

# Diogenes

**Jakob Arjouni**  
***Happy Birthday, Turk!***

Published by Diogenes as *Happy birthday, Türke!*  
Original title: *Happy birthday, Türke!*



**Jakob**  
**Arjouni**  
***Happy birthday,***  
***Türke!***

Kayankayas erster Fall

Roman · Diogenes

A Turkish worker is stabbed to death in Frankfurt's red-light district - no reason for the police to work overtime. Kemal Kayankaya, however, has a different attitude. A 26-year-old, born in Turkey but raised in Germany, he is no stranger to the wrong end of racial harassment. He is also a private investigator, hired to find the killer and the motive for the crime. Not only by colour, but also by character and profession, Kayankaya is the outsider and the outcast, looking in at a rampantly unjust society. In his pursuit of the killer he encounters vicious pimps, over-eager bouncers and easy women, survives beatings, gas attacks and a close encounter with a Fiat and uncovers a drug ring built on the exploitation of Turkish immigrants. Jakob Arjouni's novel confronts police corruption, endemic racism and the spiritual malaise in the German body politic.

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature,  
Bestseller  
176 pages  
11.3 x 18 x 1.1 cm  
September 1987

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)  
English/USA (Melville)

### **Movie adaptations**

**2017: Am Ruder**  
Director: Stephan Wagner  
Screenplay: Stephan und Alexandra Maxeiner  
Wagner  
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Julia Koschitz und  
Inga Birkenfeld

**1992: Happy Birthday, Türke**  
Director: Doris Dörrie  
Cast: Hansa Czipionka, Özay Fecht, Doris  
Kunstmann, Lambert Hamel

### **Awards**

- 1992 Deutscher Krimi Preis für ›Ein Mann, ein Mord‹.
- 1987 Baden-Württembergischer Autorenpreis für das deutschsprachige Jugendtheater für sein Theaterstück ›Nazim schiebt ab‹.

### **Praise**

*Happy Birthday, Turk!*

»A blistering debut: outcast Kayankaya is a perfect hard-boiled detective.« – Kirkus Reviews, New York

»»Happy Birthday Turk!« is an exceptional achievement ... It lingers in the mind, a bitter lesson but thrilling in the telling.« – Library Journal, New York

»A remarkable debut.« – The Guardian, London

Jakob Arjouni

»Arjouni tells real-life stories, and they virtually never have a happy ending. He tells them so well, with such flexible dialogue and cleverly maintained tension, that it is impossible to put his books down.« – El País, Madrid

»A genuine storyteller who beguiles his readers without the need of tricks.« – L'Unità, Milan

»Magnificent« – The Guardian



Photo: © Regine Mostmann / Diogenes Verlag

### Praise (cont'd)

- »Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times
- »Jakob Arjouni writes the best urban thrillers since Raymond Chandler.« – Tempo
- »A master of the sketch and the caricature.« – Die Welt
- »Impossible to put his books down.« – El Pais
- »A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern

Jakob Arjouni, born 1964 in Frankfurt on the Main, has published novels, short stories, theatre and radio plays. Arjouni was only twenty-one years old when his acclaimed debut, ›Happy birthday, Turk!‹ was published and its main character, the Frankfurt-based private detective Kemal Kayankaya, took on his very first investigation. In 1991, the book was made into a film, directed by Doris Dörrie. Three further cases followed; for the third, ›One Man, One Murder‹, Jakob Arjouni was awarded the 1992 ›German Crime Fiction Prize‹. In autumn 2012, ›Brother Kemal‹, the fifth volume starring the German-Turkish investigator was published. The series is now firmly established as a classic amongst crime literature. Apart from his stage plays, his work also includes the Berlin novels ›Magic Hoffmann‹ (1996) and ›Holy Eddy‹ (2009) as well as ›Idiots. Five Fairy Tales‹ (2003). His novels ›Homework‹, ›Chez Max‹, and particularly his novel about an East-German Nazi follower, ›Cherryman Hunts Mister White‹, are now on school reading lists. The theme of addressing violence in all its forms runs through Arjouni's work like a red thread. His readers loved him for his thrilling, sharp-tongued, linguistically unpretentious, witty and clever books. He died on the 17th of January 2013 in Berlin. Jakob Arjouni's works have been published in 24 languages.



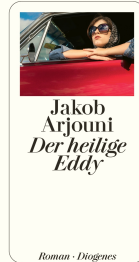
**The Kayankaya Novels**  
1080 pages  
2014



**Brother Kemal**  
240 pages  
2012



**Cherryman Hunts Mister White**  
176 pages  
2011



**Holy Eddy**  
256 pages  
2009



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Chez Max*

Roman · Diogenes

**Chez Max**  
224 pages  
2006



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Hausaufgaben*

Roman · Diogenes

**Homework**  
192 pages  
2004



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Idioten. Fünf  
Märchen*

Diogenes

**Idiots. Five fairy tales**  
160 pages  
2003



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Kismet*

Kayankayas erster Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**Kismet**  
272 pages  
2001



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Ein  
Freund*

Geschichten · Diogenes

**A Friend**  
176 pages  
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



Jakob Arjouni  
*Edelmanns  
Tochter*

Diogenes

**Edelmann's Daughter**  
96 pages  
1996



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Magic  
Hoffmann*

Roman · Diogenes

**Magic Hoffmann**  
288 pages  
1996

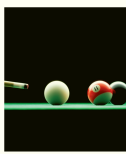


Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Ein Mann,  
ein Mord*

Kayankayas dritter Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**One Man, One Murder**  
192 pages  
1991



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Mehr Bier*

Kayankayas zweiter Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**More Beer**  
176 pages  
1987