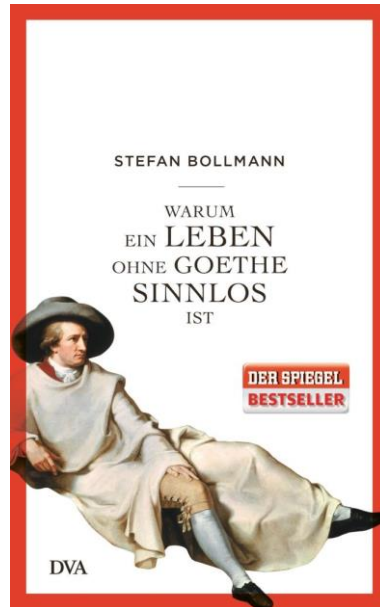


## Goethe's cheerful instructions for the art of living



Dr. Stefan Bollmann  
**Why a Life without Goethe is Pointless**  
[Warum ein Leben ohne Goethe sinnlos ist]

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt  
288 pages  
Format 12,5 x 20,0 cm  
May 2016

**Stefan Bollmann**, born in 1958, studied literature, history and philosophy and wrote his PhD thesis on Thomas Mann. In 1998 he gave up his job as a university lecturer to become a publisher's reader. He has published several books. With his bestselling *Women Who Read Are Dangerous* and *Women Who Read Are Dangerous and Clever* he looked into how the culture of reading has changed. His books have been translated into 16 languages and sold almost half a million copies.

The point of life? If there is anyone who has looked for this with such passionate tenacity, then it is Wolfgang von Goethe. Stefan Bollmann has drawn from Goethe's life and works to make a delightful and entertaining book for everyone who, like the master himself, cannot stop wondering about the good, the true and the beautiful. Goethe was the first to realise that the point of life is the sum of what we make of every single one of our days.

Seen and read from this angle, Goethe is the best and wisest of all conceivable sources of advice: How best to survive the first 25 years without losing heart? Why can distraction help us focus? Something else we learn from him is that the most important part of travel is the return and how to set the flame of love alive again. Stefan Bollmann shows us a Goethe who in the confusion of our present day we need more urgently than ever. Without him life would indeed be pointless.