

NBG Choices: Books in English

A selection of books in English translation recommended for reviewers, booksellers, literary festivals and readers

FICTION

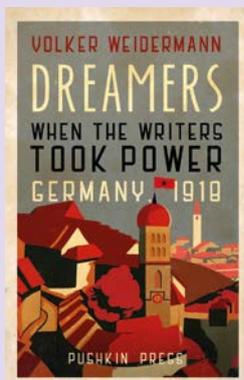


My Father was a Man on Land and a Whale in the Water

Michelle Steinbeck

Translated by Jen Calleja
Darf Publishers

A child attacks Loribeth with an iron while she is sleeping. In retaliation Loribeth throws the iron onto the child from an upstairs window, packs the damaged body into a suitcase and sets off in search of her absent father. This starts Michelle Steinbeck's startling poetic novella about a young woman's transition from childhood to adulthood. Steinbeck subverts the conventions of the fairy tale to reflect the psychological state of a girl growing up with a troubled relationship to her family. A lyrical coming-of-age novella and a striking debut.

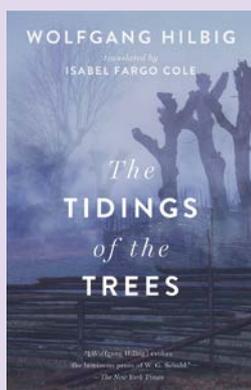


Dreamers

Volker Weidemann

Translated by Ruth Martin
Pushkin Press

At the end of the First World War, the journalist and theatre critic Kurt Eisner organised a revolution which overthrew the monarchy, and declared a Free State of Bavaria. In February 1919 he was assassinated, and the revolution failed. But while the dream lived, it was the writers, poets, playwrights and intellectuals who led the way. In his characteristically lucid, sharp prose, Volker Weidemann presents us with a slice of history and shows how a small group of people could have altered the course of the twentieth century.

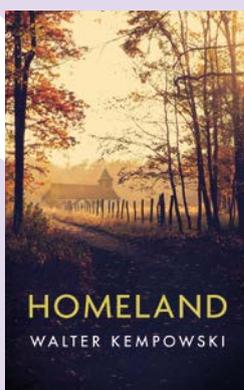


The Tidings of the Trees

Wolfgang Hilbig

Translated by Isabel Fargo Cole
Two Lines Press

Where once was a beautiful wood now stands a desolate field smothered in ash and garbage, and here a young man named Waller has terrifying encounters with grotesque figures named 'garbagemen'. As Waller becomes fascinated with these desperate men who eke out a survival by rooting through their nation's waste, he imagines they are also digging through its past as their government erases its history and walls itself off from the outside world. A powerful novel about the politics that rip us apart, the stories we tell for survival, and the absolute importance of words to nations and people.

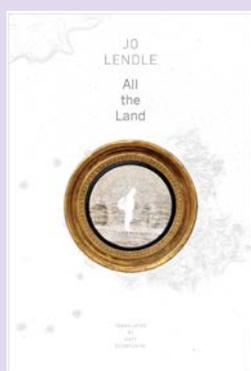


Homeland

Walter Kempowski

Translated by Charlotte Collins
Granta Books

It is 1988 and Jonathan Fabrizius, a journalist living in West Germany, travels to the contested lands of former East Prussia – where the Nazi legacy lives on in buildings and fortifications – to write about a car rally. It's a plum job, but his interest is piqued by a personal connection. Here, among the refugees fleeing the advancing Russians in 1945, Jonathan was born. *Homeland* is a nuanced work from one of the great modern European storytellers, in which an everyday German comes face to face with his painful family history, and with ordinary Germans' complicity.

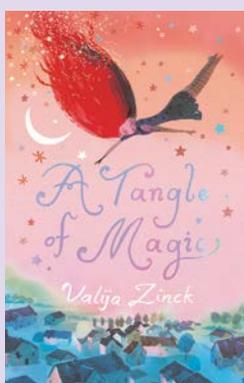


All the Land

Jo Lendle

Translated by Katy Derbyshire
Seagull Books

A beautifully written, meticulously researched and gripping fictionalised account of the life of polar explorer, Alfred Wegener, who died on an expedition to Greenland in 1930 while attempting to prove that one can survive a winter in 'the loneliest place on earth'. Now known for his pioneering work on continental drift, here we meet Wegener in all his ambiguity and scepticism. From the beginning of this poetic novel, Lendle slips into the boy Alfred's mind and describes the world through his eyes, a world in which mundane things are fascinating, and in which one can lose oneself.



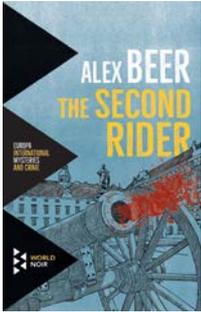
A Tangle of Magic

Valija Zinck

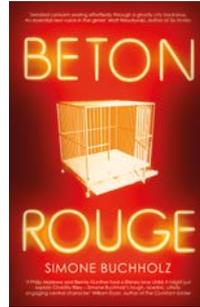
Translated by Helen Jennings
Chicken House

Penelope lives with her mother – her father died years ago. She has always been different from other children: for example, her hair has been grey since she was born. But one day, Penelope wakes up with sparkling red hair and her mother confesses the truth: her father is not only still alive, he's a wizard. Penelope has inherited his powers, and embarks on a journey to find him...

CRIME AND THRILLERS



The Second Rider
Alex Beer
Translated by
Tim Mohr
Europa Editions

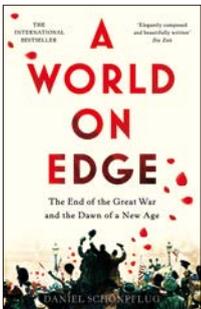


Beton Rouge
Simone Buchholz
Translated by
Rachel Ward
Orenda Books

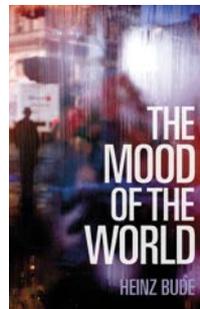


A Summer of Murder
Oliver Bottini
Translated by
Jamie Bulloch
MacLehose Press

NON-FICTION



A World on Edge
Daniel Schönplug
Translated by
Jefferson Chase
Picador (UK)
Metropolitan Books (US)

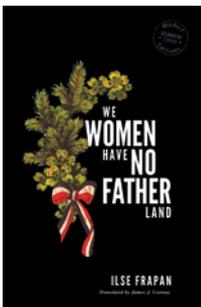


The Mood of the World
Heinz Bude
Translated by
Simon Garnett
Polity Press

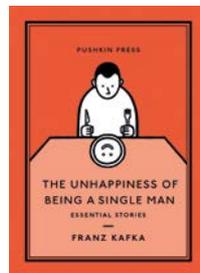


A German Officer in Occupied Paris: The War Journals, 1941-1945
Ernst Jünger
Translated by
Thomas Hansen and Abby Hansen
Columbia University Press

CLASSICS



We Women Have No Fatherland
Ilse Frapan
Translated by
James J. Conway
Rixdorf Editions

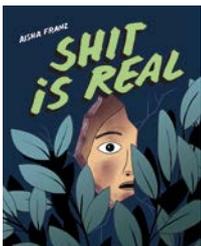


The Unhappiness of Being a Single Man. Essential Stories
Franz Kafka
Translated by
Alexander Starritt
Pushkin Press

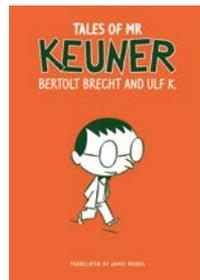


The Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht
Translated and Edited by
David Constantine and Tom Kuhn
W. W. Norton / Liveright

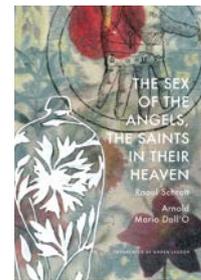
ILLUSTRATED AND GRAPHIC NOVELS



Shit is Real
Aisha Franz
Drawn & Quarterly



Tales of Mr Keuner
Bertolt Brecht
Illustrated by
Ulf K.
and translated by
James Reidel
Seagull Books



The Sex of the Angels, the Saints in their Heaven
Raoul Schrott
Translated by
Karen Leeder
Seagull Books