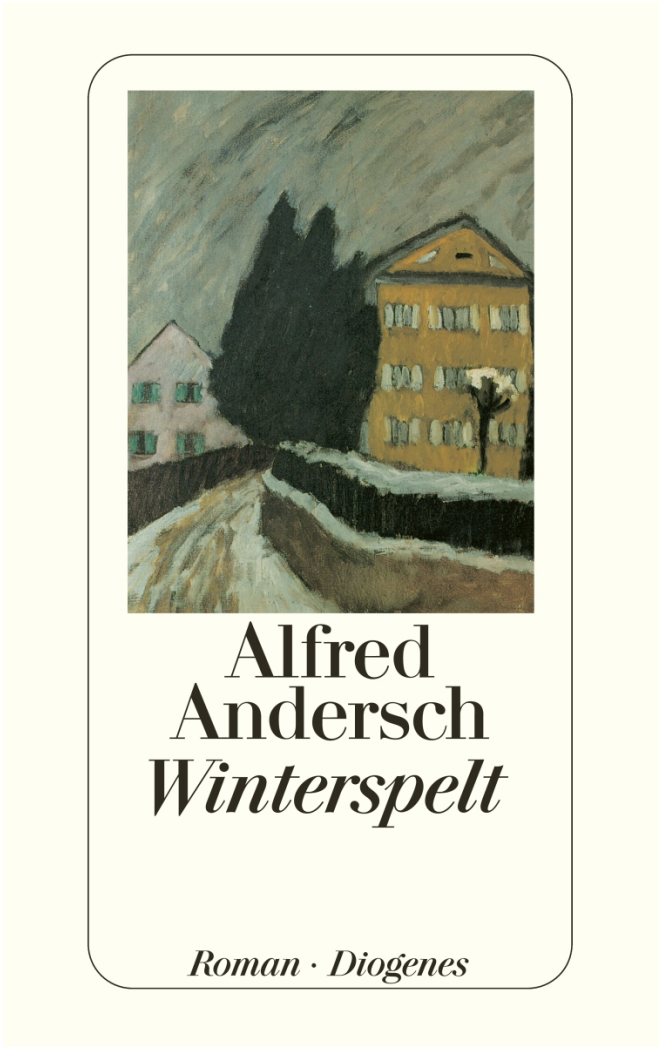
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Alfred Andersch
Winterspelt

Published by Diogenes as *Winterspelt*
Original title: *Winterspelt*



The year is 1944; the place, Winterspelt, a small village on the Belgian border which is also the German front line. To everyone involved, Germans and Americans alike, it is obvious that Germany has unofficially lost the war. Thus communication between the two sides, although not yet realised, begins to seem a distinct possibility. The commander of the German troops grows obsessed with the idea of surrendering his battalion to the Americans. His symbolic act, one that speaks for life amidst the machinery of death, is the crucial issue of this powerful story, and the help and hindrances which he encounters in his quest compose a geography of human nature. Andersch creates a sympathetic, compassionate view of people at war coming to terms with their suffering and themselves.

Contemporary Literature
604 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
February 1974

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Movie adaptations

1993: Tochter
Director: Guy Kubli
Cast: Rudin Denise, Förnbacher 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: Filmessay/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

Alfred Andersch

»A master of German prose.« – Max Frisch

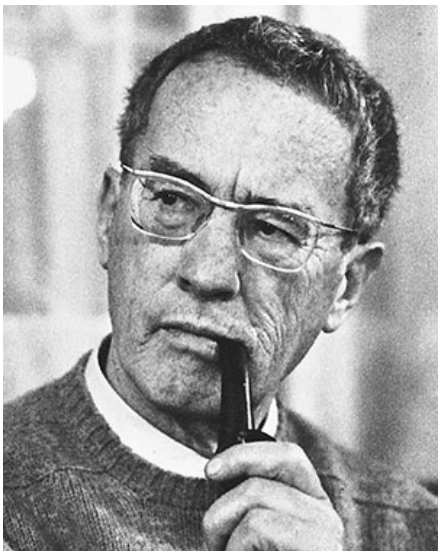


Photo: © Isolde Ohlbaum

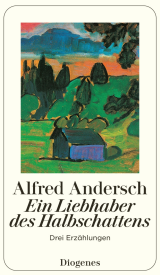
Alfred Andersch (1914 – 1980) was sent to Dachau concentration camp in 1933. After deserting from the Wehrmacht in 1944, he became an American prisoner of war. After his return to Germany, he worked as a journalist and publicist, and was one of the founders of German radio. Andersch is one of Germany's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



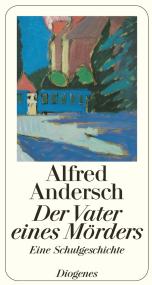
Leeward Islands
544 pages
2014



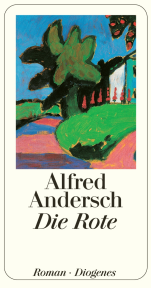
Correspondence
192 pages
2014



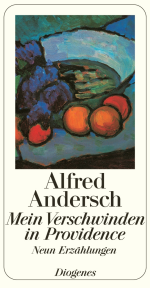
An Admirer of Half Shadows
112 pages
2006



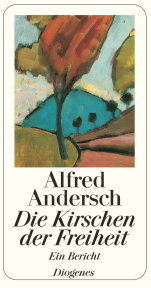
The Father of a Murderer
144 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



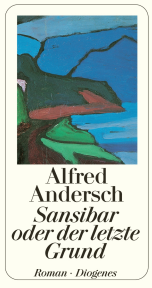
The Redhead
272 pages
1972
Movie Adaptation



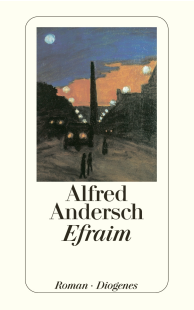
My Disappearance in Providence
276 pages
1971



Cherries of Freedom
144 pages
1971



Flight to Afar
224 pages
1970



Efraim's Book
472 pages
1967
Award winner