

Friedrich Dürrenmatt *My Switzerland*

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Friedrich Dürrenmatt *Meine Schweiz* Ein Lesebuch

Diogenes

All his life Friedrich Dürrenmatt thought and wrote about Switzerland.

»I like being Swiss,« Dürrenmatt often said. The Switzerland he was talking about was not the nation celebrated in myths, but the juxtaposition and problematic co-existence of its four different cultures. A small nation which emerged from its conquest by Napoleon, Switzerland was for the pragmatic Swiss writer a political opportunity: a confederation of states in miniature, and as such a kind of model for Europe. As a motherland, Switzerland often annoyed him. He made fun of the discrepancy between the small-state reality and its heroic history. But even as a very young man, Dürrenmatt was disturbed by the very fact that now irritates the whole world and a great many Swiss: the way in which Switzerland has covered up its past – its isolated role and its sparing in World War II – under a cloak of legends.

»While Dürrenmatt may regard the world as inscrutable, he tirelessly sets about penetrating it through thought, scrutinising it as far as his eyes can see and his materials can reach.« – Georg Hensel, eulogy to Dürrenmatt on the occasion of winning the ›Georg Büchner Prize‹ in 1986.

Book factsheet

Anthologies, General Fiction, Compulsory Reading, Reading
256 pages
11.3 x 18 x 1.6 cm
October 1998

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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: Jochaim 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

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

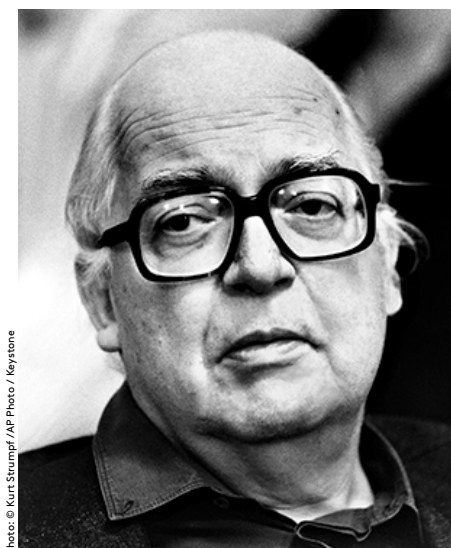


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Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921 – 1990) was born in Konolfingen near Berne as the son of a protestant minister. He studied philosophy, German literature and history of art in Berne and Zurich and worked as a playwright, novelist, essayist and painter in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

The Minotaur/ The Assignment; or, On the Observing of the Observers/ Midas
Eine Ballade, eine Novelle und ein Film zum Lesen
Diogenes
208 pages
1998



Max Frisch, Friedrich Dürrenmatt - Correspondence
240 pages
1998



Switzerland - A Prison
80 pages
1997

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

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 Meyerneck

1967: Der Meteor

Director: Leopold Lindtberg

Cast: Leonard Steckel, Wolfgang Forester, Gert Westphal, Peter Brogle

1966: Griechen sucht Griechen

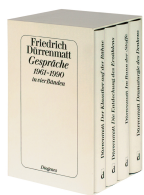
Director: Rolf Thiele

Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Irina Demick, Charles Regnier

1965: Romulus der Große

Director: Helmut Käutner

Cast: Romuald Pekny



Conversations 1961-1990
1296 pages
1996



The Pledge
160 pages
1996

Movie Adaptation



The Pensioner
200 pages
1995



**Dürrenmatt
Die Panne**
Hörspiel und Komödie

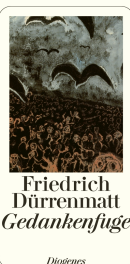
Diogenes

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



**Dürrenmatt
Durch den Wandel**
Roman

Diogenes

The Vale of Confusion
176 pages
1989



Trials
184 pages
1988



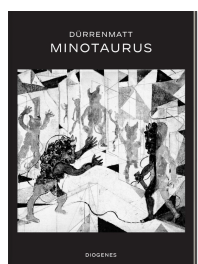
The Judge and His Hangman
128 pages
1986



The Assignment
136 pages
1986



Suspicion
128 pages
1986



The Minotaur
56 pages
1985



Justice
376 pages
1985

Movie Adaptation



The Winter War in Tibet
192 pages
1984



Achterloo
128 pages
1983

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

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. Flickenschildt, 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

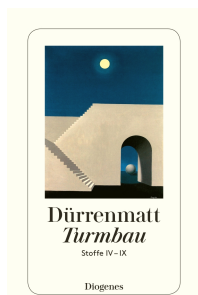
Praise

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

»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



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

Movie Adaptation



Nexus
240 pages
1980



The Anabaptists
144 pages
1980

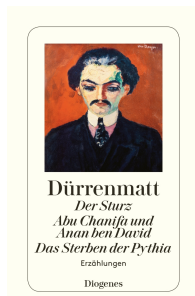
Movie Adaptation



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

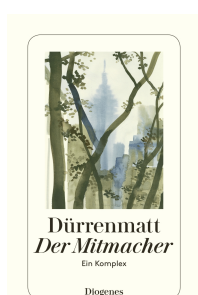


The Physicists
96 pages
1980

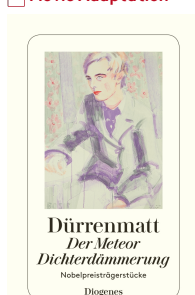
Movie Adaptation



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)

»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 verurteilten
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**



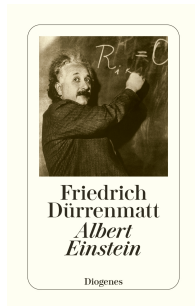
**The Complete Dramatic
Oeuvre**
3408 pages
1980



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