Diogenes

Book factsheet

Luca Ventura
In the Middle of August

Published by Diogenes as *Mitten im August*
Original title: *Mitten im August*



Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature, Bestseller
336 pages
12.5 × 20.5 × 2.1 cm
April 2020

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

Translation rights currently sold:
Arabic (Al-Arabi)
Catalan (Enciclopèdia Catalana)
Estonian (Tänapäev)
French (Livre de Poche)
Italian (Giunti)
Spanish/world (Enciclopèdia Catalana)

Bestseller

17 Swiss Bestseller
19 Spiegel Paperback Bestseller

Praise

In the Middle of August

»Respite for the troubled mind.« – ORF, Vienna

»Luca Ventura's Capri crime novel is the start of an atmospheric series which promises everything that Italy has to offer.« – Barbara Hoppe / Das Wochenende, Frankfurt

»A very promising start to a new crime series - and a trip to one of the most beautiful islands in Europe.« – Münchner Merkur, Munich

»This is the opening act to a promising new crimes series, whose protagonists have a fair few secrets still hidden.« – Christina Mondolfo & Mathias Ziegler / Wiener Zeitung, Vienna

»Reading it made me want to go straight to Capri.« – Petra Hartlieb / ORF-Magazin, Vienna

»The story is enthralling, the style is down-to-earth and accurate, the plot straightforward but well constructed.« – Il Mattino, Naples

»An entertaining whodunnit with a classical structure, a sparkling read to take on holiday.« – L'Eco di Bergamo

Luca Ventura

»Luca Ventura skilfully combines tension with Italian flair. Pure pleasure.« – Gala, Hamburg

Murder on the most beautiful island in the world.
The Gulf of Naples is a test laboratory in times of climate change – and the setting of this highly topical crime novel.
Tense thrills in front of a beautiful backdrop: young policeman Enrico Rizzi investigates in the new Capri series.
Enrico Rizzi, a policeman on the island of Capri, usually deals with minor crimes. His quiet job means he can help his father in his fruit and vegetable garden above the Gulf of Naples. Until, in the middle of August, a rowing boat washes up on the rocky beach, containing a dead man – Jack Milani, an oceanography student and the son of a major industrialist family. It's the first murder case for Rizzi, a case where the very future of the seven seas is at stake.
Enrico Rizzi: the young police officer who wants to stay true to his island.
Antonia Cirillo: his colleague transferred from northern Italy for disciplinary reasons, a woman with a secret.
Ispettore Lombardi: their boss, whose favourite office activity is enjoying the view of the Gulf of Naples.
Commissario Serra: the senior officer who makes Enrico Rizzi an alluring offer.
Gina: the woman by Enrico Rizzi's side, who is trying to forget her terrible past.
Vito and Marta Rizzi: Enrico Rizzi's parents, who tend their giardino with great love and make the very best peperonata.

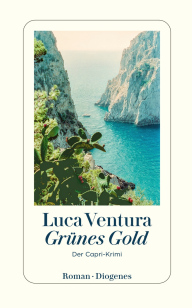
Luca Ventura prefers to remain anonymous. The writer lives on the Gulf of Naples, where he is currently working on the next case in the *Capri* series about the islander Enrico Rizzi and his north Italian colleague Antonia Cirillo.



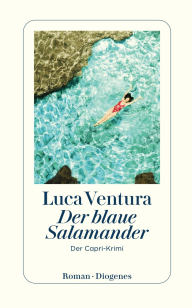
Blue Blood
336 pages
2027



Poisonous Blossoms
368 pages
2026



Green Gold
320 pages
2025



The Blue Salamander
336 pages
2024
Bestseller



Pale as the Moon
304 pages
2023
Bestseller



In a Hidden Cove
336 pages
2022
Bestseller



Bittersweet Lemons
320 pages
2021
Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»Ideal for anybody who enjoys the thrill of crime without too much gore.« – Regula Tanner / Schweizer Familie, Zurich

»Ventura knows how to depict family feuds and fatal love affairs in an exciting way.« – Ruhr Nachrichten, Dortmund

»His crime fiction also makes wonderful holiday reading: exciting, entertaining, and intelligent.« – Sabine Weichelt / Freie Presse, Chemnitz

»Luca Ventura is an elegant literary stylist who deftly narrates sun-soaked crime stories.« – Volker Albers / Hamburger Abendblatt

»A promising series with an Italian flavour. Sure to appeal to fans of well-crafted crime fiction set in a dreamlike scenery.« – L'Alsace, Mulhouse

»A crime thriller where the blue of the sea blends with the darkest depths of human nature.« – Point de vue, Paris

»Luca Ventura writes elegant, naturalistic crime novels – appealing also to people who would not usually see themselves as crime novel fans.« – Benedict Wells

»For anyone who wants a summer crime novel featuring the sound of the sea, fragrant gardens and genuine Italian elegance [...].« – Freundin, Munich

»The author under the pseudonym Luca Ventura captures the sun-drenched landscape of Capri and the Italian way of life like no other.« – Italien Magazin, Amsterdam