

Bernhard Schlink *The Weekend*

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Original title: *Das Wochenende*



Bernhard Schlink *Das Wochenende*

Roman · Diogenes

After twenty years in prison, he is unexpectedly pardoned. Christiane, his sister, wants to celebrate his first weekend of freedom with a dozen old friends in a run-down villa in the country, without reporters and cameras. Henner, a journalist, Ilse, a teacher, Ulrich, a businessman, accompanied by his wife and daughter, Karin, the bishop of a small country church, Andreas, an attorney – they all supported the revolution in one form or another at that time. Today, they have their established place in bourgeois society. They come out of loyalty, nostalgia, curiosity. They would like to advise and help and, at the same time, keep their distance. But they are not able to avoid a confrontation with their own biographies, life dreams and lies. The past comes to life. Accounts are settled in the atmospheric intensity of a drawing room theatre.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
240 pages
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Contact:

Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne
Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:

Chinese/CN (Shanghai Translation)
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Korean (Sigongsa)
Russian (Azbooka)
Serbian (Plato)
Spanish/world (Anagrama)
Turkish (Dogan)

📌 Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

🎬 Movie adaptations

2011: *Das Wochenende*

Director: Nina Grosse
Cast: Katja Riemann, Sebastian Koch, Barbara Auer

2009: *The Reader*

Director: Stephen Daldry
Screenplay: David Hare
Cast: Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, David Kross,
Bruno Ganz, Karoline Herfurth, Volker Bruch,
Hannah Herzprung und Alexandra Maria Lara

2008: *The Other Man*

Director: Richard Eyre
Screenplay: Richard Eyre
Cast: Liam Neeson, Laura Linney und Antonio
Banderas

1991: *Der Tod kam als Freund*

Director: Nico Hoffmann
Cast: Martin Benrath, Hannelore Elsner, Heino
Ferch, Marianne Hoppe

🏆 Awards

- 2024 Spanische Übersetzung von *Die Enkelin* mit dem ›Premio de las Librerías de Navarra‹ ausgezeichnet
- 2014 ›Pak Kyong-ni Prize‹ der südkoreanischen Kulturstiftung Toji für sein schriftstellerisches Schaffen
- 2003 ›Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse‹ für *Der Vorleser*
- 2002 ›Preis des German-British Forum‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2001 Finnischer Literaturpreis ›Eeva Joenpelto-Preis‹ der Gemeinde Lohja
- 2001 Ernennung zum ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur‹



Bernhard Schlink, born in 1944, was a Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy and a former judge at the Constitutional Court of North Rhine-Westphalia. His first novel, *Self's Justice*, was published in 1987; his 1995 novel *The Reader*, translated into more than fifty languages and adapted by Stephen Daldry into a film starring Kate Winslet, established his worldwide renown. He has been awarded with national and international prizes like the German ›Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit) 1st Class‹, the French ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur‹ and the Italian ›Grinzane Cavour Prize‹. His latest novel is *The Late Life*.

🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 2000 ›Ehrengabe‹ der Heinrich-Heine-Gesellschaft in Düsseldorf
- 2000 ›Sonderkulturpreis‹ der japanischen Tageszeitung *Mainichi Shinbun*, der jedes Jahr an einen japanischen Buchbestseller vergeben wird, für *Der Vorleser*
- 2000 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer BÜchereien für *Der Vorleser*
- 1999 Erstmals verliehener ›WELT-Literaturpreis‹ für sein literarisches Schaffen
- 1997 ›Grinzane-Cavour-Preis‹ (Italien) für *Der Vorleser*
- 1997 ›Prix Laure Bataillon‹ (Frankreich) für *Der Vorleser* (Auszeichnung für den Autor sowie für den Übersetzer Bernard Lortholary)
- 1997 ›Hans-Fallada-Preis‹ der Stadt Neumünster für *Der Vorleser*
- 1993 ›Deutscher Krimi-Preis‹ des Bochumer Krimi Archivs für *Selbs Betrug*
- 1989 Autorenpreis deutschsprachige Kriminalliteratur ›Der Glauser‹ für *Die gordische Schleife*

Praise

The Weekend

›Bernhard Schlink has a keen sense of topical issues. He has chosen his characters well and has given each an individual voice.« – Focus, Munich

Bernhard Schlink

›Schlink has won his huge popular following by bringing to bear a penetrating intelligence about the psyche of his characters and an empathy for their dilemmas. Professor Schlink may be an expert on the letter of the law, but writer Schlink is an intrepid explorer of the much trickier terrain of the human heart.« – Andrew Nagorski / Newsweek, London

›[Schlink] writes instructive tales that adeptly raise difficult questions and propose appealing answers.« – New York Times Book Review

›The German novelist Bernhard Schlink is pretty much second to none when it comes to storytelling.« – Helmut Atteneder / Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, Linz

›Schlink knows the depths of the human soul all too well. The writer and judge proves with each of his books that he knows how to transform German history into literature.« – ZeitPunkt, Leipzig

›One of the most successful and versatile German writers of our time.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

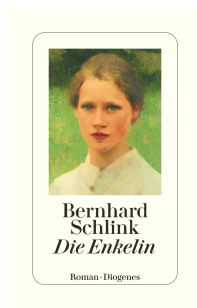
›The truly masterly aspect of Schlink's prose is its intelligence – an intelligence that is firmly rooted in common sense.« – Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg



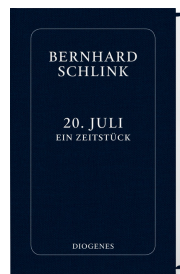
Justice
208 pages
2026



The Late Life
240 pages
2024
🏆 Bestseller



The Granddaughter
368 pages
2021
🏆 Award winner
🏆 Bestseller



The 20th of July
96 pages
2021



Colours of Farewell
240 pages
2020
🏆 Bestseller



Olga
320 pages
2018
🏆 Bestseller



Explorations
288 pages
2015



The Woman on the Stairs
256 pages
2014
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink
Gedanken über das Schreiben
Diogenes

Thoughts on Writing
96 pages
2011



Bernhard Schlink
Sommerlügen
Diogenes

Summer Lies
288 pages
2010
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink
Vergangenheits-schuld
Beiträge zu einem deutschen Thema
Diogenes

Guilt of the Past
192 pages
2007



Bernhard Schlink
Die Heimkehr
Roman - Diogenes

The Homecoming
384 pages
2006
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink
Vergewisserungen
Über Politik, Recht, Schreiben und Glauben
Diogenes

Verifications
368 pages
2005



Bernhard Schlink
Selbs Mord
Roman - Diogenes

Self's Murder
272 pages
2001



Bernhard Schlink
Liebesfluchten
Diogenes

Flights of Love
320 pages
2000
🎬 Movie Adaptation



Bernhard Schlink
Der Vorleser
Roman - Diogenes

The Reader
208 pages
1995
🏆 Award winner
🎬 Movie Adaptation
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink
Selbs Betrug
Roman - Diogenes

Self's Deception
304 pages
1992
🏆 Award winner



Bernhard Schlink
Die gordische Schleife
Roman - Diogenes

The Gordian Knot
272 pages
1988
🏆 Award winner



Bernhard Schlink
Walter Popp
Selbs Justiz
Roman - Diogenes

Self's Punishment
352 pages
1987
🎬 Movie Adaptation