

Diogenes

Jakob Arjouni
Happy Birthday, Turk!

Published by Diogenes as *Happy birthday, Türke!*
Original title: *Happy birthday, Türke!*



**Jakob
Arjouni**
***Happy birthday,
Türke!***

Kayankaya's erster Fall

Roman • Diogenes

A Turkish worker is stabbed to death in Frankfurt's red-light district - no reason for the police to work overtime. Kemal Kayankaya, however, has a different attitude. A 26-year-old, born in Turkey but raised in Germany, he is no stranger to the wrong end of racial harassment. He is also a private investigator, hired to find the killer and the motive for the crime. Not only by colour, but also by character and profession, Kayankaya is the outsider and the outcast, looking in at a rampantly unjust society. In his pursuit of the killer he encounters vicious pimps, over-eager bouncers and easy women, survives beatings, gas attacks and a close encounter with a Fiat and uncovers a drug ring built on the exploitation of Turkish immigrants. Jakob Arjouni's novel confronts police corruption, endemic racism and the spiritual malaise in the German body politic.

Book factsheet

Crime fiction, General Fiction
176 pages
11.3 x 18 x 1.1 cm
September 1987

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:

Arabic (Al-Arabi)
English/USA (Melville)

Movie adaptations

2017: Am Ruder

Director: Stephan Wagner
Screenplay: Stephan und Alexandra Maxeiner
Wagner
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Julia Koschitz und
Inga Birkenfeld

1992: Happy Birthday, Türke

Director: Doris Dörrie
Cast: Hansa Czipionka, Özay Fecht, Doris
Kunstmann, Lambert Hamel

Awards

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1992 | Deutscher Krimi Preis für ›Ein Mann, ein Mord‹. |
| 1987 | Baden-Württembergischer Autorenpreis für das deutschsprachige Jugendtheater für sein Theaterstück ›Nazim schiebt ab‹. |

Praise

Happy Birthday, Turk!

»A blistering debut: outcast Kayankaya is a perfect hard-boiled detective.« – Kirkus Reviews, New York

»Happy Birthday Turk!« is an exceptional achievement ... It lingers in the mind, a bitter lesson but thrilling in the telling.« – Library Journal, New York

»A remarkable debut.« – The Guardian, London

Jakob Arjouni

»Magnificent« – The Guardian

»Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times

»Jakob Arjouni writes the best urban thrillers since Raymond Chandler.« – Tempo

»A master of the sketch and the caricature.« – Die Welt

»Impossible to put his books down.« – El Pais

»A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern

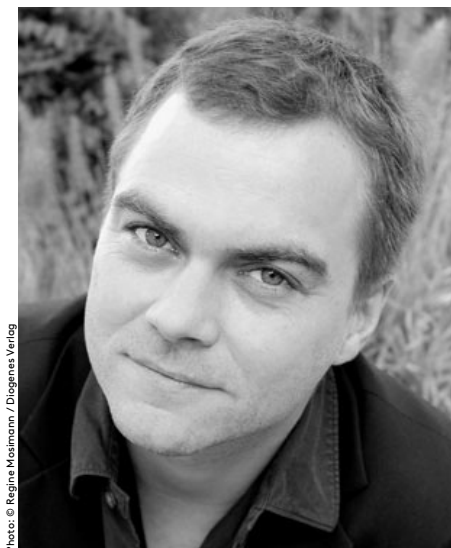


Photo: © Regine Mostmann / Diogenes Verlag

Praise (cont'd)

»Arjouni tells real-life stories, and they virtually never have a happy ending. He tells them so well, with such flexible dialogue and cleverly maintained tension, that it is impossible to put his books down.« – El País, Madrid

»A genuine storyteller who beguiles his readers without the need of tricks.« – L'Unità, Milan

Jakob Arjouni, born 1964 in Frankfurt on the Main, has published novels, short stories, theatre and radio plays.

Arjouni was only twenty-one years old when his acclaimed debut, ›Happy birthday, Turk!‹ was published and its main character, the Frankfurt-based private detective Kemal Kayankaya, took on his very first investigation. In 1991, the book was made into a film, directed by Doris Dörrie. Three further cases followed; for the third, ›One Man, One Murder‹, Jakob Arjouni was awarded the 1992 ›German Crime Fiction Prize‹. In autumn 2012, ›Brother Kemal‹, the fifth volume starring the German-Turkish investigator was published. The series is now firmly established as a classic amongst crime literature.

Apart from his stage plays, his work also includes the Berlin novels ›Magic Hoffmann‹ (1996) and ›Holy Eddy‹ (2009) as well as ›Idiots. Five Fairy Tales‹ (2003). His novels ›Homework‹, ›Chez Max‹, and particularly his novel about an East-German Nazi follower, ›Cherryman Hunts Mister White‹, are now on school reading lists. The theme of addressing violence in all its forms runs through Arjouni's work like a red thread.

His readers loved him for his thrilling, sharp-tongued, linguistically unpretentious, witty and clever books. He died on the 17th of January 2013 in Berlin.



The Kayankaya Novels
1080 pages
2014



Brother Kemal
240 pages
2012



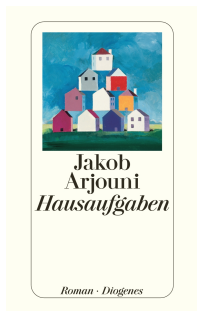
Cherryman Hunts Mister White
176 pages
2011



Holy Eddy
256 pages
2009



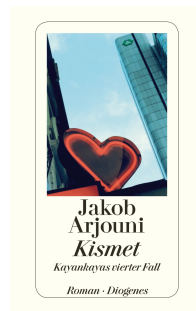
Chez Max
224 pages
2006



Homework
192 pages
2004



Idioten. Five fairy tales
160 pages
2003

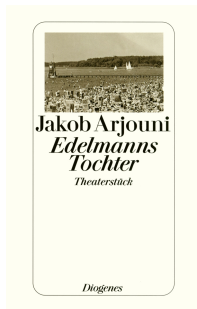


Kismet
272 pages
2001



A Friend
176 pages
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



Edelmann's Daughter
96 pages
1996



Magic Hoffmann
288 pages
1996



One Man, One Murder
192 pages
1991



More Beer
176 pages
1987