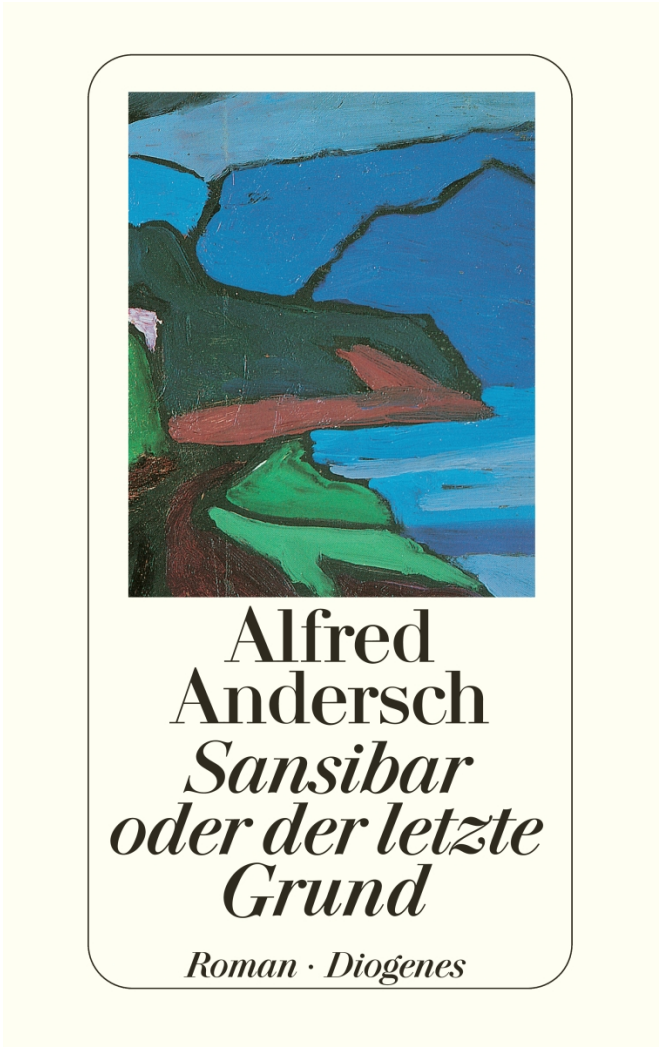
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Alfred Andersch
Flight to Afar

Published by Diogenes as *Sansibar oder der letzte Grund*
Original title: *Sansibar oder der letzte Grund*



A boy dreaming of Huckleberry Finn, a mortally ill Pastor, a disillusioned Communist, a young Jewish girl running for her life - meet in a half-derelict Baltic fishing village and are drawn into a daring plan of escape from Nazi Germany. At the center of their plan is a small statue in the Pastor's church, a statue which is to be confiscated because it is politically dangerous, a statue so beautiful and powerful that it welds together the strangely assorted band of refugees.

This unusual novel - unusual in both form and content - is a masterpiece of condensed dramatic writing. Andersch investigates the many needs for flight and the strange loyalties which sometimes make escape impossible.

Contemporary Literature, Compulsory Reading
224 pages
February 1970

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
Italian (Feltrinelli)

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

Flight to Afar

»A wonderful book.« – Wolfgang Koeppen

»The force of Andersch's rejection of ideologies is matched by the strength of his belief in simple human decency: ›Flight to Afar‹ is at once a parable of free will and of the responsibility of the individual.« – Marcel Reich-Ranicki

»A master of German prose.« – Max Frisch

Alfred Andersch

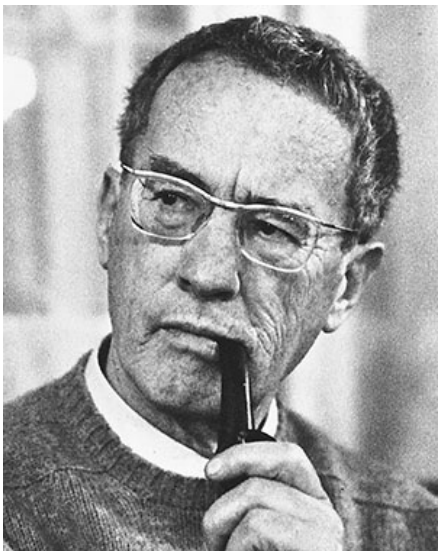


Photo: © Isolde Ohlbaum

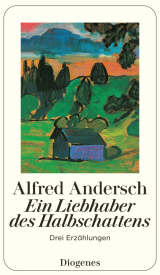
Alfred Andersch (1914 – 1980) was sent to Dachau concentration camp in 1933. After deserting from the Wehrmacht in 1944, he became an American prisoner of war. After his return to Germany, he worked as a journalist and publicist, and was one of the founders of German radio. Andersch is one of Germany's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



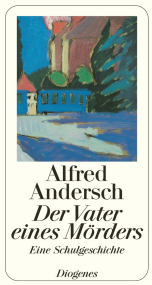
Leeward Islands
544 pages
2014



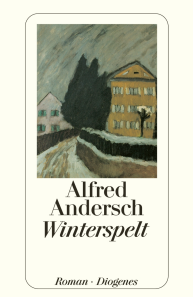
Correspondence
192 pages
2014



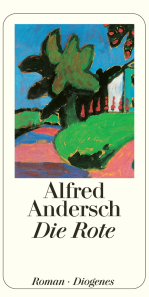
An Admirer of Half Shadows
112 pages
2006



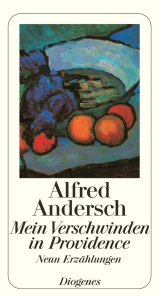
The Father of a Murderer
144 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



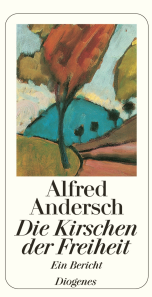
Winterspelt
604 pages
1974



The Redhead
272 pages
1972
Movie Adaptation



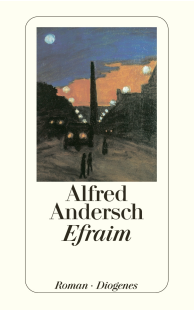
My Disappearance in Providence
276 pages
1971



Cherries of Freedom
144 pages
1971

Praise (cont'd)

»A master of German prose.« – Max Frisch



Efraim's Book
472 pages
1967
Award winner