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## Press Release

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Two old-timer friends share their expertise on classic cars and the power of the pen to bring G.J. Dressen's debut novel "To Torch a Fake" to life.

### **The forgery of classic cars packed into a crime novel format**

Says Norbert Schroeder, Head of Classic Cars at the German Motor Ordinance Testing Agency TÜV Süd: "I am the author's technical muse".

What do you get when two very particular classic car friends form a friendly and inspiring collaboration? A very special kind of thriller. Norbert Schroeder is Head of Classic Cars at TÜV Süd and a world-renowned oldtimer expert, Gerhard Johannes Dessen is an experienced journalist with a nose for sniffing out good stories and a communications consultant — extensive automotive expertise meets the art of novel writing. Now, finally, the author's debut work "Glutrot" is also available in English under the title "To Torch a Fake".

G. J. Dessen's thriller is set amidst the classic car scene and picks up a hot potato: the forgery of classic cars, internationally organised and extremely professional. Schroeder comments: "Faked masterpiece paintings — that was yesterday. Criminal energy always seems to burgeon in areas where big profits are to be made. Today, an incredible amount of money is turned over by forging classic cars. The counterfeiters are becoming more and more sophisticated. It is becoming increasingly difficult for us experts to put a stop to them."

Classic car forgeries are increasingly in the media spotlight and now, in his crime thriller "To Torch a Fake", Gerhard Johannes Dessen has treated the topic in a new narrative genre

dubbed "fuel fiction": a Porsche 911 from the 1970s burns out in an accident near Nürburgring in Germany's Eifel region. Although the car is a complete write-off, a foreign dealer offers an unusually high amount for the wreck. Motor journalist Sally Morgan is soon hot on the trail of an international crime gang that makes millions in classic car forgeries. While their investigative work takes them all over Europe, she and her friends get caught up in the deadly machinations of an organised crime syndicate.

Facts are transposed into "fuel fiction" in "To Torch a Fake". A top classic cars specialist contributed the real-life basis and closely followed the novel's creative process. A few years ago, Schroeder wrote a standard work for experts in the field with his book "Oldtimer" (Classic Cars) — and now his expertise and Dressen's artistry have found each other in a wonderfully creative manner. Schroeder smiles wryly about his role in the novel's creation: "I am the author's technical muse." On a serious note, he adds: "Where criminal energy is at work, only educating people and increasing their awareness can help. And if this is done in such an entertaining way, all the better."

The two friends regularly share their enthusiasm for automotive gems over a cold beer with their pals in their favourite workshop in Anstel, in Germany's Rhineland region. "Stop mucking about with old cars. Why don't you write something exciting about vintage cars ..." — this is something the author had often heard his friends tell him. And so he went off and did it: he sat down and he wrote. Now his friends have an alternative to all their technical manuals that is truly worth reading.

The book is now available as a paperback in bookshops and as an eBook on Amazon.

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