

Der doppelte Lothar (The Double Herbert)

Anne and Alex have not seen each other since high school graduation 16 years ago, when they were inseparable. Anne Pistrulla - blond, straight-laced, main-stream - lives with her husband, two children and her mother in a small town outside of Chicago. In her profession she made it all the way to branch manager at „Macery’s“. There she controls the customer toilets every hour on the hour and marks special offers with the low prices of the day. Her husband Herbert - branch manager at the local Bank of America and allergic to most things - is the most stressful part of her life, followed closely by her mother. Both of them make her life difficult and treat her like a child. Anne does not even feel good about driving, because she always does everything wrong anyway.

Alexandra von Merz on the other hand - self-confident, dark haired and voluptuous - started an extremely successful talent agency, resides in a huge mansion and is the personal manager of international stars from the movie, TV and music industries. Being as powerful in the USA as she is in Europe, she even has influence on the casting of the next James Bond flick. Nothing can rattle her self-confidence. When her vibrator falls out of her luggage at the airport, she does not even turn red.

Main-stream, timid and with low self-esteem on the one hand and aloof, spoiled and at home in the Luxury League on the other, Anne and Alex begin writing emails to each other about their different everyday lives. A man plays the main part in both of their lives. For Anne it is Herbert, the complicated, nit-picking husband whom she can never please. For Alex it is the godly, handsome, talented and fantastic singer Mark – an American and her client.

Neither woman realizes right away that their men are actually identical twins. When Alex coaxes Anne into taking her life into her own hands and moving into Alex’s empty house in Vail with her daughters, Anne meets Herbert’s twin and falls in love with him. She then decides to go in search of the twins’ past. In New York she runs into a third Herbert and discovers that the biological mother of these triplets was forced to undergo medical experiments as a 17 year old under the communist regime in East Germany...

This fast-paced novel consists exclusively of emails, which increases the excitement even more. It is like reading personal emails from a best friend while slowly unveiling the shocking past of a divided Germany.