Film Rights Catalogue
Fall 2019
Film Rights Catalogue

Fall 2019

Frontlist ........................................................................................................................................... 3

I. Fiction .......................................................................................................................................... 4
   Bettina Balàka, The Pigeons of Brno ....................................................................................... 4
   René Freund, Swinging Bells .................................................................................................. 5
   Andrea Grill, Cherubino ......................................................................................................... 6
   Norbert Gstrein, When I Was Young ...................................................................................... 7
   Paulus Hochgatterer, Fly, Fly Away ....................................................................................... 8
   Michael Köhlmeier, Fairy Tales ............................................................................................... 9
   Rafik Schami, The Cardinal’s Secret Mission ...................................................................... 11
   Raoul Schrott, A History of the Wind or The Tale of the German Bombardier who Sailed around
   the World for the First, Second and Third Time ................................................................. 12
   Botho Strauß, Smiled in Vain Too Often ............................................................................. 13
   Tobias Wilhelm, White Asphalt ............................................................................................. 14

II. Non-Fiction .................................................................................................................................. 15
   Michael Martens, Worlds on Fire. Ivo Andric. A European Life ........................................... 15
   Michael Köhlmeier/Konrad Paul Liessmann, He Who Throws the First Stone. Mythological and
   Philosophical Damnations .................................................................................................... 16

III. Children’s Books .................................................................................................................... 17
   Stephan Beuse/Sophie Greve, A Penguin Is Looking For Happiness ....................................... 17
   Henning Callsen, Pelle und Pinguiny – Christmas in Danger (Volume 3) ............................ 18
   Amelie Fried, I’m Just the Mother Around Here .................................................................... 19
Rafik Schami/Gerda Raidt, Elisa, or, the Night of Dreams ........................................................ 20
Silke Schlichtmann, Mattis – Snip, Snip, My Hair Will Be Clipped (Volume 3) ............................. 21

**Backlist** .................................................................................................................................... 22

Alex Capus, Léon and Louise ................................................................................................ 23
Lisa Fittko, Escape Through the Pyrenees. ............................................................................. 23
Abbas Khider, A Slap in the Face .......................................................................................... 24
Michael Köhlmeier, Two Gentlemen on the Beach ................................................................. 24
René Freund, Love Among Fishes .......................................................................................... 25
Jayrôme C. Robinet, My Transition from White Woman to Young Man of Colour ............... 26
Frontlist
Fall 2019
I. Fiction

Bettina Balàka, The Pigeons of Brno

**Synopsis**

In an exciting, atmospheric account, Bettina Baláka tells the story of the infamous ‘lottery baron’ Johann Karl von Sothen, who exploited others to make a huge fortune through fraud.

When the pigeon breeder Wenzel Hüttler won a huge sum in the lottery in 1840, his neighbour in central Vienna, Johann Karl von Sothen, steals the lottery ticket from the dying man and lays the foundation for his fortune. Hüttler’s daughter Berta continues to breed carrier pigeons in Brno after her father’s death. Sothen first pretends to be in love with the poor young woman, then makes her pregnant and dependent on him – before marrying another woman. Against her will, Berta helps him defraud the lottery on a grand scale: when the draw takes place in Brno, bets can still be placed in Vienna until the horseback messenger arrives with the winning numbers. But a carrier pigeon covers the distance much faster. Johann Karl von Sothen, who was one of the most reviled men in Vienna in his lifetime, became immeasurably rich and rose through the ranks to become a member of the nobility. However, his day of reckoning eventually came.

**About the author**

Bettina Baláka, born 1966 in Salzburg, studied English and Italian and is based in Vienna after several periods of living abroad (England, USA). She writes novels, poetry, short stories and essays. She has published several books, plays and radio plays. She has won numerous awards, including the Theodor Körner Prize (2004), the Salzburg Poetry Prize (2006) and the Friedrich Schiedel Literature Prize (2008). Most recent publications are the novels Unter Menschen (2014) and Die Prinzessin von Arborio (2016) as well as the essay Kaiser, Krieger, Heldinnen. Exkursionen in die Gegenwart der Vergangenheit (2018).
René Freund, Swinging Bells

**Topic**: comedy about dating, love and sex  
**Setting**: living room  
**Time**: Christmas  
**Protagonists**: two women, two men

192 pages, publication in September 2019 by Deuticke

**Synopsis**

A misunderstanding occurs on Christmas Eve. All Sandra and Thomas want to do is sell their old bed – but Elisabeth and Leo have something completely different in store for them.

Sandra and Thomas have managed to escape their family duties and are looking forward to a Christmas Eve on their own. The only obstacle is that today of all days, a couple is coming to pick up their bed in response to an ad on the internet. When the doorbell rings, Sandra hopes to resolve the matter quickly. But the buyers, who introduce themselves as Leo and Elisabeth, have brought a bottle of bubbly and make themselves comfortable in the living room. Thomas doesn’t want to be rude, but at some point, he becomes suspicious that something is awry. A brilliant romantic comedy that plays on longing, desire and repression.

**About the author**

René Freund born in 1967, lives and works as a writer and translator in Grünau in Almtal, Austria. He studied Philosophy, Theatre Studies and Ethnology, and was a dramaturge from 1988 to 1990 at the Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna. His previous publications by Deuticke are: Liebe unter Fischen (novel, 2013), and his family memoir, Mein Vater, der Deserteur (2014) and Niemand weiß, wie spät es ist (2016) and the bestseller Ans Meer (2018).
Andrea Grill, Cherubino

An offer to work at the Metropolitan Opera and the Salzburg Festival – while finding out that she is pregnant with her first child: Andrea Grill has written a powerful novel about a singer torn between her child and her art.

The 39-year-old mezzo-soprano Iris Schiffer is a determined, self-confident woman on the verge of a brilliant career. She is soon to make her debut at the Met as Cherubino in “Le nozze di Figaro”, and also unexpectedly lands a leading role at the Salzburg Festival. But the news that outshines all else is her pregnancy. At first, Iris keeps it to herself, telling neither the two possible fathers nor her agent, especially as the Salzburg premiere and her due date are close together. Andrea Grill tells the story of a confident woman who only gradually accepts her pregnancy. She takes whatever she needs from the two men around her – the one a tenor, the other a politician. Because what really matters is her and her child. A strong woman, two men, a pregnancy and an opera career.

About the author
Andrea Grill, born in Bad Ischl in 1975, studied in Salzburg and Thessaloniki, among others, and received her doctorate in biology from the University of Amsterdam. She has been awarded the Bremen Prize for Literature (2011) and the Prize for Literature of the City of Vienna (2013). She lives in Vienna and teaches at the University of Bern. Most recently, Zsolnay published her novel Das Paradies des Doktor Caspari (2015) and Cherubino (2019).
Norbert Gstrein, When I Was Young

**Synopsis**

At the beginning there was just a kiss. But is there any such thing as just a kiss? Franz grows up in a backwater of Tirol and has to help his father organise weddings. He photographs couples »on the most beautiful day of their lives« – until one day, a bride dies at her party. Does it have anything to do with him? Or with the fact that he kissed a girl in the same place just a few weeks earlier? He flees to America to avoid these questions. But there, too, another death occurs – only this time, it’s Franz’s friend, who is also trying to balance possible violence with possible innocence. How much do we know about other people? Or of ourselves? This novel explores love and desire, independence and solitude, and asks existential questions with poetic precision.

**About the author**

Norbert Gstrein, was born in 1961 in Tirol, and lives in Hamburg. He was awarded the Alfred-Döblin and Uwe-Johnson-Award. His work is published by Hanser. His most recent novels were: In der freien Welt (2016) and Die kommenden Jahre (2018).
Paulus Hochgatterer, Fly, Fly Away

Synopsis
What does the “signet ring” mean? And the “game of musical chairs”? It is slowly revealed: cruelty, kidnapping and revenge. The masterful new novel by Paulus Hochgatterer thrills the reader at the highest literary level.

Summer has arrived in Furth am See. As the hotel terraces fill and students wait for their school reports, a series of worrying events begins. Violent acts against older people are perpetrated in increasingly gruesome ways. At first glance, the victims seem to have only one thing in common – the desire not to talk about their experiences. Finally, a child disappears too. The psychiatrist Raffael Horn and Commissioner Ludwig Kovacs – the well-known investigator duo from Hochgatterer’s bestsellers Die Süße des Lebens and Das Matratzenhaus – pick up the sparse threads and begin to link them. Without realising it at first, they become immersed in age-old stories that could not be darker.

About the author
Michael Köhlmeier, Fairy Tales

Topic: fairy tales
Protagonists: various

800 pages, publication in September 2019 by Hanser
With illustrations by Nikolaus Heidelbach

Synopsis
As a child, Michael Köhlmeier listened to and read fairy tales, just like all of us. Today he writes the fairy tales of our time. He doesn’t retell well-known topics, but comes up with inventions of his own in the form of disturbing, eerie stories. And for each one, there is a mysterious picture by Nikolaus Heidelbach: the sad woman, the envious doctor, snow flower and ‘Kasgsichtl’. And beyond the wolves, unequal siblings, talking animals and silent people, beyond even the moon, the old yet important question from the “secret of all secret fairy tales” rises: What became of the first humans, Adam and Eve, after they were expelled from the garden of Eden? Michael Köhlmeier’s incomparable book reveals how they lived happily ever after.

About the author
Michael Köhlmeier, born 1949 in Hard on Lake Constance, lives in Hohenems /Vorarlberg and Vienna. Latest publications by Hanser: Zwei Herren am Strand (2014), Das Mädchen mit dem Fingerhut (2016), the novella Der Mann, der Verlorenes wiederfindet (2017) as well as the volume of poetry Ein Vorbild für die Tiere (2017). He won several literary awards such as Marie Luise Kaschnitz Prize for his oeuvre.

Synopsis
The fate of a central European woman: born as an Austrian, a citizen of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, a German after 1941, then murdered in 1945. And in all that time, Martin Pollack’s great-aunt Pauline never left her home town.

Her story has been researched with detective-like precision and is based on previously unknown documents. Told with great intensity, Martin Pollack’s account of his great-aunt’s fate exemplifies the conflicts that took place in a small border town. In the summer of 1945, seventy-year-old Pauline Drolc, née Bast, was arrested by Yugoslav partisans in her home town of Tüffer, Laško in Slovenian, and taken to the temporary internment camp at Hrastovec Castle. A few weeks later, she was dead. Her grave was never found. Pauline is Martin Pollack’s great aunt whose book about his own father, SS Sturmbannführer Gerhard Bast, is a milestone in remembrance literature. And she was the only person in her staunchly Nationalist German family who died at the end of the Second World War.

About the author
Rafik Schami, The Cardinal’s Secret Mission

**Synopsis**
An Italian cardinal is assassinated on a secret mission in Syria. This exciting, vivid novel tells the story of faith and love, superstition and murder.

In Syria, war has not yet broken out. In 2010, a barrel of olive oil is delivered to the Italian embassy in Damascus – with the corpse of a cardinal inside. Commissioner Barudi wants to solve the crime before he retires; Mancini, a colleague from Rome, helps him out and they become friends. What secret mission was the cardinal on? What was his connection to the famous mountain saint, a Muslim who took Jesus as his role model? And to the healer Dumia, from whose hands oil flows? In their investigation south of Aleppo, the two commissioners fall into the hands of armed Islamists. Rafik Schami’s new novel takes us deep into the conflicts of Syrian society, and into the fateful life and love of an upstanding inspector.

**About the author**
Rafik Schami was born in 1946 in Damascus and has lived in Germany since 1971. In 1979 he completed his doctorate in chemistry. His work has been translated into 32 languages and has received numerous awards, including the Hermann Hesse Prize, the Nelly Sachs Prize »Against Forgetting – For Democracy« and the Gustav Heinemann Peace Prize. Hanser most recently published Sophia oder Der Anfang aller Geschichten (a novel, 2015).
Raoul Schrott, *A History of the Wind or The Tale of the German Bombardier who Sailed around the World for the First, Second and Third Time*

**Topic:** adventure, circumnavigation of the globe  
**Setting:** sailing ship on the ocean  
**Time:** around 1519  
**Protagonist:** a boy from Aachen (Germany) who goes onboard a ship of Margellan’s fleet

324 pages, publication in August 2019 by Hanser

**Synopsis**

What an adventure! Hannes from Aachen was the first to sail around the world. Exactly 500 years ago, Magellan’s fleet set off for the Spice Islands. And in so doing, they set off into the unknown, travelling from the southern tip of America to the other half of the globe. Mutinies. Shipwrecks. Fighting, cannibalism and much suffering besides, all so that the crew could find cloves, and perhaps discover the gold-filled land of Ophir. At the end, a single ship returned with only 18 survivors from the original 265 sailors. Among them was Hannes, whom the chronicles of the time referred to as »Juan Aleman«. All we know about him is that he embarked on a second and even a third circumnavigation of the world. Who was he, and what happened to him? Raoul Schrott has followed the traces of this minor character in world history, and snatched him from oblivion. In lavish, almost tangible detail, he imagines an entire life for this adventurer of the high seas.

**About the author**

Raoul Schrott was born in 1964. Most recent publications by Hanser: Tristan da Cunha oder Die Hälfte der Erde (a novel, 2003), Homers Heimat – his rendering of the Iliad (2008), Gehirn und Gedicht (2011, together with the brain researcher Arthur Jacobs), his translation of Hesiod’s Theogonie (2014), the volume of poetry Die Kunst an nichts zu glauben (2015) as well as Erste Erde (2016) and Politiken & Ideen (essays, 2018). In addition to his current publication, Raoul Schrott is working with the support of the Federal Cultural Foundation on the project Atlas der Sternenhimmel, which will be published in autumn 2022.
Botho Strauß, Smiled in Vain Too Often

**Synopsis**
An old novelist is being put to bed by his young admirer. The old man begins to tell stories – about couples and individuals, about faces and gestures, about passions and disappointments. And the more stories he tells, the more he follows “the traces of an extinct species of love”. With just a few pen strokes, Botho Strauß comes up with a prose to describe the multi-layered ambiguity between men and women. The mood between people is often oppressive; in some episodes there is a prevailing sense of alienation at the “insurmountable closeness” which can suddenly arise between lovers.
By means of central motifs and themes in his oeuvre, Botho Strauss expands on the various aspects of his storytelling. He is a master of precise observation and a melancholic reminiscer. Night time belongs to the narrator.

**About the author**
Tobias Wilhelm, White Asphalt

Topic: youth, violence, drugs, migration
Ort: Frankfurt
Zeit: mid-2000s
Protagonists: four young men around 20 years old

192 pages, publication in August 2019 by hanserblau

Synopsis
So viel Wut und keine Wahl – vier Freunde in einer unerbittlichen Welt


So much anger and no escape – four friends in a relentless world

In a place where hardship and brutality are virtues, and the most promising career is being a dealer – could love be the only way out? When violence escalates, four young men, whose lives appear to be mapped out, have to make a decision. In his debut novel, Tobias Wilhelm tells a gripping, clever story in simple, direct prose that unfolds with force – and whose emotional power affect the reader.

About the author
Tobias Wilhelm, who was born in 1988 in Wiesbaden and grew up in the Rhine-Main region, lives in Berlin. He studied scriptwriting and dramaturgy in Babelsberg and writes about hip-hop for music magazines.
II. Non-Fiction

Michael Martens, Worlds on Fire. Ivo Andric. A European Life

Synopsis

A writer who celebrated Hitler’s birthday as a diplomat, negotiated arms deliveries with Göring, travelled to Moscow as Stalin’s guest and wrote major literature at night – rarely has there been a more remarkable experience than the life of the writer Ivo Andric (1892–1975).

In 1961, Ivo Andric was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for the “epic power with which he creates motifs and fates from the history of his country”. In his masterful biography, Michael Martens traces his extraordinary path through life and paints an impressive panorama of 20th-century European history. It starts with his childhood in Bosnia and leads to the assassination of Sarajevo in 1914, then on to Andric’s time as a diplomat of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in Hitler’s Berlin. These turbulent times were followed by years in German-occupied Belgrade, when Andric wrote the great novels that earned him world fame in complete reclusion. Seldom has a writer had a more remarkable life. A book that will captivate readers from the first to the last sentence.

About the author

Michael Köhlmeier/Konrad Paul Liessmann, He Who ThROWS THE FIrST STONE. Mythological and Philosophical Damnations.

**Synopsis**
Betrayal, deception and intrigue: whoever has suffered the worst forms of human malice is often only left one path with which to liberate himself: damning his opponent. World literature has many examples of damnations – in the Bible, on the stage, in fairy tales and legends. Michael Köhlmeier has dozens of his own cases, which are accompanied here by Konrad Paul Liessmann’s philosophical commentaries. Stories such as those of Agamemnon and Achilles, Jesus and the Adulteress, and Othello and Desdemona deal with dramatic human crises and provide philosophical illustrations to explain why one person would want to destroy another. A great narrator together with a great philosophical teacher explore the darkest sides of our existence: a brilliant dialogue against a wide backdrop of ideas.

**About the authors**
Michael Köhlmeier, born 1949 in Hard on Lake Constance, lives in Hohenems /Vorarlberg and Vienna. Latest publications by Hanser: Das Mädchen mit dem Fingerhut (2016) and Bruder und Schwester Lenobel (2018), as well as the volumes of poetry Der Liebhaber bald nach dem Frühstück (2012) and Ein Vorbild für die Tiere (poems, 2017). He has won numerous awards, most recently the 2017 Literature Prize of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Marie-Luise Kaschnitz Prize.

III. Children’s Books

Stephan Beuse/Sophie Greve, A Penguin Is Looking For Happiness

**Synopsis**

This is a fantastic story about wrong perceptions, the rights socks, and your true destiny. Every morning at six thirty, the little penguin is at the airport, together with all other penguins. Why, you ask? Because that’s what penguins do: flying all over the world, selling things, earning money. But the little penguin still has to learn a lot: How to behave, what kind of socks to wear, and what questions not to ask. While trying to grow up to be like everybody else, the little penguin is becoming unhappy. But luckily, he can remember what it felt like to be happy—back home, when he still had enough time for the things he really liked and was actually good at.

**About the authors**


**Topic:** happiness, true destiny, freedom

**Setting:** airport

**Time:** present

**Protagonist:** little penguin

64 Seiten, publication in July 2019 by Hanser
From age 8
Henning Callsen, Pelle und Pinguiny – Christmas in Danger (Volume 3)

**Topic:** Christmas, wishes

**Setting:** North Pole

**Protagonists:** little penguin and polar bear, polar bear parents

120 pages, publication in September 2019 by Hanser
Illustrated by Sabine Wilharm
From age 5

**Synopsis**

It’s almost Christmas—a time of peace and quiet at the North Pole—when suddenly a wish-list-bearing pelican crashes on an ice floe. Will the child, who has written this wish list, still get their Christmas presents on time? Pelle and Pinguiny don’t know what Christmas is, or a wish list, but they are eager to help an injured pelican: Together with Papa Polar Bear, they make their way to Santa. On the road they meet a curious groundhog, a benevolent snow bunny, and a patient moose. But they also encounter the mean Socktrolls—the most cunning Christmas-mail-robbers out there—who try every trick in the book to filch the wish list...

**About the author**

Henning Callsen, born in 1965, works as an advertising writer and lives in Vienna. In 2017 Kein Problem sagt Papa Eisbär, the first volume of the series surrounding the little polar bear Pelle and the penguin girl Pinguiny was published. 2018 and 2019 the second and third volume, Auch ein Eisbär geht zur Schule and Weihnachten in Gefahr, followed.
Amelie Fried, I’m Just the Mother Around Here

**Synopsis**

Does the perfect mother exist? Having three children and an illustrator-job, Clara can’t catch a break in her daily routine. How is she supposed to get everything done? Securing a spot in daycare for Willi, baking a cake for Tim’s school social, supervising homework, finding the gym bag, and preventing that Paula disappears in her Smartphone. As if this wasn’t enough, now the kids want a pet. And her husband Daniel is never around, when she needs him. When Clara finally gets her dream job to illustrate a children’s book, she realizes that things really need to change. With heartfelt humor, Amelie Fried tells the story of an ordinary family and a mother who discovers that she doesn’t need to be perfect.

**About the author**

Amelie Fried, born in 1958, first gained prominence as a TV host before she became a very successful author of novels, non-fiction and children’s books. Hanser has published Hat Opa einen Anzug an? (with illustrations by Jacky Gleich), which received the German Children’s Literature Award in 1998, as well as Der unsichtbare Vater. Schuhhaus Pallas (Hanser, 2008). She lives in Munich with her family
Rafik Schami/Gerda Raidt, Elisa, or, the Night of Dreams

**Topic:** Christmas, a plea for compassion, commitment, care and solidarity

**Setting:** Santa Claus’ house

**Time:** present, Christmas time

**Protagonist:** Elisa (Santa Claus’ wife)

32 pages, publication in September 2019 by Hanser

**Synopsis**

Usually Santa Claus observes all people with his telescope throughout the entire year to collect their wishes. He scans the world from the southernmost tip of South Africa to the smallest hut in Greenland. He especially wants to benefit the unhappy children and make them smile. But this year everything seems to be different: Santa only slouches in his armchair wearing his familiar red-and-white robe and has around him an aura of resignation. “The children don’t enjoy the presents anymore. All they enjoy is ripping up the paper,” he laments to his wife Elisa. She can’t believe what she’s hearing and, instantaneously, assumes telescope and sleigh! It’s high time to revive the children’s belief in Christmas magic.

**Autoren**

Rafik Schami was born in 1946 in Damascus and has lived in Germany since 1971. In 1979 he completed his doctorate in chemistry. His work has been translated into 32 languages and has received numerous awards, including the Hermann Hesse Prize, the Nelly Sachs Prize “Against Forgetting – For Democracy” and the Gustav Heinemann Peace Prize.

Gerda Raidt was born in 1975 in Berlin and works as a freelance illustrator in Leipzig. She has illustrated numerous books for different publishers.
Silke Schlichtmann, Mattis – Snip, Snip, My Hair Will Be Clipped (Volume 3)

**Synopsis**
What can you do when the substitute teacher is super annoying, the math exercise super hard, and you find Mom's hair-cutting shears between your lunch-box and your school-folder? For Mattis the answer is easy. He knows his Mom’s stressed expression when she wants to convince him, “Mattis, you really need a haircut!” This time he wants to be helpful—and does it himself. It’s so easy: Even Kathi has a new, short hair style in no time. But at home Mattis has to explain himself and the letter that substitute teacher wrote to his parents. Certainly, this is to the reader’s benefit, who will laugh at Mattis’ good intentions.

**About the author**
Silke Schlichtmann was born in 1967 and lives in Munich. She has a doctoral degree in Literary Studies and works as a reader. Hanser published her debut, Pernilla oder Wie die Beatles meine viel zu große Familie retteten, in 2015. She was nominated for the German Children’s Literature Award for Bluma und das Gummischlangengeheimnis in 2018. Her new series dedicated to reading beginners started in 2018 with Mattis und das klebende Klassenzimmer and Mattis oder die Sache mit dem Schulklo.
Backlist
Alex Capus, Léon and Louise

**Topic:** love, hope, war  
**Setting:** France  
**Time:** First World War until 1986  
**Protagonist:** young couple

320 pages, published in February 2011 by Hanser

**Translated into more than 20 languages**

**Synopsis**

Two young people fall in love, but the war tears them apart. It begins with their first encounter, on the Atlantic coast during the First World War, shortly after which they are forcefully torn apart by an air raid. Each assumes the other has been killed. Léon goes on to marry but Louise, passionate in nature and driven by her fierce desire for independence, goes her own way - until 1928, when they encounter one another again quite by chance on the Paris Métro. With delightful deftness of touch and great intensity, Alex Capus tells a love story played out during a century of war. He tells of two people who pit themselves against the passage of time, in often magical ways; who hold on tightly to their love, flying in the face of all convention; who lead a wayward, often unbelievably comical double life. Léon and Louise are an unforgettable couple in the realm of contemporary literature.

Lisa Fittko, Escape Through the Pyrenees.

**Topic:** exile, period of National Socialism, memoir  
**Setting:** the French-Spanish Pyrenees  
**Time:** 1940/1941

288 pages, published in January 1985 by Hanser

**Translated into Croatian, English, French, Italian, Japanese and Spanish**

**Synopsis**

Though it reads like a suspense novel, this memoir is Lisa Fittko’s extraordinary story of life as an “enemy alien” in France before and after the German invasion of 1940. Escaping a French prison, Fittko and her husband found their way to the Pyrenees and, while awaiting permission to enter Spain, helped hundreds of refugees, including Walter Benjamin, escape deportation, torture, and death at the hands of the Nazis.
Abbas Khider, A Slap in the Face

**Topic:** a refugee’s life, integration

**Setting:** Germany

**Time:** present

224 pages, published in February 2016 by Hanser

**Translated into:** Bosnian, Dutch, English, Hungarian and Latvian

**Synopsis**

A refugee walks into the alien registration office to speak to the clerk in charge of his case for the last time. He is furious and has only one desire: that someone actually listens to him for once. When Karim Mensey jumps to freedom from the loading ramp of a transporter van, he thinks he’s in France. That’s where the illegal journey he’d paid for was meant to take him. Actually he’s ended up somewhere in the depths of the Bavarian provinces. Karim has to re-invent his life-story, struggle his way through all sorts of documents and countless refugee centres. Then one day his temporary citizenship status is revoked. Abbas Khider has written a novel at once disturbing and heart-warming, a novel that poses one of the central issues of our times: what does it mean for someone if he can neither live at home nor abroad?

Michael Köhlmeier, Two Gentlemen on the Beach

**Topic:** Churchill, Chaplin

**Setting:** USA, England

**Setting:** 20th century

256 pages, published in August 2018 by Hanser

**Translated into:** Arabic, Czech, Dutch, English, French, Serbian and Slovenian

**Synopsis**

Two solitary gentlemen walk the beach, deep in discussion. Charlie Chaplin and Winston Churchill – two leviathans of world history – were as different as chalk and cheese, yet the impoverished tramp and the great statesman became close friends. One became the greatest comedian in history, the other lead his country through the war against Adolf Hitler. With the unerring eye of the first class imaginative raconteur, Michael Köhlmeier recognized what this incredible couple represents: nothing less than the complete history of the 20th century, spanning art and politics, comedy and tragedy.
**René Freund, Love Among Fishes**

**Topic:** love, behavioral research  
**Setting:** Austria and Germany  
**Time:** 21st century

208 pages, published in January 2013 by Deuticke

**Translated into Italian, Georgian, Russian and Spanish**

**Synopsis**

Fred Firneis, a sensationally successful and widely-read poet, is burnt out after too many alcohol-saturated years on the frontline of literature. His publisher, Susanne Beckmann, runs her cash-cow to earth in his Berlin-Kreuzberg apartment and dispatches him to a wooden shack deep in the Austrian Alps. In Grünbach-am-See there is neither electricity nor mobile reception and Firneis gradually begins to regain his strength. But then this rural paradise is disrupted by the arrival of Mara, a Slovakian biologist who is writing her doctoral thesis on the minnow, a fascinating and sociable little fish, and before long Fred finds himself taking great interest in all the nuances of the creature’s biology, behaviour and psychology – but most of all in Mara herself. An offbeat alpine comedy with a dramatic climax in Berlin; fast-paced, surprising and highly entertaining.

**René Freund, To the Sea**

**Topic:** road trip, carpe diem, love, friendship  
**Setting:** Austria, Italy  
**Time:** present  
**Protagonists:** various, young and elderly

144 pages, published in May 2018 by Zsolnay

**Synopsis**

Anton, a bus driver who ferries schoolchildren and other passengers from the villages to the city year in, year out, is having a pretty bad day. He has recently fallen in love with his neighbour Doris. But the previous night he heard a man coughing on her balcony. On top of this, Carla, a passenger suffering from cancer, boards the bus saying that she wants to see the sea for the last time – right now. It’s hot, and thoughts race through Anton’s head. Courage is not one of his virtues, but didn’t Doris said she likes a man who take risks? Shortly afterwards, he makes an announcement over the tannoy: “We’re heading for the sea.” A heart-warming story about the light and heavy aspects of life, and how you sometimes have to stake everything on one roll of the dice.
Jayrôme C. Robinet, My Transition from White Woman to Young Man of Colour

Topic: gender, identity
Setting: Berlin, provincial region in Northern France
Time: present
Protagonist: person who experiences a gender transition

224 pages, published in February 2019 by Hanser Berlin

Chosen for Book Meets Film 2019!

Synopsis

What makes a woman a woman, and a man a man? After gender reassignment, Jayrôme C. Robinet can make a direct comparison. Jayrôme used to be a French white woman. Then he moved to Berlin and began taking testosterone, causing him to undergo a second puberty. He grew a dark beard and people suddenly started talking Arabic to him on the street. Whether in cafés, locker rooms or at the passport control, he realised that not only his identity but above all the behaviour of his environment had radically changed towards him. He can compare how he was treated as a woman with his treatment as a man. What happens when not only a person’s gender changes, but the appearance of his ethnicity and age too? Robinet’s stories about queer everyday life are enthralling, and reveal how meaningless social perceptions and classifications often are.