

STATIONS

THE FILM & TELEVISION PROJECT

SIX BOOKS. ONE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY.

Based on the autobiographical adventure novels by Bernhard Christoph Lichtinger.

LOGLINE

A young West German traveller sets out in search of love, freedom and adventure. His extraordinary journey takes him across continents, through unforgettable encounters and unexpected dangers, before a seemingly ordinary transit through East Berlin leads him into the brutal machinery of the East German prison system.

But that is only part of his story.

THE PROJECT

STATIONS is an international film and television project built around a six-part autobiographical book series. Beginning with a chance encounter in Bangkok and an unsettling prophecy, the story unfolds across Australia, India, Nepal and divided Germany.

Along the way, love turns into heartbreak, strangers become friends, seemingly absurd ideas develop into life-changing decisions, and the search for freedom leads somewhere no traveller would ever willingly choose.

Each volume tells a self-contained story with its own characters, locations, conflicts and dramatic possibilities. Together, the series reveals a much larger narrative.

An extraordinary true-life adventure combining humour, tragedy, suspense and the unpredictability of real life.

THE BOOKS BEHIND STATIONS

The **STATIONS** book series forms an interconnected narrative spanning continents, years and dramatically different worlds.

Each volume offers its own cinematic possibilities.

Together, they provide the foundation for a much larger production.

BOOK 1 - WHAT SHE SAW

Love. A prophecy. Australia. The beginning of an extraordinary journey.

Bangkok, 1985.

A young traveller meets Suzanne, a beautiful New Zealander. What begins with an apparently insignificant question about sugar turns into an intense love affair, and soon he abandons everything familiar to follow her to Australia.

For a while, it seems as though he has found exactly what he was looking for: love, freedom and the promise of a completely different life.

But before the adventure truly begins, a fortune teller takes his hand and delivers a disturbing prophecy. She speaks of dark forces, sinister demons and a terrible ordeal awaiting him in a distant place.

He laughs it off.

Then the relationship falls apart.

Suddenly alone in Australia, with little money and no definite plan, Chris is thrown into a wildly unpredictable life on the road, hitchhiking, relying on strangers, taking whatever opportunities come his way and repeatedly ending up in situations he could never have planned.

What follows is a succession of extraordinary encounters, unlikely friendships, absurd situations and unexpected dangers.

Yet beneath everything lies the memory of Suzanne and the fortune teller's words, which refuse to disappear.

Cinematic potential: A visually spectacular romantic adventure that begins as a love story and gradually opens into a much larger journey, combining heartbreak, humour, extraordinary characters, danger and an underlying mystery that reaches far beyond Australia.

BOOK 2 - THE MAN WITH THE CRUTCH

India. Nepal. Business. Smuggling. An extraordinary brother.

Ralf, Chris's older brother, moves between Germany, India and Nepal with a crutch after a serious accident leaves his hip permanently damaged. It barely slows him down.

When Chris joins him in India, the brothers are drawn into a chaotic world of jewellers, traders, improvised deals and unpredictable adventures. Chris ends up in hospital and is later robbed, while Ralf continues chasing opportunities with almost reckless determination.

Back in Germany, Ralf builds a successful company developing machinery and attracts major industrial customers. But his appetite for risk repeatedly pulls him beyond the boundaries of an ordinary life, including smuggling hashish through Frankfurt Airport.

Just when his ambitions seem within reach, his story takes a devastating turn.

Cinematic potential: A vivid character-driven story moving between India, Nepal and Germany, combining brotherhood, adventure, entrepreneurial ambition, risk, black humour and personal tragedy.

BOOK 3 - TRANSIT: THE LAST DAYS OF FREEDOM

India. West Berlin. One extraordinarily bad idea.

After surviving a coma, Chris finds himself on an overcrowded Indian night train, where his passport,

money and almost everything he owns disappear. He eventually returns to Germany with little more than the clothes on his back.

In West Berlin, he attempts to rebuild his life. Finding a place to live proves almost as difficult as finding his footing again, but eventually a flat, a new job and new friends begin to provide something resembling normality.

Then a workmate tells him an outrageous story.

At first, it sounds absurd. But the idea refuses to disappear. What begins almost as a joke gradually develops into a plan that will change his life forever.

Cinematic potential: A transition from international travel adventure to the distinctive atmosphere of 1980s West Berlin, combining friendship, dark comedy, the struggle to start over and one increasingly dangerous idea with unforeseen consequences.

BOOK 4 - DEPARTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN

From the Himalayas to the machinery of the Cold War.

Chris continues his journey through Nepal and the Himalayas, travelling with English backpackers and a local guide into the mountains in search of what they are told is the finest hashish oil in the world.

Days of freedom, absurd encounters and reckless adventure unfold against the vast Himalayan landscape. Eventually, Chris begins the long journey back toward Europe.

During transit through East Berlin, border officers search his luggage and discover hashish and hash oil. He is arrested.

Within minutes, mountain trails and open roads are replaced by interrogation cells, locked doors and the machinery of the East German state.

Cinematic potential: A visually striking transformation

from Himalayan adventure into a Cold War thriller, built around the brutal contrast between absolute freedom and its sudden disappearance at the border.

BOOK 5 - IN THE TIGER CAGE

Forced labour. Isolation. Survival.

Chris finds himself inside the East German prison system. After months in a small interrogation cell, he is transferred to a labour camp, where prisoners are forced to work exhausting shifts.

Chris refuses to work and wants nothing to do with the Stasi. When he exposes one of their approaches instead of cooperating, the consequences escalate.

Twice, he is sent into solitary confinement, into what prisoners call the **Tiger Cage**.

Psychological pressure, isolation and repeated confrontations with the system follow. As rumours of a possible amnesty circulate, hope repeatedly appears and disappears.

Chris must learn how to survive without surrendering his independence or allowing the prison system to break him.

Cinematic potential: An intense psychological prison drama combining historical authenticity, resistance, claustrophobic suspense, human resilience and moments of unexpected black humour.

BOOK 6 - FRIDAY THE 13TH

The story continues.

A planned sixth volume will extend the autobiographical narrative beyond the events of the first five books.

Its storyline and adaptation potential will develop as the manuscript takes shape.

THE CINEMATIC POTENTIAL

From the vast Australian outback and the tropical rainforests of Queensland to India's overcrowded night trains, the Himalayas and the claustrophobic prisons of East Germany, **STATIONS** offers an exceptional range of locations and visual contrasts.

Its characters are equally diverse: travellers, adventurers, unlikely friends, criminals, entrepreneurs, prison guards and ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances.

What connects them is a central character whose determination to live freely repeatedly brings him into situations that are as absurd as they are dangerous.

The material offers opportunities for both intimate character-driven storytelling and large-scale international production.

The individual stories also provide natural dramatic transitions between genres: adventure, romance, dark comedy, family drama, thriller and psychological survival.

TONE & STYLE

- Adventure, suspense and deeply personal storytelling
- Dry wit, self-deprecating humour and black humour
- Dramatic contrasts between freedom and confinement
- Extraordinary encounters and unexpected reversals
- An authentic story rooted in lived experience

The tone moves naturally between comedy and tragedy, often finding humour precisely where it is least expected.

Rather than following the conventions of a traditional

autobiography, **STATIONS** offers the narrative possibilities of an adventure novel while remaining rooted in actual experiences.

ADAPTATION POSSIBILITIES

The existing books, together with the wider six-part structure of the series, provide substantial material for a television series, a multi-season production or a series of interconnected feature films.

Each volume has its own narrative identity, allowing considerable flexibility in how the material could be adapted.

A television adaptation could explore the extraordinary range of characters, locations and events in greater depth. Feature films could instead concentrate on selected dramatic storylines.

The project is open to different creative approaches and international production partnerships.

WHY STATIONS?

An extraordinary true story. The material is rooted in lived experience rather than invented adventure.

International scope. Its locations span Asia, Australia and Europe, offering striking visual contrasts and opportunities for international production.

Distinctive characters. The books introduce an unusually diverse collection of people whose encounters shape the larger narrative.

A unique tonal combination. Adventure, absurdity, black humour, tragedy and psychological suspense coexist within one overarching story.

Substantial source material. The existing volumes already provide multiple self-contained storylines, while the wider six-part structure allows the narrative to continue and expand.

RIGHTS & CONTACT

Film and television rights available.

Bernhard Christoph Lichtinger

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