

Fabian Lenk

## Das Teufelskraut

THE TIME DETECTIVES (VOL. 4): DEVILSWEED

160 pp	Hardcover
Format	12.8 x 19.2 cm
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Age	9 years and older

The imperial Carolingian monastery in Lorsch, Germany - 800 AD. A series of murders has disrupted life in the monastery and the nearby village. Who is involved in the struggle for the formula of the magic potion? The Time Detectives' investigations lead them into mortal danger.

- Authentic historical setting
- Glossary with important terms typical of the time period
- Appendix with historical facts
- So far the series has sold more than one million copies

### ABOUT THE SERIES

An exciting crime story takes readers on a trip into the distant past. The stories in this series are based on an intriguing event in history or an authentic historical criminal case. The main characters are Julian and his two friends Kim and Leon, as well as the cat Kija, who has been traveling to the past with them since their very first time travel adventure in ancient Egypt. Kija has accompanied the three friends from one adventure to the next ever since, even helping with their investigations. All three of the kids have a great interest in history, which is why they return to the old monastic library of Siebenthann again and again. This library is not only a great resource for their search for new information about their favorite subject (history), it also contains a mysterious room called the Tempus. In it, time lives. There are thousands of doors with years inscribed on them, and when Julian, Kim and Leon pass through one of them, they travel to that place and time. Once arrived in the past, the three friends find themselves dressed in the style of the era and can understand the language spoken around them. Their time travels last only a few seconds in "real time", even if the historical adventure lasts much longer. Their absence isn't noticed in the present.

Each book includes an afterword discussing which aspects

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Florence Roux, e-mail: [florence.roux@ravensburger.de](mailto:florence.roux@ravensburger.de), or

Lucia Borrero, e-mail: [lucia.borrero@ravensburger.de](mailto:lucia.borrero@ravensburger.de), or

Maike Heinemann, e-mail: [Maike.Heinemann@ravensburger.de](mailto:Maike.Heinemann@ravensburger.de)



of the story are authentic, whether the case has actually been solved or summarizing the current status of scholarly research. There is also a glossary at the end of each book with important terms pertaining to the time period.

### CONTENT

A lecture on "the art of healing and poison making in the Middle Ages" mentions the legendary herb devilsweed, which granted "eternal life and great power". Precisely this herb was supposedly found in the year 800 at Lorsch. The Time Detectives journey back to the Middle Ages to learn the truth about the magic herb.

In the scriptorium in the monastery of Lorsch, monks are busy writing and making copies of important books - including medical texts. And in fact, herbal medicine played a historically important role at Lorsch. Leon and Julian (disguised as novices) and Kim (disguised as a peasant girl), together with their cat, land in the monastery. As soon as they arrive, the children become involve in an uncanny series of murders. The victims include not only monks from the monastery, but also local villagers. It doesn't take the Time Detectives long to realize that the murders have something to do with the plant called devilsweed, which lends magic strength and power when mixed with other ingredients. Apparently the formula for the potion lies hidden in the ancient texts in the monastery's library, and

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inside the cloister a deadly struggle for the formula breaks out. But rumors of the potion have also spread beyond the walls of the cloister. Motivated by the promise of riches and power, two thieves are also on the trail of the elixir. By means of a secret passage, which was intended to serve as an escape route for the monks, the thieves infiltrate the monastery complex. In the end, the Time Detectives solve the riddle of the magic potion.

### **THE AUTHOR**

Fabian Lenk was born in Salzgitter, Germany in 1963. He studied journalism and worked for various newspapers. In 1996 he published his first detective novel for adults. In the meantime he has become a seasoned mystery novel author and has published diverse mysteries for adults, historical children's mysteries as well as several volumes of mysteries to solve.

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Florence Roux, e-mail: [florence.roux@ravensburger.de](mailto:florence.roux@ravensburger.de), or

Lucia Borrero, e-mail: [lucia.borrero@ravensburger.de](mailto:lucia.borrero@ravensburger.de), or

Maike Heinemann, e-mail: [Maike.Heinemann@ravensburger.de](mailto:Maike.Heinemann@ravensburger.de)

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