

## Friedrich Dürrenmatt *Justice*

Published by Diogenes as *Justiz*  
Original title: *Justiz*



In 1955 Dr Isaak Kohler, a distinguished Zurich councilman, walks into a restaurant full of well-known politicians, businessmen and artists, and shoots a university professor in open view. For his crime, Kohler is sentenced to 20 years in prison. Dr Kohler, happy as a lark and infectious content behind bars, sends for Spat, a young, down-on-his-luck lawyer and asks him to reinvestigate his case on the supposition that he is innocent. Spat does the seemingly impossible - he manages to have the murderer acquitted - and in the process is driven to madness. The lawyer becomes obsessed with his intellectual enterprise and, seduced by the notion of justice, decides to murder the murderer.

›The Execution of Justice‹ is a brilliant allegorical thriller that dramatises the distinction between justice and the law.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction, Compulsory Reading  
376 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
February 1985

World rights are handled by Diogenes

### Rights currently sold:

Chinese/CN (People's Literature)  
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Greek (Printa / Roes)  
Italian (Adelphi)  
Macedonian (Ars Lamina)  
Persian (Borj Books)  
Portuguese/BRA (Estação Liberdade)  
Russian (Azbooka-Atticus)  
Spanish/world (Tusquets)

### Movie adaptations

**2015: Im Labyrinth / Friedrich Dürrenmatt.**  
**Der kritische Geist der Schweiz**  
Director: Sabine Gisiger  
Screenplay: Sabine Gisiger

**2010: Schurkenstück**  
Director: Torsten C. Fischer  
Screenplay: Eva Zahn  
Cast: Katharina Schüttler und Oliver Korritke

**2008: Der Besuch der alten Dame**  
Director: Nikolaus Leytner  
Screenplay: Thomas Eifler  
Cast: Christiane Hörbiger, Michael Mendl, Muriel Baumeister, Rolf Hoppe, Rüdiger Vogler

**2001: The Pledge**  
Director: Sean Penn  
Cast: Margaret Larsen, Helen Jackson

**1997: Es geschah am hellichten Tag**  
Director: Nico Hofmann  
Cast: Joachim Król, Barbara Rudnik, Axel Milberg

**1996: Es geschah am hellichten Tag**  
Director: Bernd Eichinger  
Cast: Joachaim Krol, Barbara Rudnik, Axel Milberg

**1995: Tod im kalten Morgenlicht**  
Director: Rudolf van den Berg  
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Lynsey Baxter, Perdita Weeks

**1994: Der Wiedertäufer**  
Director: Heinrich Koch

**1994: In the Cold Light of Day**  
Director: Rudolf van den Berg  
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Perdita Weeks, Simon Cadell

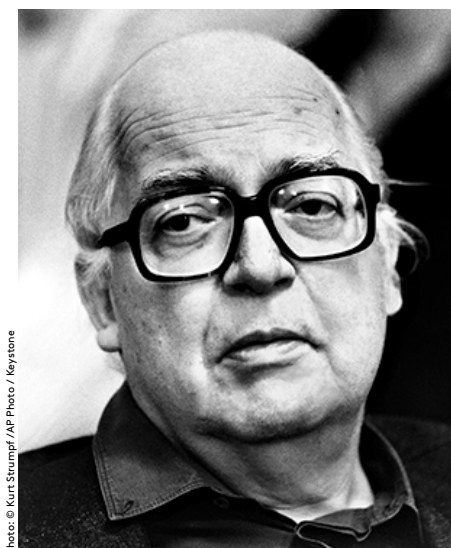


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Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921 – 1990) was born in Konolfingen near Berne as the son of a protestant minister. He studied philosophy, German literature and history of art in Berne and Zurich and worked as a playwright, novelist, essayist and painter in Neuchâtel, where he lived with his family.



**Subject Matter**  
2352 pages  
2021



**The Plays**  
1584 pages  
2015



**The Crime Novels**  
992 pages  
2011



**His Life in Pictures**  
376 pages  
2011



**Labyrinth / Turmbau**  
(Subject Matter I-IX)  
736 pages  
2002

**My Switzerland**  
256 pages  
1998



**The Minotaur/ The Assignment; or, On the Observing of the Observers/ Midas**  
208 pages  
1998



**Max Frisch, Friedrich Dürrenmatt - Correspondence**  
240 pages  
1998

## Movie adaptations (cont'd)

### 1993: Justiz

Director: Hans Werner Geißendörfer  
Cast: Maximilian Schell, Thomas Heinze, Matthias Gnädinger, Anna Thalbach

### 1992: Hyènes

Director: Djibril diop Mamberty  
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

### 1992: Hyänen / Hyènes, Ramatou

Director: Djibril diop Mamberty  
Screenplay: Djibril diop Mamberty  
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

### 1989: Die Welt ist ein Irrenhaus: Achterloo IV

Director: Roman Brodman

### 1988: Achterloo

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt  
Cast: Helmut Lohner, Georg Preusse

### 1988: Abendstunde im Spätherbst

Director: August Everding  
Cast: Mario Adorf, Horst Bollmann

### 1982: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Max Peter Ammann  
Cast: Maria Schell, Günter Lamprecht, Ruedi Walter

### 1982: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Max Peter Ammann  
Cast: Maria Schell, Adolphe Spalinger, Günter Lamprecht

### 1975: Der Richter und sein Henker

Director: Maximilian Schell  
Cast: Jon Voight, Jacqueline Bisset, Helmut Qualtinger, Robert Shaw, Friedrich Dürrenmatt

### 1974: Der Mitmacher

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt  
Cast: Buddy Elias, Elmar Schulte, Werner Schumacher

### 1973: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Hans/Cella Gaugler/Ettore  
Cast: Hasle Rüegsau

### 1973: Der Wiedertäufer

Director: Werner Schlechte  
Cast: E. Marks, F. Schütter, V. Lechtenbrink

### 1972: La piu bella serata della mia vita

Director: Ettore Scola  
Cast: Alberto Sordi, Michel Simon, Pierre Brasseur

### 1971: König Johann

Director: Vaclav Hudcek  
Cast: H. Qualtinger, H. Seeböck

### 1971: Porträt eines Planeten

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt  
Cast: W. Reichmann, H. Lohner, Ch. Hörbiger

### 1967: Frank V. Opfer einer Privatbank

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt  
Cast: Therese Giehse, Hubert von Meyernick



Switzerland - A Prison  
80 pages  
1997



Conversations 1961-1990  
1296 pages  
1996

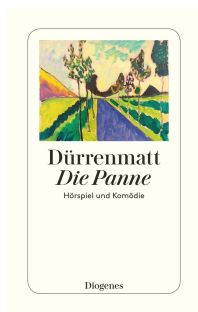


The Pledge  
160 pages  
1996

**Movie Adaptation**



The Pensioner  
200 pages  
1995

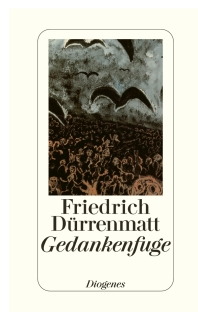


Traps  
144 pages  
1995

**Movie Adaptation**



The Enormity of the Possible  
144 pages  
1993

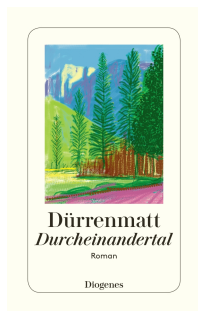


Gedankenfuge  
208 pages  
1992



Greek Man Seeks Greek Wife  
160 pages  
1992

**Movie Adaptation**



The Vale of Confusion  
176 pages  
1989



Trials  
184 pages  
1988



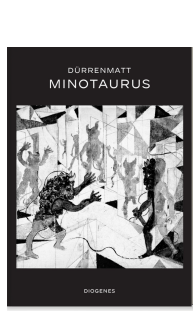
The Judge and His Hangman  
128 pages  
1986



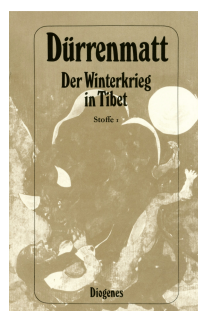
The Assignment  
136 pages  
1986



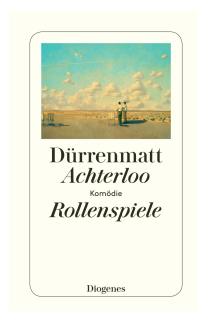
Suspicion  
128 pages  
1986



The Minotaur  
56 pages  
1985



The Winter War in Tibet  
192 pages  
1984



Achterloo  
128 pages  
1983

## **Movie adaptations (cont'd)**

### **1967: Der Meteor**

Director: Leopold Lindtberg  
Cast: Leonard Steckel, Wolfgang Forester, Gert Westphal, Peter Brogle

### **1966: Griechen sucht Griechin**

Director: Rolf Thiele  
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Irina Demick, Charles Regnier

### **1965: Romulus der Große**

Director: Helmut Käutner  
Cast: Romuald Pekny

### **1964: Ein Engel kommt nach Babylon**

Director: William Dieterle

### **1964: Die Physiker**

Director: Fritz Umgelter  
Cast: Therese Giehse, Gustav Knuth, Kurt Ehrhardt, Wolfgang Kieling, Siegfried Lowitz

### **1963: The Visit**

Director: Bernhard Wicki  
Cast: Ingrid Bergmann, Anthony Quinn, Hans-Christian Blech

### **1961: Die Ehe des Herrn Mississippi**

Director: Kurt Hoffmann  
Cast: O.E. Hasse, Johanna von Koczian, Martin Held, Charles Regnier, Max Haufler

### **1960: Abendstunde im Spätherbst**

Director: Rudolf Noelte  
Cast: Ernst Schröder, Friedrich Maurer, Günter Meissner

### **1959: Der Besuch der alten Dame**

Director: Ludwig Cremer  
Cast: R. Wanka, E. Flickenschmidt, A. Schradiek

### **1958: Es geschah am hellichten Tag**

Director: Ladislao Vajda  
Screenplay: Friedrich Dürrenmatt  
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Michel Simon, Gert Fröbe

### **1957: Der Richter und sein Henker**

Director: Franz Peter Wirth  
Cast: Herbert Tiede, Maria Körber, K.G. Saebisch

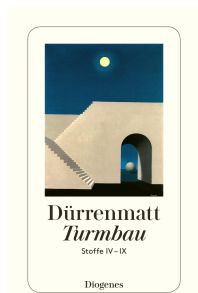
### **1957: Die Panne**

Director: Fritz Umgelter  
Cast: Peter Ahrweiler, Carl Wery, Harry Hardt

## **Praise**

Friedrich Dürrenmatt

»Even after the death of its author, his huge and unique work is still a dark continent, largely unilluminated and untested, a continent in motion, always good for intellectual surprises and dramatic adventures.« – Gert Ueding



**The Winter War in Tibet/  
Lunar Eclipse/ The Rebel**  
360 pages  
1981

**Movie Adaptation**

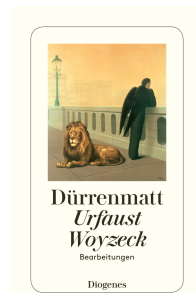


**Nexus**  
240 pages  
1980



**The Anabaptists**  
144 pages  
1980

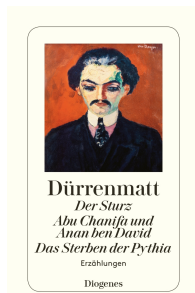
**Movie Adaptation**



**Urfaust/ Woyzeck.**  
Adaptations  
208 pages  
1980



**Theatre**  
272 pages  
1980



**The Coup/ Abu Chanifa and  
Anan ben David/ Smithy/ The Dying of the  
Pythia**  
160 pages  
1980

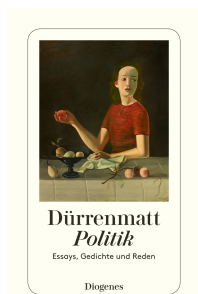


**Romulus the Great**  
176 pages  
1980

**Movie Adaptation**



**The Complete Prose  
Oeuvre**  
3024 pages  
1980



**Politics**  
192 pages  
1980



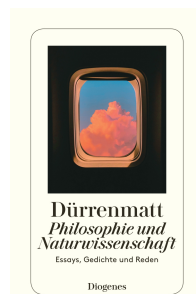
**Play Strindberg/ Portrait  
of a Planet**  
208 pages  
1980

**Movie Adaptation**

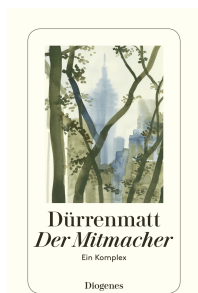


**The Physicists**  
96 pages  
1980

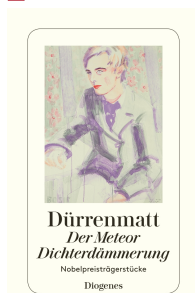
**Movie Adaptation**



**Philosophical Essays**  
208 pages  
1980



**The Conformist**  
336 pages  
1980

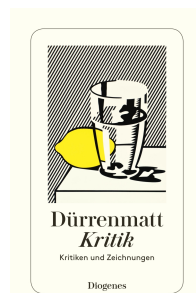


**The Meteor/ Twilight of  
the Poets**  
208 pages  
1980

**Movie Adaptation**



**Literature and Painting**  
240 pages  
1980



**Reviews**  
176 pages  
1980

## Praise (cont'd)

»Dürrenmatt was addressing the real crowd assembled in real theaters with all their swiftly changing feelings, their ignorance, bad habits and vaulting possibilities. At the same time he was a philosopher-poet with one eye on the picture of the real, on artifice, and on the long preoccupations of philosophy and art through the ages.« – Arthur Miller

»Dürrenmatt has always been too impulsive for his times but the chaotic world has quickly caught up with him. That's why his work will last. The purifying force of his irony becomes the more important and useful – particularly because it is driven by the profound humanity that Dürrenmatt's friends always knew in him.« – Peter Brook

»Now, like an avalanche in far-off mountains, comes Friedrich Dürrenmatt, a detective-story writer with a genius for the theater, to give us a new theme, or rather to remind us of an ancient one: justice. His vision is a cold one but pure, and very nearly unique in our day, for in his devotion to the idea of justice he has succeeded in casting across an age committed to false Love the dark shadow of the scales.« – Gore Vidal

»It was once observed by Oscar Wilde that a writer should be able to write anything. Mr. Dürrenmatt meets Wilde's requirement. He adopts a manner well liked by some of our better writers, that of a Roman of the later Empire, a golden weariness. Mr. Dürrenmatt chooses compression of style and strictness of form, but the late Imperial feeling is still there.« – Saul Bellow

»One of Europe's most important postwar dramatists.« – The Daily Telegraph, London

»Next to Kafka and Camus, he is one of the great questioners of this world.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt belonged to the most cheerful apocalyptic writers of the 20th century.« – Thomas Hürlimann / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»Universal, uncomfortable and visionary: Friedrich Dürrenmatt is the worthy reigning literary monarch of the year.« – Wener Krause / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»He is evil, he doesn't think anything good of humanity, and he describes this – but he does it with wit.« – Elke Heidenreich / SRF2, Zurich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt is a centennial author, because he saw the century that was to follow him too.« – Daniele Muscionico / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»One of the greatest writers of our century.« – Corriere della Sera, Milan





**Dürrenmatt**  
*König Johann  
Titus  
Andronicus*  
Shakespeare-Umarbeitungen  
Diogenes  
  
King John/ Titus  
Andronicus  
240 pages  
1980  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Der Hund  
Der Tunnel  
Die Panne*  
Erzählungen  
Diogenes  
  
The Dog/ The Tunnel/  
Traps  
112 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Herkules und  
der Stall des Augias  
Der Prozeß um  
des Esels Schatten*  
Griechische Stücke  
Diogenes  
  
Hercules and the Augean  
Stables/ The Trial about  
the Donkey's Shadow  
240 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Grieche  
sucht Griechin  
Mister X  
macht Ferien*  
Grotesken  
Diogenes  
  
Greek Man Seeks Greek  
Wife/ Mr. X Goes on  
Holiday/ News about the  
State of Press during the  
Stone Age  
208 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Nächtliches Gespräch  
mit einem verachteten  
Menschen*  
Hörspiele und Kabarett  
Diogenes  
  
Nocturnal Conversation  
with a Scorned Man/  
Stranitzky and the  
National Hero/ The Vega  
Enterprise  
160 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Die Frist*  
Komödie  
Diogenes  
  
The Deadline  
160 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Frank  
der Fünfte*  
Komödie einer Privatbank  
Diogenes  
  
Frank V  
176 pages  
1980  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Es steht geschrieben  
Der Blinde*  
Frühe Stücke  
Diogenes  
  
It Is Written/ The Blind  
Man  
336 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Ein Engel kommt  
nach Babylon*  
Fragmentarische Komödie  
Diogenes  
  
An Angel Comes to  
Babylon  
144 pages  
1980  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Die Ehe des  
Herrn Mississippi*  
Komödie und Drehbuch  
Diogenes  
  
The Marriage of Mr.  
Mississippi  
224 pages  
1980  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



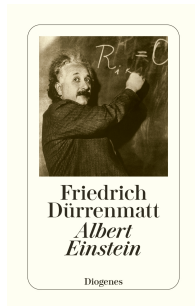
**The Complete Dramatic  
Oeuvre**  
3408 pages  
1980



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Der Besuch  
der alten Dame*  
Tragische Komödie  
Diogenes  
  
The Visit  
160 pages  
1980  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



**Dürrenmatt**  
*Aus den Papieren  
eines Wärters*  
Frühe Prosa  
Diogenes  
  
Early Prose: Christmas/  
The Torturer/ The  
Sausage/ The Son/ The  
Old Man/ Portrait of  
Sisyphos/ The Theatre  
Director/ The Trap/  
Pilatos/ The Town/ From  
the Papers of a  
Guardman  
208 pages  
1980



**Friedrich  
Dürrenmatt**  
*Albert  
Einstein*  
Diogenes  
  
Albert Einstein  
80 pages  
1979