

Usch Luhn/ Nina Dulleck

Maxie und ein Fisch mit Fernweh

MAXI AND A FISH WITH WANDERLUST

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For Maxie, every day is an adventure. And it's no wonder, when you live in the same house with a Siberian jumping mouse, a pet crow, a donkey and two sisters. When the new neighbors join the fray, chaos is certain. Not only did they practically steal the beautiful house Maxie's family wanted to move into, right out from under their noses, they're also sneaky and obnoxious, to boot. Maxie wants to pay them back.

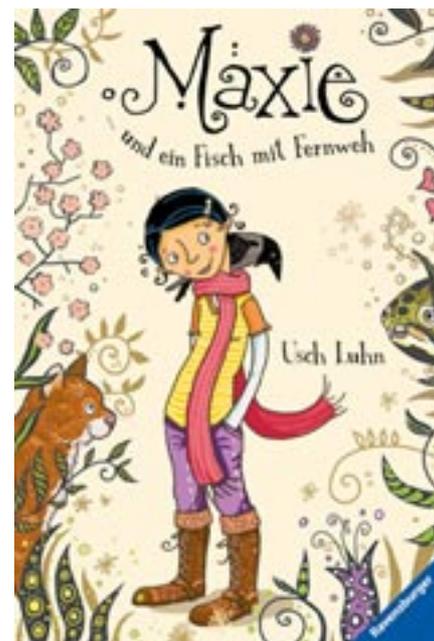
CONTENT

Twelve-year-old Maxie lives with her two sisters, her mother, Clementine Buntschuh, and lots of animals in a house that brings to mind Pippi Longstocking. The mother, a veterinarian, is counting on getting the mayor's permission to take over the villa next door to expand her business. But the mayor has changed his mind and now Sebastian Pfeffer, the new music teacher at school, is moving into it instead.

With him are his two sons, Lucas and Jonas. From the very beginning, Maxie is certain that Sebastian Pfeffer has to be scared away. She has an unexpected partner in this mission, namely Jonas, who has absolutely no desire to live with his father in this pathetic small town. He'd rather live with his mother in America. They try every trick they can think of to make Sebastian Pfeffer's life difficult. In the end, however, their plan goes so far awry that Maxie, her sisters and Jonas all have a very bad conscience.

In the grand finale, Maxie and Jonas take second place in a music competition. Part of the action, and the true star, is Maxie's rapping crow, Mr. Schiller.

The fish with wanderlust, of course, is Jonas, who dreams of America. At the end of the story, he finally gets his first pet, a fish in a glass bowl, as a gift from Maxie. His trip to America may have to wait a long while, but that's really not such a bad thing, because Jonas thinks Maxie is an incredibly great girl.



THE AUTHOR

Usch Luhn grew up in Austria. She studied communication studies in Berlin, trained as a screenwriter and film dramaturge, and has many years experience working in radio and children's television. The author has written more than 30 books, many of which have been translated into other languages.

THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nina Dulleck has been drawing since she could hold a pencil. She is married and the mother of three children. Nina Dulleck has been discovered twice, once by her elementary school teacher, who informed her that selling pictures during school was not allowed. The second time was by a publisher, when she was 16 years old.

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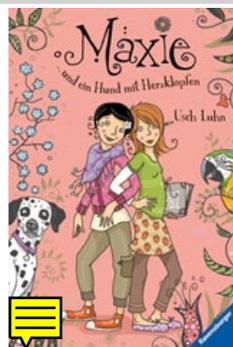
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