

# Diogenes

**Jakob Arjouni**  
**Chez Max**

Published by Diogenes as *Chez Max*  
Original title: *Chez Max*



The world in the year 2064. Overpopulation? Famine? Religious wars? Dictatorships? On the contrary. At least, not in the Eurasian and North American regions. Securely fenced off from the rest of the world, life in these areas, with the exception of a handful of suicide bombings and regular border disputes, is constantly improving. Nowhere more so than at »Chez Max – German Cuisine«, a small, top-quality restaurant located in Paris' eleventh arrondissement. Its customers are, however, not only served fine food, but carefully monitored, their conversations overheard – because Max is not only the restaurant manager, but also an Ashcroft agent, a member of a secret government organisation whose mission is to promptly identify and weed out anything that may threaten the political status quo. Max leads a full and orderly life, oscillating between professional success and social commitment. The only spanner in the works is his Ashcroft partner, Chen Wu, a self-righteous loudmouth, who leaves no taboo unbroken, attacks every human weakness and takes liberties at will - all because of the spectacular successes he has achieved within the organisation. Until the day that Wu's own weakness is revealed and Max sees an opportunity to get rid off his partner once and for all.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
224 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 2006

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**Translation rights currently sold:**  
French

### **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**

*Chez Max*

»As gripping as Arjouni's early Kayankaya-Cases. (...) In the end you have been entertained frantically well.« – Marcel Elsner / St. Galler Tagblatt

»With »Chez Max«, Jakob Arjouni has written the most original novel yet about the events of 9/11.« – Sven Boedecker / SonntagsZeitung, Zürich

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

»Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times



Photo: © Regine Mostmann / Diogenes Verlag

**Praise (cont'd)**

- »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



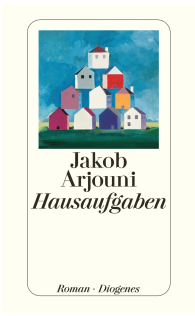
**Brother Kemal**  
240 pages  
2012



**Cherryman Hunts Mister White**  
176 pages  
2011



**Holy Eddy**  
256 pages  
2009



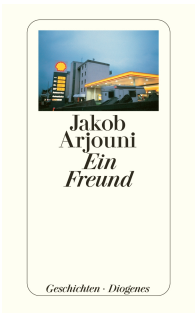
**Homework**  
192 pages  
2004



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

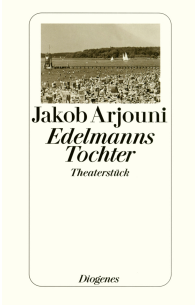


**Kismet**  
272 pages  
2001



**A Friend**  
176 pages  
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



**Edelmann's Daughter**  
96 pages  
1996



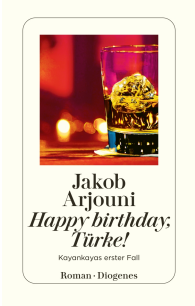
**Magic Hoffmann**  
288 pages  
1996



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



**More Beer**  
176 pages  
1987



**Happy Birthday, Turk!**  
176 pages  
1987

 **Movie Adaptation**