

Incredible stories from green and pleasant pastures



Christhard Läßle
**There's Never Been so
Much Beginning**
[So viel Anfang war nie]
Small village going big

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Christhard Läßle was born in 1958 and studied journalism, politics and history. Since the 1980s he has held various positions at ZDF television as editor and senior editor and has been in charge of the "aspekte" culture magazine. 2008 saw the publication of his highly acclaimed non-fiction book *Treason Has No Statute of Limitation – Life stories from a divided country*.

Let's call it "Heart Village", this small and very real village not far from Berlin that could be any other village. A microcosm of the human condition, with structures and a social hierarchy that have developed over the centuries. Its residents have defied historical adversities as they have the challenges of day-to-day living. This village has seen the terrors of war, refugee treks, agricultural cooperatives – and finally the reunification of Germany its inhabitants: Creative minds and soldiers of fortune. Winners and losers. Pessimists and visionaries. Locals and city people from Berlin trying their luck in unspoilt countryside and planting organic vegetables. Theatre people bringing their cultural projects with them. Landscape architects redefining the village.

There has never been so much beginning! So much hope, so many expectations, such great wishes. Yet the village remains a village – ruled by its own laws and principles. As under a magnifying glass, the driving forces of the human condition become visible – passion, jealousy, anxieties and thirst for action. And all of a sudden, even in the smallest village, a drama of unforeseen magnitude flares up ...