

# Diogenes

Jakob Arjouni  
*Kismet*

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



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Kismet*  
*Kayankayas vierter Fall*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

It all begins with a favour to a friend. Kayankaya's and Slibulsky's sole intention is to help restaurant owner Romario to get rid of two thugs who are blackmailing him for protection money. Then, suddenly, two strange, white-powdered bodies are found in Romarios's restaurant. Kayankaya cannot stop thinking about the bodies. He embarks on a search for their identity – and finds himself the victim of a search. By a Mafia gang about whose origins and leader no-one is sure. The only certain thing is that it is the most brutal and uncompromising group of gangsters ever known to have operated in the Frankfurt red-light district.

»Kismet« is about organised crime and war profiteers, about the stupidity of nationalism and the madness of the war in Yugoslavia, about »home« in the best and worst senses of the word. And about the longing for a great love.

An unusual and rousing story, with precise, colourful milieu descriptions, breath-taking dialogue, fantastic wit: Jakob Arjouni at his best.

## Book factsheet

Crime fiction, General Fiction  
272 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2001

World rights are handled by Diogenes

**Rights currently sold:**  
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 Cypionka, 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

*Kismet*

»As winning a noirish gumshoe as has swooped onto the mystery scene in some time.« – The Washington Post

»Kemal Kayankaya is the ultimate outsider among hard-boiled private eyes.« – The New York Times Book Review

»Will whet readers' appetite for the three earlier »Kayankaya« mysteries.« – Publishers Weekly

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

»This is true hardboiled detective fiction, realistic, violent and occasionally funny, with a hero who lives up to the best traditions of the genre.« – The Telegraph, London

»One worth waiting for.« – The Times, 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

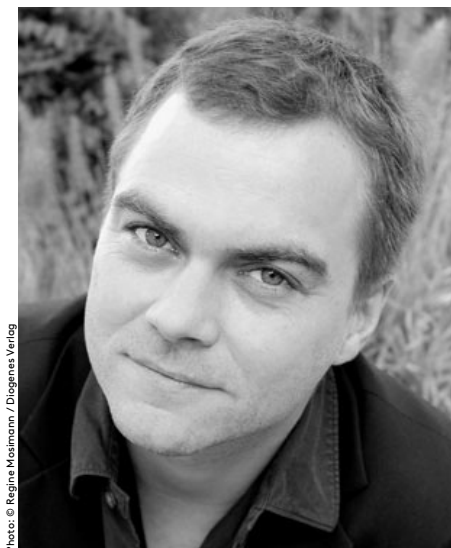


Photo: © Regine Mostmann / Diogenes Verlag

## Praise (cont'd)

»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

»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 Pais, 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



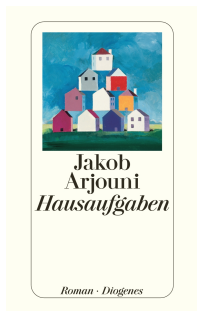
Cherryman Hunts Mister  
White  
176 pages  
2011



Holy Eddy  
256 pages  
2009



**Chez Max**  
224 pages  
2006



**Homework**  
192 pages  
2004

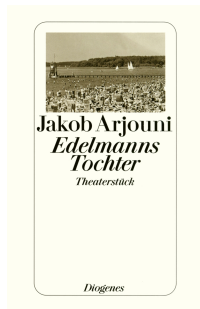


**Idioten. Five fairy tales**  
160 pages  
2003

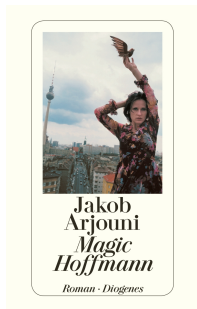


**A Friend**  
176 pages  
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



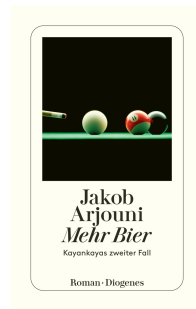
**Edelmann's Daughter**  
96 pages  
1996



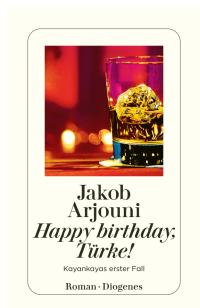
**Magic Hoffmann**  
288 pages  
1996



**One Man, One Murder**  
192 pages  
1991



**More Beer**  
176 pages  
1987



**Happy Birthday, Turk!**  
176 pages  
1987

 **Movie Adaptation**