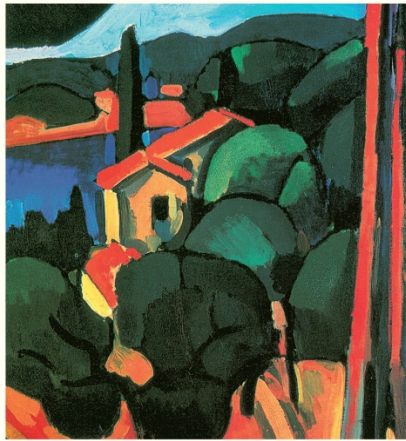


# Diogenes

## Bernhard Schlink *The Gordian Knot*

Published by Diogenes as *Die gordische Schleife*  
Original title: *Die gordische Schleife*



## Bernhard Schlink *Die gordische Schleife*

Roman · Diogenes

Georg Polger has exchanged his law firm in Karlsruhe for life as a freelance translator in the south of France and barely manages to eke out a living. Until the day when, through a series of curious coincidences, he becomes the owner of a translation agency specialising in construction plans for combat helicopters. Polger is sucked into a whirlpool of events in which friend and foe are indistinguishable.

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature,  
Bestseller  
272 pages  
11.3 x 18 x 1.6 cm  
September 1988

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 (Pantheon)  
Greek (Kritiki)  
Serbian (Plato)  
Turkish (Iletisim)

### 📺 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*
- 2000 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Büchereien 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*.

### Awards (cont'd)

- 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

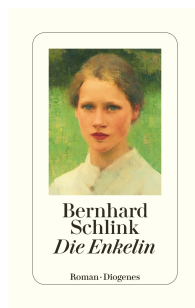
›The truly masterly aspect of Schlink's prose is its intelligence – an intelligence that is firmly rooted in common sense.« – Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg



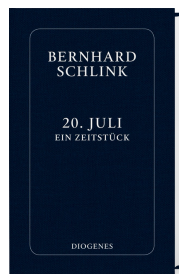
*Justice*  
208 pages  
2026



*The Late Life*  
240 pages  
2024  
🏆 **Bestseller**



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



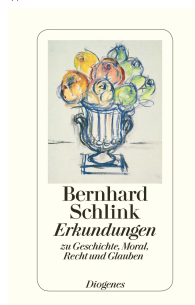
*The 20th of July*  
96 pages  
2021



*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**



Bernhard Schlink  
*Gedanken über das Schreiben*

Diogenes

Thoughts on Writing  
96 pages  
2011



Bernhard Schlink  
*Sommerlügen*

Diogenes

Summer Lies  
288 pages  
2010  
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink  
*Das Wochenende*

Roman - Diogenes

The Weekend  
240 pages  
2008  
🎬 Movie Adaptation  
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink  
*Vergangenheits-schuld*  
*Beiträge zu einem deutschen Thema*

Diogenes

Guilt of the Past  
192 pages  
2007



Bernhard Schlink  
*Die Heimkehr*

Roman - Diogenes

The Homecoming  
384 pages  
2006  
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink  
*Vergewisserungen*  
*Über Politik, Recht, Schreiben und Glauben*

Diogenes

Verifications  
368 pages  
2005



Bernhard Schlink  
*Selbs Mord*

Roman - Diogenes

Self's Murder  
272 pages  
2001



Bernhard Schlink  
*Liebesfluchten*

Diogenes

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  
Walter Popp  
*Selbs Justiz*

Roman - Diogenes

Self's Punishment  
352 pages  
1987  
🎬 Movie Adaptation