Diogenes

Book factsheet

Hansjörg Schneider
The Basel Killings

Published by Diogenes as *Hunkeler macht Sachen*
Original title: *Hunkeler macht Sachen*



In his fifth case, Hunkeler is probing deep into Switzerland's past. It's the end of October and the city of Basel is as grey and wet as December. With his girlfriend Hedwig away in Paris for three months, Inspector Peter Hunkeler is back in his smoke-filled favourite pub nursing a few after work beers. It's already the early hours of the morning when he sees old Hardy on his way home. Hunkeler sits down next to him and smokes a cigarette. But Hardy, usually so eager to chat, stays uncharacteristically silent. His throat is just a gaping wound. The media and city police are in agreement: a band of Albanian smugglers are behind the murder. But that's too easy for Hunkeler, who decides to follow a hot lead using his own methods – and is promptly suspended. He clears out his office and puts his faith in his unmistakeable psychological intuition. It leads him to Basel's red light district and to the dark, unknown depths of Swiss history.

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
288 pages
11.3 × 18 cm
March 2013

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Translation rights currently sold:
Arabic (Al-Arabi)
English/world (Bitter Lemon)

Movie adaptations

2011: Hunkeler und die Augen des Ödipus. TV-Verfilmung SF 1
Director: Christian von Castelberg
Screenplay: Dominik Bernet
Cast: Mathias Gnädinger, Axel Milberg, Marie Leuenberger

2011: Silberkiesel. Hunkeler tritt ab
Director: Markus Fischer
Screenplay: Dominik Bernet
Cast: Mathias Gnädinger, Gilles Tschudi, Charlotte Heinimann, Cynthia Coray und Ercan Durmaz.

2009: Hunkeler und der Fall Livius
Director: Stefan Jäger
Screenplay: Dominik Bernet
Cast: Matthias Gnädinger, Klaus Henner Russius, Gilles Tschudi, Jean Pierre Gos

2008: Hunkeler macht Sachen
Director: Markus Fischer
Screenplay: Dominik Bernet
Cast: Mathias Gnädinger, Charlotte Heinimann, Oliver Tobias

2005: Tod einer Ärztin
Director: Markus Fischer
Screenplay: Markus Fischer
Cast: Mathias Gnädinger, Charlotte Heinimann, André Jung

2004: Das Paar im Kahn
Director: Marie-Louise Bless
Cast: Mathias Gnädinger, Gilles Tschudi, Andrea Bettini

1981: Sennentuntschi. Fernsehspiel
Director: Hansjörg Schneider
Cast: Joseph Arnold, Walo Lüönd, Hanspeter Müller-Drossaart, Maja Stolle

Awards

2018 ›Ehrendoktor‹ der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel
2016 ›Ehrenpreis Burgdorfer Krimitage‹ für *Hunkeler*-Reihe

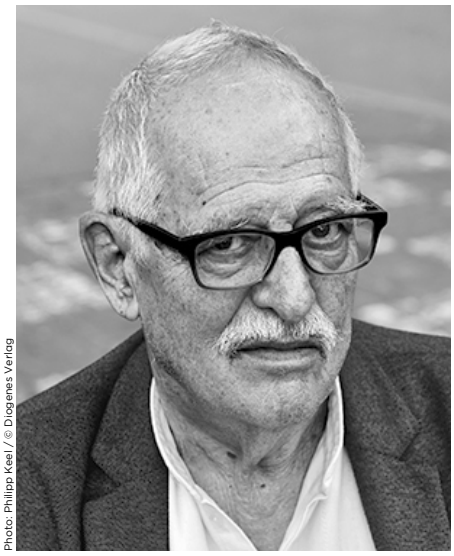


Photo: Philipp Keel / © Diogenes Verlag

Hansjörg Schneider, born in Aarau, Switzerland, in 1938, worked as a teacher and journalist. For a long time, he was one of the most performed playwrights in the German language and his *Hunkeler* crime novels are regularly on the Swiss Bestseller list. Hansjorg Schneider has received numerous awards, among them the ›Friedrich Glauser Prize‹ in 2005. He lives and writes in Basel.



Sparrows at the Fountain
208 pages
2023
Bestseller



The Owl over the Rhine
288 pages
2021
Bestseller



Hunkeler in the Wilderness
224 pages
2020
Bestseller



In the Café and on the Street
240 pages
2019



Child of the Aare
352 pages
2018
Bestseller



Dear Leo
304 pages
2016



Hunkeler's Secret
208 pages
2015



Hunkeler and the ›Golden Hand‹
240 pages
2013

Awards (cont'd)

2005 ›Friedrich-Glauser-Preis‹ für *Hunkeler macht Sachen*
2003 Schweizer Schillerpreis
1998 Wetzlarer Phantastikpreis
1986 Aargauer Literaturpreis
1986 Literaturpreis der Stadt Basel
1981 Werkjahr des Kantons Zürich
1979 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia
1977 Stipendiat des Berliner Künstlerprogramms (DAAD)
1976 ›Preis der Welti-Stiftung für das Drama‹ *Der Erfinder*

Praise

The Basel Killings

»This is an absorbing story; Hansjörg Schneider paints a disturbing picture of a cruelty that has lain undiscussed behind the façade of Swiss propriety and complacency; and all the while he keeps us guessing right to the end.« – Max Easterman / The European Literature Network

»This gripping, plausible debut bodes well for future entries.« – Publishers Weekly, New York

Hansjörg Schneider

»Hansjörg Schneider is a talented and conscientious storyteller.« – Sabine Brandt / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»Hansjörg Schneider has created a wonderful protagonist: rugged, awkward and likeable.« – Volker Albers / Hamburger Abendblatt

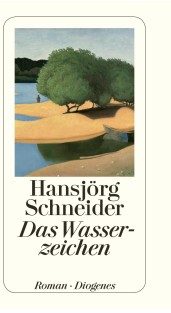
»Hansjörg Schneider's crime stories will have you hooked. As soon as a murderer is caught, you are already longing for the next one to appear.« – Benedikt Scherer / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Ideal for anyone who enjoys Martin Beck, Wallander and Maigret.« – crimefictionlover.com

»Hansjörg Schneider is very addictive! Definitely one of the greatest German speaking authors.« – Jochen Schmoldt / Plärrer, Nürnberg



The Murder of Anton Livius
256 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



The Watermark
304 pages
2013



Hippos under the House
224 pages
2012



Night Book for Astrid
128 pages
2012



Death of a Doctor
240 pages
2011
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



The Couple on the Barge
224 pages
2011
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



The Fluttering Man
160 pages
2011
Bestseller



Silver Pebbles
240 pages
2011
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Hunkeler and the Eyes of Oedipus
240 pages
2010
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller