

Donna Leon
Death at La Fenice

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Donna Leon
**Venezianisches
Finale**
*Commissario Brunettis
erster Fall*
Roman · Diogenes

The twisted maze of Venice's canals has always been shrouded in mystery. Even the celebrated opera house, La Fenice, has seen its share of death. But nothing so horrific and violent as that of world-famous conductor, Maestro Helmut Wellauer - poisoned during a performance of ›La Traviata‹. Even Commissario of Police Guido Brunetti, used to the labyrinthine corruptions of the city, is shocked at the number of enemies Wellauer has made on his way to the top - but just how many have motive enough for murder?

Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
352 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
October 1993

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Movie adaptations

2019: **Ewige Jugend**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Jens-Frederik Otto
Cast: Mit: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett
Renneberg, Karl Fischer, Michael Degen. In
Episodenrollen: Max von Thun, Nadja Bobyleva,
Hildegard Schmahl, Andreas Pietschmann,
Nina Kronjäger.

2019: **Stille Wasser**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Stefan und Florian Iwersen Holtz
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Karl Fischer,
Annett Renneberg, Marie Leuenberger, Suzanne
von Borsody

2018: **Endlich mein**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Stefan Holtz und Florian Iwersen
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael
Degen, Annett Renneberg. In Episodenrollen
Leslie Malton, Edin Hasanovic und Jürgen
Tarrach.

2017: **Tod zwischen den Zeilen**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Stefan und Florian Iwersen Holtz
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett
Renneberg, Michael Degen und Julia Jäger. In
Episodenrollen: Jenny Schily, Thorsten Merten,
Harald Schrott.

2016: **Das goldene Ei**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Florian & Stefan Holtz Iwersen
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael
Degen, Juliane Köhler, Imogen Kogge

2015: **Tierische Profite**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Florian Iwersen
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett
Renneberg, Karl Fischer, Michael Degen, Alice
Dwyer, Florian Bartholomäi, Max Hopp, Walter
Kreye

2014: **Reiches Erbe**

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Florian Iwersen
Cast: Neben dem beliebten Stammensemble
um Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett
Renneberg, Karl Fischer und Michael Degen
spielen in Episodenrollen David Rott, Lisa
Wagner, Tilo Prückner, Renate Delfs und Liv
Lisa Fries.



Donna Leon, born in New Jersey in 1942, has worked as a travel guide in Rome and as a copywriter in London. She taught literature in universities in Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia. The Brunetti novels brought her to world-wide fame. Donna Leon lived in Italy for many years, and although she now lives in Switzerland, she often visits Venice.



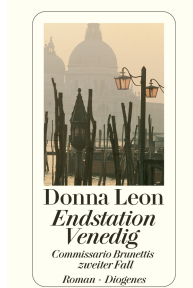
Handel's Bestiary
144 pages
2010



At Table with the Brunettis
288 pages
2009



Brunetti's Venice
368 pages
2008



Death in a Strange Country
400 pages
1995

 **Movie Adaptation**

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

2013: Auf Treu und Glauben

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Holger Joos
Cast: Mit der bewährten Besetzung rund um Uwe Kockisch, in Episodenrollen u.a. Jeanette Hain, Stephan Grossmann und Nicole Heesters

2012: Schöner Schein

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Holger Joos
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen u.a Michael Mendl, Esther Schweins und Merab Ninidze.

2011: Das Mädchen seiner Träume

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen Annett Renneberg, Jasmin Tabatabai, Martin Feifel, Valerie Niehaus

2010: Lasset die Kinder zu mir kommen (TV)

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen und Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen u.a.: Nadeshda Brennicke, Michael Gwisdek und Gregor Törzs

2009: Wie durch ein dunkles Glas

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen und Annett Renneberg. In Episodenrollen Heikko Deutschmann, Katharina Wackernagel und Birge Schade.

2008: Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger, Axel Milberg, Katrin Sass, Bettina Zimmermann, Rike Schmid

2008: Blutige Steine

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger, Helmut Zierl, Ernest Allan Hausmann, Rosel Zech

2006: Endstation Venedig

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Esther Schweins, Heiner Lauterbach, Monica Bleibtreu

2006: Das Gesetz der Lagune

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Tim Bergmann, Laura-Charlotte Syniawa

2005: Beweise, dass es böse ist

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2005: Verschwiegene Kanäle

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2004: Sanft entschlafen

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

2004: *Acqua Alta*

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2003: *Venezianisches Finale*

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2003: *Feine Freunde*

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2002: *Nobiltà*

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Joachim Krol , Barbara Auer

2001: *In Sachen Signora Brunetti*

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Joachim Krol , Barbara Auer

2001: *Davon stirbt man nicht*

Director: Christine Hartmann
Cast: J. Prochnow

2000: *Vendetta*

Director: Christian Castelberg
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

2000: *Venezianische Scharade*

Director: Christian Castelberg
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

Awards

- 2024 ›Ehrenpreis des Bayerischen Ministerpräsidenten‹ für ihr Werk
- 2024 ›Ripper Award‹ von der Jury des Europäischen Preises für Kriminalliteratur
- 2021 ›Gaudium Award‹ des Breukelein Institutes
- 2019 ›Lifetime Achievement Award‹ vom *Strand Magazine*
- 2019 *Ein Sohn ist uns geboren* war auf der Shortlist des ›Golden Dagger Award‹
- 2018 ›B.Z.-Kulturpreis‹ (Berliner Zeitung)
- 2016 ›Premio Pepe Carvalho‹ anlässlich des Krimifestivals BCNegra von der Stadtregierung Barcelonas
- 2006 Das Hörbuch *Mein Venedig* ist auf den 1. Platz des österreichischen Publikumspreises ›Buchliebbling‹ gewählt worden, der Roman *Verschwiegene Kanäle* erzielte den 3. Platz in der Rubrik ›Krimis und Thriller‹
- 2005 ›Silver Award‹ in der Kategorie ›Krimi/Thriller‹ des britischen Hörbuchpreises ›Spoken Word Awards‹ für das englische Hörbuch *Blood from a Stone* (dt. *Blutige Steine*)
- 2003 Donna Leon erhält den ›Corine – Internationaler Buchpreis‹ für *Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima*
- 2000 Donna Leon ist im Rahmen der Veranstaltungen zum Welttag des Buches für *Nobiltà* mit dem ›Goldenen Buch‹ des Österreichischen Hauptverbandes des Buchhandels ausgezeichnet worden.

🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 2000 Donna Leon erhält den ›Silver Dagger‹ der Crime Writers' Association für *Friends in High Places* (dt. *Feine Freunde*)
- 1997 3. Platz für *Venezianische Scharade* in der Internationalen Sparte beim 13. ›Deutschen Krimi-Preis‹
- 1991 Japans renommierter ›Suntory‹-Preis für *Death at la Fenice* (dt. *Venezianisches Finale*)
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Praise

Death at La Fenice

»This series is one of the adornments of current detective fiction.« – Gerald Kaufman / Scotsman

»A splendid series ... with a backdrop of the city so vivid you can smell it.« – Sunday Telegraph, London

Donna Leon

»Brilliant.« – Sunday Times, London

»A splendid series . . . with a backdrop of the city so vivid you can almost smell it.« – The Sunday Telegraph, London

»Donna Leon can paralyze the reader with joyful suspense.« – The Mail on Sunday, London

»[Donna Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation.« – Ursula K. LeGuin / The New York Times

»The most obvious appeal of Donna Leon's novels about Commissario Guido Brunetti is that they are so supremely civilized. For readers with a certain mindset—distaste for violence, love of Italy's cultural and sensual pleasures and scorn for officialdom — Donna Leon's novels are always a pleasure.« – Patrick Anderson / The Washington Post

»Donna Leon guides us through Venice like James Ellroy through Los Angeles or Manuel Vázquez Montalbán through Barcelona: with an eye used to detect what lies behind the façade.« – Le Figaro, Paris

»Donna Leon is a top thriller writer, on a par with Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Patricia Highsmith and Ruth Rendell. Women, so it would seem from literary history, have always been in their element with the genre of murder and violence.« – Sonntags Zeitung, Zurich

»Brilliantly evokes Venetian atmosphere. The characters of Brunetti and his family continue to deepen throughout this series.« – The Times, London

»Donna Leon is the undisputed crime fiction queen.« – Sarah Weinman / Baltimore Sun

»In the footsteps of Brunetti, endowed with a ruthless humor and a healthy appetite, Donna Leon's readers discover Venice better than with a guide book.« – Le Monde, Paris

Praise (cont'd)

»Brunetti's humane police work is disarming, and his ambles through the city are a delight.«
– The New York Times, Book Review

»Brunetti remains unique – an everyman who's also extraordinary.« – Publishers Weekly

»Donna Leon's Venetian mysteries never disappoint, calling up the romantic sights and sound of La Serenissima even as they acquaint us with the practical matters that concern the city's residents.« – Marilyn Stasio / The New York Times Book Review

»Donna Leon's books are a joy.« – The Guardian, London

»When writing about her beloved Venice, Donna Leon can do no wrong.« – The New York Times

»[Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation.« – Ursula K. Le Guin / New York Times, New York

»Hers is an unusually potent cocktail of atmosphere and event.« – The New Yorker, New York

»[Leon] uses the relatively small and crime-free canvas of Venice for rips about Italian life, sexual styles and – best of all – the kind of ingrown business and political corruption that seems to lurk just below the surface.« – Chicago Tribune, Chicago

»Leon started out with offhand, elegant excellence, and has simply kept it up.« – The Guardian, London

»Leon whips up a brilliant narrative storm.« – Sunday Times, London

»Her depiction of Venice, its crimes and beauties, villains and heroes, high and low and the character of Brunetti and his family and friends has long been a delight for discerning readers. The warmth, understanding and shrewdness with which Leon's elegant, witty prose depicts this particular part of Italy is a joy. She is one of the best European novelists around, and her unflinching address to current affairs makes her worthy of the highest regard.« – Amanda Craig

»She has reinvented Venice.« – Kristina Maidt-Zinke / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Her love for this city shines through from every line of her crime novels.« – Maria Wiesner / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»Leon's pedagogical eros is akin to that of Mary Poppins. Who could resist it?« – Simone Dattenberger / Münchner Merkur, Munich

»To read her is to restore the soul.« – Mark Sanderson / The Times, London