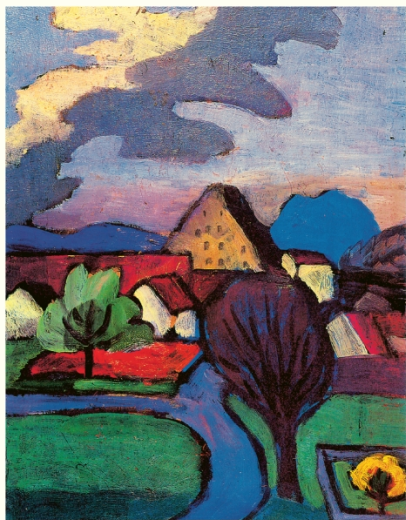


## Bernhard Schlink & Walter Popp *Self's Punishment*

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



## Bernhard Schlink Walter Popp *Selbs Justiz*

Roman · Diogenes

Gerhard Self is a somewhat unconventional private detective. During the war he was a Nazi state prosecutor, and he is still haunted by memories of his misguided youth. So when Self is summoned to investigate several incidents of computer-hacking at a chemicals company, he finds himself dealing with an unfamiliar kind of crime. His investigation eventually unearths dark secrets that have been hidden for decades, and forces Self to confront his own demons of guilt, responsibility and loyalty.

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature,  
Bestseller  
352 pages  
11.3 x 18 x 1.9 cm  
October 1987

Contact:  
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,  
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne  
Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,  
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

### Translation rights currently sold:

English/world (Vintage)  
French (Gallimard)  
Greek (Kritiki)  
Italian (Neri Pozza)  
Russian (Azbooka-Klassik)  
Spanish/world (Anagrama)

### 📺 Movie adaptations

#### 2011: *Das Wochenende*

Director: Nina Grosse  
Cast: Katja Riemann, Sebastian Koch, Barbara Auer

#### 2009: *The Reader*

Director: Stephen Daldry  
Screenplay: David Hare  
Cast: Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, David Kross,  
Bruno Ganz, Karoline Herfurth, Volker Bruch,  
Hannah Herzsprung und Alexandra Maria Lara

#### 2008: *The Other Man*

Director: Richard Eyre  
Screenplay: Richard Eyre  
Cast: Liam Neeson, Laura Linney und Antonio Banderas

#### 1991: *Der Tod kam als Freund*

Director: Nico Hoffmann  
Cast: Martin Benrath, Hannelore Elsner, Heino Ferch, Marianne Hoppe

### 🏆 Awards

- 2024 Spanische Übersetzung von *Die Enkelin* mit dem ›Premio de las Librerías de Navarra‹ ausgezeichnet
- 2014 ›Pak Kyong-ni Prize‹ der südkoreanischen Kulturstiftung Toji für sein schriftstellerisches Schaffen
- 2003 ›Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse‹ für *Der Vorleser*
- 2002 ›Preis des German-British Forum‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2001 Finnischer Literaturpreis ›Eeva Joenpelto-Preis‹ der Gemeinde Lohja
- 2001 Ernennung zum ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur‹
- 2000 ›Ehrengabe‹ der Heinrich-Heine-Gesellschaft in Düsseldorf
- 2000 ›Sonderkulturpreis‹ der japanischen Tageszeitung *Mainichi Shinbun*, der jedes Jahr an einen japanischen Buchbestseller vergeben wird, für *Der Vorleser*



Bernhard Schlink, born in 1944, was a Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy and a former judge at the Constitutional Court of North Rhine-Westphalia. His first novel, *Self's Justice*, was published in 1987; his 1995 novel *The Reader*, translated into more than fifty languages and adapted by Stephen Daldry into a film starring Kate Winslet, established his worldwide renown. He has been awarded with national and international prizes like the German ›Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit) 1st Class‹, the French ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur‹ and the Italian ›Grinzane Cavour Prize‹. His latest novel is *The Late Life*.



Walter Popp, born in Nuremberg in 1948, initially completed a law degree in Erlangen and subsequently worked as a barrister in Mannheim until 1983. He then went to France: he worked as a barman in Paris and in 1984 moved to Provence where he became a literary and later a technical translator. In 1985, Popp co-authored *Selbs Punishment* with Bernhard Schlink. The book, which was to become the first part of the so-called *Selb trilogy*, was translated into many different languages and a screen adaptation of it was made.

## 🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 2000 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Büchereien für *Der Vorleser*
- 1999 Erstmals verliehener ›WELT-Literaturpreis‹ für sein literarisches Schaffen
- 1997 ›Grinzane-Cavour-Preis‹ (Italien) für *Der Vorleser*
- 1997 ›Prix Laure Bataillon‹ (Frankreich) für *Der Vorleser* (Auszeichnung für den Autor sowie für den Übersetzer Bernard Lortholary)
- 1997 ›Hans-Fallada-Preis‹ der Stadt Neumünster für *Der Vorleser*
- 1993 ›Deutscher Krimi-Preis‹ des Bochumer Krimi Archivs für *Selbs Betrug*
- 1989 Autorenpreis deutschsprachige Kriminalliteratur ›Der Glauser‹ für *Die gordische Schleife*

## Praise

Bernhard Schlink

›Schlink has won his huge popular following by bringing to bear a penetrating intelligence about the psyche of his characters and an empathy for their dilemmas. Professor Schlink may be an expert on the letter of the law, but writer Schlink is an intrepid explorer of the much trickier terrain of the human heart.« – Andrew Nagorski / Newsweek, London

›[Schlink] writes instructive tales that adeptly raise difficult questions and propose appealing answers.« – New York Times Book Review

›The German novelist Bernhard Schlink is pretty much second to none when it comes to storytelling.« – Helmut Atteneder / Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, Linz

›Schlink knows the depths of the human soul all too well. The writer and judge proves with each of his books that he knows how to transform German history into literature.« – ZeitPunkt, Leipzig

›One of the most successful and versatile German writers of our time.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

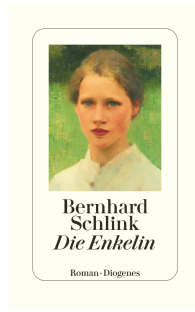
›The truly masterly aspect of Schlink's prose is its intelligence – an intelligence that is firmly rooted in common sense.« – Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg



Justice  
208 pages  
2026



The Late Life  
240 pages  
2024  
**Bestseller**



The Granddaughter  
368 pages  
2021  
**Award winner**  
**Bestseller**



The 20th of July  
96 pages  
2021



Colours of Farewell  
240 pages  
2020  
**Bestseller**



Olga  
320 pages  
2018  
**Bestseller**



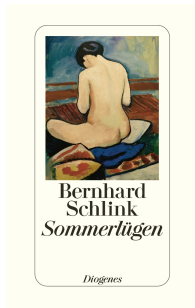
Explorations  
288 pages  
2015



The Woman on the Stairs  
256 pages  
2014  
**Bestseller**



Thoughts on Writing  
96 pages  
2011



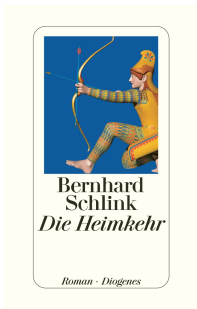
Summer Lies  
288 pages  
2010  
**Bestseller**



The Weekend  
240 pages  
2008  
**Movie Adaptation**  
**Bestseller**



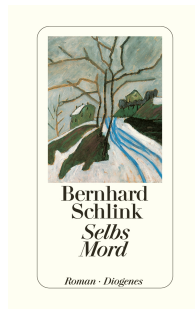
Guilt of the Past  
192 pages  
2007



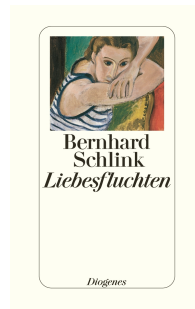
The Homecoming  
384 pages  
2006  
**Bestseller**



Verifications  
368 pages  
2005



Self's Murder  
272 pages  
2001



Flights of Love  
320 pages  
2000  
**Movie Adaptation**



Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Der Vorleser*

Roman · Diogenes

**The Reader**  
208 pages  
1995

🏆 **Award winner**  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📈 **Bestseller**



Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Selbs  
Betrug*

Roman · Diogenes

**Self's Deception**  
304 pages  
1992

🏆 **Award winner**



Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Die  
gordische  
Schleife*

Roman · Diogenes

**The Gordian Knot**  
272 pages  
1988

🏆 **Award winner**