

Diogenes

Martin Suter

Melody

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Original title: *Melody*



Martin Suter
Melody

Roman · Diogenes

In a villa on Zurich's hillside lives aging Dr Stotz, surrounded by portraits of a young woman. Melody was once his fiancée, but shortly before the wedding – more than forty years ago – she vanished. Stotz has never recovered from his loss.

To organise his estate, Stotz hires a young student who urgently needs this job. Little by little, Tom begins to wonder whether Stotz is really who he pretends to be.

On a Greek island, he stumbles across a peculiar trail.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller

336 pages

11.6 × 18.4 × 2.6 cm

April 2023

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Film rights are handled by Diogenes

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Italian (Sellerio)

Spanish/world (Galaxia Gutenberg)

📌 Bestseller

1 Spiegel Bestseller

1 Swiss Bestseller

4 Austrian Bestseller

🎬 Movie adaptations

2023: *Allmen und das Geheimnis des Koi*

Director: Sinje Köhler

Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus

Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvart, Uwe Kockisch

2022: *Alles über Martin Suter. Ausser die Wahrheit.*

Director: André Schäfer

Screenplay: André Schäfer

Cast: Bekannte und unbekannte Schauspieler

2021: *Allmen und das Geheimnis der Erotik*

Director: Thomas Berger

Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus

Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Christoph Bach, Isabella Parkinson

2019: *Allmen und das Geheimnis der Dahlien*

Director: Thomas Berger

Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus

Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvart, Katharina Schüttler, Udo Samel

2017: *Allmen und das Geheimnis der Libellen*

Director: Thomas Berger

Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus

Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvart

2017: *Allmen und das Geheimnis des rosa Diamanten*

Director: Thomas Berger

Screenplay: Martin Rauhaus

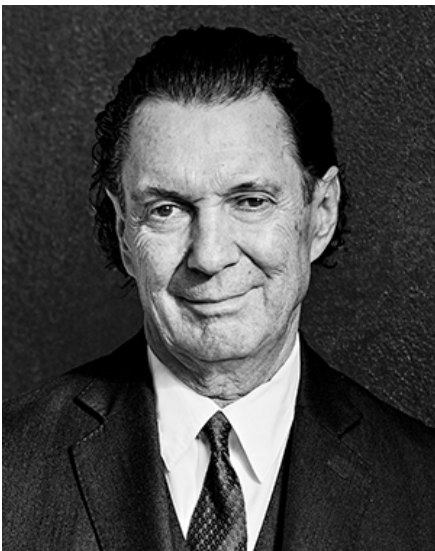
Cast: Heino Ferch, Samuel Finzi, Andrea Osvart

2015: *Die dunkle Seite des Mondes*

Director: Stephan Rick

Screenplay: Catharina Junk

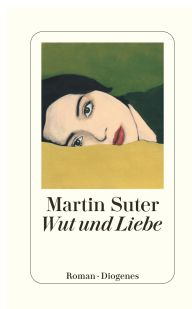
Cast: Moritz Bleibtreu, Nora von Waldstätten und Jürgen Prochnow



Martin Suter was born in 1948 in Zurich. His novels (including *Love and Fury* and *Melody*) and *Business Class* stories are major international successes. In addition, since 2011 the gentleman thief Allmen has been solving cases in his own crime series. Martin Suter lives with his daughter in Zurich.



Can You See Me?
208 pages
2026



Love and Fury
304 pages
2025
Bestseller



No Need to Shout Like That
320 pages
2024



Allmen and Mr Weynfeldt
224 pages
2024
Bestseller



One of You
384 pages
2022
Bestseller



Why Are We All So Serious?
272 pages
2021
Bestseller



Allmen and the Koi
224 pages
2019
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Allmen and the Erotic
Figurines
272 pages
2018
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller

🎬 Movie adaptations (cont'd)

2014: *Der Koch*

Director: Ralf Huettner
Screenplay: Ruth Toma
Cast: Jessica Schwarz, Hamza Jeetooa und Hanspeter Müller-Drossaart.

2012: *Der Teufel von Mailand (TV)*

Director: Markus Welter
Screenplay: Thomas Berger
Cast: Regula Grauwiler, Ina Weisse, Max Simonischek

2011: *Nachtlärm*

Director: Christoph Schaub
Screenplay: Martin Suter
Cast: Alexandra Maria Lara, Sebastian Blomberg

2010: *Der letzte Weynfeldt / TV*

Director: Alain Gspöner
Screenplay: Alex Buresch
Cast: Marie Bäumer, Stefan Kurt

2010: *Small World*

Director: Bruno Chiche
Screenplay: Bruno Chiche
Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Alexandra Maria Lara, Niels Arestrup, Nathalie Baye, Yannick Renier

2009: *Giulias Verschwinden*

Director: Christoph Schaub
Screenplay: Martin Suter
Cast: Corinna Harfouch, Bruno Ganz, Stefan Kurt

2008/2009: *Lila, Lila*

Director: Alain Gspöner
Screenplay: Alexander Buresch
Cast: Daniel Brühl, Hannah Herzprung, Henry Hübchen

2006: *Un ami parfait*

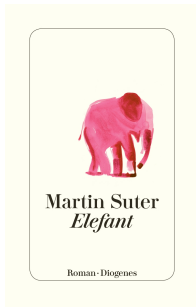
Director: Francis Girod
Screenplay: Philippe Cougrand
Cast: Antoine de Caunes, Carole Bouquet, Martina Gedeck

1999: *Beresina oder Die letzten Tage der Schweiz*

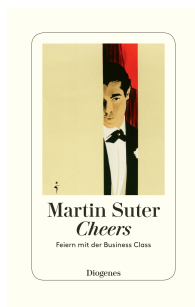
Director: Daniel Schmid
Cast: Elena Panova, Geraldine Chaplin, Martin Benrath

🏆 Awards

- 2019 ›Platin Award‹ von Universal Schweiz an Martin Suter und Stephan Eicher für 20'000 verkaufte *Song Books*
- 2018 *Song Book* ist eines der 25 ›Schönsten deutschen Bücher‹ der Stiftung Buchkunst
- 2018 Doppelte Charts-Auszeichnung für *Song Book*: ›Nummer 1 Award der Offiziellen Schweizer Hitparade‹ für Stephan Eicher und Martin Suter und ›Nummer 1 Award der Schweizer Bestsellerliste‹ für Martin Suter
- 2015 ›Literaturpreis des Wirtschaftsclubs‹ im Literaturhaus Stuttgart für *Montecristo*



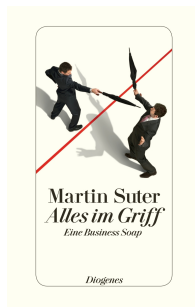
Elephant
352 pages
2017
🏆 **Bestseller**



Cheers
224 pages
2016



Montecristo
320 pages
2015
🏆 **Award winner**
🏆 **Bestseller**



Everything Under Control
128 pages
2014



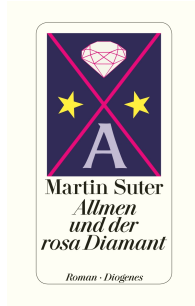
Allmen and the Vanished Maria
224 pages
2014
🏆 **Bestseller**



Allmen and the Dahlias
224 pages
2013
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**



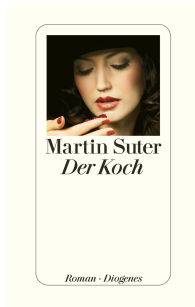
The Time, the Time
304 pages
2012
🏆 **Bestseller**



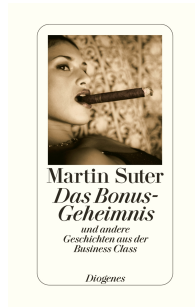
Allmen and the Pink Diamond
224 pages
2011
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**



Allmen and the Dragonflies
208 pages
2011
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**



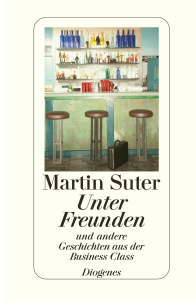
The Chef
320 pages
2010
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**



The Bonus-Mystery and Other Stories from the Business Class
192 pages
2009



The Last Weynfeldt
320 pages
2008
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**



Among Friends and Other Stories from Business Class
208 pages
2007
🏆 **Bestseller**



A Deal with the Devil
304 pages
2006
🏆 **Award winner**
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**



Huber Takes a Break
192 pages
2005



Living Right With Geri Weibel
224 pages
2005

🏆 **Awards (cont'd)**

- 2010 ›Swift-Preis‹ der Stiftung Marktwirtschaft für Wirtschaftssatire in Kronberg, Frankfurt a. M., für seine *Business Class*-Kolumnen
- 2010 ›SwissAward‹ vom Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (SRF) in der Kategorie Kultur
- 2007 ›Friedrich-Glauser-Preis‹ in der Sparte Kriminalroman für *Der Teufel von Mailand*
- 2003 ›Deutscher Krimipreis‹ (Platz 2) in der Kategorie ›National‹ des Bochumer Krimi-Archivs für den Roman *Ein perfekter Freund*
- 2002 In der Reihe ›Das Literarische Quartal‹ des Kulturmagazins ›Aspekte‹ im ZDF wurde *Ein perfekter Freund* zum Quartalsbuch Frühjahr 2002 gewählt
- 1998 ›Prix du premier roman étranger‹ für *Small World* in französischer Übersetzung
- 1997 Ehrengabe des Kantons Zürich für *Small World*
- 1995 Preis der österreichischen Industrie am Joseph-Roth-Wettbewerb in Klagenfurt für die Kolumne *Business Class*
- 1987 ›Best Screenplay‹ beim Festival des phantastischen Films in Sittges für *Jenatsch*

Praise

Melody

»A gripping suspense story coupled with a brilliant reflection on the relationship between reality and fiction.« – La Marseillaise, Marseille

»One gets caught up in it unawares, reads without pause, then one is out again, released from a world of events and destinies.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg

»In this respect, *Melody* is a homage to storytelling. And at the same time, the novel makes clear that narratives always lie.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg

»Time passes, love remains. The faithful motto above the door lintel is fulfilled contrarily to that which the householder had imagined.« – Roman Bucheli / NZZ, Zurich

»In this novel, at least, nothing is what it pretends to be. That makes it appealing to the end.« – Roman Bucheli / NZZ, Zurich

»Martin Suter's *Melody* is an entertainingly written, easy-to-read novel with a clear cast of characters, a few voltes and pirouettes in the text, served up with a good dose of humour.« – Annemarie Stoltenberg / NDR Kultur, Hamburg

»And his novel is more than a dramatic love story: In subtle ways, Suter explores, sometimes quite amusingly, the question of how we remember – which stories we tell about ourselves and for what reason. Which truths we conceal in order to protect ourselves« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»With the current book *Melody* he has succeeded in creating a true gem of his storytelling art.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / FAZ, Frankfurt



Lila, Lila
352 pages
2004

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



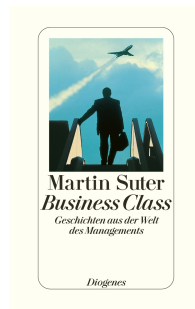
Business Class II
240 pages
2002

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



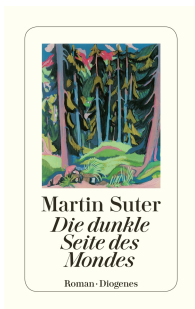
A Perfect Friend
352 pages
2002

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



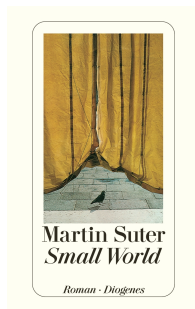
Business Class I
240 pages
2000

Award winner



The Dark Side of the Moon
320 pages
2000

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Small World
336 pages
1997

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»So what endures at the end of a lifetime? Martin Suter has no answer. But he has written a great novel about it.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / FAZ Messebeilage, Frankfurt

»Nothing human is alien to Suter, so many varieties of humanity are familiar to him because he is an outrageously astute observer.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / FAZ Messebeilage, Frankfurt

»With *Melody*, the now 75-year-old Swiss [. . .] once again displays his mastery of bringing characters and settings to life with just a few strokes of his understated but powerful language. And his novel is more than a dramatic love story.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»He gives his audience what they want, never disturbing them. This is an art that comes from skill.« – Peer Teuwsen / NZZ am Sonntag (Bücher am Sonntag), Zurich

»This wonderfully romantic story is a captivating read, as well as an extended meditation on truth, memory, and the nature and purpose of storytelling.« – New Books in German, London

»You can't put the book down. Suter is at the peak of his narrative art.« – Gerhard Matzig / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»*Melody* is a libretto to the art of trickery that could hardly be more lucent.« – Gerhard Matzig / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»[. . .] *Melody* is a really good book. One that you say goodbye to sadly because it's of that lightness that has its ground in valentinesque gravitas.« – Gerhard Matzig / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Suter again narrates with full passion, cleverly, in the linguistically simple and thrilling mystery-deciphering mode that has made him famous.« – Benjamin Bögli / Weltwoche, Zurich

»If we tell ourselves and others our life story often enough, it will come true - that is the insight behind this seductive novel.« – Kerstin Meier / Kölnische Rundschau, Cologne

»And yet the book is also amusing, with its almost tongue-in-cheek exaggerated plot, the surprising twists and turns and the almost provocative ending: *Melody* - in other words, another treat for Suter fans.« – Jutta Duhm-Heitzmann / WDR 3, Cologne

»It remains very very exciting until the end.« – Dorothee Meyer-Kahrweg / hr2 Kultur, Frankfurt

»[...] Martin Suter not only delivers a compelling suspense story, but also a brilliant reflection about the relationship between reality and fiction, between wrong truths and true lies.« – Pierre Deshusses / Le Monde, Paris

»This story is as enchanting as a tale from *One Thousand and One Nights*.« – Le Figaro Littéraire, Paris

Martin Suter

Praise (cont'd)

»Martin Suter will always surprise you. Each new novel is a challenge and an adventure.« – Les Echos, Paris

»Suter's gaze is fresh and wicked, his ear for dialogue infallible, his literature greatly skilful.« – Constantin Seibt / Die Wochenzeitung, Zurich

»Suter's writing is filmic – fast-paced, taut, with succinct dialogue.« – Martin Ebel / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Martin Suter reaches a huge audience with his novels. He writes exciting, well-constructed and almost cinematic stories; he captures his readers with lean, artful plots.« – Wolfgang Höbel / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»He is known for his versatility and special gift for handling complex topics in an accessible and entertaining way.« – Samira Debbeler / Stern, Hamburg

»Martin Suter: the grand master of German-language popular fiction.« – Spiegel Bestseller, Hamburg

»There is charm, irony, and undeniable elegance in Martin Suter's novels. He is probably one of the best contemporary authors. « – Pascal Bruckner / Le Nouvel Observateur, Paris

»With his brilliantly smooth narrative style, Martin Suter reaches readers all over the world.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung