

Preview Illustrated Books Fall 2025



100 Years of Happiness

Impressive biographies full of strength
and wisdom



draft cover

Photographer: Karsten Thormaehlen; Author:
Constanze Kleis

SPECIFICATIONS

21.5 x 27.8 cm, hardcover

144 pages

75 photographs

Retail price € 30.00

978-3-95728-990-2

Publication: August 2025

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HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LIVE FOR A CENTURY?

In his new photo book, internationally renowned photographer Karsten Thormaehlen presents over 50 fascinating portraits of centenarians from all over the world. In Sardinia, Romania, Japan, Costa Rica, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, among other places, he searched for people who have lived through an entire century. With sensitive photographs and moving life stories, he shows the wisdom, strength and beauty of old age. This book is an impressive tribute to long life and a plea for ageing with dignity. This extraordinary collection is thought-provoking and invites readers to take a fresh look at ageing. An inspiring book about time, experience and humanity!

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Karsten Thormaehlen, photographer, studied communication design and lived in New York. He is passionate about photography, editing and curating. His award-winning portraits of senior citizens around the world challenge our often negative image of old age. His work has been exhibited internationally, published in numerous illustrated books and inspired the WHO to launch a campaign against ageism.

THE AUTHOR

Constanze Kleis is a German bestselling author and journalist. She writes about relationships, ageing and social issues. She became known for her books with Susanne Fröhlich and her collaboration with photographer Karsten Thormaehlen on ageing issues. Her book *Sterben Sie bloß nicht im Sommer* (*Just Don't Die in Summer*) deals with the end of life with humour and depth. She lives and works in Frankfurt am Main.

USPs

- Karsten Thormaehlen captures the dignity of 100-year-olds in impressive portraits
- How do you become 100+? Their biographies and quotes are signposts for a fulfilled life without optimisation mania
- A topic of growing importance as we all get older

Alpine Rites



draft cover

Photographer and Author: Bernd Römmelt

SPECIFICATIONS

24 x 28 cm, hardcover
approx. 240 pages
180 photographs
Retail price € 40.00

978-3-98962-024-7

Publication: October 2025

World rights available

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THE NEW MASTERPIECE BY GERMANY'S NO. 1 ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHER

From December to carnival, the snow-covered Alps are transformed into a stage for centuries-old rituals - mysterious, archaic and full of symbolism. From the dark 'Rauhnächte' to wild carnival customs. Around 35 traditions from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia show the deep-rooted belief in the powers of winter. In addition to well-known traditions, there are also secret rituals such as the Wild Hunt or the Bärbeletreiben. The impressive photographs by Bernd Römmelt capture these traditions and show how the customs have changed. Accompanying texts explain the origins and background and allow us to participate directly in their fascination. A breathtaking insight into the wintry magic of the Alps.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND AUTHOR

Bernd Römmelt, born in 1968, is a native of Munich and has been working as a freelance photographer and travel journalist since 2001. He particularly enjoys travelling to the far north or the Alps for his work. During his travels, he has taken many pictures that have already been honoured with the most important and prestigious nature photography competition in the world, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award.

USPs

- Bernd Römmelt captures the mystical atmosphere of Alpine customs like no other
- From St Nicholas customs to Rauhnächte and carnival celebrations: rites from the entire Alpen region
- Traditional practices are experiencing a powerful revival
- Supplemented by concise information on each custom

Mission Future

An analog astronaut between Earth
and Mars



Cover to come

Author: Anika Mehlis

SPECIFICATIONS

13.6 x 21 cm, softcover with flaps
approx. 304 pages
30 photographs
Retail price € 22.00

978-3-95728-970-4

Publication: September 2025

World rights available

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MISSION MARS - AN ANALOG ASTRONAUT EXPLORES THE FUTURE OF SPACE TRAVEL

Anika Mehlis is only allowed to leave the habitat in a spacesuit. A volcano looms before her in the sunlight - but she is not on an alien planet, she is on Earth. As an analogue astronaut, she and her team are testing strategies and technologies for future Mars missions in the desert of Israel and the mountains of Armenia. She takes rock samples, grows plants and researches what is needed to search for traces of life and answers to old human questions on the red planet. In this captivating report, she tells of the tough training, the extreme conditions of her expeditions and the latest findings in Mars research. Every step she takes brings us a little closer to the future in space.

THE AUTHOR

Anika Mehlis, born in 1981, is a biologist, environmental engineer and holds a doctorate in health science. In 2018, she was selected and trained as an analog astronaut by the Austrian Space Forum. In 2021 and 2024, she took part in simulated Mars missions in the Negev Desert in Israel and in Armenia. Anika Mehlis lives in Saxony and works as a systemic counsellor and lecturer.

USPs

- A unique insight into one of the most unusual professions in the world
- Exciting information on the latest developments in Mars research, spacesuits, planned missions and images
- 2025: 50 years of the European Space Agency (ESA)

Sultan Trail

On foot from Vienna to Istanbul



Cover to come

Author: Martin Zinggl

SPECIFICATIONS

13.6 x 21 cm, softcover with flaps
approx. 255 pages
40 photographs
Retail price € 22.00

978-3-95728-857-8

Publication: June 2025

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FASTER THAN THE SULTAN - ON FOOT FROM VIENNA TO ISTANBUL

To find his way out of a personal crisis, Martin Zinggl sets off into the unknown: on foot along the Sultan's Trail. Vienna - Istanbul, eight countries, 2400 kilometres, countless borders, visible and invisible. With time and curiosity in his luggage, he experiences new stories on old paths. The Balkans welcome him with hospitality and mistrust. Villagers harbour him, street dogs chase him, fugitives in the forest warn him: wrong way, friend! Every day is a battle: with nature, his legs, his thoughts. Every border a test, every encounter a lesson. And at some point, between pain and realisation, he is further along than he ever thought he would be. With pace and depth, Zinggl tells of walking, wonder and the unknown.

THE AUTHOR

Martin Zinggl, born in Vienna in 1983, travels the world as a reporter, photographer and filmmaker. At the age of twenty-four, the ethnologist conducted research on a remote island in the South Pacific, where he discovered writing for himself. He visited various crisis areas with Médecins Sans Frontières and reported on them. His reports appear in GEO, Spiegel Online and Al Jazeera, among others.

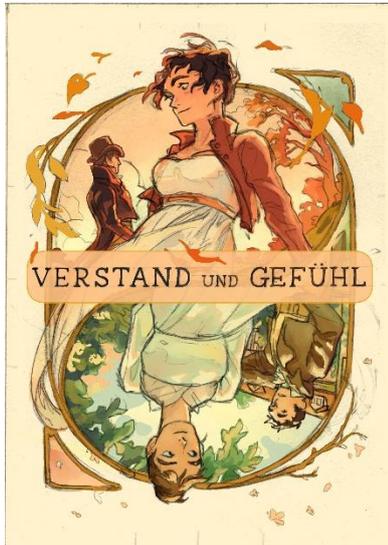
When he is not travelling, the author lives in Vienna.

USPs

- A journey that offers more than just geography - 2,400 km, 8 countries, 1 pair of shoes and a personal journey of self-discovery
- Trend theme long-distance hiking
- Off the beaten track - on foot from Vienna to Istanbul

Sense and Sensibility

The graphic novel based on Jane Austen



draft cover

Author: Anna Opel; Illustrator: Stella Langecker

SPECIFICATIONS

17 x 24 cm, hardcover

144 pages

colour illustrated throughout

Retail price € 28.00

978-3-95728-971-1

Publication: August 2025

World rights available

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JANE AUSTEN'S FIRST PUBLISHED NOVEL

Jane Austen's classic has been enthralling readers for over 200 years - now it is being published for the first time as an atmospheric graphic novel retold for young adults. Elinor favours reason, Marianne follows her feelings. But when love turns their lives upside down, they both have to make a decision: Head or heart? This modern adaptation captures the timeless question of love and self-determination - intense, touching and more immediate than ever. Artful, hand-drawn illustrations bring historical England to life. Each page is a visual masterpiece full of emotion and depth - perfect for Austen fans and anyone who is sensible but still loves big feelings.

THE AUTHOR

Anna Opel is a freelance author and dramaturge based in Berlin. She studied history and theatre studies and believes in the power of language. She writes books and essays. Her favourite things to tell are untold female stories and everything that is left out of the official annals.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Stella Langecker actually studied biology, but dropped out shortly before her master's degree to devote herself entirely to drawing. She is now a freelance illustrator and incorporates animals and plants into her work wherever possible. She prefers to work classically with pencil, pen, brush and watercolours.

USPs

- Jane Austen's debut novel as an enchanting graphic novel for the first time
- Reinterpreted for the new adult generation
- 250th birthday of Jane Austen in December 2025

Twelfth Night

The graphic novel based on William Shakespeare



draft cover

Author: Alwina Calma; Illustrator: Sarah Raffelt

SPECIFICATIONS

17 x 24 cm, hardcover

128 pages

colour illustrated throughout

Retail price € 28.00

978-3-95728-981-0

Publication: October 2025

World rights available

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A COMEDIC ROMANCE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Shakespeare? Yes, but with romance, please! No one perfected the play of emotions as much as the master of drama. Reinterpreted and with modern drawings, this graphic novel adaptation of the play of the same name enchants with unique characters and explores human desire. Viola, stranded and disorientated, falls in love with Duke Orsino. The only annoying thing is that she works for him under a false identity. Does a love based on secrets and lies even stand a chance? A light-hearted play full of trials and tribulations and great romantic feelings that shows the complexity of human relationships. Not just for Shakespeare fans, but for all romance enthusiasts!

THE AUTHOR

Alwina Calma works as an author and online editor in Berlin. She supplemented her teaching degree with further training in psychology and soon stumbled across her childhood flipbooks during her traineeship, which revitalised her creative side. Since then, she has been writing novels and screenplays, runs the screenwriting blog Story Twister and is a member of the German Screenwriting Association.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sarah Raffelt is a qualified psychologist and freelance artist. She has been drawing artwork in digital and traditional media for over 15 years, which she shares on social media under the name @abbinary. Inspired by her love of manga and comics, she published her first graphic novel, *As You Like It*. When she's not creating, she spends time with her cat Sammy.

USPs

- Shakespeare meets New Adult
- A graphic novel that combines classic tropes such as 'From Enemy to Lover' and 'Forbidden Love'
- A story that raises questions about identity and gender roles while tapping into the zeitgeist

33 Words That Will Change Your Life

Cover to come

Author: Doris Lind

SPECIFICATIONS

13.6 x 21 cm, softcover with flaps

Approx. 160 pages

20 coloured illustrations

Retail price € 20.00

978-3-95728-997-1

Publication: August 2025

World rights available

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ABOUT THE GREAT POWER OF SMALL WORDS

The message of this book: fulfil wishes, realise dreams, achieve goals - whatever they are: a small word can have a big impact and change your life. Dr Doris Lind presents 33 words and their effects - with short stories, entertaining information, lots of know-how and in a refreshing style. It includes easy-to-implement tips on how to amplify the positive power of words, avoid negative effects and communicate mindfully with yourself and others. The focus is on self-care and self-awareness: All words help to empower, gain clarity and confidence, feel good about yourself and stand up for yourself. You are immediately tempted to try out their effect yourself!

THE AUTHOR

Doris Lind, born on 15 June 1972, is a Gemini and that's probably why she likes to be in the communicative element: writing and reading have been her favourite pastimes ever since she was able to write and read. Even today, the German studies graduate is all about words: she writes books, works as a copywriter and text trainer and curates hotel libraries. Doris Lind lives in the centre of Graz and travels to the countryside at weekends, where she tends an old garden. She loves beautiful things, inspiring journeys, photography, design, art, music and most of all: books.

USPs

- Discover the power of words for more clarity, confidence and inner strength - practical, inspiring and entertaining!
- How words can positively change your life, with tips for more clarity, self-confidence and mindful communication

Your Advent - 24 Happy Moments Just For You

Feel the anticipation, discover new things,
enchant yourself



draft cover

Author: Tanja Köhler

SPECIFICATIONS

13.5 x 18.5 cm, hardcover
approx. 140 pages
25 coloured illustrations
Retail price € 20.00

978-3-98962-017-9

Publication: September 2025

World rights available

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PERSONALISED FEEL-GOOD MOMENTS DURING THE ADVENT

SEASON

How about some relaxation and moments just for yourself in the often stressful pre-Christmas period? Let SPIEGEL bestselling author Tanja Köhler whisk you away to 24 islands of time and give yourself moments of mindfulness, anticipation and reflection. For each day of Advent, you will find an atmospheric and entertaining short story, ideas for 'Happy Moments', inspiring guiding thoughts, coaching tips and reflection questions to help you face the packed pre-Christmas period with lightness and energy. Discover how you can bring a little more peace and anticipation into your pre-Christmas season in just a few minutes a day and turn these 24 days into an Advent of self-enchantment.

THE AUTHOR

Tanja Köhler, born in 1968, lives at the foot of the Swabian Alb. The multi-award-winning psychologist, bestselling author and systemic counsellor has been working as a coach for over 20 years and can be heard weekly on her own radio show. She loves good conversation, a delicious cappuccino and long walks in the countryside with her dog.

USPs

- Relax and unwind through Advent with SPIEGEL bestselling author Tanja Köhler

Christmas Mania

How to stay calm in all the hustle and bustle and get through the holidays with ease



draft cover

Author and Illustrator: Alissa Levy

SPECIFICATIONS

17 x 21 cm, hardcover

approx. 144 pages

50 coloured illustrations

Retail price € 18.00

978-3-98962-018-6

Publication: September 2025

World rights available

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EXPERIENCE THE CHRISTMAS MADNESS WITH HUMOUR AND SERENITY!

Who hasn't been there? You plan to buy presents early, decorate your home in an atmospheric way and create the perfect playlist for the festive season. But suddenly Christmas is just around the corner and you've only managed to get everything done by the skin of your teeth. The anticipation of a harmonious time with the family quickly gives way to the realisation that the festivities are going to be completely chaotic. And after the holidays, you swear to yourself, as you do every year, that next Christmas will be completely different.

Alissa Levy takes you on a humorous journey through the turbulent Christmas season, accompanies you through the highs and lows of the festive preparations and gives you helpful tips on how to master the Christmas madness with a smile!

THE AUTHOR

Alissa Levy is a freelance illustrator. Her work invites you to discover the extraordinary in the everyday. She lives and works in Dortmund. Knesebeck recently published *Chips in Bed* and *Yoga in the Park* as well as *Today I Start* an.

USPs

- Beautifully illustrated and humorous companion through the Christmas madness
- From last-minute DIYs to relaxation tips - everything for a more relaxed Christmas season
- From the author of *Today I Start* (11,000 copies sold)

Today I Start - The Card Set

48 cards for motivation, affirmation and lightness in your everyday life



draft cover

Illustrator and Author: Alissa Levy

SPECIFICATIONS

9.8 x 14.3 cm, hardcover

64 pages

Colour illustrated throughout

Retail price € 14.00

978-3-98962-025-4

Publication: December 2025

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CONQUER YOUR WEAKER SELF AND BRING ORDER TO YOUR CHAOS!

This set of cards is the ultimate companion for creating structure and clarity in various areas of life - be it dealing with emotions, communication problems, procrastination or creating order.

The motivational cards inspire with true-to-life quotes and motivate you to tackle the chosen topic directly with practical help. The affirmation cards empower with encouraging words that can be used as a daily mantra. The action cards get you into action with powerful quotes, specific reflection questions, exercises or to-do suggestions.

The first step towards a life with more clarity and self-determination can be that simple!

THE ILLUSTRATOR AND AUTHOR

Alissa Levy is a freelance illustrator. Her work invites you to discover the extraordinary in the everyday. She lives and works in Dortmund. Knesebeck recently published *Chips in Bed* and *Yoga in the Park* as well as *Today I Start* an.

USPs

- The card set for the successful book *Today I start* (11,000 copies sold)
- Quick and direct inspiration to conquer your weaker self
- Atmospherically designed card box in a handy format as a daily companion

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