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For Ever and For Now

Celebrating love around the world

208 pages

Euro 18,00 € (D)

published in January 2016

ISBN 978-3-95614-064-8

Around the world, people find strange and wonderful ways to celebrate the rituals of love: the best are captured here in entertaining prose and beautiful illustrations. The perfect gift on Valentine's Day, on a wedding anniversary or any other relationship anniversary – and for all those you love! Ways to say I love you: whatever the occasion, wherever in the world, people celebrate their love – with rituals and customs to make that elusive emotion visible, audible, tangible. Take the carving and presenting of lovespoons in Wales, their rich decoration symbolic of timeless love, or the bidding for eligible partners as part of May Day celebrations along the Rhine – or the astonishingly unspoilt celebration of male sexuality that is Japan's Kanamara Matsuri, where the parade features gigantic phallic symbols and visitors merrily suck penis-shaped lollipops... Love has its poetic, comic, curious, crazy and endearing traditions and those collected here provide intriguing insights into foreign cultures – and our own. They show the many things that love can be. And for those in love, this book also contains ideas about how to find inspiration in these customs as well as recipes for crazier or more intimate celebrations of love.



Michaela Wieser

Michaela Wieser was born in 1972, and studied Japanology and Asian Art History in London. She writes for Süddeutsche Zeitung, NZZ, GEO and Deutschlandradio. Previous titles include: Tee mit Buddha. Mein Jahr in einem japanischen Kloster (Tea with Buddha. My year in a Japanese monastery) and, with Irmela Schautz, Von Kaffeeriechern, Abtritt-anbietern und Fischbeinreissern (...).

Michaela Wieser lives with her husband and three children in Berlin.



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Irmela Schautz was born in 1973, and studied painting and graphic arts in Münster and stage and costume design in Stuttgart. Since 2005 she has worked freelance for publishers, newspapers, magazines and in advertising. Irmela Schautz lives with her family in Berlin.