



April 2023

Dear Friends of Diogenes,

We probably have a tendency to wish that things would become a little easier, but it doesn't really seem to work that way right now. Then again, time moves on. We talk and laugh, eat and drink, travel, buy new sneakers, and even read a book. Thanks to your great support, we can look back on a wonderful anniversary year, which we celebrated at the Frankfurt Book Fair with our authors and friends. Several bestsellers from Ingrid Noll, Doris Dörrie, Bernhard Schlink, and Ian McEwan lifted our spirits as well as the success of our new author Irene Vallejo's *Papyrus*. Our highlights this year already include Martin Suter's *Melody*, Anthony McCarten's *Going Zero*, and John Irving's *The Last Chairlift*.

In our new program, you can count on fantastic books as well, such as *Paradise Garden*, a debut novel that many publishers had been competing for. Elena Fischer writes about loss, searching for a home, how you find your own voice. Eight years after Eve Harris turned our heads with *The Marrying of Chani Kaufman*, there is a captivating continuation with *The Hope of Chani Kaufman*. And Joachim B. Schmidt extends his madcap Icelandic story with *Kalmann and the Sleeping Mountain*, while Clemency Burton-Hill offers us *Another Year of Wonder*.

Suffering from writer's block is devastating for any author. In *Smoke and Sound*, by the versatile writer Charles Lewinsky, it's Goethe of all people who is in agony. I guarantee you'll have a unique reading pleasure with him, as well as with Martin Walker, with Lina Nordquist's beautiful debut novel from Sweden, and with Andrey Kurkov, who was just nominated for the International Booker Prize. And please know, I absolutely devoured Dennis Lehane's impressive and gripping novel *Small Mercies*. And then there is Katherine Rundell, who writes so entertainingly about animals in *The Golden Mole* that I may give this book to everyone I know.

I always admired my uncle Othmar Keel for his knowledge. After writing many books on religious studies for other publishing houses, I finally get to publish one of his books. He explains the foundations of Christianity in a smart and understandable way.

Finally, there's Jeremias Gotthelf, one of the greats of world literature. The *Zürcher Leseausgabe* edited by Philipp Theisohn, fulfills a long-planned wish to pay tribute to the work of this exceptional author I have admired since my school days. And we are celebrating an incredible 100 years of Lorient and taking a bow of respect to this grand seigneur. Diogenes and German humor owe him so much.

I thank you all and send my best wishes with the poet Mary Oliver: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Now being published in German for the first time, her poems have long been famous in the United States and are balm for the soul.

Sincerely yours,

Philipp Keel