



# Foreign Rights Catalogue 2023



kanon verlag

# The publisher

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Kanon is a Berlin-based independent book publisher whose monkey insignia stands for rebellious, untamed literary art. We publish around a dozen hardcovers a year as well as our own paperbacks and audiobooks. Publisher Gunnar Cynybulk founded Kanon along with a group of seasoned book lovers known as #teamkanon. We look for voices often excluded from German and international literature, both from the past and by modern-day writers. Our programme spans a wide range, from non-fiction to volumes of letters, and the narrative strength and personality of our authors is imperative. Thanks to their distinctive designs, loving attention to detail and extensive media exposure, Kanon's books are highly recognisable. Our latest titles can be found here: [www.kanon-verlag.de](http://www.kanon-verlag.de)

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# Mistral

## Sous le vent

Set in a charming village in the rugged valley of Haute-Provence, this is a tribute to untamed nature and female courage. The rediscovery of a French literary classic.

Marie lives happily with her family on a mountain farm. She's young, beautiful and radiant, but one day her path crosses Olivier's. They kiss; he leaves. Then fate takes its course. This is the tale of a young woman crushed by longing, and a eulogy to the wild beauty of Haute-Provence – its nature, colours and smells. Throughout the story, the mistral howls, whips and drives many a person to madness.



Maria Borrély was born in Marseille in 1890 and was engaged in resistance struggles all her life. *Mistral* (Sous le vent), the first of four novels written in the space of a few years, was published by Gallimard in 1930 on André Gide's recommendation. Borrély's wish to write was kindled by a circle of artists she knew, including the painters Bernard Thévenet and Paul Maurel, and the writers Gabriel Péri, Édouard Peisson and Jean Giono.

»A wealth of colours, a unique voice and an immediate force, down to the smallest phrases of dialogue.«

André Gide



Maria Borrély  
*Mistral* (Sous le vent)  
A novel  
128 pages  
Pub date March 2023

»I anticipated a rural, picturesque story, but this short novel's language is also impressive: it manages to be rustic and poetic, archaic and modern all at once. It's a real literary gem set in a place whose familiar physical appearance I recognised on the page – huddled stone houses with pale red roofs, the endless expanse of landscape all around, the wind whipping across the plateau and the changing play of light in the mountain ranges that fringe the horizon in all directions.«

– From the afterword by translator Amelie Thoma

- World rights excluding France
- A rediscovered gem of French literature
- First published in 1930 by Gallimard on André Gide's recommendation

# Zweistromland

## The Land of Two Rivers

A young, pregnant woman embarks on a dangerous journey from the North Sea across the Bosphorus to the banks of the Tigris. She is looking for a witness to her parents' forgotten past.

Ever since Dilan was approached by an unknown woman at her mother's funeral, she knows that some important memories are missing in her life. How could she forget her brother? Why did her parents flee to Germany? Despite being pregnant, she goes in search of answers to these questions in the Kurdish region of Turkey. But Diyarbakir, the unofficial Kurdish capital, is under attack. After a dangerous journey, she reaches the old city on the Tigris. Ash rains from the sky and the unknown woman takes her by the hand and leads her to the end – and the beginning of her own story. drives many a person to madness.



Beliban zu Stolberg was born in Hamburg in 1993 to a German mother and Kurdish father and grew up in Husum on the North Sea coast. She studied screenwriting at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin and has worked on numerous short films and web series. She has been awarded the Grenzgänger Scholarship from the Robert Bosch Foundation, took part in the Prose Writers' Workshop in 2018 at the LCB Berlin and received residency grants at Villa Sarkia, Finland in 2019 and 2022. Since 2023, she has participated in the Netflix Writing Academy: PoC Writers Incubator. *Die Strömung im Tigris* (The Current in the Tigris) is her debut novel. Beliban zu Stolberg lives in Berlin.

»Beliban zu Stolberg tells a story about the fragility of our identities with passion, precision and poetry.«

Daniel Schulz



Beliban zu Stolberg  
*Zweistromland*  
(The Land of Two Rivers)  
A novel  
Approx. 224 pages  
Pub date August 2023

»The heroine of my novel is Dilan. She's the daughter of Kurdish Alevis, who were subjected to persecution and violence. But they remained silent about their past. My novel begins where their silence has become unbearable.«

– Beliban zu Stolberg

- Leading title
- Emotional and political debut
- Page-turner

# Südstern

## Berlin, Südstern

Welcome to *Breaking Bad* in Berlin. Vanessa deals in uppers, Deniz patrols his beat. When they meet, Berlin's heavens open. A major work of urban fiction in the tradition of Alfred Döblin's *Berlin, Alexanderplatz* and Rio Reiser's love songs.

Vanessa is a pharmacologist. She delivers drugs that maintain her clients' happiness and success – doctors, athletes and politicians. Deniz is a police officer who patrols his beat in Kreuzberg. He does double shifts while also caring for his father. Every day, Vanessa and Deniz come across the lost and the lonely, until one day, they meet. A tender, stirring social novel that asks: How do we survive the pressure? How do we want to live our lives and how can we love?



Tim Staffel has published four novels. His debut *Terrordrom* was adapted to the stage by Frank Castorf at the Volksbühne in 1998. Staffel has also written numerous radio plays. He has been awarded the Alfred Döblin Scholarship and the Literature Scholarship from the German Literature Fund several times.



»His keen sense of rhythm is addictive.  
Here's to our city, to romance!«

Julia Franck



Tim Staffel  
*Südstern* (Berlin, Südstern)  
A novel  
288 pages  
Pub date September 2023

»Tim Staffel has written a highly contemporary,  
hallucinogenic urban novel.«

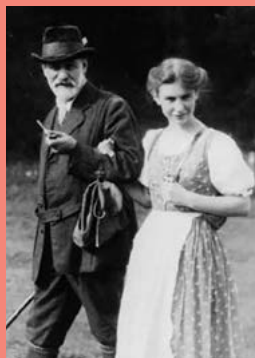
– Jan Brandt

- *Breaking Bad* in Berlin
- A fast-paced love story
- The comeback novel of an accomplished author

# Tiefrot und Dunkelblau

## Deep Red and Dark Blue

Vienna, 1917. Shaken by the senseless death on the battlefields, Sigmund Freud begins to introduce the death drive into his work. Hans Stadelober, a blind First World War veteran, comes to his practice and forms a close bond with Anna Freud, his youngest daughter. Set at a time of lengthening shadows, this is a novel about a rebellious daughter and a charismatic father – and about the sparks that illuminate the dark.

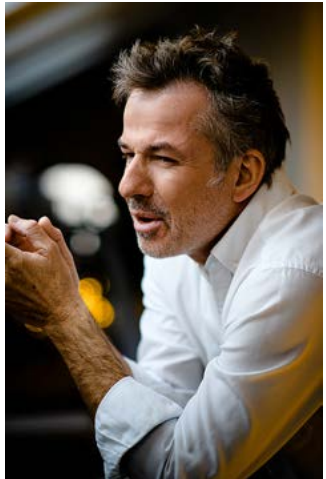


German soldier Hans Stadelober is injured during a mustard gas attack in 1916. From then on, he suffers from severe visual disorders. But Stadelober is not alone in his blindness. Freud's youngest daughter Anna has been fumbling her way for years. Like him, she suffers from psychogenic pain. Freud recruits Anna to assist him in treating Stadelober. Secretly, he, now an ageing

Oedipus, hopes that she, his loyal Antigone, will quit her profession to continue his cause. And besides, he wants her to recognise in Stadelober her own repressed drive. Freud's plan both succeeds and fails. Anna and Hans meet in secret and gently explore each other's desires. As Stadelober's symptoms improve, Anna's condition progressively deteriorates and Freud eventually begins therapy for his own daughter. Twenty years later, in 1938, Anna is arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the notorious Hotel Métropole. Her interrogation is conducted by none other than Hans Stadelober.

# Anna and Sigmund Freud try to cure a man who's about to become a demon

Tom Saller, born in 1967, studied medicine and is a psychotherapist. In 2018, his debut novel *Wenn Martha tanzt* (When Martha Dances) was published and immediately found great acclaim. In his latest novel *Tiefrot und Dunkelblau*, he focuses for the first time on his profession: Freud and psychoanalysis. Tom Saller lives in Wipperfürth, a small town in the Bergisches Land region.



Tom Saller  
*Tiefrot und Dunkelblau*  
(Deep Red and Dark Blue)  
A novel  
Approx. 260 pages  
Pub date February 2024

For readers of Irvin D. Yalom *When Nietzsche Wept*  
and Robert Seethaler *The Tobacconist*

- 1917/18: Vienna set around the First World War
- The story of Anna Freud, Sigmund Freud's daughter
- Bestselling author (500,000 copies sold) and psychotherapist Tom Saller talks about the dark side of the soul

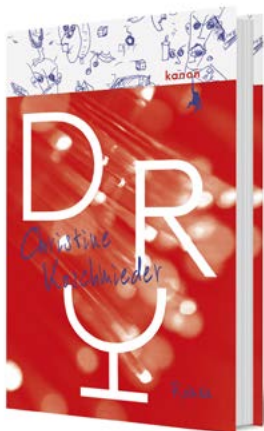
# Dry Dry

»I'm in a dry-out clinic. A very well-kept facility with lots of signs.« – *Dry* is about drinking and how it takes over the author's life. And it has to do with giving up drinking. The protagonist is a woman who takes up writing after overcoming addiction. With a clear head, she travels back into her childhood, to her husband who died much too young, and to her roles as a mother, lover and daughter.

Christine Koschmieder's book is a unique account of a young woman's alcoholism. But there are no descriptions of intoxication in this story. Alcohol itself is barely mentioned. Yet it is a constant presence, noticeable every time it appears. Koschmieder describes her attempts to cope with life's ups and downs by numbing herself with alcohol until, realising her problem, she checks into a dry-out clinic. Set in Leipzig in the 1990s, Koschmieder vividly depicts life in East Germany's final vibrant years. Her time as a theatre student in various coal-heated flats and squats contrasts with trips back to West Germany to visit her – alcoholic – parents. Despite the gravity of the situations she describes, the book is not trauma lit: it's an authentic snapshot of an era told in a positive, engaging tone.

»Harrowing, good, hard-hitting ...  
I really liked it.«

Joachim Meyerhoff



Christine Koschmieder  
*Dry*  
A novel  
256 pages  
Published in 2022

»A staggering novel about addiction, longing  
and the terror of intimacy.«

– Mithu Sanyal

- English sample available
- Unanimously well-received on Germany's foremost literary TV show
- 10,000 copies sold



Christine Koschmieder was born in 1972 in Heidelberg. She's the founder of the literary agency Partner + Propaganda as well as an author, translator and fundraiser. Her debut novel *Schweinesystem* was nominated for the ASPECT Prize in 2014. Her autofictional novel *Dry* has been a commercial and critical success, impressing the team of the Literarisches Quartett, Germany's biggest literary TV show.

# *Aus unseren Feuern* Rising from our Fires

Domenico Müllensiefen's compelling debut is a coming-of-age story about a teenager growing up in East Germany after reunification. It explores the ongoing divisions between »Ossis« and »Wessis«. Müllensiefen's dry sense of humour ensures readers are entertained throughout.

The novel's protagonist is Heiko, who works as a funeral assistant, preparing bodies for cremation or burial. One day he realises that the casualty from a road traffic accident is his old friend Thomas. The accident triggers memories of their teenage friendship. Together with a third boy, Karsten, the boys were inseparable and would drift around together. During those years, Karsten developed a knack for building bombs and, motivated by their frustration and boredom, the trio set fire to several public buildings. Karsten built one last bomb but never told his friends where he'd hidden it before emigrating to the US.

The three friends, formerly thick as thieves, lose touch, until Thomas's death stirs everything up again, particularly the question of where Karsten hid his last bomb, named *Aus unseren Feuern*, (Rising from our Fires) – the title of the novel. The bomb goes off at the end during the final of the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

»A thrilling tale from the post-unification era, which surfs at a furious pace across a variety of time frames, sending out literary sparks.«

Sandra Kegel, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Domenico Müllensiefen  
*Aus unseren Feuern*  
(Rising from our Fires)  
A novel  
336 pages  
Published in 2022

What is it like to grow up during a unique historical period? The novel gives a vivid picture of life in the former GDR after reunification. Descriptions of daily life build an all-sensory impression, drawing the reader in.

- Film rights sold
- East Germany in the 1990s and 2000s
- English sample available
- Selected by New Books in German

Domenico Müllensiefen was born in Magdeburg in 1987, and after training as a systems electronics technician studied at the German Literature Institute in Leipzig, while also working as a mortician. He was co-editor of the anthology *Tippgemeinschaft* (tr: Syndicate). *Aus unseren Feuern* (From Our Fires) is his first novel. Müllensiefen lives in Leipzig and works as a construction manager.





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