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# **Best of Random House Germany**

## **Non-Fiction**

## A new look at old friends

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**Peter Wohlleben**, born in 1964, studied forestry and spent over twenty years as a civil servant in the forestry commission. He gave up his job because he wanted to put his ideas of ecology into practice, and he now runs an environmentally friendly private piece of woodland. He holds lectures and seminars and has written books on subjects pertaining to woodlands and nature protection. His bestselling book *The Hidden Life of Trees* has sold to more than 20 countries.



Peter Wohlleben  
**The Hidden Life of Trees**  
[Das geheime Leben der Bäume]  
What they feel, how they communicate – discovering a hidden world

Ludwig  
224 pages  
May 2015

Amazing things go on in the woods: there are trees communicating with one another, trees lovingly caring for and looking after their offspring and their old and afflicted neighbours, trees with sensibilities, emotions, a memory. Incredible? Perhaps. But true!

Forest ranger Peter Wohlleben tells some fascinating stories about the unexpected and extraordinary abilities of trees. To this end, he cites both the latest scientific findings and his own direct experience of woods, thus creating an exciting new encounter for readers: we make the acquaintance of a living being that we thought we were familiar with but which we now see in all its vitality. And we enter a completely new world...

- **#1 Spiegel bestseller**
- **More than 535,000 copies sold**

## A competent and light-hearted approach to the big philosophical questions

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**Richard David Precht**, born in 1964, is a philosopher, journalist, and author, and one of the most distinctive intellectuals in German-speaking countries. He is an honorary professor of philosophy at the Leuphana University in Lüneburg and at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin. His books *Who Am I – And if so, How Many?*, *Love: A Disorderly Emotion* and *The Art of Not Being an Egoist* are international bestsellers and have been translated into 40 languages.



### Richard David Precht **Who Am I – And If So, How Many?**

[Wer bin ich - und wenn ja wie viele?]

Goldmann  
400 pages  
September 2007

What is truth? How do I know who I am? Why should I be good? There are many books about philosophy, but Richard David Precht's book "Who Am I?" is different from any other introductions. Never before has anyone introduced readers so competently and at the same time so light-heartedly and elegantly to the big philosophical questions of life.

From brain research and psychology to philosophy – Precht tells us about the latest research and theories, putting the pieces together like a jigsaw puzzle to make the amazing picture scientists are drawing of humankind. The result is an exciting journey of discovery to ourselves: clever, amusing and entertaining!

- **#1 Spiegel bestseller**
- **More than 1 million copies sold**

## Let's put an end to the craze for trying to goad our children on!

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**Gerald Hüther** was born in 1951 and is a professor of neurobiology. The many books he has written include *Instructions for Use of the Human Brain*, *What We Are and What We Could Be*, *Let Our Children Play*, and *Children Need Roots*.

**Uli Hauser** was born in 1962 and has worked with children and teenagers. He wrote *Parents Need Boundaries* and has been an editor in the "Germany and Society" section of the weekly *Stern*.



Gerald Hüther /  
Uli Hauser  
**Every Child is Highly Gifted**

[Jedes Kind ist hoch begabt]  
The natural talents of our children and what we make of them

Knaus  
192 pages  
August 2012

There is no such thing as a gene for intelligence or laziness. Every child comes into the world with very special gifts. Neuroscience can prove this. So let's put an end to that notion of "gifted" that was so popular in the last century. This would mean less frustration and stress when bringing up children and, more than anything else, more opportunities for all our children.

This is a book that relieves parents and schools of the worrying concentration on out-dated criteria for good achievements, and it offers an overdue perspective in a debate that has for years been getting nowhere.

- **Spiegel bestseller**
- **130,000 copies sold**

## How human beings have been programmed for egoism and greed

**Rights sold to:**

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**Frank Schirmmacher**, born in 1959, received his doctorate at Cambridge and Heidelberg. He was the co-editor in chief of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and has numerous publications to his name. For *The Methuselah Conspiracy*, which has been translated into numerous languages, the author received several awards. Frank Schirmmacher died in 2014.



Frank Schirmmacher  
**Ego**  
[Ego]  
The game of life

Blessing  
352 pages  
February 2013

This is the story of manipulation: sixty years ago, the theoretic model of a human being was developed by the military and by economists. An egoistic creature geared only to achieving its goals to its own advantage and getting the better of others – a modern Homo economicus. After a career in the Cold War this model went on to conquer everyday life in the 21st century. Stock exchanges are now geared to this creature, human beings likewise. The model has turned into a self-fulfilling prophecy; a new social monster made up of egoism, distrust and fear has taken root; it can't help but suspect the worst in others; and nothing said means what it sounds like. People have been relieved of the responsibility of making their own decisions, and the great game of life carries on without us.

In his revolutionary new book, Frank Schirmmacher has traced the path of this monster and makes it clear that the unintentional results of its game could be the end of democracy as we know it.

Over 1 million copies of Frank Schirmmacher's books sold in Germany.

- *Spiegel* bestseller
- 140,000 copies sold

Memoir

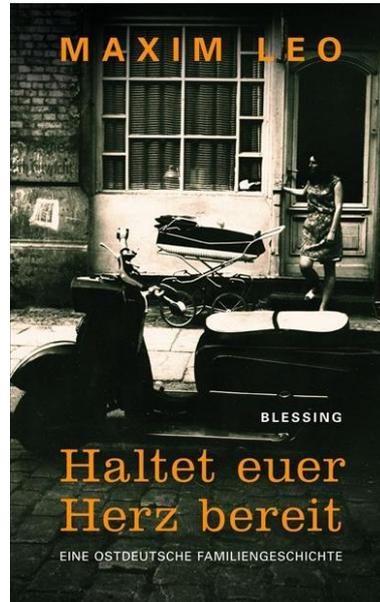
## "An engaging and thought-provoking portrait of a disappeared world."

*The Guardian*

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**Maxim Leo**, born in 1970, studied political science at the Free University in Berlin and at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. He was an *RTL* news presenter in 1995 and 1996 and has been an editor at the *Berliner Zeitung* since 1997. He was a nominee for the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize in 2002, and was awarded the Franco-German Journalist Prize in 2002 and the Theodor Wolff Prize in 2006.



Maxim Leo  
**Keep Your Hearts Prepared**  
[Haltet euer Herz bereit]  
Story of an East German family

Blessing  
272 pages  
August 2009

Everything that once used to be important in the German Democratic Republic is concentrated in the Leo family: hope and belief in the founding fathers; the disappointment of their children and the relief of their grandchildren.

In this family, the struggles that were not allowed on the public stage were fought out in private. It was here that ideology and real life met; for convictions were strong and they were carried by the forceful personality of Grandpa Leo – resistance fighter, spy, journalist and founding father of the anti-Fascist state. Contradiction was either useless or led to rows. Maxim's critical father Wolf, a radical artist and freethinker, loves Anne in spite of her loyalty to the state. And the position of son Maxim is between that of his parents, and it makes him discover that adolescent rebellion against "revolutionary" parents is just not on the cards. But then the country they were working for and fighting for suddenly no longer existed and their sense of life – both good and bad – disappeared.

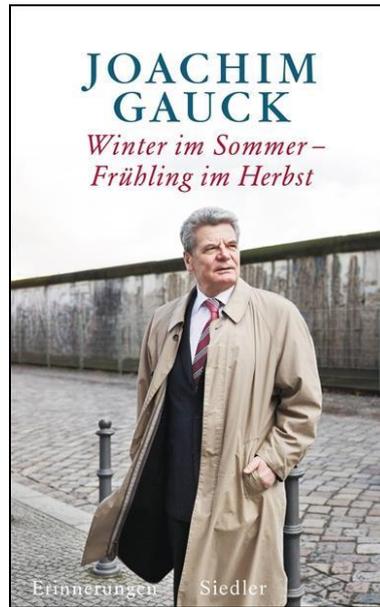
- Winner of the *European Prize for Literature 2011*
- 50,000 copies sold

## The political and very personal look back at a peaceful revolutionary

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**Romania** (Curtea Veche)

**Joachim Gauck**, PhD, born in Rostock in 1940, was from 1990 to 2000 Federal Commissioner in charge of the records of the former East German State Security Service (Stasi). Since 2003, he has been chairman of the organization "Against Forgetting – For Democracy".



Joachim Gauck  
**Winter in Summer –  
Spring in Autumn**  
[Winter im Sommer –  
Frühling im Herbst]  
Memoirs

Siedler  
352 pages  
October 2009

A key figure in the recent history of Germany reminisces: Joachim Gauck, an active opponent of the political system in East Germany at the time of the peaceful revolution and, as the first Federal Commissioner in charge of the documents of the East German State Security Service (Stasi), one of the central figures in the process of German unification.

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, Joachim Gauck has written his memoirs. The result is a book that is both political and emotionally moving – a book in which he outlines in clear images the traumatic experience of lack of freedom and the joyful experience of liberty, and describes the difficult transition from enforced powerlessness to a self-determined life.

- *Spiegel* bestseller
- 280,000 copies sold

## A new look at the abusers and the victims

### Rights sold to:

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**Miriam Gebhardt** is a historian and journalist and teaches history at the University of Konstanz. She was awarded a PhD for her study *Fear of the Juvenile Tyrant: A History of Upbringing in the 20th Century* (2009). DVA published her books on *Rudolf Steiner: A modern prophet* (2011) and *Alice in No-Man's Land. How the German Women's Movement Lost the Women* (2012).



Miriam Gebhardt  
**When the Soldiers Came**  
[Als die Soldaten kamen]  
The rape of German women  
at the end of World War II

DVA  
352 pages  
March 2015

The soldiers who defeated the Nazi regime at the end of World War II also brought new suffering to many women. Countless girls and women (and no few men as well) became the victims of sexual violence – all over the country. In contrast to a widely held belief, it was not just "the Russians" who were the offenders, but also American, French and British soldiers.

Using new source material, Miriam Gebhardt has outlined the extent of the violence during the period of occupation at the end of the war – the first historically founded treatment of this topic. She also impressively describes how these women later again became victims – of doctors who arbitrarily agreed to or turned down abortion; of social workers who put pregnant women into homes. And last but not least of a society that right down to the present day would prefer not to talk about the mass crimes, that would rather just forget about the whole business.

- *Spiegel* bestseller
- Selected by *New Books in German*
- 25,000 copies sold

## The latest and highly explosive report by the bestselling author

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**Serbia** (Laguna), **Slovakia** (Ikar),

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(Andante)



### Jürgen Todenhöfer **Inside IS – 10 Days in the 'Islamic State'**

[Inside IS - 10 Tage im  
'Islamischen Staat']

C. Bertelsmann

288 pages

With 48 colour illustrations

April 2015

**Jürgen Todenhöfer**, born in 1940, was a member of the German Bundestag and later an executive in a major European media company. He has traveled widely in war zones in the Middle East, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq. His books sold more than 350,000 copies and generated a powerful response in the media. With the royalties from his books, he finances many humanitarian projects in the Middle East.

During the summer of 2014, Jürgen Todenhöfer spent several months interviewing Islamists who had joined the Islamic State (IS). These conversations confirmed what has since become well known: that the perfidious objectives of the "Caliphate" is to set up a worldwide theocracy and that it will go to all lengths, including mass murder, even among Muslims, to reach its goal. Later in 2014, Todenhöfer travelled to Mosul and succeeded in being the first Western journalist allowed into areas controlled by the Islamic State.

Todenhöfer's book is a report of this perilous journey in which he reveals the everyday lives and motives of the IS fighters. No one thus far has succeeded in researching the IS so precisely and from so close a proximity as has Todenhöfer. His dramatic report from the "realm of evil" is a penetrating admonition that both a political solution to the spiral of violence and an effective strategy for fighting terrorism need to be found.

- **#1 Spiegel bestseller**
- **335,000 copies sold**

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