Diogenes

Book factsheet

Christian Schünemann & Jelena Volic
Cornflower Blue

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



On the night of the 11th of July, two guardsmen from the Serbian elite unit are making their rounds in the Topcider military camp. The next morning, they are found dead. The military court issues an official report claiming that they were the victims of a dishonourable ritual suicide, and the investigation is promptly closed.
Lawyer Sinisa Stojkovic is commissioned by the parents of the dead guardsmen to launch a private investigation. He asks his old friend, Milena Lukin, a specialist in international law, for her assistance. But her investigations start to irritate certain individuals, and her life ends up in grave danger. A dreadful suspicion begins to build: it seems that the guards saw something they shouldn't have seen. Could it have had something to do with the anniversary of the worst massacre in European history since World War II?

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
368 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2013

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
English/world (Haus)
French (Héloïse d'Ormesson)

Awards

2002 Am Open Mike wurde ein Auszug aus *Der Frisör* preisgekrönt.
2001 ›Helmut-Stegmann-Preis‹ für eine Reportage in der *Süddeutschen Zeitung*

Praise

Cornflower Blue

»An honest and depressing look into the workings of a deeply disturbed country.« – Lilo Solcher / Augsburger Allgemeine

»›Cornflower Blue‹ is rich in description as thrillers can only be when their authors stick to their own territory.« – Susan Vahabzadeh / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»This crime novel makes the reader both want to go to Belgrade and to look again at the almost forgotten war in the heart of Europe – and to hear more of Milena Lukin.« – Petra Mies / Buchjournal, Frankfurt

»This book gives valuable insight into the Bosnian war and its aftermath. It is well written, and it demonstrates that the conventions of crime fiction, intelligently followed, produce highly readable and similar kinds of stories across a range of languages and cultures.« – Kerryn Goldsworthy / The Sydney Morning Herald

»Milena Lukin is a wonderful, unfathomable woman still swathed in a cocoon of secrecy, even at the end of her debut appearance. Belgrade made flesh.« – Elmar Krekeler / Die Welt, Berlin

»A tremendous thriller about sensitive issues like political corruption, nationalist lunacy and the massacres between Serbs and Bosnians in the 1990s.« – Wolfgang Bortlik / 20 Minuten, Zurich

Christian Schünemann

»Schünemann is a keen observer.« – Mannheimer Morgen

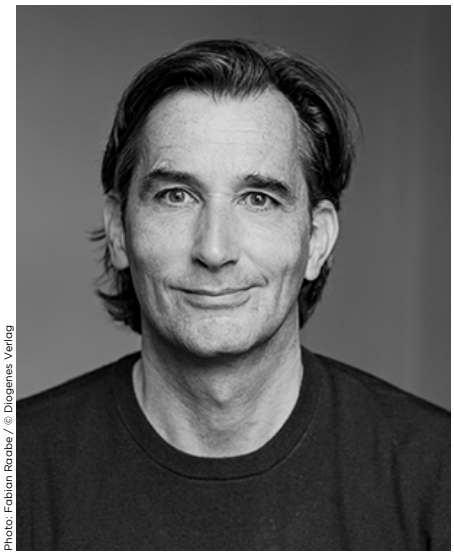


Photo: Fabian Raabe / © Diogenes Verlag

Christian Schünemann, born in 1968 in Bremen, studied Slavic Studies in Berlin and Saint Petersburg. He has worked in Moscow and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and was a storyliner and screenwriter. Diogenes has previously published his crime series about the star hairdresser Tomas Prinz, and his crime novels — co-written with Jelena Volič — about the Serbian amateur detective Milena Lukin. Christian Schünemann lives in Berlin.

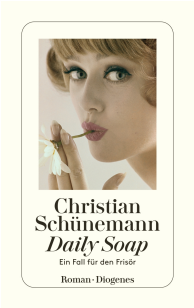


Photo: Nathan Beck / © Diogenes Verlag

Jelena Volić, born in Belgrade, studied Literary Criticism and Italian, Slavonic and Germanic Studies. She is a lecturer in contemporary German literature and cultural history in Belgrade. She is a member of various forums, which address the accession of Serbia to the European Union, and an expert on German-Serbian relations. She divides her time between Belgrade and Berlin.



Until the Sun Shines
256 pages
2025



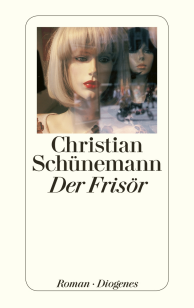
Daily Soap
240 pages
2011



The Student
272 pages
2009



The Brother
288 pages
2008



The Hairdresser
256 pages
2004
Award winner



Lily-of-the-Valley White
352 pages
2017



Peony Red
368 pages
2016