Diogenes

Book factsheet

Jakob Arjouni
A Friend

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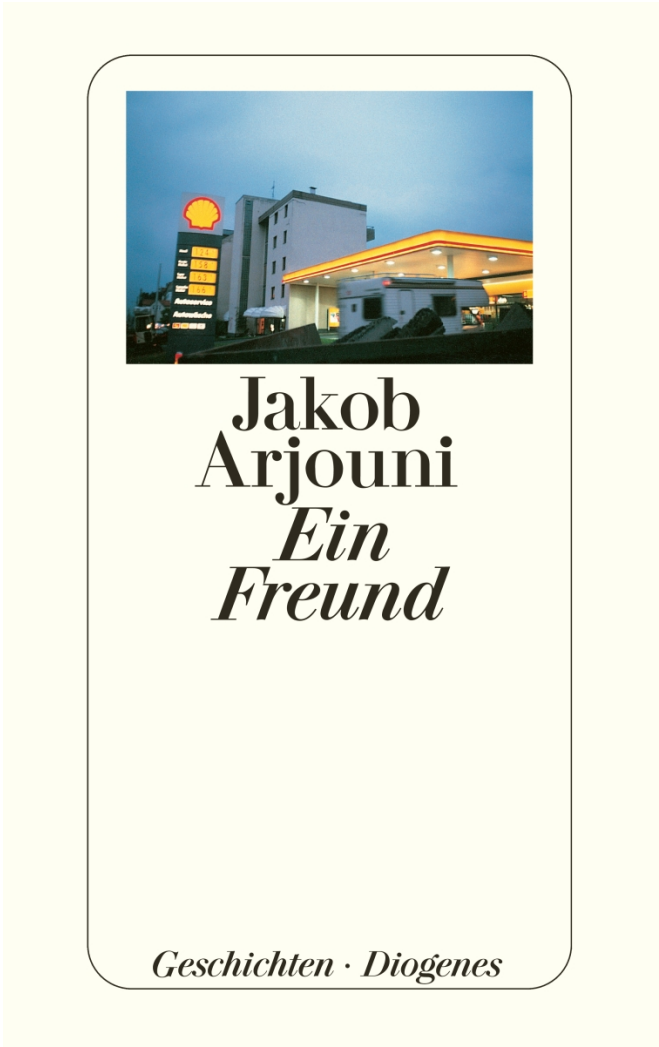

In Arjouni's stories, life hardly ever obeys the rules: everything happens differently and takes unexpected turns. A theatre producer signs up a hitch-hiker to play the part of an old school friend because he does not want to be regarded as a work zombie by his colleagues. An old recluse finds more than just peace and quiet in his rural retreat. And it takes a bank robbery to make a man who has married above him come into his own. Gamblers and losers, daydreamers, mercenaries, and people who pull off coups: Arjouni's stories are full of surprise encounters in very different milieus.

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 1998

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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 Czypionka, 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

A Friend

»Arjouni has a precise, merciless eye.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»His writing is discreetly provocative and highly political.« – General-Anzeiger, Bonn

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

»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

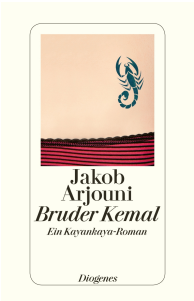


Photo: © Regine Mosimann / Diogenes Verlag

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



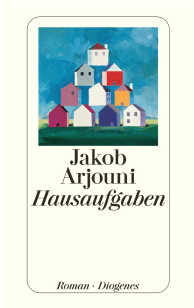
Holy Eddy
256 pages
2009

Praise (cont'd)

»A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern



Chez Max
224 pages
2006



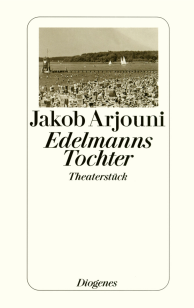
Homework
192 pages
2004



Idiots. Five fairy tales
160 pages
2003



Kismet
272 pages
2001



Edelmann's Daughter
96 pages
1996



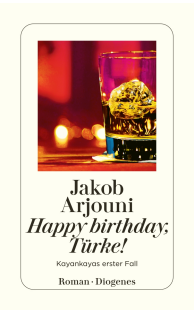
Magic Hoffmann
288 pages
1996



One Man, One Murder
192 pages
1991



More Beer
176 pages
1987



Happy Birthday, Turk!
176 pages
1987
Movie Adaptation