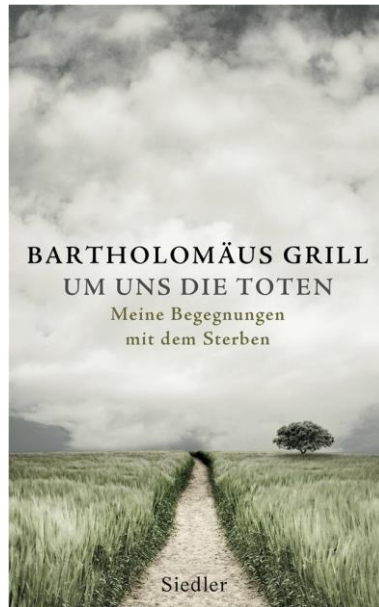


## A very personal and emotional book about death



Bartholomäus Grill  
**Around Us the Dead**  
[Um uns die Toten]  
My encounters with death

Siedler  
224 pages  
Format 13,5 x 21,5 cm  
April 2014  
With illustrations

**Bartholomäus Grill**, born in 1954, studied philosophy, sociology and the history of art. From 1993 he was a *Zeit* correspondent in Africa, and early in 2013 he joined the staff of the *Spiegel*. Siedler published his bestselling *Oh, Africa* (2003). His article on his brother's suicide was published in the weekly *Zeit* and was awarded the Henri Nannen Prize for the best report.

In his *Around Us the Dead*, Bartholomäus Grill has gone new ways. He takes readers on a journey stretching from his home in Bavaria, through Romania and on to Africa and Zürich and back again; and it is a journey that turns into an emotional memento mori. The world of his personal experience begins in the staunchly catholic region of Bavaria, where death seems to be ubiquitous and fascinating. As a foreign correspondent, he meets death as a mass murderer in the form of war and disease. In contrast, there is the death of loved ones: the sad death of a little sister who dies immediately after her birth; the lonely death of his father; the suicide of his brother and the merciless death of his mother.

This is a highly literary and powerfully eloquent book, a moving book, and it leaves a deep impression in our minds long after we have finished reading it. In the ascertainment of his own mortality, in the liberty, as Grill calls it, of "not having to think of death", *Around Us the Dead* is also a poignant and extraordinary book about life.