



Picus Verlag

Foreign Rights 2018

Fiction
Non-Fiction

Children's Books





Aleida und Jan Assmann Winners of the Peace Prize of the German Booktrade 2018!



The current political debate on refugees raises urgent questions about a new social code of conduct. To formulate such, three aspects need to be considered: firstly, the political implementation of human rights as a historical accomplishment; secondly, a social perspective on this legal protection, based on age-old values such as empathy and solidarity and finally, a code of rules facilitating fair and respectful coexistence of locals and immigrants.

Aleida Assmann
HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DUTIES
Key Terms for a Compassionate Society
192 pages

For this set of rules, which is to be recognised as a collective commitment beyond cultural differences, Aleida Assmann proposes the term »human duties«. She retraces its five thousand-year-long history and updates it for the present.

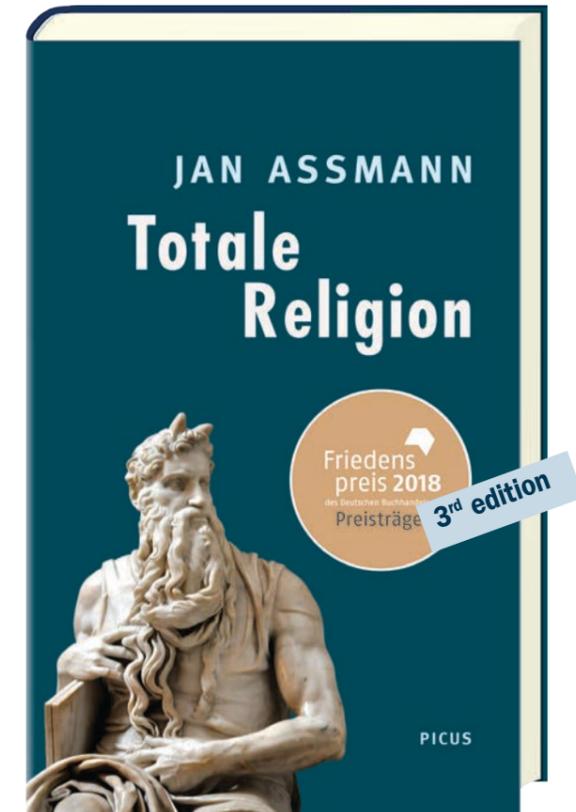
All rights available



Jan Assmann
THE MAGIC FLUTE
An Opera with Two Faces
108 pages

Jan Assmann ventures on a new reading of the famous opera as a Masonic tale: the mystery journey of Tamino – who is being tested and led away from the upper world of illusions, through the underworld, and is finally initiated into the sphere of enlightenment.

All rights available



Jan Assmann
ABSOLUTE RELIGION
Sources and Forms of Puritanical Escalation
184 pages

Is it possible that radicalism is not the trait of one specific religion but rather indicates a commonality of all monotheistic varieties? Jan Assmann pursues the possible connection between propensity towards violence and the absolute claim to truth in monotheism.

All rights available
except Slovenian and Italian

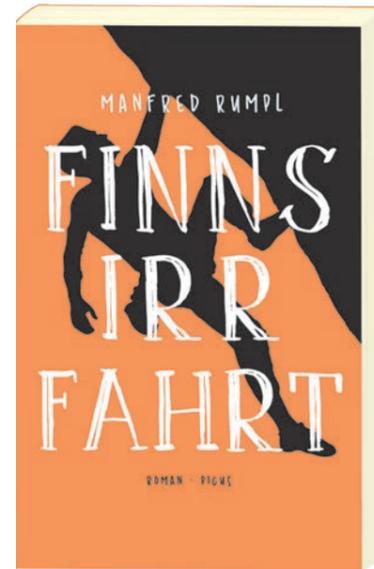
Finn's Odyssey

Manfred Rumpf
ORIGINAL TITLE:
FINNS IRRFAHRT
fiction

Rebellion, unspeakable yearning, political activism and first love: Manfred Rumpf combines all of the above in a captivating and current all-ager.

Finn is fifteen years old, the son of divorced parents, bad at maths, a music lover and a passionate rock climber. But after a serious climbing accident he falls into a coma and wakes up with changed spirits: His latent rebellion against his hated stepfather turns into an open revolt and culminates in an act of political protest which leads to Finn and his friends running away. Their trip through the summer heat resembles a road movie, Finn having only two goals in mind – wanting to find his biological father and to conquer the climbing wall that made him fall ...

250 pages
All rights available



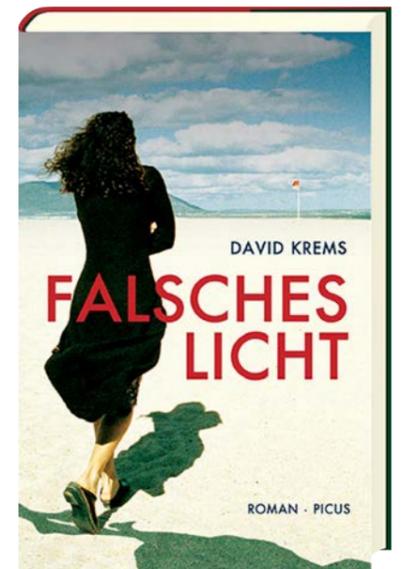
Stray Light

David Krems
ORIGINAL TITLE:
FALSCHES LICHT
fiction

David Krems' debut tells a story of love and betrayal: A ménage à trois reminiscent of a film noir – filled with dense atmosphere, a passionate affair and unsuspected consequences.

In hindsight Schotter can't really explain why he took on this assignment. To spy on a married woman was a rather unusual task for the photographer. And as soon as Tanja stood in front of him, he knew he wouldn't be able to be very professional about this job, and everything that followed certainly wasn't according to protocol ... Now, many years later, Tanja is dead and his former client demands Schotter's old pictures. Suddenly a man turns up, who bewilderingly looks like Tanja and Schotter has to finally face his past.

208 pages
All rights available



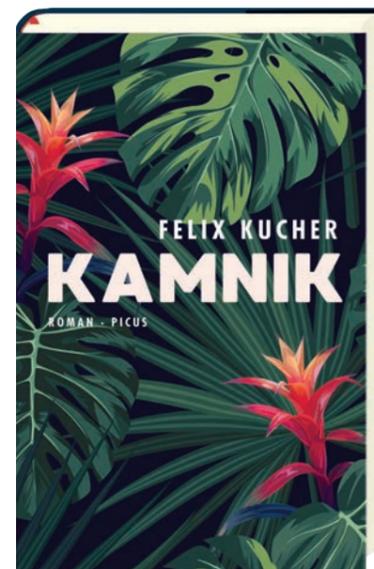
Kamnik

Felix Kucher
ORIGINAL TITLE:
KAMNIK
fiction

A compelling historical tale about the first half of the last century, fatefully interlinking the lives of its protagonists across two continents.

Austria, Southern Carinthia, in the nineteen-twenties: Anton conceives a plan to seek his fortune far away in distant America. He obtains passage to Buenos Aires, and when he arrives in Argentina he works hard on leaving his past behind: his poor rural Slovenian heritage, the uprising of National Socialism in Europe and his beloved but troubled brother Josl. Soon he leads a new life. Steiner, who is from the same region as Anton, arrives in South America in 1945. Not before long they become friends – but Steiner keeps a dark secret to himself ...

304 pages
All rights available



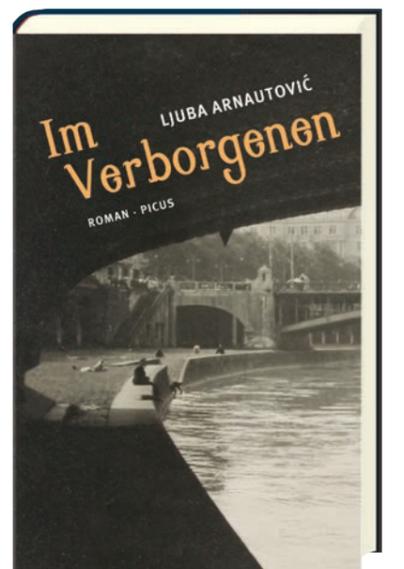
In Hiding

Ljuba Arnautović
ORIGINAL TITLE:
IM VERBORGENEN
fiction

Ljuba Arnautović's first novel is a haunting story based on the author's grandmother and own family history. A strong woman's silent heroism during World War II puts her in great danger, but she stays committed to compassion.

Vienna, 1944: Genofeva works in the office of the Protestant Church Council. No one knows about her political past, nor do they suspect that, for months, she is hiding people in her apartment to save them from the Nazis. In these perilous times, Genofeva must conceal all her loneliness and pain; her sons have been in the USSR for years without any news from them, and her husband has left her to start a new life in Australia. One day she meets Walter, who too must find refuge. Thus two lost souls in search of solace find each other ...

192 pages
All rights available



What Swallows Dream of

Daniela Meisel

ORIGINAL TITLE:
WOVON SCHWALBEN
TRÄUMEN
fiction

A strong girl in the past as an inspiration for the present: Daniela Meisel links a remarkable girl's story in the nineteen-thirties with society's expectations of women today.

Freda, an illegitimate child, is a tomboy and doesn't fit in. Her father rarely shows up, her mother's plans for her smother her. Only the new boy in school, Benjamin, truly understands her. Despite of dark times, a fragile first love starts to blossom. But National Socialism is on the rise, and Benjamin and his family disappear. Freda's father abandons her and war is approaching. The girl has to face a grim world, but will not be broken.

240 pages
All rights available



Anatol Studies Life

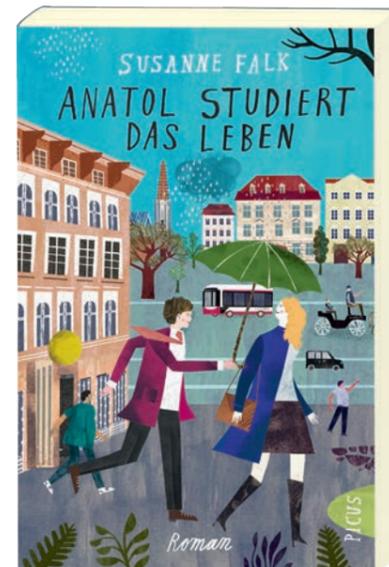
Susanne Falk

ORIGINAL TITLE:
ANATOL STUDIERT
DAS LEBEN
fiction

A love greater than art theft: An entertaining and exciting story about how a peculiar young man tries to win his beloved over with impressive – yet illegal – dedication, by stealing a world-famous painting.

Life is not easy for Anatol: His diva-like grandmother has delusions of grandeur, his love affairs aren't blessed with longevity and he doesn't fulfil his family's expectations. Instead, he seeks happiness as a museum attendant. When he spots the french art student Marcelline intensely studying a Chagall painting, he instantly falls for her. Too bad, she is leaving the country. Anatol resorts to drastic measures: He steals her favourite painting and heads off to France with the Chagall. A turbulent journey ensues ...

360 pages
All rights available



All the Night Upon Us

Gerhard Jäger

ORIGINAL TITLE:
ALL DIE NACHT
ÜBER UNS
fiction

Of borders and inner barriers, the chronicle of a night, and the chronicle of a life: Every hour of an agonising night watch, more about a soldier's past and future is revealed.



A soldier alone on a watchtower, guarding a border which has gained unsettling political relevance: His thoughts roam far back into the past when his life was still filled with love and happiness, before it all changed and he was left a broken man. The night is long, there's a storm, there's guilt, despair and turmoil ... and a face on the other side of the fence. A man on the run, in search of a better life – just like the soldier himself ... What will the soldier do?

240 pages
All rights available



Accounts Must be Kept

Stefan Peters

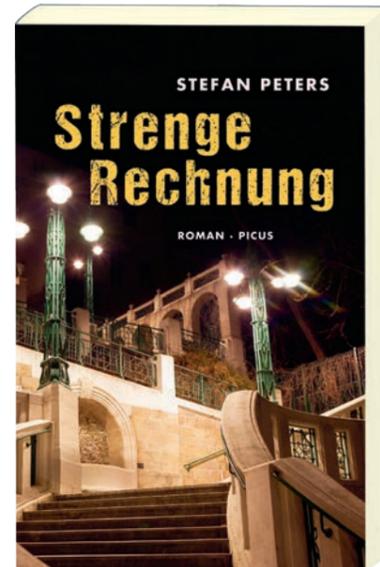
ORIGINAL TITLE:
STRENGE RECHNUNG
fiction

Stefan Peters' new Viennese crime novel about welfare worker Michael Bogner leads straight into a tale of corruption on a European scale – and the world of greedy, cold-blooded businessmen.

Over night there has been a strange change of procedure at the job training centre, Bogner's workplace: From now on, every employee has to simultaneously advise two clients. This absurdity soon turns out to be the cornerstone of a cunning fraudulent scheme, enriching the consulting industry. Alas, it doesn't take long before the first profiteer drops out of the game. Did someone else have a hand in this »suicide«?

288 pages

All rights available



Darlings of the Gods

Amaryllis Sommerer

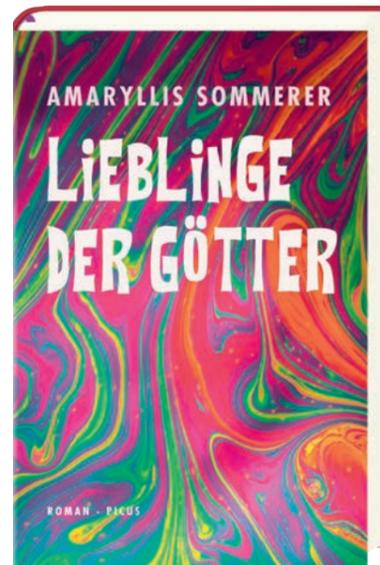
ORIGINAL TITLE:
LIEBLINGE DER GÖTTER
fiction

Amaryllis Sommerer's story about four young artists speaks of the experimental spirit of the early seventies and a generation that will not compromise in its quest for self-fulfilment.

Nina, barely sixteen, is hungry for life, art and all kinds of experiences. She falls in love with Valentin, the most dazzling artist in town. Their love is full of passion, they are loud, radical and don't compromise. But Valentin comes and goes as he pleases, vanishes without giving notice and only resurfaces when everyone already had thought he was lost. Karin and Martin, two filmmakers reaching for the stars, give Nina support – until, after many a detour, she finds her own way ...

256 pages

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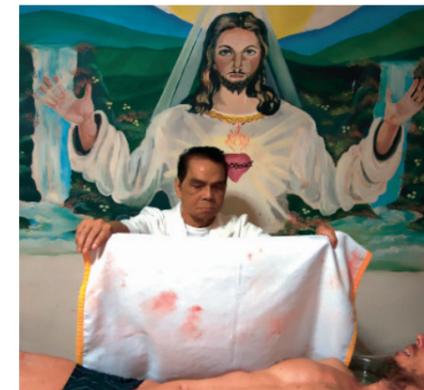
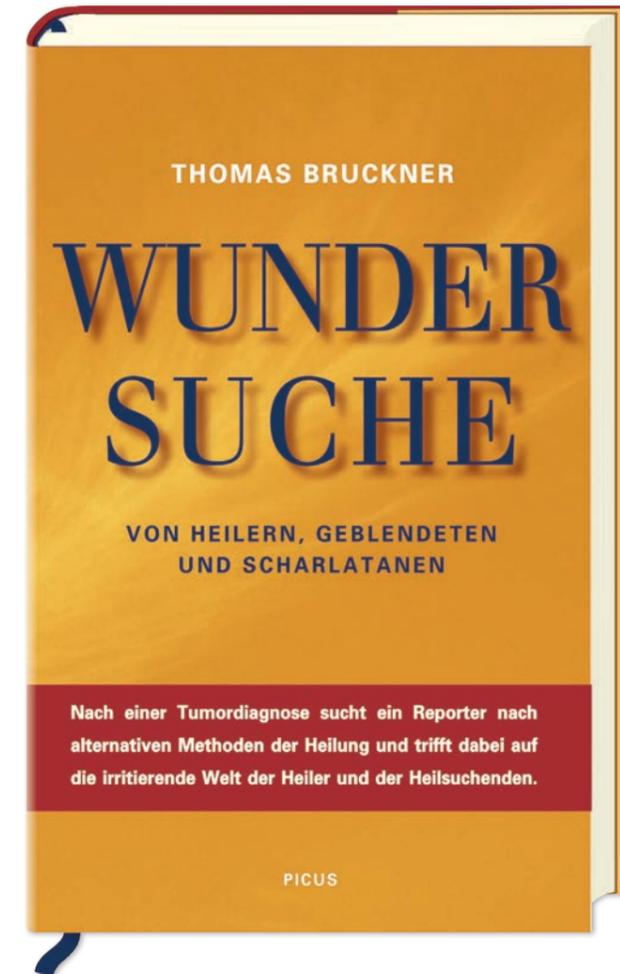


In Search of a Miracle

Thomas Bruckner

ORIGINAL TITLE:
WUNDERSUCHE
non-fiction

When Thomas Bruckner is diagnosed with a brain tumour, he decides against the doctors' advice to undergo immediate surgery and seeks out self-proclaimed »miracle healers« worldwide.



© Thomas Bruckner

His personal search for a cure faces reporter Thomas Bruckner with an emotional rollercoaster on which he meets healers, believers and charlatans alike. He always remains a questioning sceptic, yet is hopeful and experiences the inexplicable. Bruckner's travels take him to an Austrian farmer practicing as an energetic healer, a Voodoo priest in Togo, ghost surgeons in the Philippines, shamans in Bulgaria, Ghanaian exorcists and finally to the world's most famous medium João de Deus in Brazil.

304 pages

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Samba, Pig and the Mystery of the Mill

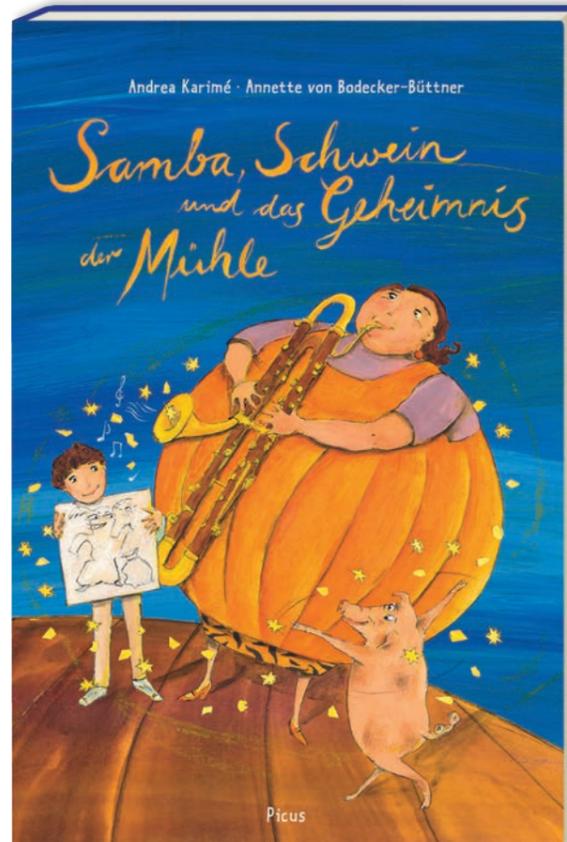
Andrea Karimé ·
Annette von
Bodecker-Büttner

Original title:
Samba, Schwein und das
Geheimnis der Mühle

56 pages
four-colour storybook
All rights available

For children aged 6 and older

Annette von
Bodecker-
Büttner's
imaginative
illustrations
turn Andrea
Karimé's exciting
detective story
into a colourful
delight!



Samba has been bored ever since his friend Lâl moved out of the neighbouring flat. But when aunt Otilie – round and red as a pumpkin – moves in and plays her bassoon the days shimmer like a golden treasure. She even has a pet pig! Called Pig! But that's a secret. One day aunt Otilie suddenly vanishes. And then Pig runs away from Samba! They run and run and come to a halt in front of the old mill. Maybe those sinister figures with their long coats have something to do with aunt Otilie's disappearance?



The Secret of the Snowy Owl

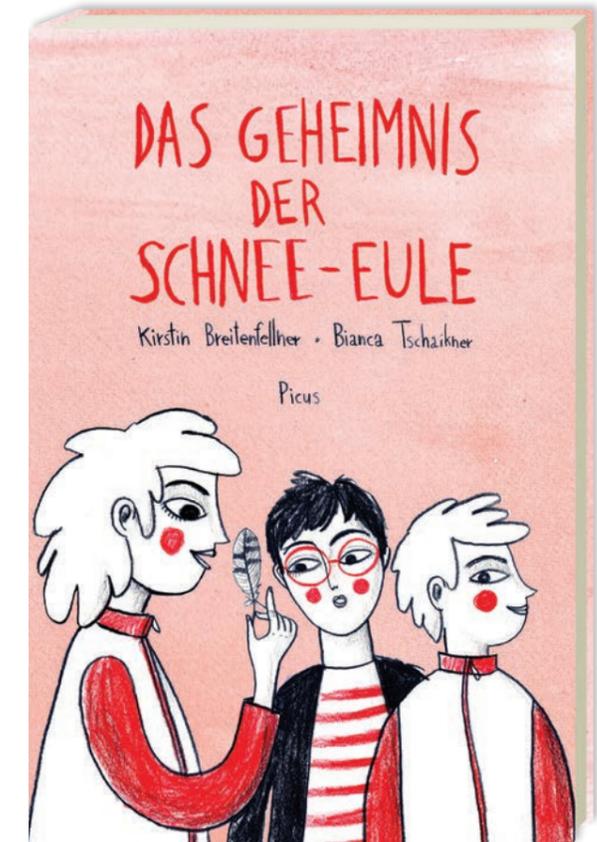
Kirstin Breitenfellner ·
Bianca Tschakner

Original title:
Das Geheimnis der Schnee-Eule

136 pages
novel with
black-and-white
illustrations
All rights available

For children aged 8 and older

A suspenseful
children's
detective story
about being
different and
getting along
with each other
and how first
impressions don't
always prove to
be true.



Tiba and her brother Kai are visiting their aunt and uncle in a tiny village that is only known for its peace centre. While aunt Oda runs the centre, uncle Benno looks after baby Tobi. Tiba and Kai quickly make friends: There's cousin Martin of course, Kalin, a Bulgarian boy, and Karl, the hunter's son. Together with their new companions they decide to lead the taxidermist Mr. Maus into a trap – they suspect he stuffs snowy owls, even though they are a protected species!



The Woman who came out of the Apple

Isabella Diessl ·
Lucy Keijser

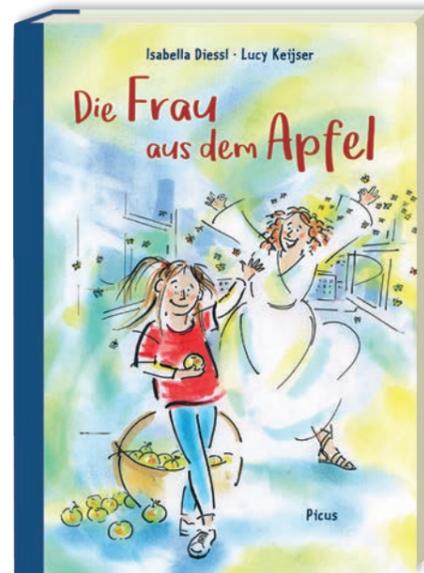
Original title:
Die Frau aus dem Apfel

114 pages
novel with
black-and-white
illustrations
All rights available

**For children aged 8
and older**

**Growing up sure isn't easy –
especially if you're visited by a
Roman goddess!**

Ten-year-old Pilvi has a lot on her plate: Her best friend has been hanging out with the pretentious Tamara, a big presentation at school is coming up and she has been assigned to work with stupid Charles, of all people! When Pilvi is given a basket of apples from her neighbour's garden, things get even more confusing: All of a sudden the Roman goddess Pomona jumps out of one of them! With her wild red hair and her lively nature she is causing even more chaos ...



Look what I Can Do!



Nikolaus Ober ·
Angela Holzmann

Original title:
Schau mal, was ich kann!

32 pages
four-colour storybook
All rights available

**For children aged 3
and older**



Perhaps You Were a Flutter of Wings

Birgit Unterholzner ·
Clara Frühwirth

Original title:
**Vielleicht warst du ein
Flügel Schlag**

32 pages
four-colour storybook
All rights available

**For children aged 4
and older**

**A poetic story about the big
questions in life:**

Felicia asks: »Why am I in this world? Where do I come from?« Daddy says: »You are here because we wished for you.« »You were in my belly once«, says mummy. But how did she get in there? »You were a chimpanzee baby«, mocks her older brother. Maybe she was a dragon tree. Or a star of hope? Or she was a song that fell to earth. We can't know where we come from. But we can imagine, and feel how our laughter reverbs throughout the world.



**What a day
full of fun
things to do!**



The little kangaroo wants to show the big kangaroo all the things it can do and is up to all sorts of shenanigans! It can climb up a tree, it can do somersaults, draw pictures in the sand and can even put its head into the crocodile's mouth! The big kangaroo, on the other hand, can embrace the little kangaroo tightly and love it very much. And that is the best thing anyone could ever do, according to the little kangaroo.



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Foreign Rights: Maria Antonia Graff

graff@picus.at

+43.1.408 18 21 13

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