

Christian Schünemann & Jelena Volic  
*Cornflower Blue*

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



Schünemann  
& Volic  
*Kornblumen-  
blau*

*Ein Fall für Milena Lukin*

*Roman · Diogenes*

On the night of the 11th of July, two guardsmen from the Serbian elite unit are making their rounds in the Topcider military camp. The next morning, they are found dead. The military court issues an official report claiming that they were the victims of a dishonourable ritual suicide, and the investigation is promptly closed. Lawyer Sinisa Stojkovic is commissioned by the parents of the dead guardsmen to launch a private investigation. He asks his old friend, Milena Lukin, a specialist in international law, for her assistance. But her investigations start to irritate certain individuals, and her life ends up in grave danger. A dreadful suspicion begins to build: it seems that the guards saw something they shouldn't have seen. Could it have had something to do with the anniversary of the worst massacre in European history since World War II?

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature  
368 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2013

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### Translation rights currently sold:

English/world (Haus)  
French (Héloïse d'Ormesson)

### Awards

- 2002 Am Open Mike wurde ein Auszug aus *Der Frisör* preisgekrönt.
- 2001 ›Helmut-Stegmann-Preis‹ für eine Reportage in der *Süddeutschen Zeitung*

### Praise

#### *Cornflower Blue*

»An honest and depressing look into the workings of a deeply disturbed country.« – Lilo Solcher / Augsburgs Allgemeine

»«Cornflower Blue» is rich in description as thrillers can only be when their authors stick to their own territory.« – Susan Vahabzadeh / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»This crime novel makes the reader both want to go to Belgrade and to look again at the almost forgotten war in the heart of Europe – and to hear more of Milena Lukin.« – Petra Mies / Buchjournal, Frankfurt

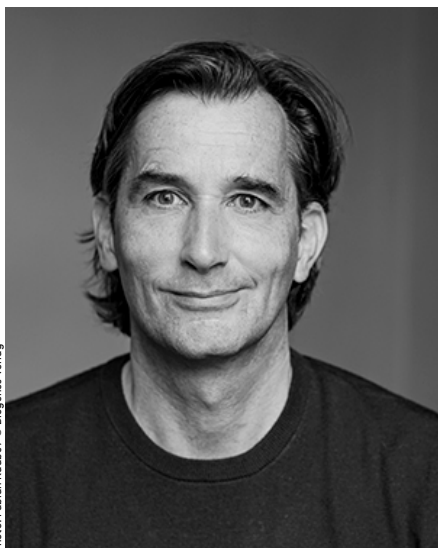
»This book gives valuable insight into the Bosnian war and its aftermath. It is well written, and it demonstrates that the conventions of crime fiction, intelligently followed, produce highly readable and similar kinds of stories across a range of languages and cultures.« – Kerry Goldsworthy / The Sydney Morning Herald

»Milena Lukin is a wonderful, unfathomable woman still swathed in a cocoon of secrecy, even at the end of her debut appearance. Belgrade made flesh.« – Elmar Krekeler / Die Welt, Berlin

»A tremendous thriller about sensitive issues like political corruption, nationalist lunacy and the massacres between Serbs and Bosnians in the 1990s.« – Wolfgang Bortlik / 20 Minuten, Zurich

#### Christian Schünemann

»Schünemann is a keen observer.« – Mannheimer Morgen



Christian Schünemann, born in 1968 in Bremen, studied Slavic Studies in Berlin and Saint Petersburg. He has worked in Moscow and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and was a storyliner and screenwriter. Diogenes has previously published his crime series about the star hairdresser Tomas Prinz, and his crime novels — co-written with Jelena Volič — about the Serbian amateur detective Milena Lukin. Christian Schünemann lives in Berlin.



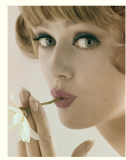
Jelena Volič, born in Belgrade, studied Literary Criticism and Italian, Slavonic and Germanic Studies. She is a lecturer in contemporary German literature and cultural history in Belgrade. She is a member of various forums, which address the accession of Serbia to the European Union, and an expert on German-Serbian relations. She divides her time between Belgrade and Berlin.

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Christian  
Schönemann  
*Bis die Sonne  
scheint*  
Roman · Diogenes

*Until the Sun Shines*  
256 pages  
2025



Christian  
Schönemann  
*Daily Soap*  
Ein Fall für den Friseur  
Roman · Diogenes

*Daily Soap*  
240 pages  
2011



Christian  
Schönemann  
*Die Studentin*  
Ein Fall für den Friseur  
Roman · Diogenes

*The Student*  
272 pages  
2009



Christian  
Schönemann  
*Der Bruder*  
Ein Fall für den Friseur  
Roman · Diogenes

*The Brother*  
288 pages  
2008



Christian  
Schönemann  
*Der Frisör*  
Roman · Diogenes

*The Hairdresser*  
256 pages  
2004  
Award winner



Schönemann  
& Volić  
*Maiglöckchen-  
weiß*  
Ein Fall für Milena Lukin  
Roman · Diogenes

*Lily-of-the-Valley White*  
352 pages  
2017



Schönemann  
& Volić  
*Pfingstrosen-  
rot*  
Ein Fall für Milena Lukin  
Roman · Diogenes

*Peony Red*  
368 pages  
2016