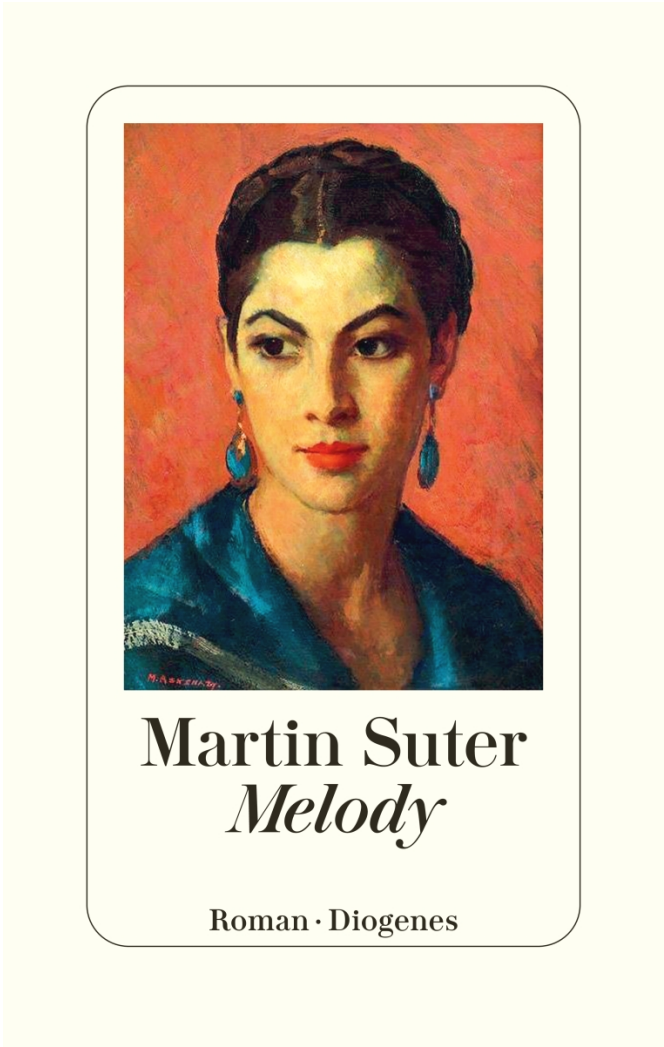
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Martin Suter
Melody

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



In a villa on Zurich's hillside lives aging Dr Stotz, surrounded by portraits of a young woman. Melody was once his fiancée, but shortly before the wedding – more than forty years ago – she vanished. Stotz has never recovered from his loss.
To organise his estate, Stotz hires a young student who urgently needs this job. Little by little, Tom begins to wonder whether Stotz is really who he pretends to be.
On a Greek island, he stumbles across a peculiar trail.

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller
336 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.6 cm
April 2023

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)
Bulgarian (Sluntse)
French (Phébus)
Greek (Kritiki)
Italian (Sellerio)
Spanish/world (Galaxia Gutenberg)

Bestseller

1 Spiegel Bestseller
1 Swiss Bestseller
4 Austrian Bestseller

Movie adaptations

2023: Allmen und das Geheimnis des Koi
Director: Sinje Köhler
Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus
Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvart, Uwe Kockisch

2022: Alles über Martin Suter. Ausser die Wahrheit.
Director: André Schäfer
Screenplay: André Schäfer
Cast: Bekannte und unbekannte Schauspieler

2021: Allmen und das Geheimnis der Erotik
Director: Thomas Berger
Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus
Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Christoph Bach, Isabella Parkinson

2019: Allmen und das Geheimnis der Dahlien
Director: Thomas Berger
Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus
Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvárt, Katharina Schüttler, Udo Samel

2017: Allmen und das Geheimnis der Libellen
Director: Thomas Berger
Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus
Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvárt

2017: Allmen und das Geheimnis des rosa Diamanten
Director: Thomas Berger
Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus
Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvárt

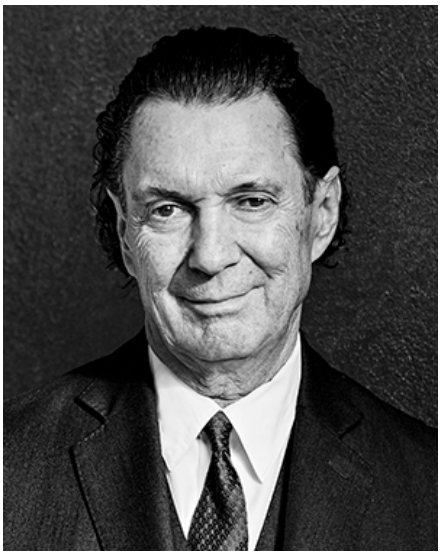


Photo: © Joël Hunn

Martin Suter was born in 1948 in Zurich. His novels (including *Love and Fury* and *Melody*) and *Business Class* stories are major international successes. In addition, since 2011 the gentleman thief Allmen has been solving cases in his own crime series. Martin Suter lives with his daughter in Zurich.



Can You See Me?
208 pages
2026



Love and Fury
304 pages
2025
Bestseller



No Need to Shout Like That
320 pages
2024



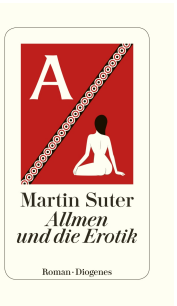
Allmen and Mr Weynfeldt
224 pages
2024
Bestseller



Why Are We All So Serious?
272 pages
2021
Bestseller



Allmen and the Koi
224 pages
2019
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Allmen and the Erotic Figurines
272 pages
2018
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Elephant
352 pages
2017
Bestseller

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

2015: Die dunkle Seite des Mondes
Director: Stephan Rick
Screenplay: Catharina Junk
Cast: Moritz Bleibtreu, Nora von Waldstätten und Jürgen Prochnow

2014: Der Koch
Director: Ralf Huettner
Screenplay: Ruth Toma
Cast: Jessica Schwarz, Hamza Jeetooa und Hanspeter Müller-Drossaart.

2012: Der Teufel von Mailand (TV)
Director: Markus Welter
Screenplay: Thomas Berger
Cast: Regula Grauwiller, Ina Weisse, Max Simonischek

2011: Nachtlärm
Director: Christoph Schaub
Screenplay: Martin Suter
Cast: Alexandra Maria Lara, Sebastian Blomberg

2010: Der letzte Weynfeldt / TV
Director: Alain Gsponer
Screenplay: Alex Buresch
Cast: Marie Bäumer, Stefan Kurt

2010: Small World
Director: Bruno Chiche
Screenplay: Bruno Chiche
Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Alexandra Maria Lara, Niels Arestrup, Nathalie Baye, Yannick Renier

2009: Giulias Verschwinden
Director: Christoph Schaub
Screenplay: Martin Suter
Cast: Corinna Harfouch, Bruno Ganz, Stefan Kurt

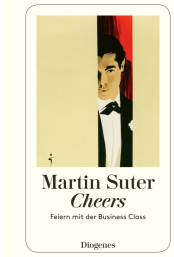
2008/2009: Lila, Lila
Director: Alain Gsponer
Screenplay: Alexander Buresch
Cast: Daniel Brühl, Hannah Herzsprung, Henry Hübchen

2006: Un ami parfait
Director: Francis Girod
Screenplay: Philippe Cougrand
Cast: Antoine de Caunes, Carole Bouquet, Martina Gedeck

1999: Beresina oder Die letzten Tage der Schweiz
Director: Daniel Schmid
Cast: Elena Panova, Geraldine Chaplin, Martin Benrath

Awards

2019 ›Platin Award‹ von Universal Schweiz an Martin Suter und Stephan Eicher für 20'000 verkaufte *Song Books*
2018 *Song Book* ist eines der 25 ›Schönsten deutschen Bücher‹ der Stiftung Buchkunst



Cheers
224 pages
2016



Montecristo
320 pages
2015
Award winner
Bestseller



Everything Under Control
128 pages
2014



Allmen and the Vanished Maria
224 pages
2014
Bestseller



Allmen and the Dahlias
224 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



The Time, the Time
304 pages
2012
Bestseller



Allmen and the Pink Diamond
224 pages
2011
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Allmen and the Dragonflies
208 pages
2011
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



The Chef
320 pages
2010
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



The Bonus-Mystery and Other Stories from the Business Class
192 pages
2009



The Last Weynfeldt
320 pages
2008
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



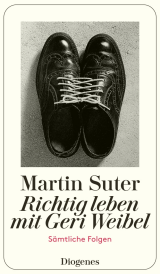
Among Friends and Other Stories from Business Class
208 pages
2007
Bestseller



A Deal with the Devil
304 pages
2006
Award winner
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Huber Takes a Break
192 pages
2005



Living Right With Geri Weibel
224 pages
2005



Lila, Lila
352 pages
2004
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller

Awards (cont'd)

2018 Doppelte Charts-Auszeichnung für *Song Book*: ›Nummer 1 Award der Offiziellen Schweizer Hitparade‹ für Stephan Eicher und Martin Suter und ›Nummer 1 Award der Schweizer Bestsellerliste‹ für Martin Suter

2015 ›Literaturpreis des Wirtschaftsclubs‹ im Literaturhaus Stuttgart für *Montecristo*

2010 ›Swift-Preis‹ der Stiftung Marktwirtschaft für Wirtschaftssatire in Kronberg, Frankfurt a. M., für seine *Business Class*-Kolumnen

2010 ›SwissAward‹ vom Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (SRF) in der Kategorie Kultur

2007 ›Friedrich-Glauser-Preis‹ in der Sparte Kriminalroman für *Der Teufel von Mailand*

2003 ›Deutscher Krimipreis‹ (Platz 2) in der Kategorie ›National‹ des Bochumer Krimi-Archivs für den Roman *Ein perfekter Freund*

2002 In der Reihe ›Das Literarische Quartal‹ des Kulturmagazins ›Aspekte‹ im ZDF wurde *Ein perfekter Freund* zum Quartalsbuch Frühjahr 2002 gewählt

1998 ›Prix du premier roman étranger‹ für *Small World* in französischer Übersetzung

1997 Ehrengabe des Kantons Zürich für *Small World*

1995 Preis der österreichischen Industrie am Joseph-Roth-Wettbewerb in Klagenfurt für die Kolumne *Business Class*

1987 ›Best Screenplay‹ beim Festival des phantastischen Films in Sitges für *Jenatsch*

Praise

Melody

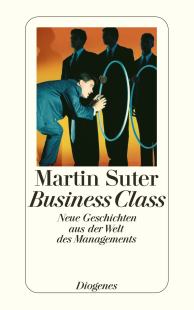
»A gripping suspense story coupled with a brilliant reflection on the relationship between reality and fiction.« – La Marseillaise, Marseille

»One gets caught up in it unawares, reads without pause, then one is out again, released from a world of events and destinies.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg

»In this respect, *Melody* is a homage to storytelling. And at the same time, the novel makes clear that narratives always lie.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg

»Time passes, love remains. The faithful motto above the door lintel is fulfilled contrarily to that which the householder had imagined.« – Roman Bucheli / NZZ, Zurich

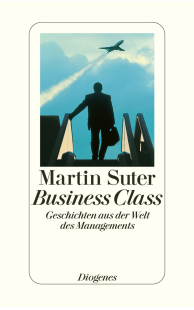
»In this novel, at least, nothing is what it pretends to be. That makes it appealing to the end.« – Roman Bucheli / NZZ, Zurich



Business Class II
240 pages
2002



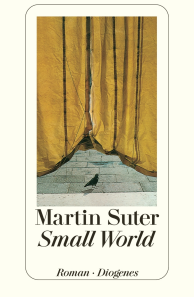
A Perfect Friend
352 pages
2002
Award winner
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Business Class I
240 pages
2000
Award winner



The Dark Side of the Moon
320 pages
2000
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Small World
336 pages
1997
Award winner
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»Martin Suter's *Melody* is an entertainingly written, easy-to-read novel with a clear cast of characters, a few voltes and pirouettes in the text, served up with a good dose of humour.« – Annemarie Stoltenberg / NDR Kultur, Hamburg

»And his novel is more than a dramatic love story: In subtle ways, Suter explores, sometimes quite amusingly, the question of how we remember – which stories we tell about ourselves and for what reason. Which truths we conceal in order to protect ourselves« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»With the current book *Melody* he has succeeded in creating a true gem of his storytelling art.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / FAZ, Frankfurt

»So what endures at the end of a lifetime? Martin Suter has no answer. But he has written a great novel about it.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / FAZ Messebeilage, Frankfurt

»Nothing human is alien to Suter, so many varieties of humanity are familiar to him because he is an outrageously astute observer.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / FAZ Messebeilage, Frankfurt

»With *Melody,* the now 75-year-old Swiss [. . .] once again displays his mastery of bringing characters and settings to life with just a few strokes of his understated but powerful language. And his novel is more than a dramatic love story.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»He gives his audience what they want, never disturbing them. This is an art that comes from skill.« – Peer Teuwsen / NZZ am Sonntag (Bücher am Sonntag), Zurich

»This wonderfully romantic story is a captivating read, as well as an extended meditation on truth, memory, and the nature and purpose of storytelling.« – New Books in German, London

»You can't put the book down. Suter is at the peak of his narrative art.« – Gerhard Matzig / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»*Melody* is a libretto to the art of trickery that could hardly be more lucent.« – Gerhard Matzig / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

» [. . .] *Melody* is a really good book. One that you say goodbye to sadly because it's of that lightness that has its ground in valentinesque gravitas.« – Gerhard Matzig / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Suter again narrates with full passion, cleverly, in the linguistically simple and thrilling mystery-deciphering mode that has made him famous.« – Benjamin Bögli / Weltwoche, Zurich

»If we tell ourselves and others our life story often enough, it will come true - that is the insight behind this seductive novel.« – Kerstin Meier / Kölnische Rundschau, Cologne

Praise (cont'd)

»And yet the book is also amusing, with its almost tongue-in-cheek exaggerated plot, the surprising twists and turns and the almost provocative ending: *Melody* - in other words, another treat for Suter fans.« – Jutta Duhm-Heitzmann / WDR 3, Cologne

»It remains very very exciting until the end.« – Dorothee Meyer-Kahrweg / hr2 Kultur, Frankfurt

»[...] Martin Suter not only delivers a compelling suspense story, but also a brilliant reflection about the relationship between reality and fiction, between wrong truths and true lies.« – Pierre Deshusses / Le Monde, Paris

»This story is as enchanting as a tale from *One Thousand and One Nights*.« – Le Figaro Littéraire, Paris

Martin Suter

»Martin Suter will always surprise you. Each new novel is a challenge and an adventure.« – Les Echos, Paris

»Suter's gaze is fresh and wicked, his ear for dialogue infallible, his literature greatly skilful.« – Constantin Seibt / Die Wochenzeitung, Zurich

»Suter's writing is filmic – fast-paced, taut, with succinct dialogue.« – Martin Ebel / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Martin Suter reaches a huge audience with his novels. He writes exciting, well-constructed and almost cinematic stories; he captures his readers with lean, artful plots.« – Wolfgang Höbel / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»He is known for his versatility and special gift for handling complex topics in an accessible and entertaining way.« – Samira Debbeler / Stern, Hamburg

»Martin Suter: the grand master of German-language popular fiction.« – Spiegel Bestseller, Hamburg

»Martin Suter's prose is clear and sensitive without ever becoming superficial, and his characters are vivid and multifaceted.« – Samira Debbeler / Stern, Hamburg

»There is charm, irony, and undeniable elegance in Martin Suter's novels. He is probably one of the best contemporary authors. « – Pascal Bruckner / Le Nouvel Observateur, Paris

»With his brilliantly smooth narrative style, Martin Suter reaches readers all over the world.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung