

# Diogenes

**Bernhard Schlink**  
**Colours of Farewell**

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



**Bernhard  
Schlink**  
*Abschiedsfarben*

Diogenes

Stories about the kind of goodbyes that weigh heavy upon us, and the ones that set us free, about the success and failure of love, about trust and betrayal, about menacing and overpowering memories and how the right thing often comes into the wrong life, and the wrong thing into the right life.

Stories about people in different phases of life and about their hopes and entanglements.

»Love and do what thou wilt« is not a recipe for a happy ending, but an answer for when all other answers fail.

Stories that surprise, disturb, and delight.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller  
240 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 x 1.9 cm  
August 2020

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Azerbaijani (Qanun)  
Catalan (Enciclopèdia Catalana)  
Chinese/CN (Yilin)  
Dutch (Cossee)  
Finnish (WSOY)  
French (Gallimard)  
Greek (Kritiki)  
Italian (Neri Pozza)  
Japanese (Shinchosha)  
Korean (Sigongsa)  
Latvian (Zvaigzne)  
Macedonian (Ili-Ili)  
Romanian (Polirom)  
Russian (Azbooka)  
Serbian (Plato)  
Spanish/world (Anagrama)  
Turkish (Dogan)  
Vietnamese (Nha Nam)

### Bestseller

# 1 Spiegel Bestseller  
# 2 Swiss Bestseller

### 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 Herzprung 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



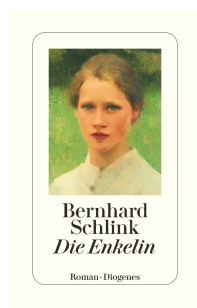
Bernhard Schlink, born in 1944, was a Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy and a former judge at the Constitutional Court of North Rhine-Westphalia. His first novel, *Self's Justice*, was published in 1987; his 1995 novel *The Reader*, translated into more than fifty languages and adapted by 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*.



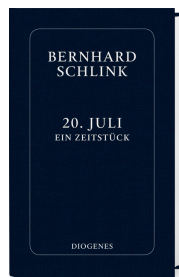
*Justice*  
208 pages  
2026



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



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



*The 20th of July*  
96 pages  
2021



*Olga*  
320 pages  
2018  
🏆 **Bestseller**



*Explorations*  
288 pages  
2015



*The Woman on the Stairs*  
256 pages  
2014  
🏆 **Bestseller**



*Thoughts on Writing*  
96 pages  
2011

## 🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 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*
- 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

### *Colours of Farewell*

»Schlink possesses an unmistakable sense for unexpected turns of events, for drama and suspense.« – Lothar Schröder / Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»Bernhard Schlink understands how to put a whole life into the small shape of a story.« – Britta Helmbold / Ruhr Nachrichten, Dortmund

»Powerful stories, told without frills.« – Manfred Papst / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»It exudes a psychological knowledge about human beings and their (often betrayed) ideals, and an art of the essential.« – Markus Thiel / Münchner Merkur, Munich

»30 pages sometimes have the intensity of an entire novel. Far from being mere entertainment, these stories are deeply profound.« – Rainer Hartmann / SWR 1, Stuttgart

»A melancholy transience and futility settle over quite a number of these stories. But unlike Schlink's earlier work, they often end in an upbeat tone.« – Martin Ebel / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

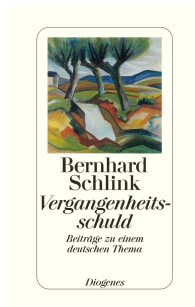
»Schlink composes a kind of *Death Fugue*, but one which is probably suited as comfort music.« – Frank Pommer / Die Rheinpfalz, Ludwigshafen



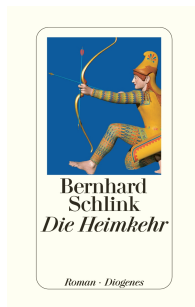
**Summer Lies**  
288 pages  
2010  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**The Weekend**  
240 pages  
2008  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



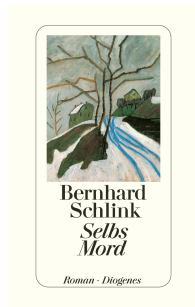
**Guilt of the Past**  
192 pages  
2007



**The Homecoming**  
384 pages  
2006  
🏆 **Bestseller**



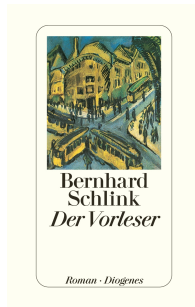
**Verifications**  
368 pages  
2005



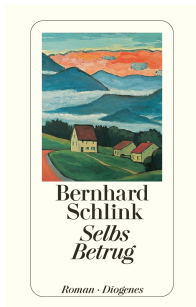
**Self's Murder**  
272 pages  
2001



**Flights of Love**  
320 pages  
2000  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**



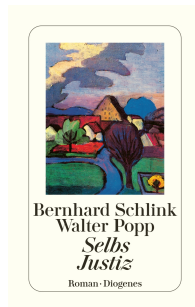
**The Reader**  
208 pages  
1995  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**Self's Deception**  
304 pages  
1992  
🏆 **Award winner**



**The Gordian Knot**  
272 pages  
1988  
🏆 **Award winner**



**Self's Punishment**  
352 pages  
1987  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**

## Praise (cont'd)

»Schlink doesn't judge, and he doesn't condemn. He delivers intricate, false-bottomed psychological studies.« – Karin Grossmann / Sächsische Zeitung, Dresden

»In his latest book, the 76-year old Schlink convinces with his precise style, making sentiments and scenes vivid in just a few words.« – Sabine Kleyboldt / Kölnische Rundschau, Cologne

»This book, luminous in its many nuances, immediately captures the reader and doesn't let go.« – Janina Fleischer / Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, Hannover

»His prose is accessible to any reader; written in a clear, calmly flowing language that doesn't need stylistic effects.« – Ursula März / Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Cologne

»Those reading Bernhard Schlink's new book *Colours of Farewell* will find themselves surrounded by the intense mood of Indian summer.« – Heribert Vogt / Rhein-Neckar Zeitung, Heidelberg

»There are few authors who can fill the pages of a book with such simple elegance.« – Günter Keil / Landshuter Zeitung, Landshut

»These stories really pack a punch, and have great depth. Whether they're about lies, betrayal or guilt.« – Torsten Hunger / MDR Thüringen, Erfurt

»In a sense, this book is a detailed gaze at our living conditions; it debates, in different ways, the question of how we want to cohabit.« – Nico Hofmann / Die Zeit Newsletter, Hamburg

»Nothing is easy in the protagonists' lives; love is the knottiest question of all.« – Raffaella de Santis / La Repubblica, Torino

## 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

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**Praise (cont'd)**

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