

Ingrid Noll *Cuckoo's Child*

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



Mama's baby – papa's maybe? ›Cuckoo's Child‹ is a story about three paternity tests, a pregnancy test, a baby in a laundry basket, a few dead persons and unconventional family bliss in a nest which, though entirely unfamiliar, is nonetheless rather cosy. »A little house with a garden, a happy marriage and above all two children, those were my goals in life«, Anja, a teacher in her late thirties thinks to herself. Far from having reached her goals, she is stuck in a ›rat hole‹ as she calls the lodging into which she fled following her divorce. When her colleague Birgit becomes pregnant, Anja can't help suspecting the child was conceived by her own ex-husband. She persuades Birgit's husband secretly to undergo a paternity test. The side effects are potentially dangerous... With an equal portion of humour and insight into the slings and arrows of nest-building, ›Cuckoo's Child‹ depicts family constellations which are anything but boring and common. In the process she shows that the road to happiness is not always straight and smooth.

Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
352 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
July 2008

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Translation rights currently sold:
Spanish/world (Circe)

Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

Movie adaptations

2009: Ladylike. Jetzt ers recht!
Director: Vanessa Jopp
Screenplay: Christian Schnalke
Cast: Monika Bleibtreu, Gisela Schneeberger,
Günther Maria Halmer

2000: Kalt ist der Abendhauch
Director: Rainer Kaufmann
Screenplay: Ralf Hertwig
Cast: Fritz Haberland, August Diehl, Heinz
Bennent, Gisela Trowe

1999: Die Häupter meiner Lieben
Director: Hans-Günther Bücking
Cast: Heike Makatsch, Christiane Paul

1999: Der Hahn ist tot
Director: Hermine Hunthgeburst
Cast: Gisela Schneeberger, August Zirner

1997: Die Apothekerin
Director: Rainer Kaufmann
Cast: Katja Riemann, August Zirner, Jürgen
Vogel

1993: Bommels Billigflüge
Director: Claus-Michael Rohne
Screenplay: Ingrid Noll
Cast: Rosemarie Fendel, Dominique Horwitz,
Tina Ruland

Awards

- 2025 Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- 2023 Ehrenbürgerin von Weinheim
- 2019 Ehrenkriminalhauptkommissarin der Mannheimer Polizei
- 2016 Ehrenkommissarin der Bonner Polizei
- 2005 ›Friedrich-Glauser-Preis – Ehrenpreis der Autoren‹ für das Gesamtwerk
- 2002 Verleihung der ›Verdienstmedaille des Landes Baden-Württemberg‹ durch Ministerpräsident Erwin Teufel
- 1994 ›Friedrich-Glauser-Preis‹ für Die Häupter meiner Lieben



Photo: © Monika Werneke

Ingrid Noll, born in Shanghai in 1935, studied German philology and art history in Bonn. She has three children and four grandchildren. After her children left home, she began writing crime stories, which all became instant bestsellers. In 2005 she received the ›Glaser Prize of Honour‹ for her oeuvre.

Praise

Cuckoo's Child

»A wonderful mean book. Ingrid Noll twists the topic of childlessness into a thrilling crime novel.« – Die Welt, Hamburg

Ingrid Noll

»Ingrid Noll is one of the best German storytellers.« – Angela Gatterburg / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

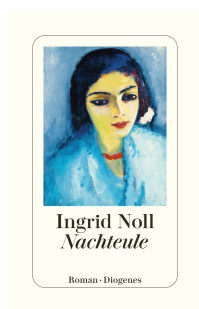
»Ingrid Noll has a distinct talent for finding the horror in day-to-day life.« – Karin Oehmigen / SonntagsZeitung, Zürich

»Ingrid Noll is often referred to as Germany's ›Queen of Crime‹, and she fully deserves this title.« – The Sunday Times, London

»Riveting reading – we are captivated precisely because it is all so familiar.« – Dieter Hildebrandt / Sender Freies Berlin

»Ingrid Noll has truly mastered the art of the comic crime novel.« – Ulli Wagner / SR3, Saarbrücken

»Still the most original crime writer in the German language.« – Christel Freitag / NDR Kultur, Hamburg



The Night Owl
304 pages
2025



Greetings from the Kitchen
304 pages
2024
Bestseller



Tea Time
320 pages
2022
Bestseller



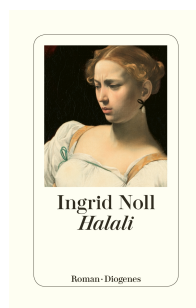
Fickle Flames
304 pages
2021
Bestseller



With Love, Karl
336 pages
2020
Bestseller



Good as Gold
368 pages
2019
Bestseller



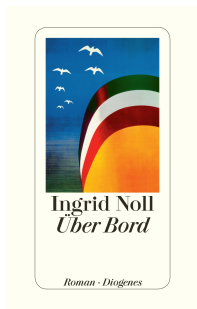
Tally-Ho
320 pages
2017
Bestseller



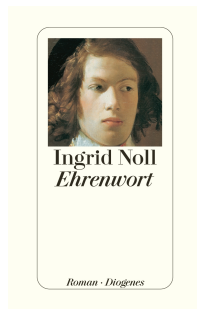
Lunchtime
224 pages
2015
Bestseller



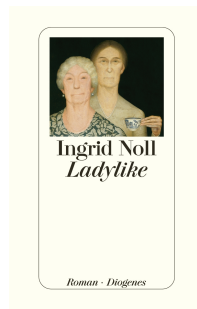
Ingrid Noll
Hab und Gier
Roman · Diogenes
Till Greed Do Us Part
256 pages
2014
🏆 Bestseller



Ingrid Noll
Über Bord
Roman · Diogenes
Overboard
336 pages
2012
🏆 Bestseller



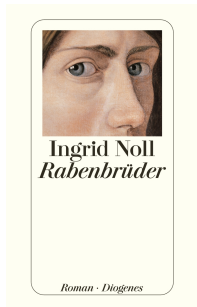
Ingrid Noll
Ehrenwort
Roman · Diogenes
Word of Honour
336 pages
2010
🏆 Bestseller



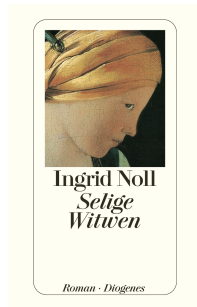
Ingrid Noll
Ladylike
Roman · Diogenes
Ladylike
336 pages
2006
📺 Movie Adaptation
🏆 Bestseller



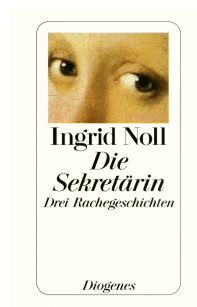
Ingrid Noll
Falsche Zungen
Diogenes
False Tongues
256 pages
2004
🏆 Bestseller



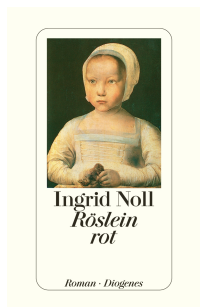
Ingrid Noll
Rabenbrüder
Roman · Diogenes
Rabenbrüder
288 pages
2003
🏆 Bestseller



Ingrid Noll
Selige Witwen
Roman · Diogenes
Blissfully Widowed
272 pages
2001
🏆 Bestseller



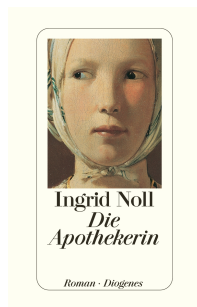
Ingrid Noll
Die Sekretärin
Drei Rachegegeschichten
Diogenes
The Secretary
96 pages
2000
🏆 Bestseller



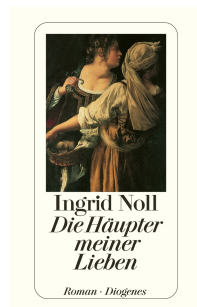
Ingrid Noll
Röstein rot
Roman · Diogenes
Red Rose
288 pages
1998
🏆 Bestseller



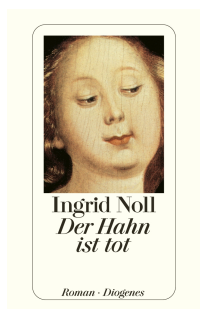
Ingrid Noll
Kalt ist der Abendhauch
Roman · Diogenes
Cold is the Evening's Breeze
256 pages
1996
📺 Movie Adaptation
🏆 Bestseller



Ingrid Noll
Die Apothekerin
Roman · Diogenes
The Pharmacist
256 pages
1994
📺 Movie Adaptation
🏆 Bestseller



Ingrid Noll
Die Häupter meiner Lieben
Roman · Diogenes
Head Count
288 pages
1993
📺 Movie Adaptation
🏆 Bestseller



Ingrid Noll
Der Hahn ist tot
Roman · Diogenes
Hell Hath No Fury
272 pages
1991
📺 Movie Adaptation
🏆 Bestseller