

# Diogenes

**Alfred Andersch**  
***Cherries of Freedom***

Published by Diogenes as *Die Kirschen der Freiheit*  
Original title: *Die Kirschen der Freiheit*



**Alfred  
Andersch**  
***Die Kirschen  
der Freiheit***  
*Ein Bericht*  
*Diogenes*

Alfred Andersch, one of the foremost novelists of post-war Germany, spent most of the war plotting his desertion from the Wehrmacht. »At a certain moment I chose to act in a way that gave meaning to my life, and from that time on that action became the axle around which the wheel of my existence revolved...«

When the opportunity arose at last, in the idyllic Italian countryside on the day of the Normandy landings in 1944 and until he was safely taken POW by the advancing American army, Andersch found himself in a wilderness, a place of freedom. The cherries he plucked from a tree were the cherries of freedom, and the taste of them was one Andersch had not known for all of the years of the Third Reich: the taste of freedom.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
144 pages  
11.3 x 18 cm  
February 1971

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**Translation rights currently sold:**  
Dutch (Arbeiderspers)

### **Movie adaptations**

#### **1993: Tochter**

Cast: Rudin Denise, Fölnbacher Helmut

#### **1988: Die Kirschen der Freiheit**

Director: Stephan Reinhardt

#### **1987: Sansibar oder der letzte Grund**

Director: Bernhard Wicki

Screenplay: Karin Hagen

Cast: Peter Kremer, Cornelia Schmaus, Gisela Stein

#### **1985: Vater eines Mörders**

Director: Carl-Heinz Caspari

#### **1977: Winterspelt 1944**

Director: Eberhard Fechner

Cast: Ulrich von Dobschütz, Katharina Thalbach, Hans-Christian Blech

#### **1965: Haakons Hosentaschen**

Director: Martin Bosboom

Cast: Filmmessay/Dokumentation (HR) von Alfred Andersch, aus der das Buch »Hohe Breitengrade« entstand.

#### **1962: La rossa**

Director: Helmut Käutner

Cast: Ruth Leuwerik, Rossanzo Brazzi, Gert Fröbe

#### **1961: Sansibar oder der letzte Grund**

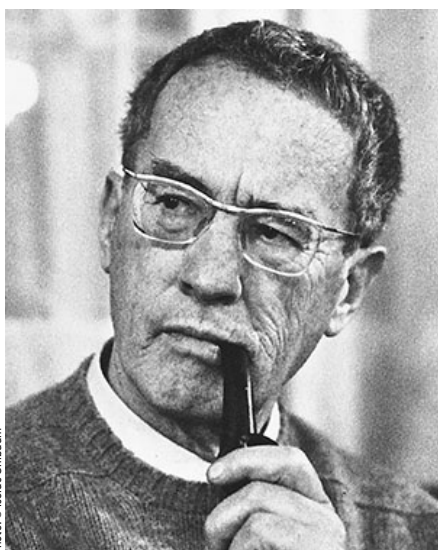
Director: Rainer Wolffhardt

Cast: Robert Graf, Beatrice Schweizer, Paul Dahlke

### **Praise**

*Cherries of Freedom*

»The Cherries of Freedom« is a unique testament to the pernicious boredom Fascism inflicted on a young man with heightened aesthetic sensibility, deprived of outlets for expression.« – Carolin McGinn / Times Literary Supplement, London



**Praise (cont'd)**

»Andersch's rambling coming-of-age story is grim, acutely self-aware, and written entirely in the first person with the barest taste of dialogue. (...) How all this adds up to such a compelling book is a mystery - but it does.« - Neal Wyatt / Publisher's Weekly, New York

»A small gem: still brilliantly alive and relevant.« - Kirkus Reviews

Alfred Andersch

»A master of German prose.« - Max Frisch

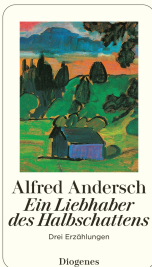
Alfred Andersch (1914 – 1980) was sent to Dachau concentration camp in 1933. After deserting from the Wehrmacht in 1944, he became an American prisoner of war. After his return to Germany, he worked as a journalist and publicist, and was one of the founders of German radio. Andersch is one of Germany's most important post-war authors, and his books are on school reading lists. Alfred Andersch died in Berzona / Ticino in 1980.



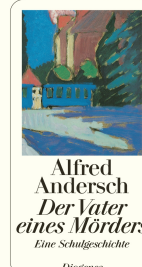
**Leeward Islands**  
544 pages  
2014



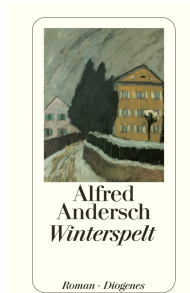
**Correspondence**  
192 pages  
2014



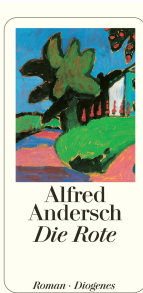
**An Admirer of Half Shadows**  
112 pages  
2006



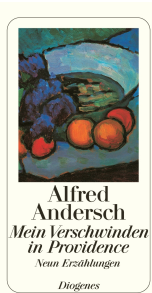
**The Father of a Murderer**  
144 pages  
1980  
 **Movie Adaptation**



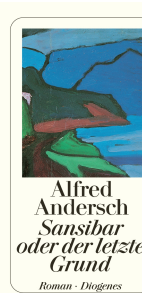
**Winterspelt**  
604 pages  
1974



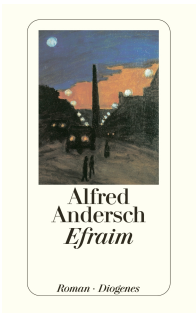
**The Redhead**  
272 pages  
1972  
 **Movie Adaptation**



**My Disappearance in Providence**  
276 pages  
1971



**Flight to Afar**  
224 pages  
1970



Efraim's Book  
472 pages  
1967  
🏆 Award winner