

# Diogenes

Ingrid Noll  
*False Tongues*

Published by Diogenes as *Falsche Zungen*  
Original title: *Falsche Zungen*



Ingrid Noll  
*Falsche  
Zungen*

*Diogenes*

There is a Spanish saying, »The tongue is like a dagger in the flesh.« But what happens when a mother and son speak in false tongues, deceiving each other at every turn? Ingrid Noll's Collected Short Stories relate the tales of unusual mothers and peculiar men. How did the virgin give birth to a child? The book begins with a retelling of the story of Christmas. A conservative dominatrix, an unhappy mother, an amorous dog, a carnival souvenir and an unusual half-sister narrate the joys and suffering of motherhood. The men too display unexpected talents, whether it be collecting autographs, fishing, knitting sweaters, inviting home their female students – or even bumping off their wives in elegant fashion. Malicious pleasures bring variety into everyday drudgery, and unexpected presents lead to an ill-fated Christmas...

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature  
256 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
August 2004

World rights are handled by Diogenes

### Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

### Movie adaptations

#### 2009: *Ladylike. Jetzt ers recht!*

Director: Vanessa Jopp  
Screenplay: Christian Schnalke  
Cast: Monika Bleibtreu, Gisela Schneeberger, Günther Maria Halmer

#### 2000: *Kalt ist der Abendhauch*

Director: Rainer Kaufmann  
Screenplay: Ralf Hertwig  
Cast: Fritzi Haberland, August Diehl, Heinz Bennent, Gisela Trowe

#### 1999: *Die Häupter meiner Lieben*

Director: Hans-Günther Bücking  
Cast: Heike Makatsch, Christiane Paul

#### 1999: *Der Hahn ist tot*

Director: Hermine Hunthgeburst  
Cast: Gisela Schneeberger, August Zirner

#### 1997: *Die Apothekerin*

Director: Rainer Kaufmann  
Cast: Katja Riemann, August Zirner, Jürgen Vogel

#### 1993: *Bommels Billigflüge*

Director: Claus-Michael Rohne  
Screenplay: Ingrid Noll  
Cast: Rosemarie Fendel, Dominique Horwitz, Tina Ruland

### Awards

- 2025 Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- 2023 Ehrenbürgerin von Weinheim
- 2019 Ehrenkriminalhauptkommissarin der Mannheimer Polizei
- 2016 Ehrenkommissarin der Bonner Polizei
- 2005 »Friedrich-Glauser-Preis – Ehrenpreis der Autoren« für das Gesamtwerk
- 2002 Verleihung der »Verdienstmedaille des Landes Baden-Württemberg« durch Ministerpräsident Erwin Teufel
- 1994 »Friedrich-Glauser-Preis« für *Die Häupter meiner Lieben*

### Praise

Ingrid Noll

Photo: © Monika Werneke



Ingrid Noll, born in Shanghai in 1935, studied German philology and art history in Bonn. She has three children and four grandchildren. After her children left home, she began writing crime stories, which all became instant bestsellers. In 2005 she received the ›Glaser Prize of Honour‹ for her oeuvre.

**Praise (cont'd)**

»Ingrid Noll is one of the best German storytellers.« – Angela Gatterburg / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

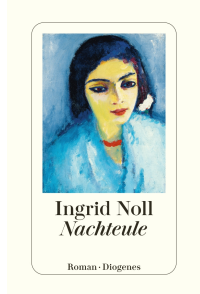
»Ingrid Noll has a distinct talent for finding the horror in day-to-day life.« – Karin Oehmigen / Sonntagszeitung, Zürich

»Ingrid Noll is often referred to as Germany's ›Queen of Crime‹, and she fully deserves this title.« – The Sunday Times, London

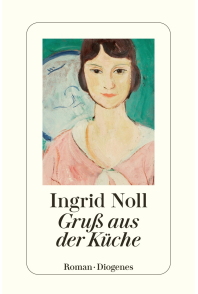
»Riveting reading – we are captivated precisely because it is all so familiar.« – Dieter Hildebrandt / Sender Freies Berlin

»Ingrid Noll has truly mastered the art of the comic crime novel.« – Ulli Wagner / SR3, Saarbrücken

»Still the most original crime writer in the German language.« – Christel Freitag / NDR Kultur, Hamburg



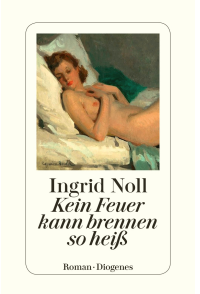
*The Night Owl*  
304 pages  
2025



*Greetings from the Kitchen*  
304 pages  
2024  
**Bestseller**



*Tea Time*  
320 pages  
2022  
**Bestseller**



*Fickle Flames*  
304 pages  
2021  
**Bestseller**



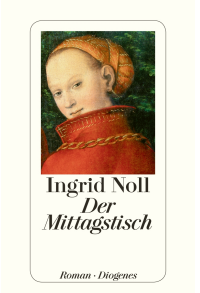
*With Love, Karl*  
336 pages  
2020  
**Bestseller**



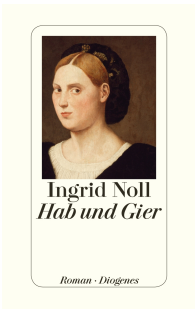
*Good as Gold*  
368 pages  
2019  
**Bestseller**



*Tally-Ho*  
320 pages  
2017  
**Bestseller**

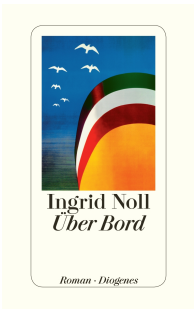


*Lunchtime*  
224 pages  
2015  
**Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Hab und Gier*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Till Greed Do Us Part**  
256 pages  
2014  
📺 **Bestseller**



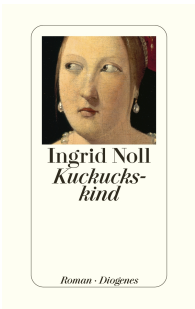
**Ingrid Noll**  
*Über Bord*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Overboard**  
336 pages  
2012  
📺 **Bestseller**



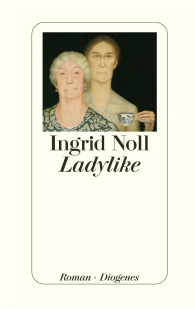
**Ingrid Noll**  
*Ehrenwort*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Word of Honour**  
336 pages  
2010  
📺 **Bestseller**



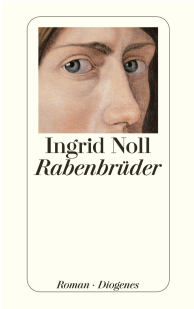
**Ingrid Noll**  
*Kuckucks-kind*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Cuckoo's Child**  
352 pages  
2008  
📺 **Bestseller**



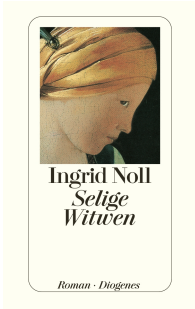
**Ingrid Noll**  
*Ladylike*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Ladylike**  
336 pages  
2006  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**  
📺 **Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Rabenbrüder*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Rabenbrüder**  
288 pages  
2003  
📺 **Bestseller**



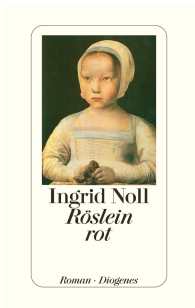
**Ingrid Noll**  
*Selige Witwen*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Blissfully Widowed**  
272 pages  
2001  
📺 **Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Die Sekretärin*  
*Drei Ruchegeschichten*  
*Diogenes*

**The Secretary**  
96 pages  
2000  
📺 **Bestseller**



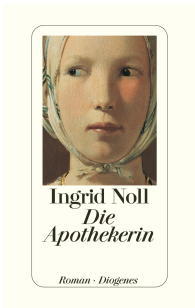
**Ingrid Noll**  
*Röslein rot*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Red Rose**  
288 pages  
1998  
📺 **Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Kalt ist der Abendhauch*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Cold is the Evening's Breeze**  
256 pages  
1996  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**  
📺 **Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Die Apothekerin*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**The Pharmacist**  
256 pages  
1994  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**  
📺 **Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Die Häupter meiner Lieben*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Head Count**  
288 pages  
1993  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**  
📺 **Bestseller**



**Ingrid Noll**  
*Der Hahn ist tot*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

**Hell Hath No Fury**  
272 pages  
1991  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**  
📺 **Bestseller**