

# Diogenes

**Petros Markaris**  
***Balkan Blues***

Published by Diogenes as *Balkan Blues*  
Original title: *Athina, protevousa ton Balkanion*



## Petros Markaris *Balkan Blues*

*Diogenes*

Commissar Haritos would rather be out on the street with all the other Athenians, celebrating Greece's victory in the European football championships. But he is otherwise engaged. Everywhere he looks, there's something afoot – and even a detective of Haritos' ilk cannot enforce the law everywhere. Most of the characters in these ten stories have to do that themselves – in their own way. They have come from the Balkans in search of a better life: of work, money, a little bit of luck. Hardly any of them dares to dream, however, of finding a new home. Certainly not the young girl who is dropped off in the park every morning and picked up again each evening. And yet she manages to do precisely that of which most of the adults are incapable – to make contact with a local. A xenophobic old man, in whom, in spite of all his bitterness, something has remained: curiosity.

With a good dose of black humour and a complete lack of sentimentality, Petros Markaris paints the picture of a society in which the lines between good and evil, between justice and injustice, have become blurred. All that remains are people – left to fend for themselves.

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature  
224 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 2005

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**Translation rights currently sold:**  
Turkish (Alfa)

### **Movie adaptation**

#### **2024: Kostas**

Director: Milena Coccozza  
Cast: Stefano Fresi, Francesca Inaudi etc.

### **Awards**

- 2023 ›Orden der Isabel la Católica‹ für die Verdienste um Kunst und Wissenschaft in Spanien verliehen
- 2019 ›Premio Concha de Bormio‹ des La Milanesiana Festivals, Bormio
- 2019 ›Premi Cubelles Noir‹ für die Krimifigur *Kostas Charitos* des Gènere Negre del Garraf Festivals, Barcelona
- 2019 ›Premi a la trajectòria literària‹ des El Segre de Negre Literaturfestivals, Lleida, Katalonien
- 2018 ›Premio Negra y Ciminal‹-Preis des 3. Festival Atlantico des Krimigenres ›Tenerife Noir‹ für sein Lebenswerk in der Stadtbibliothek von Santa Cruz de Tenerife
- 2016 Ehrendoktorwürde der Aristoteles Universität Thessaloniki in der Abteilung für Deutsche Sprache und Philologie
- 2014 ›Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse‹, verliehen in Athen vom Deutschen Botschafter
- 2013 Spanischer Übersetzerpreis ›Premio Literario Arcebispo Juan de San Clemente‹ für *Zahltag*
- 2013 ›Prix Le Point du polar européen‹ der französischen Wochenzeitung *Le Point* für *Faule Kredite*
- 2013 ›Goethe-Medaille‹
- 2012 Am 34. Fregene Prize for Journalism, Literature Scientific and Cultural Research ist Petros Markaris der Gewinner in der Kategorie ›International Prize‹
- 2012 VII Premi Pepe Carvalho für seine *Kostas-Charitos*-Romane
- 2011 ›Raymond Chandler Award‹ beim italienischen Film- und Literaturfestival ›Courmayeur Noir‹ für sein Lebenswerk
- 2005 Deutscher Krimipreis, 3. Platz in der Kategorie International für *Live!*

### **Praise**









*Balkan Blues*



Petros Markaris, born in Istanbul in 1937, is a playwright and creator of a TV series who worked as an author with Theo Angelopoulos, and translated the works of German dramatists like Brecht and Goethe. He began writing crime novels in the mid-1990s, and became an international success. His accolades include the ›Pepe Carvalho Prize‹, the ›Goethe Medal‹ and an honorary doctorate from the University of Thessaloniki. Petros Markaris lives in Athens.

**Praise (cont'd)**

- »Greece, the land of idle sunshine? Petros Markaris takes a look behind the scenes.« – Andrea Fischer / Buchjournal, Frankfurt
- »A portrait of a society that reveals the dark side of Athens.« – Berthold Seewald / Die Welt, Berlin
- Petros Markaris
  - »One of the 10 best modern European crime writers.« – Brian Oliver / The Observer, London
  - »Markaris weaves suspense, humour and social criticism into a composite work of art.« – Welt am Sonntag, Berlin
  - »Petros Markaris is a seismograph of the present day's system of exploitation.« – Stefan Berkholz / WDR3, Cologne
  - »Based on the best tradition of the crime novel, he consistently reminds us that no future is possible if we don't fight those who trample on our dignity.« – Ángeles López / La Razón, Madrid
  - »Olympic-standard thrillers.« – Boyd Tonkin / The Independent, London
  - »A writer of Mediterranean noir in its most sublime and classy sense.« – La Repubblica, Rome

 <p><b>The Violence of Failure</b> 288 pages 2026</p>	 <p><b>The Revolt of the Caryatids</b> 320 pages 2024</p>	 <p><b>The Game of Fear</b> 224 pages 2023</p>	 <p><b>Conspiracy</b> 288 pages 2022 <b>Bestseller</b></p>
 <p><b>The Melody of Money</b> 320 pages 2021 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Times of Hypocrisy</b> 400 pages 2020 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Diary of an Eternity</b> 288 pages 2019</p>	 <p><b>Three Graces</b> 368 pages 2018 <b>Bestseller</b></p>



Petros Markaris  
*Offshore*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Offshore**  
368 pages  
2017  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Der Tod des Odysseus*  
Diogenes

**Odysseus' Death**  
224 pages  
2016



Petros Markaris  
*Zurück auf Start*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Back to the Start**  
368 pages  
2015  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Abrechnung*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Reckoning**  
320 pages  
2013  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Quer durch Athen*  
von Petros Vochakis  
Diogenes

**Crossing Athens**  
208 pages  
2013



Petros Markaris  
*Finstere Zeiten*  
Zur Krise in Griechenland  
Diogenes

**Time of Disorder**  
176 pages  
2012



Petros Markaris  
*Zahltag*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Payday**  
432 pages  
2012  
🏆 Award winner  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Faule Kredite*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Bad Credit**  
400 pages  
2011  
🏆 Award winner  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Die Kinderfrau*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**The Nanny**  
320 pages  
2009  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Wiederholungstäter*  
Ein Leben zwischen Istanbul, Wien und Athen  
Diogenes

**A Life Between Athens, Vienna and Istanbul**  
192 pages  
2008



Petros Markaris  
*Der Großaktionär*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**The Major Shareholder**  
480 pages  
2007  
🏆 Bestseller



Petros Markaris  
*Live!*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Che Committed Suicide**  
528 pages  
2004  
🏆 Award winner



Petros Markaris  
*Nachfalter*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Zone Defence**  
560 pages  
2001



Petros Markaris  
*Hellas Channel*  
Ein Fall für Kostas Charitos  
Roman · Diogenes

**Deadline in Athens**  
464 pages  
2000  
🎬 Movie Adaptation