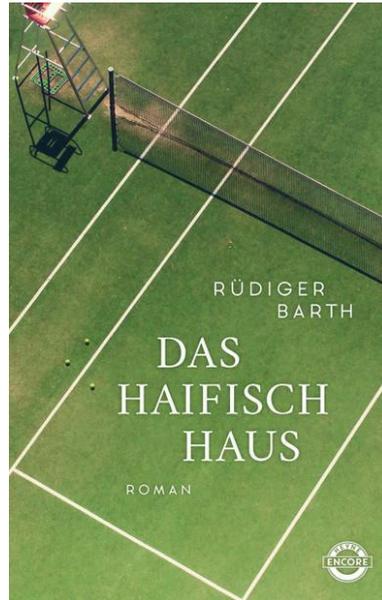


Everything or nothing – a fallen sports hero risks the comeback of his life



Rüdiger Barth
House of Sharks
[Das Haifischhaus]
Novel

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Rüdiger Barth, born in 1972, is the head of print at the Looping Group, which he founded with three friends. In his fifteen years as a reporter for *Stern* magazine, he has met many of the big names in sport, people like Bastian Schweinsteiger, Nico Rosberg, Oliver Kahn and Joachim Löw. As a tennis player, Barth has what he calls a fairly trustworthy forehand and a backhand he tries to run round, usually in vain. *House of Sharks* is his debut novel.

Toto Berger used to be the celebrated Number One in international tennis. Until he unexpectedly resigned, seriously ill, a medication junkie. A secret nobody was to know. Three years later his life is in shatters.

Then the new Number One challenges him to one last match. Before an audience of 30,000 in the Schalke soccer stadium. Prize money: 10 million. Everything or nothing. One last time, Toto Berger gathers his old mates together in a remote house on the Baltic Sea coast. Among them the woman he has long loved. And his son whom he has always denied. One last time he gets fit again. Until he realises one thing: in this game it is not his rival he has to conquer. But himself.

For readers of Chad Harbach's bestselling *The Art of Fielding*.

Press

"Very exciting... like a crime novel. [...] So incredibly precisely and well written, better than any TV recording." *Domradio*

"a perfect symbiosis between [Barth's] experiences as sports journalist and the depiction of a man's inner strife about to fail in the discipline of 'life'." *Hamburger Morgenpost*

"An impressive novel on the ruthlessness of the lone fighter – and why loneliness belongs to professional sports." *stern*