

Book tip: "Beetle Love"

## **Beetle invasion**

It just keeps on running... the indefatigable symbol of an era it embodies like no other car. It has even caused a sensation as a movie hero. No other make of car is known by as many affectionate names as the VW Beetle. It seems as if this affection is everlasting, not least thanks to a huge community of fans – as confirmed by a new book.

"Beetle Love": the latest instalment in the Delius Klasing publishing house's "Love" series of books, whose charm is due to the fact that inside, enthusiasts and other passionate aficionados tell the unique personal (love) stories they share with the automotive object of their desire with remarkable frankness. This volume focuses on the Beetle, the little car that was a product of Germany's "economic miracle", the friendly face on the roads of post-war West Germany. Its image is indestructible, as indestructible as the car itself.

Essentially, this is a book of love stories. Like Florian Ücker's, for example. He followed up the rumour that there was supposed to be a totally original Beetle in an old barn somewhere. A rumour that turned out to be true: taken off the road after nineteen years, and then forgotten about for another thirty-six. Lo and behold: a stay at a Beetle health resort, and it's up and running again! The Herbie lookalike with the number 53 never stopped running; in fact, it has been all over the world with Zainab and Dominikus Hoher, who have already travelled to 80 countries on five continents in it. There are actually several such stories of serendipitous rediscoveries of forgotten or globetrotting Beetles in this book; however, no two are even remotely the same. Christian Blanck, on the other hand, has a totally different relationship with Beetles. His passion: photographing toy Beetles made by Märklin and Siku. His pride and joy: a metal model from 1938.

Inge Feltrinelli's story is particularly impressive. In the 1950s, when she was still called Inge Schönthal, a Beetle helped her to fulfil her dream of female independence, considered outrageous at the time. In actual fact, with its touching or also funny stories, this volume provides some wonderful insights into the past, for example when it recalls the first Internationale Automobil-Ausstellung (IAA), where the Beetle was the star. So many stories, and each and everyone one of them makes this a thoroughly charming book!

**Thorsten Elbriggmann (editor)**  
**"Beetle Love"**

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