



# Foreign Rights Young Reader

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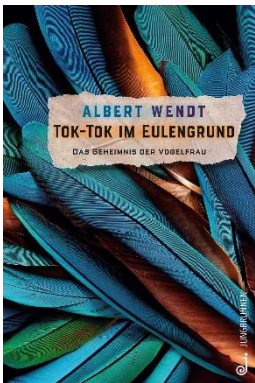
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**2020/21**



**Toc-Toc in the Owls' Site. The Bird Lady's Secret  
(Tok-Tok im Eulengrund. Das Geheimnis der Vogelfrau)**  
Albert Wendt

2020, 160 pages, ages 12+

Three female scientists live on an abandoned factory site, the Owls' site, and pretend to be homeless. They maintain a number of well-calculated deceptions in order to avoid detection. Only the children cannot be deterred and come to the site to pursue their activities. That is why the researchers need a bogeyman. A student friend, wrestler and now author of children's books, seems suitable. But which secret are they trying to protect? The women observe an extremely rare bird during reproduction and care of the brood. There's a secret about it that will only be revealed at the very end: Its plumage is like a magic hood. How this works would of course be highly interesting for the weapons industry, hence the strict secrecy. External threats must be warded off and the pitfalls of living together must be mastered.



**Chaos in your Head. Antonia – fourteen three-quarters)  
(Chaos im Kopf. Antonia – vierzehn-dreiviertel)**  
Michèle Minelli

2021, 232 pages, ages 14+

Graduation and then the film academy. This is the educational path that Antonia has to follow to get her dream job: She wants to become a film director. The only thing she would need for that is some order and structure in her life. But instead of supporting her, Antonia's mother Angi makes her life difficult. She doesn't think much of compulsory schooling or regular education. Her life is a tissue of lies which she adapts in order to impress her current lover. She makes it clear to her three daughters that nothing about the actual family situation must be revealed, because otherwise there is a danger that the youngest daughter, Pippa, will be taken away from them by youth welfare. Antonia feels responsible for everyone and tries not to let anything get out of control - until things get too much and she suddenly sees no way out for her own life.



## **The Coat (Der Mantel)**

Brigitte Jünger

2019, 220 pages, ages 13 and up

All rights available

Fanette, 14, lives with her mother in Paris. Her neighbour is Aron Schatz, 95. Fanette has been friends with Aron since childhood and learned German from him. A student stay abroad brings her to Germany, in Aron Schatz's former country. In her luggage is a pick-up for a lady's coat, which has outlasted the war and which Aron gave to Fanette before she left. While Fanette is in Germany, Moumouche, her school friend, takes care of Aron Schatz. The old Jew and the young Arab become friends. Aron begins to talk about his past and about the war.

In Germany, Fanette tries to find out what the coat is all about and what happened to Aron's relatives during Second World War. Actually she meets people in the village who knew Aron's uncle and aunt. And she meets granddaughter of the the tailor's, who made and kept the coat for Aron's aunt.



## **You Think the World Falls Apart, but it's Just You, Who's Breaking (Du denkst, die Welt zerfällt, und brichst nur selbst in Stücke)**

Armin Kaster

2018, 128 pages, ages 13+, seize 14,3 x 21,3 cm

All rights available

Leo's parents have just split up and Leo is supposed to live alternately with his father and his mother. However, as his parents focus on their ego trips and are out and about, they don't notice that Leo has been commuting alone between their empty apartments for quite a while. He hangs around with his friends Sami and Luk, they smoke weed and get drunk. Leo hardly sleeps. In shorter and shorter intervals he sees videos on his mobile phone which he has never filmed that way. Is somebody hacking his phone? Is somebody stalking him? Leo's life becomes more and more oppressive, he loses himself between delusion and reality to find himself again in the end.



## **The Sky took its Birds and Went Away**

### **(Der Himmel hat seine Vögel genommen und ist gegangen)**

Armin Kaster

2020, 282 pages, ages 14+, seize 14,3 x 21,3 cm

The 16-year-old twins Karl and Jim have grown up with Frida, almost like siblings. They spend the holidays with their parents by the sea in Portugal. But nothing is the same as it always was: the innocent friendship of the children is changing, a new form for their relationship has yet to be found. This makes them insecure, frightened and carries the risk of losing the intimate relationship between them altogether. Sexuality has become important, but who wants/does what with whom? On the beach the three meet Lilli, a student, Karl falls in love with. Frida plays with Jim and Karl and is constantly on the edge between sisterly love and sexual coquetry. Secrets, confusion and jealousy keep the teenagers busy even long after they've returned home to Düsseldorf. But finally the transformation succeeds and in the end Karl, Jim and Frida find each other in a new stability: reliable yet independent.

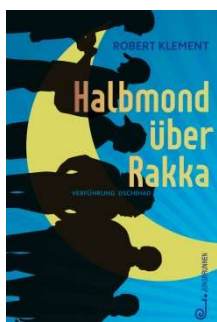


## **Winter's Eye (Winterauge)**

Armin Kaster

2017, 168 pages, ages 14 and up, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
All rights available

Arthur, 15, is bored by the prosperous society and rebellious. His mother and his grandfather Moscho are the persons who most likely get a connection with him. When his mother who suffers from a heart disease dies, his father behaves rather helplessly towards his son. In the English boarding school Arthur becomes more and more an outsider, he acts aggressively towards school colleagues and teachers. In the Christmas holidays he flies home earlier than announced and goes to an apartment of his grandfathers, who gave Arthur the key "just in case". There he only leaves his belongings and then lives on the street for the following week – he sleeps between garbage bags in the cold, does not eat, starts a fight with the homeless. For a long time his heart has been icy, surrounded by glass walls. In order to feel something again, he takes ever more extreme actions.



## **Crescent Above Rakka. Seduction Jihad (Halbmond über Rakka. Verführung Dschihad)**

Robert Klement

2016, 144 pages, ages 13 and up, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
All rights available

Nico's former girlfriend, Leila, has run away from home and went to the Jihad to Syria. How could this happen? No classmate had noticed any particular change in her behaviour. When Nico makes some investigations, he meets Ahmed in a mosque, a teenager with whom he used to play football. Ahmed and his friends are nice and he likes to spend time with them. Nico falls deeper and deeper into the net of radical Islamists and at the same time he is targeted by the state security. Ahmed and he decide also to travel to Syria, but Nico's mother stops him by hiding his passport. So Ahmed travels alone. He stays in contact with Nico and sends enthusiastic e-mails from Rakka. But the situation is changing and soon it is no longer clear to Ahmed whether the enemy is coming from outside or is within ISIS.



## **70 Miles to Paradise (70 Meilen zum Paradies)**

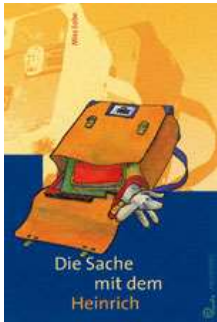
Robert Klement

2006; 144 pages, ages 13 +, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
Rights sold: Albania, Denmark, Korea, Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain

Together with other African refugees, Siad, a young male nurse from Somalia, and his daughter Shara are waiting in Tunisia to be smuggled to Europe. Their destination is the island of Lampedusa, just 70 miles away, the door to a future which will bring them safety and prosperity. Or so they hope. At last the journey begins. Together with 55 other refugees Siad and Shara crowd on a small decrepit boat. The journey turns into a nightmare: The motor breaks down and three passengers are washed

overboard during a storm. When the refugees are finally picked up by the Italian coast-guard, emaciated people half-dead with thirst stagger from board.

The longed-for paradise turns out to be a refugee camp. There they have to wait under inhuman and degrading conditions until it is decided whether they are allowed to immigrate or not. Siad and Shara are dreaming of going to Canada, where Siad could find work as a nurse.



## **The Thing About Heinrich (Die Sache mit dem Heinrich)**

Mira Lobe

1989, 128 pages, ages 12 +, seize 14,3 x 21,3 cm

Rights sold: Slovenia, Korea, PR China

In the dressing room of the gym, Julia notices that Heinrich, one of her classmates, is covered with streams and bruises. „He’s been beaten once again by his father“ is the only comment Sabine, Julia’s best friend, makes.

Julia, however, isn’t at all of the opinion that adults are allowed to do anything they want with their children, but she is the only one. She decides to help Heinrich - even without any help.



### **Will It Happen Today? Will It Happen Now? (Passiert es heute? Passiert es jetzt?)**

Michèle Minelli

2018, 176 pages, ages 13 and up, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
All rights available

Wolfgang is brought to the closed juvenile psychiatry ward by the police. In his conversations with the psychologist, the image of a family completely dominated by the tyrannical father slowly emerges. Wolfgang has always tried to protect his mother and younger sister Leonie. But the means by which the father suppresses his family become increasingly drastic until he even threatens them with his army weapon. One day, Leonie holds the gun in her hand – and then something terrible happens.



### **Not the Ideal Picture Book Girl (Nicht so das Bilderbuchmädchen)**

Agnes Ofner

2019, 180 pages, ages 12 and up  
All rights available

Across the street from Zara's lives Sam. She can see exactly into his room. Sam often cries, and that worries Zara so much that she thinks about how she could help. With "Hello I'm Zara" on three slips of paper in the window, a cautious contact begins across the street. The two of them get to know each other better via their messages, but Sam quickly realizes that he needs distance and does not want to meet Zara. She has other things to do anyway: she wants to get Josef's heart, and with Miriam, her best friend, it is just difficult.

Sam lives a secluded life, because he does not feel at home in his body – which is a girl's body and this becomes more visible with each passing day.

In the end, Zara almost kills her first boyfriend with peanuts and ends up in the hospital where Sam and his parents are waiting for a medical consultation. And then, while still nothing is easy, Zara slowly understands what Sam's problem is.



### **Life Sometimes Simply Turns Round (Manchmal dreht das Leben einfach um)**

Kathrin Steinberger

2015, 280 pages, ages 12 and up, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
All rights available

Ali is highly gifted and therefore a little exotic for her classmates. One day the young skater Kevin moves into the neighbouring house. He had to end his pro career because of a serious accident.

Ali gets to know Kevin, they meet for skiing and he teaches her snowboarding. When his skater friends come to visit, Ali for the first time in her life does not feel like an outsider among other young people. Kevin and she fall in love and experience both their first relationship. But Ali senses that Kevin distances himself again and again.

Then suddenly he is gone. He does not respond to Ali's calls, sends only one SMS. Ali is desperate. When Kevin finally returns, he does not only explain his disappearance, it also becomes evident why he had been so reserved. Then Ali begins to study, Kevin goes into the business of a skater friend and life turns round- and round again.





### **The Other Ann (Die andere Anna)**

Rachel van Kooij

2014, 184 pages, ages 13 +, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
All rights available

Ann and Tamara grow up with foster-parents. This works out well until Tamara wants to know more about her origin and her bodily parents. The foster-parents give evasive answers. And the folders in which the documents of the girls are stored, stay locked in a drawer. Ann too becomes curious – who is that other woman, that mother, who gave her away when she was a child? And who was this other Ann she can't even remember? Slowly she starts to put together all the jigsaw pieces until she gets a clearer picture: a child was removed from a very young mother by the youth welfare office. And although she tried hard she didn't get it back.



### **No Dog's Life for Bartolomé (Kein Hundeleben für Bartolomé)**

Rachel van Kooij

2003; 180 pages, ages 11 +, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
Rights sold: Ireland, Japan, Korea, Spain

Spain, in the 17th century. Bartolomé, who is very small and crippled, happens to tumble right in front of the carriage of the Spanish infanta Margarita. The infanta is intrigued by the crippled boy and wants to have him as a toy, as her "human puppy". Bartolomé is forced to leave his family, is dressed up as a dog and taught to behave like one, too. Andrés, a young painter, paints him a dog's face. There is envy and jealousy among the other dwarfs at the court, and Bartolomé finds it hard to hold his own in this environment. Andrés feels pity with the child, and they begin to make friends with each other. Bartolomé spends a lot of the time he is not required by the infanta in the painters' studio, where he first learns to mix the paints and eventually is even allowed to create his own picture. The painters are thrilled by the boy's talent and try to save him from his role as "human puppy".



### **The Sinking of the Batavia (Der Kajütenjunge des Apothekers)**

Rachel van Kooij

2005; ca. 296 pages, ages 13 +, size 14,3 x 21,3 cm  
Rights sold: Korea

In the autumn of 1628, a fleet of the East India Company is on its way from Holland to the East Indies. The flagship Batavia, however, never reaches its destination – it runs aground a reef off the Australian coast and sinks.

One of those on board is sixteen-year-old Jan, a freshly signed-on sailor, who is put under psychological pressure by the second merchant Jeronimus Cornelis, a calculating and unscrupulous man. After the Batavia is shipwrecked, the captain and the chief merchant Fransisco Pelsaert sail on in a lifeboat in order to get help. The other members of the crew manage to save themselves onto a small group of islands. The newly-gained safety, however, turns out to be deceptive. Cornelis seizes power and sets up a terror regime which nobody can escape. Jan, too, is drawn into the maelstrom of violence and oppression. At the end he is fighting for his bare life.

The novel is based on historical facts, thoroughly researched by