaining and very imaginative novel.«
PETER TWIEHAUS, ZDF MOMA

»With Der Traum vom Fliegen, bestselling author Milena Moser presents a coming-of-age 4 of 5 novel that tells a very contemporary and touching story about the effects of the pandemic on young people.«
Barbara Geschwinde, WDR 5 Books

About the author

Milena Moser, born in Zurich in 1963, is one of Switzerland's most successful writers. In 2015 she emigrated to Santa Fe and now lives in San Francisco.

By the same author

Das schöne Leben der Toten (*The Beautiful Life of the Dead*),
Kein & Aber, March 2018, 176 pages
Das Land der Söhne (*Land of Sons*), Kein & Aber, May 2020, 415 pages
Mehr als ein Leben (*More than one life*), Kein & Aber, Feb 2022, 560 pages

Julian Schmidli

TIME OF THE SWIFTS

An entertaining debut about friendship,
first love and home



ZEIT DER MAUERSEGLER
Kein & Aber, Aug 2023
272 pages, Hardcover

World rights available



© Anne Morgenstern

Nino and Tschüge are outsiders. Teased by the other kids, they are two unstoppable heroes in their own world, like Bud Spencer and Terence Hill. Double trouble. Until the day they get cow dung thrown at them on the way to school. At least they have each other, but when Leila, the quiet girl from Kosovo, appears in the village, their friendship is shattered.

Fifteen years later, Tschüge asks Nino to accompany him on a bachelor's trip to Kosovo, where Tschüge and Leila's wedding is to take place. For old times' sake. But when they set off in Nino's tiny old Fiat 500 Giardiniera, they realise how different they have become. On a turbulent journey through the Alps, Italy and the Balkans, they explore the value of their friendship and the question of how many secrets it can bear. Like swifts, they are on the move, without pause, always at the limit, until at some point their hearts can no longer keep up. At the end of the journey, the world is still the same, but the two friends have changed forever.

After leading different lives, the two childhood friends find themselves on an adventurous road trip and uncover the secrets they kept from each other. A refreshing and humorous debut about distorted images of masculinity, the meaning of true friendship and the resistant feeling of love.

»Julian Schmidli has written a book that really tells a story. It's great! ...
A delicately portrayed male friendship.« NORA ZUKKER, TAGES-ANZEIGER

About the author

Julian Schmidli, born in 1985, grew up in Lucerne, is an award-winning investigative journalist and filmmaker. His debut novel is based on his own experiences and travels over the last ten years. He lives in Zurich.

Irina Kilimnik

SUMMER IN ODESSA

A remarkable novel about love, betrayal, and a Ukrainian summer in which the first major cracks become visible

RECOMMENDED
BY NEW BOOKS
IN GERMAN



SOMMER IN ODESSA
Kein & Aber, Februar 2023
288 pages, Hardcover

Word rights available
English samples available



© Simone Hawlisch

»The city passes us by, with its problems and hardships, with its beautiful facades that hide fear and insecurity, and with the people who both love and betray their neighbours.«

Irina Kilimnik's entertaining and emotive debut is about an unforgettable family and a city on the cusp of a new era.

Sometimes you only notice that the sky has long since darkened when you hear the rumble of thunder.

Together with her mother, her two aunts and three cousins, Olga lives in an all-female household, with the exception of her grandfather, who rules over everyone like a bad-tempered king. It's because of him that Olga has to study medicine – his instruction to her as the last-born girl. She manages to get through boring everyday life at uni only with the help of her Indian fellow student Radj and her best friend Mascha, who bring variety into her life. Things change when David, an old friend of her grandfather, shows up, carrying a long-kept secret. Olga soon suspects that it will turn her life completely upside down as soon as it comes to light. Will Olga get the opportunity to break out of her rigid structure? It's the summer of 2014, heat lies over the city, and carefree Odessa is facing a turning point.

»The wonderful thing about this novel by Irina Kilimnik is that it could be set only in Odessa and at the same time in any family in the world.« NDR KULTUR

About the author

Irina Kilimnik was born in Odessa (Ukraine) in 1978 and came to Germany at the age of fifteen, where she later studied medicine and media publishing. She is the author of numerous essays, book reviews and short stories, was a participant in the 18th Klagenfurt Literature Course and won two prizes at the MDR Literature Competition. She lives in Berlin.

Manuel Butt

SEAHORSES IN THE HANDS OF IDIOTS

A wild ride through the summer of 1996



ZIERFISCHE IN HÄNDEN
VON IDIOTEN
Kein & Aber, March 2023
384 pages, Hardcover

World rights available



© Igor Hartmann

Climb aboard and travel through Europe in the summer of 1996 with Tobi and his friends. Between empty Aquarius cans and packs of vanilla vla, a mix of Macarena, Brit Pop and the ringing of the Nokia Communicator in your ears, you too will realise: Freedom lies beyond the limits you set for yourself.

Summer '96: Take That have split up, the world is dancing the Macarena, and Germany's national football coach Berti Vogts is fighting for professional survival at the European Championships. There are also problems in the Schleswig-Holstein province: Tobi's parents are going on a two-week holiday. Fourteen days in which Tobi wants to sleep with Lisa for the first time, his driving test is going to take place and he is supposed to take care of his father's seahorses. None of it will work out: Lisa breaks up with him, her best friend Georg is annoying, and Tobi's uncontrollable friend Scholzen moves in with him.

When Georg receives a message from his mother in London, who everyone thought was dead, the four of them decide to hijack their driving school car and travel from the Baltic Sea via the Netherlands to England. Without money, without a plan, but with seahorses in the boot.

»A hilarious novel from comedy writer Manuel Butt.« DONNA

»Really funny and worth reading!« RBB RADIOEINS

About the author

Manuel Butt has been writing comedy for television for over twenty years. He wrote scripts for the series *Pastewka*, has been a writer for the *heute show* for ten years and won the German Comedy Award in 2018 as head writer of the satire show *Mann, Sieber!* Most recently he wrote for *LOL – Last One Laughing*. Manuel Butt lives in Berlin.

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

WHERE THE WOLF LURKS

Our kids are the biggest mystery of our lives

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



© Tal Shahrar

MORE THAN
400'000 COPIES
SOLD IN
GERMANY



About the author

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen is an Israeli writer and psychologist. She is bestselling author of the novels *Eine Nacht, Markowitz* (One night, Markovitch), *Lügnerin* (Liar) and *Löwen wecken* (Waking Lions), the latter is being adapted for a TV series in the US. She has written a number of screenplays, and her articles have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *The Guardian*. Her work has been translated into 16 languages. After having lived in California, Ayelet Gundar-Goshen now lives in Tel Aviv again.

Awards

Waking Lions is included in New York Times' 100 Notable Books of 2017.
Jewish Quarterly Wingate Prize (UK, 2017)
French WIZO Prize (2017)
ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2016) Berlin Today Award for the screenplay of the short film *Batman at the Checkpoint* (Berlin, 2012)
Sapir Prize for Debut Fiction (2012)
IEMed European Short Story Competition (Barcelona, 2010), 2nd prize
Gottlieb Screenplay Prize (2010)

By the same author

Lügnerin (Liar)

Ha-Schakranit we ha-Ir (Achuzat Bayit), 2017

Sold to: England, USA, Italy, Netherlands, France, Korea, Russia, Slovakia, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Germany

Löwen wecken (Waking Lions)

Leha'ir Arajot (Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, Dvir Publishing House), 2014

Sold to: UK, USA, Italy, Turkey, France, Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany

Eine Nacht, Markowitz (One night, Markovitch)

Laila echad, Markowitz (Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, Dvir Publishing House), 2012

Sold to: UK, Italy, Netherlands, France, Spain, Romania, Russia, Portugal, Brazil, Turkey, Slovakia, Germany

Saskia Luka

DAY BY DAY



TAG FÜR TAG
Kein & Aber, August 2019
304 pages, Hardcover

sold to
Netherlands (Noordboek)

Nominated for the Clemens
Brentano award 2022



© Katarina Ivanisevic

Three strong, wilful women suddenly find themselves living under one roof: Maria, who has recently lost her husband, her 17-year-old daughter Anna, who is researching her family's roots, and Maria's mother Lucia, whom Maria has brought to Bavaria from her small village in Croatia without proper consent. This constellation is already a challenge for all three women. But there's also a fundamental question that Maria can't shake off: if the love of your life dies and your only home is taken away from you, where do you start looking for a new one? A touching proclamation of love for life with its many uncertainties and sudden farewells.

»This heavy subject matter is handled with a light touch in the best sense and is filled with a love for life.« WELT AM SONNTAG KOMPAKT

»Day by Day is a sensitive and evocative exploration of what it means to have roots and a home country.« VOGUE

»Saskia Luka writes knowledgeably about roots, nationality, family, abandoned villages and the war in Yugoslavia.« BERLINER ZEITUNG

»A touching debut about how where we come from shapes the meaning of home — and what it takes to be free for your own future.« EMOTION

About the author

Saskia Luka was born in Cologne in 1980. After studying German in Bonn, she worked in the press and public relations sector and as a freelance copywriter in Berlin. Saskia Luka is married and has two children. Nowadays she lives with her family between Berlin and the Dalmatian island of Brač. She is working on a new novel right now.

Fabio Lanz

THE GUILLOTINE

Sarah Conti's Second Case



DAS FALLBEIL. SARAH CONTI'S ZWEITER FALL
Kein & Aber, Januar 2023
368 pages, Hardcover

World rights available



© Dominique Meienberg

Zurich's *Kunsthhaus* museum just won't settle down.

Sarah Conti's second case leads the investigator into the dark depths of Zurich's art scene. After the opening of an exhibition on the art of North Korean dissidents, the body of a woman is discovered in the new Chipperfield building of the Zurich *Kunsthhaus*.

The murder weapon: a provocative work of art.

The murder victim: a sharp-tongued cultural journalist who made more enemies than friends with her work.

The crime: an almost artistically staged execution.

The deeper Sarah Conti delves into the labyrinth of possible perpetrators, the more confusing the clues become. In her search for the murderer, the inspector is drawn into a world in which money and silence form an unholy alliance.

About the author

Fabio Lanz, born in Zurich, had a career in various fields before he discovered writing. He lives in Zurich and in Provence.

By the same author

Ein kaltes Herz. Sarah Contis erster Fall (A Cold Heart. Sarah Conti's First Case), Kein & Aber, October 2021, 336 pages

Pippo Pollina

THE OTHER

How a secret changes two lives forever



DER ANDERE
Original Italian title: *L'altro*
Kein & Aber, Oct 2022
480 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
Italian manuscript available
Translation subsidies possible



© Lena Semmelroggen

A profound novel about family, identity and dislocation that depicts how organized crime has been able to take hold of the very core of society and how much courage is needed to take a stand against it.

Leonardo Conigliaro, called Nanà by family and friends, is a practicing physician in Camporeale, a Sicilian village, where the Honoured Society has always been a powerful force. Frank Fischer, raised in Wolfsburg by a single mother, is a rising star in German journalism and renowned for his investigative research methods. Both men are born in the late 1950s, but seemingly have nothing else in common, until Nanà discloses a well-kept secret and is confronted with an old family debt. In reunited Germany, Frank and Nanà inevitably cross paths, and the ensuing decision changes both men's lives forever.

»Pollina, who is a singer and involved in the anti-mafia movement, knows what he's writing about.« DER STANDARD

sold to
France (Radici)
Italy (Squilibri)

About the author

Pippo Pollina, born in 1963 in Palermo, visited a conservatoire and studied law. Early on, he engaged himself in the Anti-Mafia Movement and worked for the magazine *I Siciliani*, which was founded by Giuseppe Fava. After Fava was murdered by the Mafia, Pollina left Sicily in 1985, and traveled the world as a street musician. Pollina, who is a long-time resident of Zurich, has earned numerous awards for his musical work, has recorded several albums and has performed on many big stages. *The Other* is his first novel.

www.pippopollina.com

Max Küng

UNKNOWN FRIENDS



FREMDE FREUNDE
Kein & Aber, May 2021
432 pages, Hardcover

World rights available

Filmoption sold to
Catpics



© Maurice Haas

Three families, nine people, together on vacation in France. The goal: to turn strangers into friends. But is it really that simple? With plenty of charm, wit and a keen eye, Max Küng writes about the smooth exterior of an imposed kindred spirit and stares deep into the abyss of what first appear to be fine cracks.

On the one hand, the invitation sounds perfect. Six days in a holiday cottage in France. A break from everyday routine, rounded off by apple-picking in the orchard, and homemade apple juice to take back home. On the other hand, the parents of Laurent, Quentin and Denis only know each other from parents' evenings. No wonder that behind the façade of this perfect holiday idyll, emotions quickly begin to seethe. Might the hosts Jean and Jacqueline have ulterior motives with their invitation? What about the strangely chilly mood between Bernhard and his wife, Veronika? Is Filipp as good a partner to his girlfriend Salome as his attractive appearance suggests? And what's with all the weird goings-on that even the perfectionist Jean can no longer ignore?

»Highly entertaining« BUCHMARKT

»A read as light as air, like fresh baguette.« MYSELF

About the author

Max Küng, born in 1969 in Maisprach near Basel, has been a reporter and columnist at the *Tages-Anzeiger* magazine since 1999. He has also been a DJ, amateur racing cyclist and theatre musician. Most recent publications are his column collection *Die Rettung der Dinge* (Saving Things) and his novel *Wenn du dein Haus verlässt, beginnt das Unglück* (When You Leave the House, the Bad Luck Begins). Max Küng lives in Zurich.

Sven Pfizenmaier

OUTSIDE THE PEOPLE ARE CELEBRATING

This novel will delight your imagination

WINNER
»ASPEKTE«-
LITERATURPREIS



DRAUSSEN FEIERN DIE LEUTE

Kein & Aber, March 2022
336 pages, Hardcover

World rights available
English samples available
Filmoption sold to
Schiwago Film

An exuberant, bold and strident debut about living in the back country and being different in an environment that has no place for outsiders. And about an owl that peddles drugs.

A normal village in Lower Saxony: a traffic circle in the middle, the city bank next to it, and the annual Onion Festival in September. But not everyone here fits into the staid structure of village life. Timo, Valerie, and Richard have been outsiders since birth. As gradually more and more young people begin disappearing across the country, the three friends realize they might not be alone in their desire to run off and break free. Together they set off in search of the missing, but what they find is something they never could have expected.

»Sven Pfizenmaier is a magician and a world wanderer. His subtle, hypnotic, yet incredibly funny novel seems to speak directly to the subconscious.«
ALINA BRONSKY

»The author is like that ominous and charismatic person at a party, who spins story after story full of gossip, and you keep listening to him, even after the beer in your hand has gone stale.« PHILIPP WINKLER

Sven Pfizenmaier

RATTLER

SCHWÄTZER
Kein & Aber, Fall 2024
Hardcover

World rights available

When Meikel accompanies his friend Eddi on a bizarre hunt for meteorites in the Berlin outskirts, he already has a bad premonition. It would not be the first time that Eddi's gossip has turned Meikel's life upside down, but he would never have guessed that this is just the beginning of a chain of unpredictable events that will push the boundaries between entire worlds. And, in the end, he has to decide which enemy he really wants to defeat: his own drug addiction, the ghosts in the former scene club or the members of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Dental Association?

After *Draußen feiern die Leute* comes with *Schwätzer* a hilarious and touchingly tragic story about meteorites, hauntings, friendship and other inexplicable coincidences.



© Svenja Trierscheid

About the author

Sven Pfizenmaier, born in Celle in 1991, studied German and English philology in Berlin. He was an open mike candidate in 2018 and received a scholarship from Literaturwerkstatt Graz. His debut *Outside the People are Celebrating* was nominated for the lit.COLOGNE 2022 debut prize. Sven Pfizenmaier lives in Berlin.

KEIN&ABER

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