Foreign Rights

Young Readers

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NEW

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Happy End is for Cowards
(Happy End ist was für Feiglinge)

Text: Werner Rohner

2026, ca. 240 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
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You can't buy bravery, especially if your fear is without reason and always creeps out in the wrong moments; at least that's the case for Mickie. After an accident he meets Lorna who stands up to the world at any given opportunity. Those opportunities are scarce though because she won't live much longer. She takes Mickie along with her and shows him why fear and bravery are not contradictory and why living life to the fullest always pays off. Mickie and Lorna are more than an unconventional friendship, they are a connection without odds, they're a tingle, a tension, a feeling that goes beyond limits – a duo literature has been waiting for.

- between friendship and love
- overcoming fear and having courage to live
- Which body is actually "normal"?

Backlist





what nobody gets (was keiner kapiert)

Michael Hammerschmid, illustrated by Barbara Hoffmann

2024, 204 pages, ages 13+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

sometimes the day is too long. too short. too empty. too flickering.
and what am i supposed to become, everything or nothing? am i a winged ego, more essential? am old and young, am strange and gentle. the others are there, sometimes strange, sometimes close.
and yet, does anyone understand me?
what nobody gets is captured in michael hammerschmid's poems in all its splendour, in many facets and with merciless accuracy, poetically and with an irrepressible sense of rhythm. the beat in your ears, the beat in your heart, always with barbara hoffmann's original lines at your side.



Simply More Air (Einfach mehr Luft)

Alexandra Holmes

2023, 144 pages, ages 13+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

His horse means a lot to 15-year-old Ben and he has a close friendship with Toni, who plays in a band with him. The visits to his great-grandmother are exciting for Ben, because the witty old lady tells him a story every time. Special events from contemporary history come to life in it: Ben's great-grandfather was a resistance fighter, his great-uncle protested against a Nazi professor at the University of Vienna in the 1960s; his grandfather had to flee with his parents as a child and his uncle has a weakness for all things military ... On his great-grandmother's 100th birthday, the whole family comes together, and of course there is plenty of tension. And time and again Ben needs simply more air.

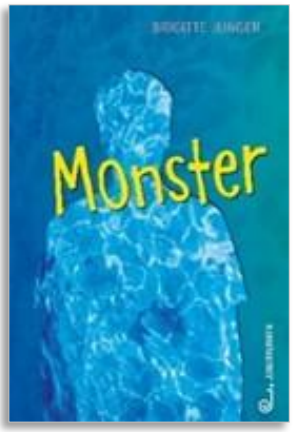


The Coat (Der Mantel)

Brigitte Jünger

2019, 220 pages, ages 13+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
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 tailor's, who made and kept the coat for Aron's aunt.



Monster

Brigitte Jünger

2021, 168 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

Everything around him is still the same as before: everyday life with his mother, the routes through the city, school, classmates, the theatre group. But Felix has changed since his swimming coach crossed a line that no one is allowed to cross without consent. Felix was blindsided and since then he feels dirty, worthless and unlovable. The memory haunts him like a monster that appears when he least expects it.
Felix desperately must keep secret what has happened, he feels ashamed. He withdraws from the people around him and when friends get close to him, he becomes aggressive. Only with his schoolmate Alva and with his grandparents he feels safe. But the monster won't rest until Felix's secret comes to light.



Pact of the Crows (Pakt der Krähen)

Brigitte Jünger

2023, 144 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

Since the loss of his best friend, Oke trails off. Zachy, on the other hand, does everything to get his father on his side; but he lets Zachy down, again and again. Together they found the “Crows”, a loose community of young people who want more out of life. No money, no opportunities: That can be changed. The Crows help the neighbours and get something in return - or pull the money out of their pockets, a simple business model. Until the situation escalates and Zachy locks Oke in an abandoned bunker – because there is no other option after all?



The Mysterious Life of the Toads (Das geheimnisvolle Leben der Kröten)

Armin Kaster

2022, 176 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

In Fee's family, present connections must be questioned when secrets of past relationships come to light. At some point, everyone involved has lived in the Mühlbach valley, and after rifts and conflicts, some have moved away from there. Olga with her children Fee and Hugo to the city, Fee's father, Zoran, with Nica, his new partner, to Holland. Hugo's father, Finn, has stayed. Then Olga's grandfather calls the family to Mühlbach valley to tell a long overdue truth. Fee doesn't like this at all, she would rather go to school and spend the weekend with Zoran in Holland. But she has to come to terms with her patchwork family, its secrets, different places where loved ones live, new contacts and in the end even a move to the country. For they all go their own ways, but like toads they sooner or later return to the Mühlbach valley.



The Dream of the Green Parrots (Der Traum der grünen Papageien)

Armin Kaster

2024, 204 pages, ages 11+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
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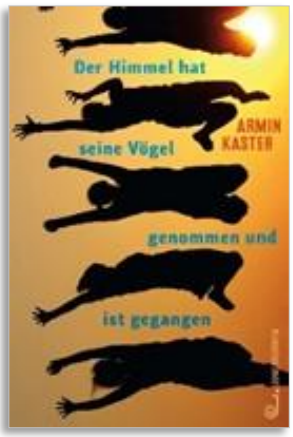
Suddenly the new boy appears at the classroom door and Hannes realizes that this is not just anybody. But it's not so easy to build a friendship when your own father is averse to anything foreign and actively opposes it. Kaido has moved into the old nail factory and impresses Hannes with his craftsmanship and his cheerful family. Kaido, on the other hand, is comforted by the green parrots - parrots that were already by his side in the city and now live in the tree next to his new home. Hannes shows him his Mühlbach valley and avoids his own complicated family. His feelings become more and more intense – is he in love with Kaido? And how does this fit into the rural understanding of a relationship? Who is open to new things and what should these new things look like?
At last, the much-awaited loose sequel to “The Mysterious Life of Toads”, masterfully written and directed by Armin Kaster.

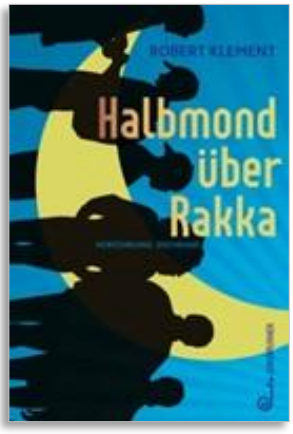


The Sky Took ist Birds and Went Away (Der Himmel hat seine Vögel genommen und ist gegangen)

Armin Kaster

2020, 282 pages, ages 14+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

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.



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

Robert Klement

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

Nicos 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.

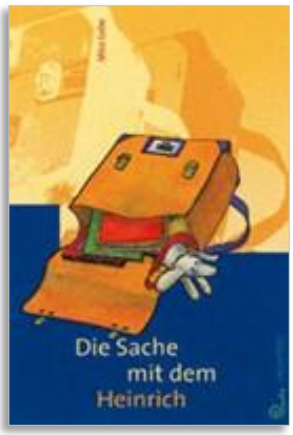


70 Miles to Paradise (70 Meilen zum Paradies)

Robert Klement

2006, 144 pages, ages 13+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
Rights sold: Albania, Brazil, 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 coastguard, 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+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
Rights sold: Korea, PR China, Slovenia

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.



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

Michèle Minelli

2021, 232 pages, ages 14+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

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.



No One Stays Behind
(Keiner bleibt zurück)
Michèle Minelli

2025, 224 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

13 teenagers of a school class with vastly different problems and their considerations what to do after compulsory school. In the whirlwind of exotic career aspirations, concrete visions, ideas and lack of those they feel one thing above all: fear. Fear not to make it or to make it and having made a mistake, to not satisfy their parents or even their own demands. Their teacher guides them, their parents sometimes more, sometimes less. Could friendship and solidarity offer a way out of this? And how can these young people cope with stress and compensation mechanisms?



Will It Happen Today? Will It Happen Now?
(Passiert es heute? Passiert es jetzt?)
Michèle Minelli

2018, 176 pages, ages 13+, size 21,3 x 14,3 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+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
Rights sold: Egypt

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 Around
(Manchmal dreht das Leben einfach um)

Kathrin Steinberger

2015, 280 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 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 message. Ali is desperate. When Kevin finally returns, he does not only explain his disappearance, but 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.



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

Rachel van Kooij

2003, 180 pages, ages 11+, size 21,3 x 14,3 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".



No One Else Like Me? (Niemand so wie ich?)

Rachel van Kooij

2024, 232 pages, ages 11+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

Eleven-year-old Niki is an intersex child and worries much less about this than Niki's parents do. One day, a stranger turns up at the door and causes chaos in the family. Niki is drawn into the matter and gets to know her Uncle Raimund. He has been in prison for ten years, with no contact with his family, and is now lonely and sad. Niki looks after Raimund – knowing what it's like not to correspond to the norm, to be caught in the middle of two chairs and not always being able to trust your own instincts. In return, Niki's father gets even more upset, because he doesn't want to have any contact with his brother. A football match is supposed to save it all, but Niki's appearance in an all-girls team does not go unnoticed. And none other than Raimund stands up for Niki.



The Sinking of the Batavia (Der Kajütenjunge des Apothekers)

Rachel van Kooij

2005, 288 pages, ages 13+, size 21,3 x 14,3 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 the author.



The World's Most Important Stamp (Die weltwichtigste Briefmarke)

Rachel van Kooij

2022, 336 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
All rights available

World War I, Belgium. Twelve-year-old Thierry wants to take revenge on the German occupiers for the death of his mother and joins "the twelve most daring boys in Belgium". An attempt at sabotage fails and the boys are imprisoned. Thierry's grandfather is able to get him out, but the boy has to leave town immediately and is placed with his great-aunt in Geel. Here, people with mental disabilities have been living as guests in foster families for centuries. So does Albert, who is mentally unstable. He is excellent at drawing and works on the "world's most important stamp", which he wants to give to the Belgian king. Thierry incites him to draw the German troop movements and thus puts Albert in great danger. To save him, Thierry and his friend Elsie want to take Albert to the neutral Netherlands – but the border is secured by soldiers and the electric "death wire" ...



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

Albert Wendt

2020, 160 pages, ages 12+, size 21,3 x 14,3 cm
Rights sold: Slovenia

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.