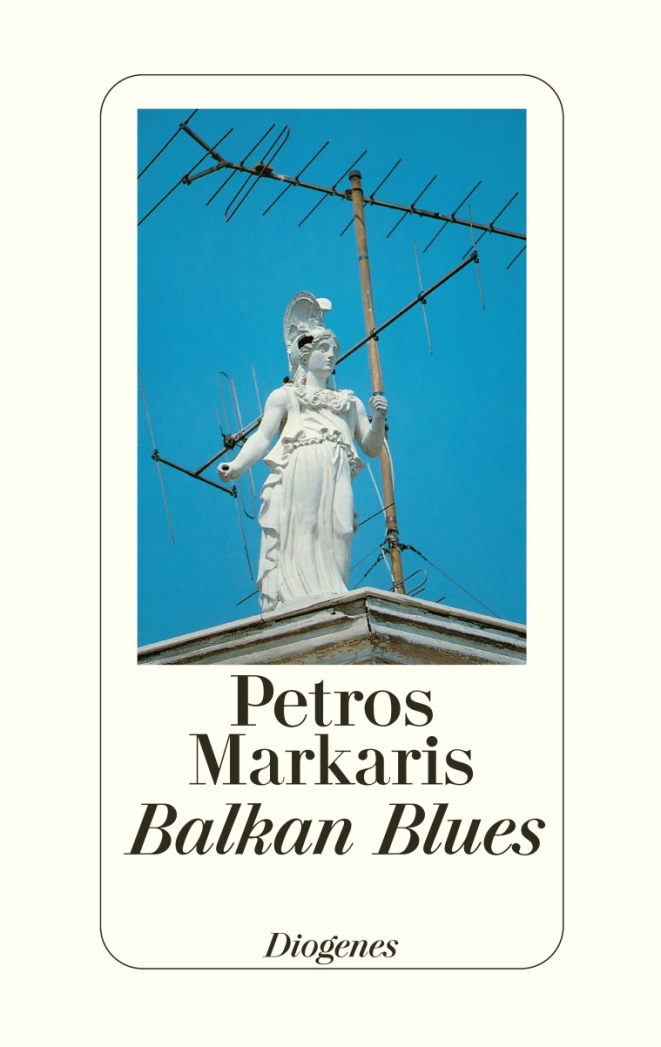
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Petros Markaris
Balkan Blues

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



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.

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

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

Translation rights currently sold:
Turkish (Alfa)

Movie adaptation

2024: Kostas
Director: Milena Cocozza
Cast: Stefano Fresi, Frasncesca Inaudi etc.

Awards

2023 ›Orden der Isabel la Católica‹ für die Verdienste um Kunst und Wissenschaft in Spanien verliehen
2019 ›Premio Contea di 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

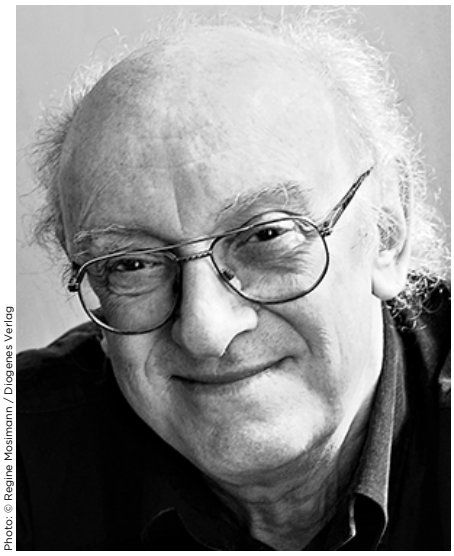


Photo: © Regine Mosimann / Diogenes Verlag

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.



Fraud is the Future
224 pages
2027



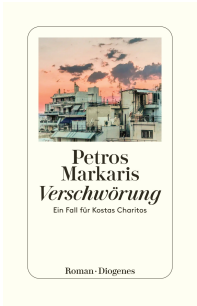
The Violence of Failure
288 pages
2026



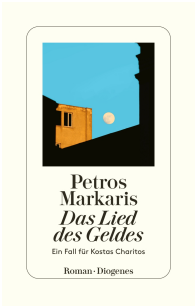
The Revolt of the Caryatids
320 pages
2024



The Game of Fear
224 pages
2023



Conspiracy
288 pages
2022
Bestseller



The Melody of Money
320 pages
2021
Bestseller



Times of Hypocrisy
400 pages
2020
Bestseller



Diary of an Eternity
288 pages
2019

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

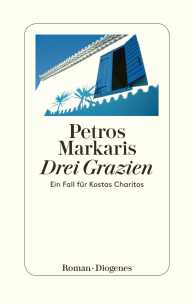
»Markaris weaves suspense, humour and social criticism into a composite work of art.« – Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»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



Three Graces
368 pages
2018
Bestseller



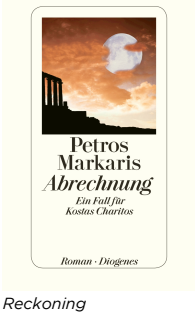
Offshore
368 pages
2017
Bestseller



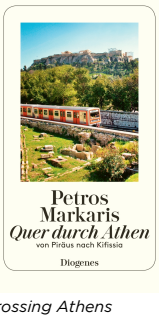
Odysseus' Death
224 pages
2016



Back to the Start
368 pages
2015
Bestseller



Reckoning
320 pages
2013
Bestseller



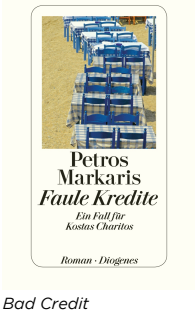
Crossing Athens
208 pages
2013



Time of Disorder
176 pages
2012



Payday
432 pages
2012
Award winner
Bestseller



Bad Credit
400 pages
2011
Award winner
Bestseller



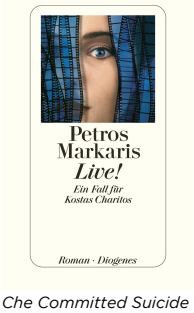
The Nanny
320 pages
2009
Bestseller



A Life Between Athens, Vienna and Istanbul
192 pages
2008



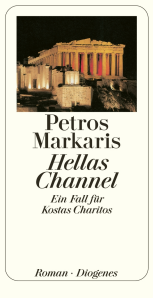
The Major Shareholder
480 pages
2007
Bestseller



Che Committed Suicide
528 pages
2004
Award winner



Zone Defence
560 pages
2001



Deadline in Athens
464 pages
2000
Movie Adaptation