

Diogenes

Donna Leon

Through a Glass Darkly

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Original title: *Through a Glass Darkly*



Donna Leon *Wie durch ein dunkles Glas*

*Commissario Brunettis
fünfzehnter Fall*

Roman · Diogenes

A luminous spring day in Venice, and Commissario Brunetti and Ispettore Vianello take a break from the Questura to come to the rescue of Vianello's friend Marco, who has been arrested while protesting against chemical pollution of the Venetian lagoon. They succeed in securing Marco's release uncharged, only to be faced by the fury of his father-in-law, owner of a glass factory on the island of Murano. The old man is seething with rage at his son-in-law, and his daughter shares with Brunetti her fear that he will actually harm her husband. But it is not Marco who has uncovered the guilty secret of the glass foundries, nor his body that is found dead in front of the furnaces which burn at 1400 degrees, night and day. The victim has left clues in a copy of Dante, and Brunetti must descend into an inferno to discover who is burning the island and fouling the waters of the lagoon. A man is dead – but will politics and expedience protect the killer from the law?

Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
352 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
June 2007

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Polish (Noir sur Blanc)
Slovenian (Hiša Knjig in Zgodbi)
Spanish/world (Planeta)

Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

Movie adaptations

2019: Ewige Jugend

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Jens-Frederik Otto
Cast: Mit: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett Renneberg, Karl Fischer, Michael Degen. In Episodenrollen: Max von Thun, Nadja Bobyleva, Hildegard Schmahl, Andreas Pietschmann, Nina Kronjäger.

2019: Stille Wasser

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Stefan und Florian Iwersen Holtz
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Marie Leuenberger, Suzanne von Borsody

2018: Endlich mein

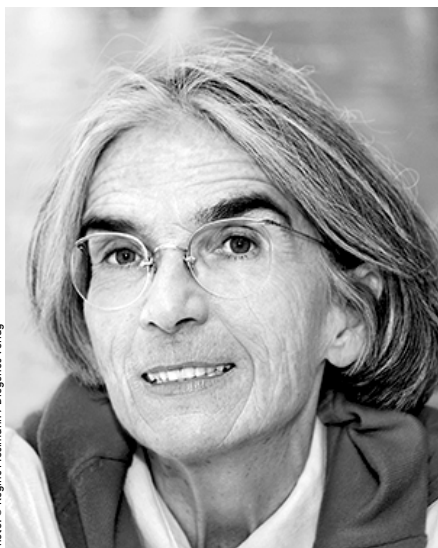
Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Stefan Holtz und Florian Iwersen
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen, Annett Renneberg. In Episodenrollen Leslie Malton, Edin Hasanovic und Jürgen Tarrach.

2017: Tod zwischen den Zeilen

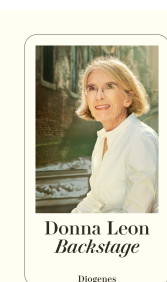
Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Stefan und Florian Iwersen Holtz
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen und Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen: Jenny Schily, Thorsten Merten, Harald Schrott.

2016: Das goldene Ei

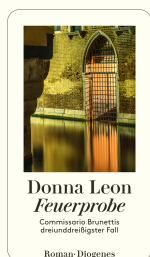
Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Florian & Stefan Holtz Iwersen
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen, Juliane Köhler, Imogen Kogge



Donna Leon, born in New Jersey in 1942, has worked as a travel guide in Rome and as a copywriter in London. She taught literature in universities in Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia. The Brunetti novels brought her to world-wide fame. Donna Leon lived in Italy for many years, and although she now lives in Switzerland, she often visits Venice.



Backstage
256 pages
2025



A Refiner's Fire
336 pages
2024
Bestseller



So Shall You Reap
320 pages
2023
Bestseller



Wandering Through Life
192 pages
2022
Bestseller



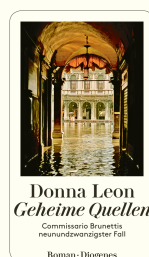
Give Unto Others
352 pages
2022
Bestseller



Transient Desires
320 pages
2021
Bestseller



Brunetti's Miscellany
400 pages
2021



Trace Elements
320 pages
2020
Bestseller

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

2015: Tierische Profite

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Florian Iwersen
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett Renneberg, Karl Fischer, Michael Degen, Alice Dwyer, Florian Bartholomäi, Max Hopp, Walter Kreye

2014: Reiches Erbe

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Florian Iwersen
Cast: Neben dem beliebten Stammensemble um Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett Renneberg, Karl Fischer und Michael Degen spielen in Episodenrollen David Rott, Lisa Wagner, Tilo Prückner, Renate Delfs und Liv Lisa Fries.

2013: Auf Treu und Glauben

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Holger Joos
Cast: Mit der bewährten Besetzung rund um Uwe Kockisch, in Episodenrollen u.a. Jeanette Hain, Stephan Grossmann und Nicole Heesters

2012: Schöner Schein

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Screenplay: Holger Joos
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen u.a. Michael Mendl, Esther Schweins und Merab Ninidze.

2011: Das Mädchen seiner Träume

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen, Annett Renneberg, Jasmin Tabatabai, Martin Feifel, Valerie Niehaus

2010: Lasset die Kinder zu mir kommen (TV)

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen und Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen u.a.: Nadeshda Brennicke, Michael Gwisdek und Gregor Törzs

2009: Wie durch ein dunkles Glas

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen und Annett Renneberg. In Episodenrollen Heikko Deutschmann, Katharina Wackernagel und Birge Schade.

2008: Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger, Axel Milberg, Katrin Sass, Bettina Zimmermann, Rike Schmid

2008: Blutige Steine

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger, Helmut Zierl, Ernest Allan Hausmann, Rosel Zech

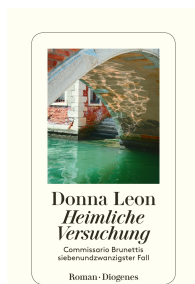
2006: Endstation Venedig

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Esther Schweins, Heiner Lauterbach, Monica Bleibtreu



Donna Leon
Ein Sohn ist uns gegeben
Commissario Brunetti's achtundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Unto Us a Son Is Given
320 pages
2019
🏆 Award winner
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Heimliche Versuchung
Commissario Brunetti's siebenundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

The Temptation of Forgiveness
336 pages
2018
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Stille Wasser
Commissario Brunetti's sechsundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Earthly Remains
352 pages
2017
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Ewige Jugend
Commissario Brunetti's fünfundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

The Waters of Eternal Youth
336 pages
2016
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



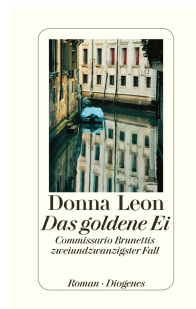
Donna Leon
Endlich mein
Commissario Brunetti's vierundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Falling in Love
320 pages
2015
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



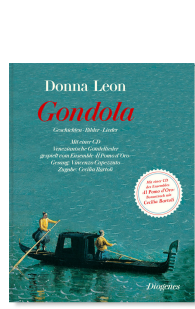
Donna Leon
Tod zwischen den Zeiten
Commissario Brunetti's dreiundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

By its Cover
288 pages
2015
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



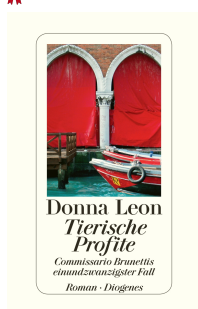
Donna Leon
Das goldene Ei
Commissario Brunetti's zweiundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

The Golden Egg
320 pages
2014
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Gondola
Erzählung · Bilder · Lyrik
Wieder der fantastische Commissario Brunetti aus dem genialen Donna Leon
Georgi: 1. Verena Caporaso, 2. Peter Caporaso
Diogenes

Gondola
140 pages
2013



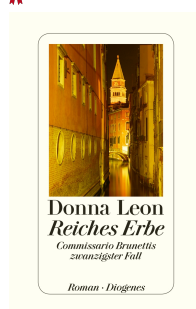
Donna Leon
Tierische Profile
Commissario Brunetti's einundzwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Beastly Things
336 pages
2013
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Himmlische Juwelen
Roman · Diogenes

The Jewels of Paradise
304 pages
2012
📌 Bestseller



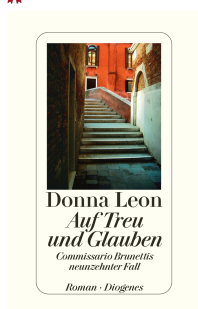
Donna Leon
Reiches Erbe
Commissario Brunetti's zwanzigster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Drawing Conclusions
320 pages
2012
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



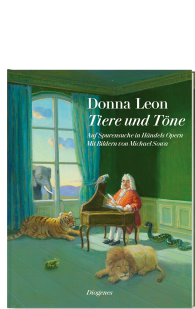
Donna Leon
Kurioses aus Venedig
Mit einer Vorrede von H. C. von C. Brunetti
Diogenes

Venetian Curiosities
80 pages
2011



Donna Leon
Auf Treu und Glauben
Commissario Brunetti's neunzehnter Fall
Roman · Diogenes

A Question of Belief
320 pages
2011
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Tiere und Töne
Auf Spuren von Handel's Händel's Opern
Mit Bildern von Michael Sauter
Diogenes

Handel's Bestiary
144 pages
2010



Donna Leon
Schöner Schein
Commissario Brunetti's achtzehnter Fall
Roman · Diogenes

About Face
352 pages
2010
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller



Donna Leon
Das Mädchen seiner Träume
Commissario Brunetti's siebzehnter Fall
Roman · Diogenes

The Girl of His Dreams
352 pages
2009
🏆 Movie Adaptation
📌 Bestseller

🏆 Movie adaptations (cont'd)

2006: Das Gesetz der Lagune

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Tim Bergmann, Laura-Charlotte Syniawa

2005: Beweise, dass es böse ist

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2005: Verschwiegene Kanäle

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2004: Sanft entschlafen

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2004: Acqua Alta

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2003: Venezianisches Finale

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2003: Feine Freunde

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

2002: Nobiltà

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

2001: In Sachen Signora Brunetti

Director: Sigi Rothemund
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

2001: Davon stirbt man nicht

Director: Christine Hartmann
Cast: J. Prochnow

2000: Vendetta

Director: Christian Castenberg
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

2000: Venizianische Scharade

Director: Christian Castenberg
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

🏆 Awards

- 2024 ›Ehrenpreis des Bayerischen Ministerpräsidenten‹ für ihr Werk
- 2024 ›Ripper Award‹ von der Jury des Europäischen Preises für Kriminalliteratur
- 2021 ›Gaudium Award‹ des Breukelein Institutes
- 2019 ›Lifetime Achievement Award‹ vom Strand Magazine
- 2019 Ein Sohn ist uns geboren war auf der Shortlist des ›Golden Dagger Award‹
- 2018 ›B.Z.-Kulturpreis‹ (Berliner Zeitung)
- 2016 ›Premio Pepe Carvalho‹ anlässlich des Krimifestivals BCNegra von der Stadtregierung Barcelonas



Brunetti's Venice
368 pages
2008



Suffer the Little Children
368 pages
2008

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Blood from a Stone
368 pages
2006

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



On Venice, Music, People and Books
352 pages
2005



Doctored Evidence
336 pages
2005

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Uniform Justice
336 pages
2004

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Wilful Behaviour
384 pages
2003

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



A Sea of Troubles
336 pages
2002

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Friends in High Places
336 pages
2001

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation



Fatal Remedies
320 pages
2000

Movie Adaptation



An American in Venice
96 pages
2000



A Noble Radiancy
304 pages
1999

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Latin Lover
112 pages
1999



Quietly in Their Sleep
352 pages
1998

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Acqua alta
384 pages
1997

Movie Adaptation



Death and Judgment
352 pages
1997

Movie Adaptation

Awards (cont'd)

- 2006 Das Hörbuch *Mein Venedig* ist auf den 1. Platz des österreichischen Publikumspreises ›Buchliebbling‹ gewählt worden, der Roman *Verschwiegene Kanäle* erzielte den 3. Platz in der Rubrik ›Krimis und Thriller‹
- 2005 ›Silver Award‹ in der Kategorie ›Krimi/Thriller‹ des britischen Hörbuchpreises ›Spoken Word Awards‹ für das englische Hörbuch *Blood from a Stone* (dt. *Blutige Steine*)
- 2003 Donna Leon erhält den ›Corine – Internationaler Buchpreis‹ für *Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima*
- 2000 Donna Leon ist im Rahmen der Veranstaltungen zum Welttag des Buches für *Nobiltà* mit dem ›Goldenen Buch‹ des Österreichischen Hauptverbandes des Buchhandels ausgezeichnet worden.
- 2000 Donna Leon erhält den ›Silver Dagger‹ der Crime Writers' Association für *Friends in High Places* (dt. *Feine Freunde*)
- 1997 3. Platz für *Venezianische Scharade* in der Internationalen Sparte beim 13. ›Deutschen Krimi-Preis‹
- 1991 Japans renommierter ›Suntory‹-Preis für *Death at la Fenice* (dt. *Venezianisches Finale*)

Praise

Through a Glass Darkly

»Donna Leon has a wonderful feel for the hidden evils that lie below the façade of the magical city.« – The Times, London

»Every character, every line of dialogue, every descriptive passage rings true in a whodunit that's also travel essay, political commentary and existential monologue.« – Publishers Weekly, New York

Donna Leon

»Brilliant.« – Sunday Times, London

»A splendid series . . . with a backdrop of the city so vivid you can almost smell it.« – The Sunday Telegraph, London

»Donna Leon can paralyze the reader with joyful suspense.« – The Mail on Sunday, London

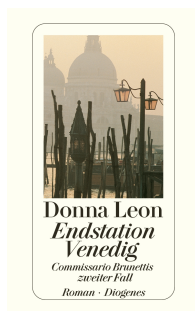
»[Donna Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation.« – Ursula K. LeGuin / The New York Times

»The most obvious appeal of Donna Leon's novels about Commissario Guido Brunetti is that they are so supremely civilized. For readers with a certain mindset—distaste for violence, love of Italy's cultural and sensual pleasures and scorn for officialdom — Donna Leon's novels are always a pleasure.« – Patrick Anderson / The Washington Post



Dressed for Death
384 pages
1996

 **Award winner**
 **Movie Adaptation**



Death in a Strange Country
400 pages
1995

 **Movie Adaptation**



Death at La Fenice
352 pages
1993

 **Award winner**
 **Movie Adaptation**

Praise (cont'd)

»Donna Leon guides us through Venice like James Ellroy through Los Angeles or Manuel Vázquez Montalbán through Barcelona: with an eye used to detect what lies behind the façade.« – Le Figaro, Paris

»Donna Leon is a top thriller writer, on a par with Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Patricia Highsmith and Ruth Rendell. Women, so it would seem from literary history, have always been in their element with the genre of murder and violence.« – Sonntags Zeitung, Zurich

»Brilliantly evokes Venetian atmosphere. The characters of Brunetti and his family continue to deepen throughout this series.« – The Times, London

»Donna Leon is the undisputed crime fiction queen.« – Sarah Weinman / Baltimore Sun

»In the footsteps of Brunetti, endowed with a ruthless humor and a healthy appetite, Donna Leon's readers discover Venice better than with a guide book.« – Le Monde, Paris

»Brunetti's humane police work is disarming, and his ambles through the city are a delight.« – The New York Times, Book Review

»Brunetti remains unique – an everyman who's also extraordinary.« – Publishers Weekly

»Donna Leon's Venetian mysteries never disappoint, calling up the romantic sights and sound of La Serenissima even as they acquaint us with the practical matters that concern the city's residents.« – Marilyn Stasio / The New York Times Book Review

»Donna Leon's books are a joy.« – The Guardian, London

»When writing about her beloved Venice, Donna Leon can do no wrong.« – The New York Times

»[Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation.« – Ursula K. Le Guin / New York Times, New York

»Hers is an unusually potent cocktail of atmosphere and event.« – The New Yorker, New York

»[Leon] uses the relatively small and crime-free canvas of Venice for rips about Italian life, sexual styles and – best of all – the kind of ingrown business and political corruption that seems to lurk just below the surface.« – Chicago Tribune, Chicago

»Leon started out with offhand, elegant excellence, and has simply kept it up.« – The Guardian, London

»Leon whips up a brilliant narrative storm.« – Sunday Times, London

Praise (cont'd)

»Her depiction of Venice, its crimes and beauties, villains and heroes, high and low and the character of Brunetti and his family and friends has long been a delight for discerning readers. The warmth, understanding and shrewdness with which Leon's elegant, witty prose depicts this particular part of Italy is a joy. She is one of the best European novelists around, and her unflinching address to current affairs makes her worthy of the highest regard.« – Amanda Craig

»She has reinvented Venice.« – Kristina Maidt-Zinke / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Her love for this city shines through from every line of her crime novels.« – Maria Wiesner / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»Leon's pedagogical eros is akin to that of Mary Poppins. Who could resist it?« – Simone Dattenberger / Münchner Merkur, Munich

»To read her is to restore the soul.« – Mark Sanderson / The Times, London