

# Books That Travel 2021

## Current German Novels and Non-Fiction Books in English Translation

Good news! The Frankfurter Buchmesse has selected its *Books That Travel* for 2021. These outstanding German books in translation will travel to book fairs all over the world. The books transport English readers, wherever they are, to destinations as diverse as the Chinese and Russian empires of centuries past, present-day Silicon Valley, the pine islands of Matsushima Bay, and crowded refugee camps on Europe's borders. The books' protagonists include a street-smart prosecutor investigating Hamburg's criminal underbelly, young lovers in the anti-Nazi resistance, an eccentric pianist who hates the sound of applause, and a 106-year-old sorcerer who looks back on a turbulent twen-

tieth century. There are brand-new bestsellers, fresh translations of classic works, and rediscovered gems by authors who are relatively unknown to English readers (but surely won't be for long). Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's and young adult literature are all represented.

I'm thrilled to see the work of such talented authors and translators on this list. At the start of a year when so many of us are keeping our distance and staying close to home, we can nevertheless travel with these books.

Elizabeth Janik, Norfolk (Virginia, USA)

# Fiction

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## The Passenger

### Der Reisende

ULRICH ALEXANDER BOSCHWITZ  
Translated by Philip Boehm  
Metropolitan Books, 978-1250317148,  
272 pp., HC

Berlin, November 1938. Jewish shops have been ransacked and synagogues destroyed. As storm troopers pound on his door, the respected businessman Otto Silbermann is forced to sneak out the back of his own home. Fearful of being exposed as a Jew, he boards a train, then another, commencing a frantic odyssey across Germany. Beset by betrayed associates, Silbermann refuses to accept what is happening as his world collapses around him. Twenty-three-year-old Ulrich Boschwitz wrote *The Passenger* at breakneck speed just after the Kristallnacht pogroms, and his prose flies at the same pace. This remarkable literary discovery is newly translated into English by Philip Boehm.

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## Mexico Street

### Mexikoring

SIMONE BUCHHOLZ  
Translated by Rachel Ward  
Orenda Books, 978-1913193157,  
276 pp., SC

Night after night, cars are set on fire across the city of Hamburg, with no obvious pattern and no suspect. Until one night, on Mexico Street, a Fiat is torched—and this car isn't empty. It holds the body of Nouri Saroukhan, prodigal son of a notorious crime family. State prosecutor Chastity Riley is on the case, and the investigation leads her deep into a criminal underground that snakes beneath the whole of Germany. As details of Nouri's background emerge, including an illicit relationship with the mysterious Aliza, it becomes clear that these are no random attacks. A gripping, stylish thriller featuring street-smart heroine Chastity Riley.

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## „Microliths They Are, Little Stones“: Posthumous Prose

### „Mikrolithen sind, Steinchen“: Die Prosa aus dem Nachlaß

PAUL CELAN  
Translated by Pierre Joris  
Contra Mundum, 978-1940625362,  
330 pp., SC

This volume, edited by Barbara Wiedemann and Bertand Badiou, brings together the celebrated poet Paul Celan's multifaceted but comparatively unknown achievements as a writer of prose. The book includes early language games of surrealist inspiration and a range of biting, insightful aphorisms, as well as broken-off or abandoned narratives, stories, and dialogues with the background of his Jewish fate. The release of *Microliths* coincides with the one-hundredth anniversary of Celan's birth, and the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

## Fiction

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### Code Zero

#### Zero: Sie wissen, was du tust

MARC ELSBERG  
Translated by Simon Pare  
Black Swan, 978-1784163488, 432 pp., SC

Zero, an anonymous activist, has given the world a warning: Stop the tech giants before it's too late. But is anyone listening? Thousands of teenagers are signing up to Freemee, the biggest new social media site, uploading personal information in exchange for advice on what to eat, how to dress, even how to choose their friends. No one questions what Freemee is doing with all that data—until hundreds of users take their own lives. What will it take to bring down the Freemee mastermind, and who is up to the job? An unputdownable technothriller by international best-selling author Marc Elsberg.

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### The Eighth Life

#### Das achte Leben

NINO HARATISCHVILI  
Translated by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin  
Scribe, 978-1950354146, 944 pp., SC

At the start of the twentieth century, on the edge of the Russian empire, a family prospers. Its success derives from a delicious chocolate recipe, passed down for generations. Stasia learns the recipe from her Georgian father and takes it north, following her new husband Simon to St. Petersburg and the center of the Russian Revolution. Stasia's is only the first in a symphony of grand but all too often doomed romances that swirl from sweet to sour. This unforgettable family drama and epic tale of the red century has been translated into multiple languages and earned critical praise around the world.

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### The Piano Student

#### Der Klavierschüler

PIERRE JARAWAN  
Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer  
New Vessel Press, 978-1939931863, 230 pp., SC

*The Piano Student* depicts an affair between one of the twentieth century's most celebrated pianists, Vladimir Horowitz, and his young male student, Nico Kaufmann, in the late 1930s. As Europe hurtles toward political catastrophe and Horowitz ascends to the pinnacle of artistic achievement, the great pianist hides his illicit passion from his wife Wanda, daughter of the renowned conductor Arturo Toscanini. Based on unpublished letters from Horowitz to Kaufmann that author Lea Singer discovered in Switzerland, the novel portrays the anguish that the acclaimed musician felt about his never publicly acknowledged homosexuality and the attendant duplicity of his personal life.

# Fiction

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## The Unfinished

### Die Unvollendeten

REINHARD JIRGL

Translated by Iain Galbraith  
Seagull Books, 978-0857427359,  
300 pp., HC

Komotau, the Sudetenland, late summer, 1945. Four German women—seventy-year-old Johanna, her two daughters Hanna and Maria, and Hanna's daughter Anna—are expelled from their homes by the new Czech authorities. Initially separated from young Anna, the older women begin their trek to an outpost in Soviet-occupied Germany where they settle as farm laborers. Once reunited, the women's hope of one day returning to their homeland is both a source of strength and a burden, choking attachments to their new surroundings and neighbors. This conflict becomes the story of their lives, and the joy and ruin of Anna's son.

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## The Lost Writings

FRANZ KAFKA

With a contribution by Reiner Stach.  
Translated by Michael Hofmann  
New Directions, 978-0811228015,  
128 pp., HC

Selected by Kafka biographer and scholar Reiner Stach and newly translated by Michael Hofmann, these seventy-four pieces by Franz Kafka were long forgotten or overlooked. Two of the pieces have never before been translated into English. Some stories are several pages long; some run about a page; a handful are only a few lines long. All are marvels, culled from two large volumes of the S. Fischer Verlag edition *Nachgelassene Schriften und Fragmente*. This trove of brilliant, difficult-to-find writings is a windfall for every reader of German literature.

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## Ferdinand, the Man with the Kind Heart

### Ferdinand, der Mann mit dem freundlichen Herzen

IRMGARD KEUN

Translated by Michael Hofmann  
Other Press, 978-1635420357,  
256 pp., SC

Upon his release from a prisoner-of-war camp, Ferdinand Timpe returns uneasily to civilian life in Cologne. Having survived against the odds, he now faces a very different dilemma: How to lose his fiancée? Although he doesn't love the mild-mannered Luise, he is too considerate to break off the engagement himself. He sets out to find her a suitable replacement husband—no easy task, given the high standards of both Luise and her father, formerly a proud mid-level Nazi official. This 1950 classic by author Irmgard Keun, celebrated for her effervescent prose and representations of the Weimar-era "New Woman," is at last available in English.

# Fiction

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## Grove: A Field Novel

Hain

ESTHER KINSKY

Translated by Caroline Schmidt  
Transit Books, 978-1945492389,  
287 pp., SC

An unnamed narrator, recently bereaved, travels to a small village southeast of Rome. From her temporary residence she embarks on walks and outings, exploring the banal and the sublime. She recalls her childhood travels in 1970s Italy, and her fragmented impressions and memories combine into a mosaic of a bygone era. The book's third Italian journey takes place between Ferrara and the Po estuary, some years after the narrator's bereavement. As she walks along deserted canals and through abandoned seaside resorts, she comes to a sense of reconciliation with her loss. Written in a rich and poetic style, *Grove* is an exquisite exploration of grief, love, and the landscapes of Italy.

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## Michael Kohlhaas

Michael Kohlhaas

HEINRICH VON KLEIST

Translated by Michael Hofmann  
New Directions, 978-0811228343,  
144 pp., SC

Michael Kohlhaas has been wronged. First his finest horses were unfairly confiscated and mistreated. And things keep going worse—his servants are beaten, his wife killed, and the lawsuits he pursues are stymied—but Kohlhaas, determined to find justice at all costs, tirelessly persists. Knotty, darkly comical, and magnificent in its weirdness, this short novel by Heinrich von Kleist is among the most influential tales in German literature. First published in 1810, it has received a sparkling new English translation by Michael Hofmann.

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## The Third Walpurgis Night

Die dritte Walpurgisnacht

KARL KRAUS

Translated by Fred Bridgham  
and Edward Timms  
Yale University Press, 978-0300236002,  
320 pp., HC

Austrian author Karl Kraus was the foremost German-language satirist of the early twentieth century. He wrote *The Third Walpurgis Night* in immediate response to the Nazi seizure of power in 1933, but he withheld it from publication for fear of reprisals against the Jews trapped in Germany. Acclaimed when finally published in 1952, Kraus's work is a devastatingly prescient satire that skewers the Nazi regime's corruption of language as masterminded by Joseph Goebbels. This is the first complete English translation of a complex and essential work.

# Fiction

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## The Turncoat

### Der Überläufer

SIEGFRIED LENZ  
Translated by John Cullen  
Other Press, 978-1590510537,  
304 pp., SC

In the final summer of World War II, Walter Proska is posted to a small unit guarding a railway line between Ukraine and Belarus. He and his fellow German soldiers must submit to the increasingly absurd and inhumane orders of their superior officer. As their isolation grows, they are haunted by madness and the desire for death. An encounter with a young Polish partisan, Wanda, makes Proska question his oath of allegiance. Written in 1951, *The Turncoat* is the long-forgotten second novel of acclaimed author Siegfried Lenz. The manuscript was rejected by his publisher, who saw the story of a defection to the Soviet side as unwelcome in a Cold War context. Rediscovered after Lenz's death in 2014, the novel is a new mid-century classic.

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## Count Luna

### Der Graf Luna

ALEXANDER LERNET-HOLENIA  
Translated by Jane B. Greene  
New Directions, 978-0811229616,  
192 pp., SC

Alexander Jessiersky, an Austrian aristocrat who detests the Nazis, heads a great Viennese shipping company. After the outbreak of World War II, he refuses to confiscate a neighbor's large parcel of land. However, without his knowledge, his board of directors sends the land's owner, Count Luna, to a Nazi concentration camp on a trumped-up charge. After the war, a series of mysterious events convinces him that Count Luna has survived and seeks vengeance. Driven to kill the source of his dread, Jessiersky embarks on a years-long chase that takes him deep into the catacombs of Rome. First published in 1955, this darkly comedic mystery novel can now be rediscovered by English readers.

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## Kraft

### Kraft

JONAS LÜSCHER  
Translated by Tess Lewis  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux,  
978-0374182144, 224 pp., HC

Richard Kraft, professor of rhetoric, is unhappily married and badly in debt. He makes his way from Germany to California to take part in a remarkable competition. Investor Tobias Erkner has announced a one-million-dollar prize to the person who can best explain the question of theodicy in an eighteen-minute presentation—"why whatever is, is right and why we can still improve it." Author Jonas Lüscher's darkly comic observations about past and future, Europe and America, classical learning and Silicon Valley come together in a well-crafted novel about a man facing the ruins of his life, and his world.

# Fiction

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## Dark Satellites

### Die stillen Trabanten

CLEMENS MEYER

Translated by Katy Derbyshire  
Fitzcarraldo Editions, 978-1913097134,  
224 pp., SC

Award-winning author Clemens Meyer returns with a striking collection of stories about marginal characters in contemporary Germany. A train driver's life is upended when he hits a laughing man on the tracks on his night shift; a lonely train cleaner makes friends with a hairdresser in the train station bar; and a young man, unable to return to his home after a break-in, wanders the city in a state of increasing unrest. Unsentimental and yet deeply moving, the stories of *Dark Satellites* are as dark as the world, as beautiful as the brightest of hopes.

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## Moss

### Moos

KLAUS MODICK

Translated by David Herman  
Bellevue Literary Press, 978-1942658726,  
192 pp., SC

An aging botanist withdraws to the seclusion of his family's vacation home in the German countryside. In his final days, he realizes that his life's work of scientific classification has distracted him from the hidden secrets of the natural world. As his body slows and his mind expands, he recalls his family's escape from budding fascism in Germany, his father's need to prune and control, and his tender moments with first loves. The fascination with botany leads to a profound understanding of life's meaning and his own mortality. First published in 1984, *Moss* is the debut novel of award-winning author Klaus Modick.

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## The Joy of Sorcery

### Das Glück des Zauberers

STEN NADOLNY

Translated by Breon and Lynda Mitchell  
Paul Dry Books, 978-1589881464,  
265 pp., SC

As a young boy in Germany before World War I, Pahroc discovers that he has special abilities. He can lengthen his arm at will; he can absorb all of the information in a book by placing two fingers on its spine; he can appear to others in the form of a crocodile. He is a sorcerer, part of community that that also includes Emma, the woman he eventually marries. Turning to steel and conjuring money from nothing allows him to survive and usher his growing family through the turbulent twentieth century. Now, at 106, Pahroc is recounting his life for his infant granddaughter, his only descendant with talents like his own. His letters tell a witty and surprising story of resistance against the disenchantment of the world.

## Fiction

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### The Pine Islands

#### Die Kieferninseln

MARION POSCHMANN

Translated by Jen Calleja

Coach House Books, 9781-552454015,  
160 pp., SC

When Gilbert Silvester awakens one day from a dream that his wife has cheated on him, he immediately and inexplicably flees for Japan. In Tokyo he discovers the travel writings of the great Japanese poet Basho. Suddenly, Gilbert finds a purpose to his crisis: he is inspired to follow in the poet's footsteps to see the moon rise over the pine islands of Matsushima. Along the way he meets Yosa, a young Japanese student clutching a copy of *The Complete Manual of Suicide*. Together, the two pilgrims travel across Basho's disappearing Japan, one in search of his perfect ending and the other, a new beginning. Serene, playful, and profound, *The Pine Islands* is a story of the transformations we seek and the ones we find along the way.

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### Cox, or The Course of Time

#### Cox, oder Der Lauf der Zeit

CHRISTOPH RANSMAYR

Translated by Simon Pare

Seagull Books, 978-0857427366,  
224 pp., HC

The world's most powerful man, Qiánlóng, emperor of China, invites the famous eighteenth-century clockmaker Alister Cox to his court in Beijing. In the heart of the Forbidden City, the Englishman and his assistants are to build machines that mark the passing of time while capturing the many shades of happiness, suffering, love, and loss that accompany this passing. *Cox, or The Course of Time* showcases author Christoph Ransmayr's talent for imbuing a captivating tale with intense metaphorical force. More than a meeting of two men—one isolated by power, the other by grief—the novel is an exploration of mortality and a virtuoso demonstration that storytelling alone can truly conquer time.

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### The Coral Merchant: Essential Stories

JOSEPH ROTH

Translated by Ruth Martin

Pushkin Press, 978-1782275978,  
224 pp., SC

Best known to English readers for his 1932 novel *The Radetzky March*, Joseph Roth was also a gifted author of short stories and novellas. This collection of his most essential stories, newly translated by Ruth Martin, showcases his astonishing range and power. Forced to remove a bust of the fallen Austrian emperor from his house, an eccentric old count holds a funeral for it and intends to be buried in the same plot himself. A humble coral merchant, dissatisfied with his life and longing for the sea, chooses to adulterate his wares with false coral, with catastrophic results. Roth's unforgettable protagonists pursue lost ideals and impossible desires.



# Fiction

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## An Inventory of Losses

### Verzeichnis einiger Verluste

JUDITH SCHALANSKY  
Translated by Jackie Smith  
New Directions, 978-0811229630,  
224 pp., HC

Each disparate object described in one of the book's twelve stories—a Caspar David Friedrich painting, a species of tiger, a villa in Rome, an island in the Pacific—shares a common fate: it no longer exists. *An Inventory of Losses* is a beautiful evocation of twelve lost treasures that, taken as a whole, open mesmerizing new vistas of how to think about extinction and loss. With meticulous research and a vivid awareness of why each loss matters, author Judith Schalansky lets the objects speak for themselves. She ventriloquizes the tone of other sources, burrows into the language of contemporaneous accounts, and interrogates the very notion of memory.

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## The Sweet Indifference of the World

### Die sanfte Gleichgültigkeit der Welt

PETER STAMM  
Translated by Michael Hofmann  
Other Press, 978-1590519790,  
144 pp., SC

"Please come to Skogskyrkogården tomorrow at 2. I have a story I want to tell you." Lena agrees to Christoph's out-of-the-blue request, though the two have never met. In Stockholm's Woodland Cemetery, he tells her his story, which is also somehow hers. Twenty years before, Christoph loved a woman named Magdalena, a story with uncanny similarities to Lena's own relationship with an aspiring writer, Chris. Is it possible that the two couples are living the same lives two decades apart? Are they heading towards the same scripted separation? Author Peter Stamm is at his best in this alluring novel that questions the boundaries between past and present, fiction and reality.

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## The Hungry and the Fat

### Die Hungrigen und die Satten

TIMUR VERMES  
Translated by Jamie Bulloch  
MacLehose Press, 978-1529400564,  
400 pp., SC

Refugee camps in Africa are overflowing, and Europe has closed its borders. The refugees have no hope and no way out—and then an angel arrives from reality TV. When model and celebrity Nadeche Hackenbusch comes to film at the largest of the camps, one young refugee sees a unique opportunity: to organize a march to Europe, in full view of the international media. Timur Vermes, author of the international best-seller *Look Who's Back*, has written another bold and wickedly funny satire—this time, about the haves and have-nots in our divided world.

## Fiction

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### The Aesthetics of Resistance, Volume II

### Die Ästhetik des Widerstands, Band II

PETER WEISS

Translated by Joel Scott  
Duke University Press, 978-1478006992,  
336 pp., SC

The second volume of Peter Weiss's three-part novel *The Aesthetics of Resistance*, a masterpiece of twentieth-century German literature, is available to English readers for the first time. *Volume II* opens with the unnamed narrator in Paris, having retreated from the front lines of the Spanish Civil War. He moves to Stockholm, where he works in a factory, becomes involved with the communist party, and meets Bertolt Brecht. The affinity between political resistance and art is the main theme of this sweeping novel, which covers the rise and fall of proletarian parties in Europe from the late 1930s to World War II. Weiss suggests that meaning lies in embracing resistance, and that we must look to art for new models of political action and social understanding.

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### Elly

### Elly

MAIKE WETZEL

Translated by Lyn Marven  
Scribe, 978-1912854127, 144 pp., HC

Eleven-year-old Elly is missing. After an extensive police search she is presumed dead, and her family must come to terms with a gaping hole in their lives. Then, four years later, she reappears. But her parents and sister are plagued by doubts. Is this stranger really the same little girl who went missing? And if not, who is she? *Elly* is a gripping tale of grief, longing, and doubt, which takes every parent's greatest fear and lets it play out to an emotionally powerful, memorable climax.

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### Self-Portrait with Russian Piano

### Selbstbild mit russischem Klavier

WOLF WONDRATSCHEK

Translated by Marshall Yarbrough  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux,  
978-0374260491, 224 pp., HC

In a Viennese café, an anonymous narrator meets an eccentric old Russian named Suvorin. Once a Soviet pianist of international renown, Suvorin committed career suicide when he developed a violent distaste for the sound of applause. Over a series of coffee dates that are punctuated by confessions, anecdotes, and rages, a strained friendship develops between the two men. Soon it is difficult to tell who is more dependent on whom. Wolf Wondratschek's *Self-Portrait with Russian Piano* is a sly, engaging composition that asks whether beauty, music, and passion are worth the sacrifices some people are compelled to make for them.

## Non-Fiction

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### Europe against the Jews, 1880–1945

### Europa gegen die Juden, 1880–1945

GÖTZ ALY

Translated by Jefferson Chase  
Metropolitan Books, 978-1250170170,  
400 pp., HC

The Holocaust was perpetrated by Germans, but it would not have been possible without the assistance of thousands of helpers—state officials, police, and civilians—in other countries. If we are to fully understand how and why the Holocaust happened, the distinguished scholar Götz Aly argues in this groundbreaking study, we must examine its prehistory throughout Europe. Decades before the Nazis came to power, a deadly combination of envy, competition, nationalism, and social upheaval fueled a surge of anti-Semitism, creating the pre-conditions for the deportations and murder to come.

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### The Last Winter of the Weimar Republic: The Rise of the Third Reich

### Die Totengräber: Der letzte Winter der Weimarer Demokratie

RÜDIGER BARTH AND  
HAUKE FRIEDERICHS

Translated by Caroline Waight  
Pegasus Books, 978-1643133331,  
384 pp., HC

November 1932. The German economy is in ruins, and street battles rage between rival political factions. In the halls of the Reichstag, party leaders scramble for power and influence as the elderly president, Paul von Hindenburg, presides over a democracy pushed to the breaking point. Chancellors Franz von Papen and Kurt von Schleicher spin a web of intrigue, vainly hoping to harness the growing popularity of the Nazi party while reining in its most extreme elements. In a thrilling day-by-day account of the final months of the Weimar Republic, Rüdiger Barth and Hauke Friederichs document the collapse of German democracy and Hitler's frightening rise to power.

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### Time of the Magicians: Wittgenstein, Benjamin, Cassirer, Heidegger, and the Decade That Reinven- ted Philosophy

### Zeit der Zauberer: Das große Jahrzehnt der Philosophie 1919–1929

WOLFRAM EILENBERGER

Translated by Shaun Whiteside  
Penguin Press, 978-0525559665,  
432 pp., HC

The year is 1919, and an extraordinary quartet of philosophers has arrived at a crucial juncture. Walter Benjamin is trying to flee his overbearing father and floundering in his academic career. Ludwig Wittgenstein, scion of one of Europe's wealthiest families, declines the monumental fortune he stands to inherit. Martin Heidegger is carefully cultivating his career, and Ernst Cassirer applies himself intensely to his writing. The stage is set for a great intellectual drama, which will unfold across the next decade. Wolfram Eilenberger tells the gripping story of four of history's most ambitious and passionate thinkers, illuminating their brilliant ideas with rare clarity and economy.

## Non-Fiction

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### The Bohemians: The Lovers Who Led Germany's Resistance Against the Nazis

#### Harro und Libertas: Eine Geschichte von Liebe und Widerstand

NORMAN OHLER

Translated by Tim Mohr and Marshall  
Yarbrough  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,  
978-1328566300, 320 pp., HC

*The Bohemians* is the incredible true story of two idealistic young lovers who were leaders in the anti-Nazi resistance. Harro Schulze-Boysen had already shed blood in the fight against Nazism when he and Libertas Haas-Heye began their whirlwind romance in 1935. She, too, joined the cause, and soon the two lovers were leading a network of antifascist fighters that stretched across Berlin's bohemian underworld. Norman Ohler, best-selling author of *Blitzed*, draws on unpublished diaries, letters, and Gestapo files to spin an unforgettable tale of love, heroism, and sacrifice.

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### The Child in You: The Breakthrough Method for Bringing Out Your Authentic Self

#### Das Kind in dir muss Heimat finden

STEFANIE STAHL

Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer  
Penguin Life, 978-0143135937,  
352 pp., SC

We all want to be loved and feel safe to express who we really are, but over time we can grow estranged from what brings our purest happiness. Everyday traumas, unyielding social expectations, and the judgment of our parents and peers submerge our true self beneath layers of behaviors rooted in fear and shame. Psychologist and bestselling author Stefanie Stahl has helped millions of readers peel away these layers and reconnect with their inner child. *The Child in You* is an essential, step-by-step guide through her therapeutic method.

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### Darkness Falling: The Strange Death of the Weimar Republic, 1930–33

#### Fieber: Universum Berlin 1930–1933

PETER WALTHER

Head of Zeus, 978-1800242265,  
416 pp., HC

*Darkness Falling* is an enthralling account of the metropolis Berlin in the final years of the Weimar Republic. Peter Walther recounts the city's slide from democracy to dictatorship through the prism of nine unforgettable protagonists, including American journalist Dorothy Thompson, clairvoyant performer Erik Jan Hanussen, communist leader Ernst Thälmann, and Kurt von Schleicher, the conservative chancellor who ceded power to Hitler in January 1933. With the pacing and style of a cinematic thriller, author Peter Walther leads us into the irresistible maelstrom that finally swallowed the Weimar Republic.

# Non-Fiction

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## Charisma and Disenchantment: The Vocation Lectures

### Geistige Arbeit als Beruf. Vorträge

MAX WEBER

Translated by Damion Searls  
New York Review Books,  
978-1681373898, 176 pp., SC

The German sociologist Max Weber was one of the most astute and influential theorists of the modern condition. Among his most significant works are the so-called *Vocation Lectures*, delivered at the invitation of student activists shortly after the end of World War I. The question that Weber addressed was simple and haunting: In a modern world characterized by the division of labor, economic expansion, and unrelenting change, was it still possible to consider an academic or political career as a genuine calling? Damion Searls's new translation brings out the power and nuance of these celebrated lectures.

## Poetry

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### Sometimes a Single Leaf

ESTHER DISCHEREIT  
Translated by Iain Galbraith  
Arc Publications, 978-1911469704,  
136 pp., SC

Esther Discherheit is a talented creator of poetry, fiction, radio drama, and sound installations. Her work provides a unique perspective into German-Jewish intimacy with the fractured consciousness and deeply rutted cultural landscape of contemporary Germany. *Sometimes a Single Leaf* follows her creative development across three decades, including selections from three of her books as well as a sampling of more recent, uncollected poems. This is her first book of poetry in English translation.

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### Waiting on the Opposite Stage: Collected Poems

Warten auf der  
Gegenschräge.  
Gesammelte Gedichte

HEINER MÜLLER  
Translated by James Reidel  
Seagull Books, 978-0857426901,  
456 pp., HC

*Waiting on the Opposite Stage* is a personal retelling of postwar German history, and the communist spirit and pathos that gave rise to the Berlin Wall and its fall. Best known to English audiences for his postmodern play *Hamletmachine*, the dramatist Heiner Müller was also a gifted and prolific poet. This book collects over four hundred poems, including unpublished drafts and fragments, which Müller wrote between 1949 and 1995. Translator James Reidel carefully preserves the layout of the German originals, and he has written an extensive afterword on Müller's life and work.

## Children's and YA

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### Little Bear's Treasures

#### Der Bärenvogelschatz

STELLA DREIS

Translated by Laura Szejnmann  
Greystone Books, 978-1771646536,  
32 pp., HC

Little Bear is a treasure finder. And he finds the most wonderful things: a shiny button, a tickly feather, a cozy hiding place, a tree to scratch, and even a shy, soft piece of lint. The other animals, however, don't understand Little Bear's treasures. "Just junk," they say. Except for one . . . When Little Bear meets Little Bird, it's the beginning of a wonderful friendship. Poetic, affectionate, funny, and captivatingly illustrated, this gorgeous picture book is a treasure itself.

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### The Magical Bookshop

#### Der zauberhafte Wunschbuchladen

KATJA FRIXE

Translated by Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp  
Rock the Boat, 978-1786078667,  
176 pp., HC

Clara's favorite place in the whole world is a bookshop. Here, Clara can settle down and get lost in one of the many books, joke around with Gustaf the rhyming cat, and get advice from Mr. King the talking mirror. Not only does Mrs. Owl love to give out chocolate cake, she also has a book tip for every mood. But when an antiques dealer claims the mirror is actually his and tries to take it back, Mrs. Owl is distraught. Clara and her new friends must find a way to save the bookshop—and also Mr. King.

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### A Castle in the Clouds

#### Wolkenschloss

KERSTIN GIER

Translated by Romy Fursland  
Henry Holt and Co., 978-1250300195,  
336 pp., HC

High up in the Swiss mountains, an old hotel is steeped in tradition and faded grandeur. Excitement returns to its hallways once a year, when guests arrive from all around the world for the famous New Year's Eve Ball. Seventeen-year-old Sophie and the rest of the staff are busy, making sure everything goes according to plan. But unexpected problems keep arising, and some of the guests are not who they pretend to be. Sophie soon finds herself in the middle of a perilous adventure—at risk of losing not only her job, but also her heart. A witty and charming novel for young adult readers by bestselling author Kersten Gier.

## Children's and YA

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### Little Wolves

#### Wolfskinder

SVENJA HERRMANN

Translated by David Henry Wilson  
NorthSouth Books, 978-0735843974,  
40 pp., HC

While mother wolf is on the hunt, her four little wolves venture out of their burrows for the first time to find a night filled with new scents and promises. After befriendng a hedgehog, discovering their own reflections, and escaping from a hunter, they are happy to return home when their mother calls. Svenja Herrmann's beautifully written story is complemented by magical illustrations from Józef Wilkon.

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### Hans Christian Andersen: The Journey of His Life

#### Hans Christian Andersen: Die Reise seines Lebens

HEINZ JANISCH

Translated by David Henry Wilson  
NorthSouth Books, 978-0735843882,  
56 pp., HC

"If you like, I'll tell you the story of a boy who learned to fly." In an enchanted conversation with a young girl in a horse-drawn coach, Hans Christian Andersen shares his life's struggles, dreams, and triumphs. He weaves his tale with threads from some of his greatest stories. Author Heinz Janisch paints a sensitive portrait of Andersen and his literary work, and Maja Kastelic's illustrations combine the beautiful art of a picture book with elements of a graphic novel. A moving, inventive fairy tale about the life of Hans Christian Andersen.

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### Have You Seen Matilda?

#### Wo ist die Maus?

EVA MUSZYNSKI

Boxer Books, 978-1910716908,  
32 pp., HC

Where, oh where, can Matilda Mouse be? Edwin Elephant can't find her—until he, and young readers, get a big surprise! Meet Edwin Elephant. He's sitting and waiting for his best friend, Matilda Mouse. She's supposed to join him right HERE. But none of his friends, not Freddie the Fox nor Gabbi the Giraffe, has seen her. Where could Matilda be? Kids will love this adorably illustrated story about a sweet friendship with a funny, surprise ending.



## Children's and YA

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### Leo's Monster

#### Leos Monster

MARCUS PFISTER  
NorthSouth Books, 978-0735844179,  
32 pp., HC

When Leo, the city mouse, visits his friend Zoe in the countryside for the first time, he meets a huge and horrible monster. The creature is gigantic, has lots of horns, an enormous tail, and when it roars, the earth shakes. At least that's what Leo saw. Or did he? Zoe thinks his description sounds just like Berta, the sweet-tempered cow in the meadow . . . Marcus Pfister, best-selling author and illustrator of *Rainbow Fish*, tells a hilarious story of mystery, suspense, and just a hint of scariness.

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### Ida and the World Beyond Mount Kaiserzipf

#### Ida und die Welt hinterm Kaiserzipf

LINDA SCHWALBE  
Translated by David Henry Wilson  
NorthSouth Books, 978-0735844209,  
64 pp., HC

Ida Pfeiffer has a mind of her own. Although she lives at a time when girls are expected to be mothers and housewives, Ida dreams of being an explorer. She bravely sets off on her first trip around the world, an adventurous journey over land and sea, discovering faraway lands and meeting friendly people along the way. With expressive colors, dynamic shapes, and a simple but evocative text, Linda Schwalbe's debut picture book is a joyful tribute to Ida Pfeiffer, one of the first female explorers to travel around the world.

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### The Train Mouse

#### Die Zugmaus

UWE TIMM  
Translated by Rachel Ward  
Andersen Press, 978-1783449583,  
112 pp., HC

When Nibbles, an inquisitive young mouse, scampers onto a waiting train at the local station, little does he know he is about to be swept along on a cross-country adventure. Nibbles travels across his homeland of Germany, picks up a new friend in Switzerland, samples the delights of French cuisine in Paris, and finally ends up as the star performer in a circus in England! But then Nibbles begins to feel homesick. How will he find his way back home? Uwe Timm's delightful story is accompanied by pictures from beloved illustrator Axel Scheffler.

## Children's and YA

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### Peter and the Tree Children

#### Weißt du, wo die Baumkinder sind?

PETER WOHLLEBEN

Translated by Jane Billingham  
Greystone Books, 978-1771644570,  
40 pp., HC

Piet the squirrel feels all alone in his forest home. Luckily, Peter the Forester has the perfect plan to cheer him up: a search for tree children. You can't be lonely in a forest full of friends! As they wander, Peter shares amazing facts about trees, how they communicate and care for each other, and the struggles they endure. Soon, the little squirrel is feeling much better—especially when he realizes he's helped the tree children grow. This environmentally conscious picture book, written by acclaimed author and forester Peter Wohlleben, brings the majesty of *The Hidden Life of Trees* to the youngest of readers.

## Planning and Organisation

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**Planning and organisation:**

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Braubachstraße 16  
60311 Frankfurt am Main  
[buchmesse.de/en](http://buchmesse.de/en)

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