

U.S. author Morton Rhue discusses his latest book with hundreds of fans

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[Audience laughs]

Morton Rhue: Mr and Mrs Bellinger for taking me out last night for some good beer and schnitzel.

[audience laughs] You know, as a writer, your books sometimes do well, sometimes they do not do so well, but wherever you go, you are very well fed. [audience laughs] Thank you for dinner.

[audience laughs]

Mrs Bellinger: Thank you!

Morton Rhue: Thank you.

Man: Mr. Rhue?

Morton Rhue: Yes? [audience laughs]

Man: Why is the book published in German and not yet in English?

[audience laughs, applause]

Morton Rhue: Because the Americans are slower. [audience laughs] My publisher has many other books that they have to publish before they can get to mine, and they just - there's no real reason, it's just the way it worked out. It will not come out in English until about this time next year.

Morton Rhue: I have to take care what I say how I like. No, I mean I can, you know, it's the United States, you can say anything you want. [audience laughs] I mean, we do have freedom of speech, right, so I can write whatever I want about it, I don't think anyone from a boot camp is gonna come in the middle of the night, [audience laughs] kidnap me, you know—well, it is a possibility. Yeah. I think I'm save there.

I like living in the United States. I think that it affords me a lot of great opportunities. There's really good surfing, which is important [audience laughs]. You know, there aren't a lot of places to surf in Germany, no... [audience laughs] But why is my name Morton Rhue in Germany, and not Todd Strasser? Well, many years ago, when I wrote *The Wave*, I was writing two books at the same time,

and they both came out at the same time, and the publisher said, you cannot have two books with the name Todd Strasser. Because it's harder to sell two books by the same author at the same time. So they said, make up a name for one of the books, and so you know the word Todd, Todd, in German, what it means is dead?

Audience: Aaaw

Morton Rhue: Tot, right? Strasser – street. Dead street. [audience laughs]. French: Morton Rhue.

Woman: Thank you, that was a great experience. [applause]