

Diogenes

Bernhard Schlink
Summer Lies

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The day she stopped loving her children ... So begins the story of a woman who realises that what gave her life meaning no longer does. She goes in search of, and finds the man she loved as a student and who loved her in return. Did she make the wrong decision back then? A son wants to know at long last who his father is and go on a journey with him. A man with an incurable illness arranges a summer with his family to take leave of life while it is still beautiful. A man on a plane hears the confession of his fellow passenger's life – or is it all a pack of lies? Why does a young man and father try to keep his successful wife hidden from the world? What compels a lover to keep lying to the woman he loves only to lose her- and himself in his own lies? And how do you loosen the ropes that attach you to your old life when late-flowering love holds out the promise of a new life? A gentle revealing of the lies by which we live is at the crux of these unerringly clear, beautiful short stories laced with melancholy.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
288 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
August 2010

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Rights currently sold:

Chinese/CN (Shanghai Translation)
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Portuguese/BRA (Record)
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 Herzsprung 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«



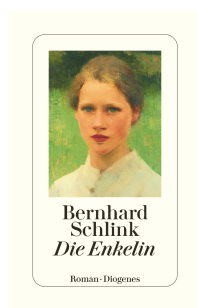
Bernhard Schlink, born in 1944, was a Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy and a former judge at the Constitutional Court of North Rhine-Westphalia. His first novel, *Self's Justice*, was published in 1987; his 1995 novel *The Reader*, translated into more than fifty languages and adapted by 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*.



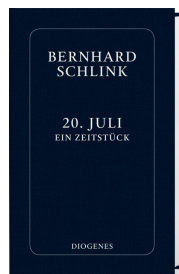
Justice
208 pages
2026



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**

🏆 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

Summer Lies

›Schlink is considered to be the bard of his generation.« – The New York Times

›Bernhard Schlink casts deep, and has produced some intimate pieces – exquisite and full of subtle nuances.« – Focus, Munich

›Eloquent and profound [...] A generally top-notch collection from Schlink.« – Publishers Weekly, New York

›*The Reader's* readers will not be disappointed. Schlink still speaks like a wise friend with a delicate secret to tell.« – Boyd Tonkin / Independent

Bernhard Schlink

›Schlink has won his huge 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



Thoughts on Writing
96 pages
2011



The Weekend
240 pages
2008

Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



Guilt of the Past
192 pages
2007

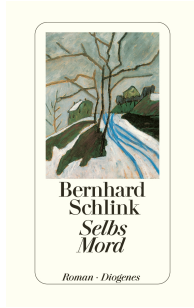


The Homecoming
384 pages
2006

Bestseller



Verifications
368 pages
2005

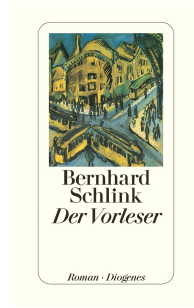


Self's Murder
272 pages
2001



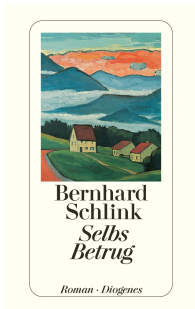
Flights of Love
320 pages
2000

Movie Adaptation



The Reader
208 pages
1995

Award winner
 Movie Adaptation
 Bestseller



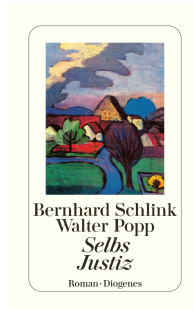
Self's Deception
304 pages
1992

Award winner



The Gordian Knot
272 pages
1988

Award winner



Self's Punishment
352 pages
1987

Movie Adaptation

Praise (cont'd)

»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