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Our Agents
What does it mean to be a good father? Precise, brave and powerful. Bjerg’s new novel tells of a father’s struggle against the demons of the past.

His previous novel Auerhaus has sold over 300,000 copies. Serpentines

A father is taking his son on a road trip. Their journey takes them back to the hilly countryside where the father grew up. The house he was born in, the church his parents were married in, the cemetery where his friend is buried. A permanent travel companion are the specters of his male ancestors, all of whom took their own lives: “Great-grandfather, grandfather, father. Drowned, shot, hanged.”

Through this journey, the father realises that his own life choices have not broken the cycle, nor did they bring salvation. As his last resort, he returns to where it all begun, hopeful that remembering will help. Because all he knows is: if you go back, you cannot cut corners. You must take all the turns again, if he wants to put an end to his family’s dark history.

Bov Bjerg is one of Germany’s most important contemporary writers. His new novel tells of a father’s struggle against the demons of the past. Only if he loves his son the way he was never loved, their journey can succeed.

“A radically narrated text, […] in a very refined way.” Hildegard E. Keller (Jury Ingeborg Bachmann Preis)

"An excellent text" Nora Gomringer (author)
August Unterseher had many opportunities to oppose the Nazi regime. He used none of them. *I Was There* is the story of an ordinary man, the son of a farmer, who stumbles into the darkness of his time. First, he is recruited by the Hitler Youth, then by the Wehrmacht. The end of WWII leaves him disabled and working on his father’s farm, until he volunteers to assist the Nazis at the Scholl siblings’ execution. At the end of his life, he tries to understand why everything unfurled the way it did. Why he survived, while others did not. Why he became an accomplice, while others selflessly died for their ideals.

Moving and thought-provoking, this novel boldly confronts the readers with the question: what would you have done?

"The text is fast-paced, crazily well-constructed and of a narrative power that does not even distract a brain rutted by Instagram and twitter from rushing through the chapters in an almost hypnotizing manner. He is asking the question that Georg Büchner himself could not answer: "What is it that makes us lie, steal and murder?""* Die Zeit
A story of survival. And the realization that life often has other plans...

Top 10 Spiegel Bestseller
Us on the Other Side

When Rahel Wald awakes from a fever dream, she can't comprehend anything at first. Where is she? Why is it so loud, and why is she hooked onto so many cables? Little by little, she begins to understand. She is in hospital and she has been in a coma for eight days. What follows are weeks of bad news, nightmares, and daily hallucinations involving waving squirrels. A comedy screenwriter, Rahel knows a lot about weird characters and absurd situations. But her journey back to life is a whole other game. Fighting her way back, she is forced to reevaluate everything in her life: work, relationships, love. Her eccentric but loving family are always by her side.

Anika Decker has the rare talent of combining humor and depth. You can feel her compassion for her characters in every sentence and in every scene. Her writing boasts wit and always packs a punch.

"If I were human, I would have cried several times while I read. A great book. Touching and funny, silly and infinitely sad." Sibylle Berg

"The chronology of two fights. The struggle for survival and the struggle for one’s own independence. Hard and brave and sad and beautiful." Helene Hegemann

Anika Decker is Germany most sought-after screenwriter and director. In 2007, the film Keinohrhasen based on her debut screenplay was an instant hit and became one of the 15 most successful German films of all time. Every film since was equally successful. She lives in Berlin. This is her first novel.
Kurdistan, Vienna, Ghana: three worlds, three lives, three rounds in the ring.

Let's go, Habibi

In Syria, war is raging, refugees are crossing continents and oceans to reach Europe, and societies are on the brink of turmoil. In Vienna, Lorenz is ready to fight. Training for the boxing championship, his only goal is to win. His friend Zain, a Syrian refugee, dreams of the perfect punch – the punch that will make him immortal as a boxer. Between the two, photographer Elena reports. She captures their unraveling - and their final fight. This is a brilliant portrait of our time. Robert Prosser gives the refugee crisis a name and a face. He creates room for the story of the individual. He helps us understand that there are real people behind what politicians call "crises" and "waves".

"This painful simultaneity [of privileged backpackers and refugees against their will] that characterizes our present, the novel knows how to capture it and finds images that stay with you for a long time." Katja Gasser 3SAT

Robert Prosser is an Austrian writer and poet. He studied Comparative Literature and Cultural Anthropology. He spent several years in Asia, the Middle East and Great Britain. Over the years he has received several prizes and scholarships. His novel Phantome was longlisted for the Deutscher Buchpreis 2017. He lives in Vienna.
The new thriller by bestselling author Marc Raabe!

Room 19

1800 esteemed guests watch a murder live on screen. The victim is the daughter of mayor Otto Keller. The murderer threatens that this killing will not be the last. Under immense pressure to solve the case, Tom Babylon and psychologist Sita Johanns investigate. However, the celebrity guests protect their own interests. Even the mayor has something to hide. At the crime scene, Babylon encounters a witness. A young, mute girl, whose resemblance to Tom’s missing sister Viola tears open old wounds. Things heat up when the daughter of another Berlin celebrity is kidnapped. Sita uncovers connections between the witness and the victims: a terrible event in their youth, and the number nineteen.

Marc Raabe has done it again. He masterfully combines a breakneck pace with a tight and gripping plot. Equally, he addresses bigger topics such as racism and the sexual violence in his characters’ backstories. You won’t be able to put this book down.

Rights sold to:  
Czech Republic (Dobrovsky) | Italy (Newton Compton)
A beautiful estate, lush gardens and a woman fighting for her place in the society of 1920s England.

The English Gardener - Blue Asters

Charlotte Windley is one of the few women working in London’s Kew Gardens botanical park. But when her father dies, she needs to find a way to secure her family’s livelihood. Against her mother’s advice, she marries wealthy German Victor Bromberg. Victor adores his young wife and gives her an extravagant gift: Summerlight House, a sprawling estate. Charlotte quickly makes a name for herself with her unique and beautiful garden design. But while she enjoys the lavish life of the English upper class, her heart longs for something bigger. She feels more and more imprisoned by her duties. Against all odds, she begins to assert herself as a woman – and the garden becomes her liberation.

This is the first installment in a three-part series.

Rights sold to:
Italy (Giunti)
An extraordinary young woman mastering life in the tumultuous 20th century – set in the dazzling world of fine porcelain.

New Shades of Blue

Lili loses her mother at a very young age. She grows up with her father Jakob, a Jewish merchant, who cares deeply for her. Through his tea business, he travels the world and tries to share his experiences with his daughter as much as he can. Day after day, their home is filled with Lili’s father’s international guests. Nevertheless, it isn’t until Lili meets Günther von Pechmann, the director of the Royal Porcelain Manufactory, that she finds a real home: the world of porcelain. But her dreams are crushed when Nazis come to power and she must flee Berlin. She spends her years of exile in California, consumed with guilt. Fifty years later, Lili is living in Berlin again. She stays home, tending her beloved Japanese garden. She doesn’t talk much about herself or her eventful life.

It is only when 18-year-old Anja, rebellious and curious, appears in her life that Lili finally opens up. Little by little, Lili tells her story. What secrets does a simple porcelain bowl, which Lili keeps close to her heart, hold? But Lili is not the only one with history. Anja, too, holds a secret.
A new case for Wyler and Grall. A gory thriller by crime writing wunderkind Lars Schütz.

Rapunzel, Rapunzel

A bizarre murder is making headlines: a dead girl has been found in an abandoned theme park. Her hands have been cut off, and she has been strangled with her own long blonde hair. For Profiler Rabea Wyler, this case hits close to home. An amputated hand was the only thing found when her sister went missing twenty years ago. With the help of her unconventional, rule-flouting partner Jan Grall, Rabea may be able to find the perpetrator. But it soon becomes clear that he is merely a puppet in a much larger game. And that the game has only just begun...

Hailed the German Chris Carter, Lars Schütz works as a copywriter for a large advertising agency in Düsseldorf.
Sarah Stankewitz lives with her boyfriend in a small town on the outskirts of Brandenburg. Since her debut novel in January 2015, she has given free rein to her imagination and is always on the lookout for new sources of inspiration. Music, candles and a comfortable workplace are just as important to the author as a delicious cup of coffee. Her stories reflect what she always hopes for in a good novel: love, passion and a pinch of humour.

Perfectly Broken

When Brooklyn leaves Manchester, she wants only one thing: to leave her painful past behind and overcome the death of her great love. Her new apartment in Bedford is her last resort. She’s so desperate for a new home that she even overlooks the fact that her apartment connects through a door to her neighbor Chase’s bedroom. Again and again, she hears noises and fragments of conversation from the other side. Brooklyn feels inexplicably attracted to the stranger next door. When Chase begins to write her messages and play her favourite piece on the piano, she is caught up in a whirlwind of feelings – because she has already promised her heart to someone else.....
The IS lured many young (underage) women from across Europe to Syria to help build the Islamic State. Leonora was one of them.

Leonora

From one day to the next, Maik Messing’s 15-year-old daughter Leonora disappears. Without a word of explanation. Until the day of her disappearance, Leonora lived in a small village in eastern Germany. She is a good student, she reads to old people in a nursing home in her spare time, posts makeup tutorials on Youtube. Then, suddenly, she’s gone. Her family soon finds out that she has travelled to Syria to become the third wife of a German ISIS terrorist. Leonora’s father tries everything to find his daughter and bring her back to Germany.

Maik Messing keeps in close contact with his daughter and tries to help her escape Rakka – attempts which fail, despite meticulous planning. But it isn’t her last attempt. After escaping successfully, Leonora and her two children live now under extreme conditions amongst more than 70,000 others in a refugee camp in north-eastern Syria. With the help of two journalists, Volkmar Kabisch and Georg Heil, Maik Messing tells the true story of Leonora’s journey.

Leonora’s story stands for many women across Europe. They were seduced and recruited by ISIS at a very young age. They leave in their wake many questions. How was Leonora radicalized so quickly? Why and how does an Islamic terrorist militia exert such an attraction on young people?

The book tackles difficult political questions of how to deal with returning ISIS recruits and how to address their prosecution.
If you want to understand our modern world, you can’t get past Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel.

The Worldphilosopher

In times in which social divides are deepening and black and white thinking rules, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel’s ‘philosophy of both’ is more relevant than ever. Eloquent, confident, and light of touch, the young professor of philosophy, Sebastian Ostritsch, offers new insight into the life and ideas of one of the last great systems thinkers in the history of philosophy.

"All things," writes Hegel, "are contradictory in themselves." Even today, philosophers regard this sentence as almost scandalous. However, Hegel’s aim is not to glorify contradiction, but rather to overcome it in a dynamic process. Whoever engages in his famous dialectic thinking is caught up in the rush of competing ideas, and ultimately feels the pull of reason. The truth of everything only reveals itself in relation to its opposite.

His ideas have inspired the works of Karl Marx, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Theodor W. Adorno etc. It is safe to say, that if you want to understand our modern world, you can’t get past this great thinker.

On the occasion of his 250th anniversary: a philosophical adventure journey into the world of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel.
Our democracy needs courageous citizens who act like heroes.

Democracy Needs its Heroes

Democracy is under threat. To save it we need people who can grow beyond themselves and motivate others to do the same, writes philosopher Dieter Thomä. People have always longed for heroes. But do they still fit into today's worldview? Yes, says Dieter Thomä. Referencing Barack Obama, Angela Merkel, and Emmanuel Macron, but also Berthold Brecht, David Bowie and Tina Turner, he picks apart the mythology of the hero, and attempts to understand what it can do for democratic societies.

Thomä argues against those claiming a post-heroic society and shows how lifeless a democracy in which everyone is equal can be. Democracy would do well not to leave heroism to fundamentalist and right-wing factions. Done right, it can encourage individuals who are committed to something greater than themselves to act. In the search for the right heroes - and in discussing what a hero is - a democratic society comes to know itself, especially in such tumultuous times.
Insight the world of international doping and sports corruption by internationally renowned investigative journalist Hajo Seppelt.

Hajo Seppelt is the investigative journalist when it comes to international sports. He has been exposing corruption and doping in the field for years. After revealing the state’s systematic doping practices during the 2018 FIFA World Cup, he gained international attention when Russia denied him a visa.

In this book, Seppelt talks openly for the first time about his explosive career. His stories cover shady German sports doctors, doping in the British Premier League and in European cycling, stem cell treatments in China, as well as Kenyans who undergo life-threatening treatments to excel in their discipline. Seppelt takes the reader to secret meetings with whistleblowers and exposes his opponents’ attacks on his life and on his career. Seppelt has dedicated his life to making sport a fair fight. For him, world-class sports is at risk of losing its credibility. He strongly advocates for transparency, for an independent and financially stable doping test system, and a democratization of sports federations.

Rights sold to:
Estonia (Aripäev)
A breathtaking journey into the world of the Vikings.

The Vikings were daring fellows who brought terror and destruction to medieval Europe on their dragon ships. They knew no boundaries, feared neither death nor the devil, and their only concern was the supply of mead – at least that’s what we think. But who were the Vikings really? The Vikings’ courage, the spirit of adventure and desire for freedom are legendary. But how did these rock stars of early European history actually live? And how did they shape our modern world? Thanks to the latest archaeological research, we are now able to paint a nuanced picture of these famous men of the North. The book offers unparalleled insight into a fascinating culture, and also reflects the great questions of our time: identity and belonging, mobility and migration, religious conflicts and struggles over livelihood.

While hit TV shows like Vikings, Black Sails and The Last Kingdom have made Vikings prime viewing all over the globe, this colorfully illustrated book fills the gaps in our knowledge of this mysterious culture and offers new insights.

Rights sold to:
Estonia (Aripäev)
He was a genius, one of the greatest composers in the world's history. He had esprit and humor. But he was also a man who fought a lot of demons. In this biography, Kirsten Jüngling unveils the man behind the great works of music: Ludwig van Beethoven, an extremely contradictory, moody and misanthropic man who lost his mother at seventeen and suffered under his authoritarian father. His private life regularly spun out of control. He craved intimacy but his relationships with women, friends and his family remained difficult until his death. Jünger paints a multi-faceted picture that brings Beethoven closer to us than almost any biography before.

The journalist Kirsten Jüngling is the author of highly acclaimed biographies about Elly Heuss-Knapp, Elizabeth von Arnim, Frieda von Richthofen, Nelly Mann and most recently about Emil Nolde. She lives in Cologne.
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