# Film Rights
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BIOGRAPHY

TOBIAS ENGELSEND No Man for Normal Times 03
TOBIAS ENGELSING
No Man for Normal Times

Nazi follower or man of the resistance?

Herbert Engelsing grows up on the Rhine in a catholic pharmacist family but is drawn to the capital after finishing law school. He becomes the youngest judge of the Weimar Republic. When the National Socialist Party takes over the government, he begins a new career in the private motion picture industry. He produces some classic feature films of the 1930s: “The Tiger of Eschnapur”, “Bel Ami”, and “The Model Husband”. Heinrich George, Gustav Gründgens, Paula Wessely, Heidemarie Hatheyer, and Heinz Rühmann star in the movies that Herbert Engelsing works on for the Tobis corporation. Nazification catches up with his career in the movies when Tobis comes under state rule. Soon, Josef Goebbels becomes his boss. As “group line producer” he ends up working on several war propaganda films.

Outside of the ideologized dream factory, however, he marries a young woman of German-Jewish descent despite the racial laws. His closest friends are figureheads of the resistance group “Red Chapel”, for which he serves as a central contact. His friends die by the guillotine or on the gallows, he narrowly escapes arrest. After 1945, when he wants to emigrate to the United States with his family, allied secret services and former Gestapo officials target him because of his involvement with the allegedly soviet circle. Herbert’s first marriage falls apart between the continents. He becomes a successful criminal defense lawyer in southwestern Germany and finds a last young love. This relationship’s child, Tobias, now sets out in search of his unknown father who died too young to tell him of his contradictory life between the world of Nazi film and resistance.

Germany, 1900s to 1960s

A man full of contradictions, a colorful character amid the Nazi movie industry.
DRAMA

MARTIN BEYER  Aunt Helene and the Book of Circles ................................................................. 05
ALBERT VIGOLEIS THELEN  The Island of Second Sight .......................................................... 06
MARLEN HAUSHOFER  The Wall .................................................................................................. 07
A female artist defies the norms of society

Shortly before her wedding in the early 1960s, the Frankfurt painter and fashion designer Helene Klasing learns that she is an adoptive child. Her biological mother had to leave her in a nursery after her birth and emigrated to the United States. When her family history turns out to be a lie, Helene tries to go her own way as an artist. While she earns their living, her husband Harry loses himself in political battles and begins to question their relationship. At first, Helene wants to be a part of the radical movement. But she soon realizes that neither her nor her supposedly “bourgeois” art are taken seriously.

Years later, Helene turns her back on Frankfurt and moves into a blue house in a small town where she devotes herself entirely to her art and above all her lifetime project, the Book of Circles. She repeatedly seeks contact with her biological mother who allows letters with Helene but does not want to meet her in person. Only at the insistence of her second daughter Theresa, Helene’s half-sister, the two finally meet in 1980. Thirty years later, Theresa’s son Alexander travels from New York to Germany to meet his aunt Helene. He is impressed by her free spirit while he feels disoriented after the early death of his mother. Soon after, Helene dies. Alexander must decide whether to join his father’s company long term or go his own way. And he must decide how serious he is about his girlfriend. In Helene’s estate he comes across the Book of Circles. Attached to the convolute is a letter in which Helene asks him to complete it.

The only way you cannot get lost on is your own.
ALBERT VIGOLEIS THELEN

The Island of Second Sight

From Vigoleis’ applied memories

When news of the impending death of her brother Zwingli reach Beatrice, she and her husband Vigoleis travel to the Spanish island of Mallorca. It is concern but also sheer thirst for adventure that drives them. Upon arrival, Beatrice’s supposedly deadly ill brother proves very much alive. Instead of setting the couple up in a hotel, Zwingli brings them to his apartment that he shares with his vivacious lover Pilar. When Pilar tries to seduce Vigoleis and ends up attacking him with a knife, Vigoleis and Beatrice take off to enter a world of wild adventures, and the burlesque life on the “golden island” begins for them. With an inexhaustible joy to fabulate, Albert Vigoleis Thelen describes Beatrice’s and Vigoleis’ hike from one odd lodging to the next. The couple gets involved in bizarre situations and must master their life between actors, wannabe-anarchists, and a rude cockatoo, between opium smugglers and prostitutes, artists and beggars. Every encounter, be it through Vigoleis’ work as a fanciful tourist guide and hotel manager or Beatrice’s language classes, gives birth to new imageries and fantastic stories.

"A masterpiece." Times Literary Supplement

"One of the greatest books of the twentieth century." Thomas Mann

"A true work of art." Paul Celan

Mallorca, 1930s

Weird years between strange figures and curious tales.

English translation available.

First published 1953 at Claassen Verlag
A fairy tale of survival

A forty-year-old woman goes on a weekend-trip with her cousin and the latter’s husband to a hunting hut in the mountains. Upon arrival, the couple goes out for dinner. In the morning, the woman finds herself alone in the hut and leaves to look for her companions. But at the exit of the canyon, the couple’s dog that has stayed with her bumps his nose bloody on an invisible barrier. A man drawing water from a well in the valley seems frozen in his movement when she discovers him with her binoculars. Apparently, a tremendous disaster has petrified all living beings – or at least all that are visible through the invisible wall. The mysterious wall protects the woman from this fate but imprisons her at the same time. Because the wall encompasses several hunting districts, the isolated woman eventually learns to subsist on the remaining supplies, the plants and animals of the forest, and her garden. She soon begins to care for several animals as well: in addition to the dog, a few cats and a pregnant cow. During the third winter she writes the text at hand – without knowing if anybody will ever read it. The distance to her former life grows wider, as expressed when she thinks about her daughters.

Towards the end, a man appears on the alp the woman has chosen as her summer residence. Because he slays the young bull born by her cow without apparent reason and kills the dog as well when it is coming to the rescue, the woman runs to the alpine hut, arms herself with her hunting rifle and shoots the man. The woman postpones her often considered exit even though she is running out of ammunition and matches. Her fate remains open.

In the mountains at an impalpable time

The human being by itself as animal among animals that carries its burden.

English translation available.

First published 1963 by Claassen Verlag
WOMEN'S ENTERTAINMENT

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HENRIKE ENGEL

For the Women

Three dead bodies with a connection to the women’s shelter

Dr. Anne Fitzpatrick disembarks in Hamburg harbor under a false identity, arriving in her hometown after a hasty departure from London where she had to leave her female lover behind. On her own but determined to continue her fight for women’s political as well as sexual liberty and her mission to help the poor, she becomes involved with a local women’s association and prepares the opening of a new and much needed women’s shelter in the harbor area.

Young Helene admires the women’s movement and charity work from afar. When a newspaper ad alerts her to the opening of the new shelter, she finally dares to come closer. She makes her way through the dangerous docks just to be the one who halts the festive opening by making a terrible chance discovery. The dead body of a woman has been hidden on a boat nearby. Inspector Berthold Rhedt who is called to the scene of the crime promptly discovers another victim and makes an unsettling observation that hints to a dangerous serial killer. Still, conservative political forces pressure the police to treat the femicides as normal occurrences in the world of pimps and prostitutes. From now on, all three investigate: Helene, curious and intrepid, Berthold, who has to operate under the radar of his own office, and Anne, the medical doctor, with forensic methods she learned at Scotland Yard.

Prelude to a new series!

Hamburg, 1910

New beginnings and deep misery, wide world and narrow alleys, the wealth of some versus the poverty of many.

Part 1 For the Women
Part 2 For the Children

Part 1 published in January 2022 by Ullstein Paperback
BARBARA LECIEJEWSKI

Forever and a Little Longer

The end is a beginning

Jeremias is dead. Professional pianist Anna wanted to spend the rest of her life with him. Six years after the car accident that took Jeremias’ life, Anna is still living alone in their once common apartment, talking to her dead fiancé in her mind. But then her lease is terminated, and she urgently needs a new place to stay. The rental ads quickly put an end to her notion of a nice apartment with floorboards and high ceilings in central Munich. Even looking for a small room in a shared apartment proves difficult. To put an end to the frustrating search, she moves into a senior living community. The room she is offered has been sitting empty for months. Nobody is under 70 there and they leave each other alone. That’s just fine with Anna who wants nothing but succumb to her pain in peace. But the nice guy from across the hall seems familiar. Didn’t he alert her to the available room over a glass of mulled wine in the first place when they met at Christmas market? Eventually, she realizes that all of her roommates had reasons to withdraw from the world as well. Anna decides to bring them all back to life. Even if it means letting go of her own grief and opening her heart to a new person.
AMELIA MARTIN

The Auction House
Vienna’s Dreams

The fight for freedom and great love

Sarah, now 29 years old, becomes deputy manager at Hofmann’s auction house. And she meets her great love Philip again, whose marriage exists only on paper. She becomes his mistress. A big assignment brings her back to London. The American department store king John Redloff is a customer at Hofmann’s and asks Sarah to furnish his Vienna apartment and his townhouse in London. This is where she meets Charlie again, a childhood friend, but the street urchin has now become a gangster who tries to blackmail Sarah. When Sarah’s parents have an accident, she learns that she is the illegitimate child of John Redloff. Shocked, Sarah keeps this information to herself.

Several years later, Sarah enjoys an excellent reputation in the art world. The increasing hostility her Jewish friends and clients face infuriates her. When Charlie spreads slander about Sarah and, on top of that, Director Lehner demands that she distances herself from the Hirschels, Sarah refuses. But she suspects her time in Vienna is coming to an end. After the death of Philip’s wife, her future seems to be in London anyway. The Hirschels want to leave Vienna but are killed by a mob. Sarah just manages to save her godchild, young Rebecca. Together with the girl, she moves back to London and starts working at Varnham’s again. In a sensational trial, she is able to free herself from Charlie’s accusations. And finally, at the age of 43, she marries the love of her life, Philip Maynard.

Vienna/London, 1920s and 1930s

Professional career and the man she always wanted – in politically dark times, an auctioneer follows her own path.

The Auction House
Part 1 London’s Glamour
Part 2 Vienna’s Dreams

Published in February 2022
by Ullstein Taschenbuch Verlag
### NEW ADULT

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KATE DAKOTA
The Red Maple’s Whisper

Mysterious family ties

Hannah Larsson grew up in Quesnel (British Columbia, Canada). But one day, her parents separated suddenly. Even now, Hannah does not understand why her father disappeared from her life without explication. Back then, she moved to the United States with her mother and lost touch with the rest of the family. When many years later her grandmother Dora has an accident, Hannah returns to her hometown Quesnel to take care of Dora and her little guesthouse Broken Heart. On the drive there, when she has almost reached the guesthouse, a little girl, called Maggie as she learns later, almost runs in front of her car. Luckily nobody gets hurt. Still, Maggie’s father Nick is furious and all but pleased with the situation. As a result, Nick and Hannah lock horns in a huge fight. Hannah hopes that was the last she has seen of Nick. However, not long after, the two meet up at Dora’s guesthouse and it turns out that Nick and his daughter live there. Not only the traces of her parents’ separation puzzle Hannah, but Nick as well. Why does he live in this guesthouse with Maggie and act cagey when asked about his past? Hannah has no idea that this summer in Canada will become the turning point of her life.

KATE DAKOTA, born in 1968 in Rheine, North Rhine-Westphalia, lives in a small town in the southern Emsland region of Lower Saxony. From 1995 to 1997, she gained a degree in creative writing at the Open University of Hamburg. In 1998, she published her first book on a regional historical topic under her real name, which was followed by further publications. In February 2014, her first romance novel was published. As Carina Lund, she also writes crime novels.

A woman who has a lot to do this summer – a small guesthouse, a dramatic secret, and a handsome Englishman.

Published November 2021 at Ullstein Taschenbuch Verlag
JENNIFER BRIGHT

Everything We Lost

When life strikes a chord

The young student Hope, who works as a temp in Kate's café, is confident, strong, and always has a smile on her lips. At least that's the appearance she keeps up and perfects. She tries to avoid annoying questions about her family life. She feels she would have to tell lies. Because her outwardly harmonious family is anything but perfect and she does not want anybody to know the truth. Hope regularly witnesses domestic violence: Her mother beats up her father. She has devoted herself to playing the violin. It is the only thing that helps her escape reality. While working at the café, Hope meets Lee, a fun-loving man, and the two become friends. But when Lee finally asks her out on a date, she keeps her distance from him. She doesn’t dare let him get closer to her, even though she has strong feelings for him. But Lee will not be rejected so easily. He sticks around, fights Hope's self-doubt, and helps her realize that she can free herself from her shame since her mother's behavior is not her fault. He can relate to her issues because Lee, too, has had a difficult time and learned how to deal with anxiety. They eventually realize that they need each other more than they thought they did.
A curse goes round

In Vienna’s Museum of Art History, employees have made a gruesome find: In a dark storage room in the basement sits a sarcophagus with a mummy. However, this is not a millennia-old corpse, but the famous professor of Egyptology, Alfons Strössner, on whom typical mummification techniques have been performed. Inspector Leopold von Herzfeldt teams up with the gravedigger Augustin Rothmayer. Thanks to him, they find out that the mummy Professor Stössner brought to Vienna last year is the powerful Egyptian high priest Ta-bek-en-chon. Word quickly spreads that the professor has fallen victim to a curse. Meanwhile, crime scene photographer Julia is ordered to another case: In the new zoo at the Prater, an animal keeper was mauled by a lion. In fact an accident - but the head keeper scatters the suspicion that it could have been murder. The zoo is known for attracting its audience with the help of an ethnological exhibition. The head keeper believes that the young chief of the indigenous people is behind it, who wanted to revenge the subjugation of his people in this way. Soon Julia, Leopold and Rothmayer realize that the two cases could be connected. The trail leads to the unscrupulous upper class, passing the time with “mummy parties” and human zoos.