

Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Published by Diogenes as *Das Versprechen / Aufenthalt in einer kleinen Stadt*



Dürrenmatt
Das Versprechen
Requiem auf den Kriminalroman
*Aufenthalt in einer
kleinen Stadt*
Fragment
Diogenes

A suspenseful tale of a police inspector's unrelenting search for a psychopathic killer his superiors claim does not exist. But more than a novel of crime and detection, Friedrich Dürrenmatt's deeply moving drama is the eloquent account of a decent man's gradual decay. With grim irony, the master storyteller shows how a dedicated law-enforcer's obsession for truth and justice can lead him to bait a trap as morally offensive as the evil strategy used by the maniacal murderer he relentlessly pursues.

Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
208 pages
11.3 x 18 cm
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Movie adaptations

**2015: Im Labyrinth / Friedrich Dürrenmatt.
Der kritische Geist der Schweiz**

Director: Sabine Gisiger
Screenplay: Sabine Gisiger

2010: Schurkenstück

Director: Torsten C. Fischer
Screenplay: Eva Zahn
Cast: Katharina Schüttler und Oliver Korritke

2008: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Nikolaus Leytner
Screenplay: Thomas Eifler
Cast: Christiane Hörbiger, Michael Mendl,
Muriel Baumeister, Rolf Hoppe, Rüdiger
Vogler

2001: The Pledge

Director: Sean Penn
Cast: Margaret Larsen, Helen Jackson

1997: Es geschah am hellichten Tag

Director: Nico Hofmann
Cast: Joachim Król, Barbara Rudnik, Axel
Milberg

1996: Es geschah am hellichten Tag

Director: Bernd Eichinger
Cast: Joachaim Krol, Barbara Rudnik, Axel
Milberg

1995: Tod im kalten Morgenlicht

Director: Rudolf van den Berg
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Lynsey Baxter,
Perdita Weeks

1994: Der Wiedertäufer

Director: Heinrich Koch

1994: In the Cold Light of Day

Director: Rudolf van den Berg
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Perdita Weeks,
Simon Cadell

1993: Justiz

Director: Hans Werner Geißendörfer
Cast: Maximilian Schell, Thomas Heinze,
Matthias Gnädinger, Anna Thalbach

1992: Hyänen / Hyènes, Ramatou

Director: Djibril diop Mamberty
Screenplay: Djibril diop Mamberty
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

1992: Hyènes

Director: Djibril diop Mamberty
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

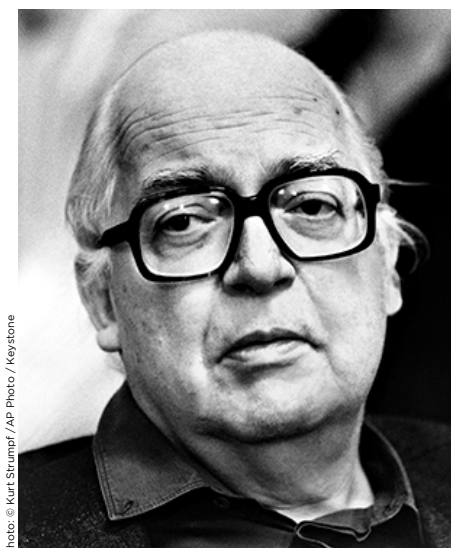


Photo: © Kurt Strumpf / AP Photo / Keystone

Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921 – 1990) was born in Konolfingen near Berne as the son of a protestant minister. He studied philosophy, German literature and history of art in Berne and Zurich and worked as a playwright, novelist, essayist and painter in Neuchâtel, where he lived with his family.



Subject Matter
2352 pages
2021



The Plays
1584 pages
2015



The Crime Novels
992 pages
2011



His Life in Pictures
376 pages
2011



Labyrinth / Turmbau
(*Subject Matter I-IX*)
736 pages
2002

My Switzerland
256 pages
1998



The Minotaur / The Assignment; or, On the Observing of the Observers / Midas
208 pages
1998



Max Frisch, Friedrich Dürrenmatt - Correspondence
240 pages
1998

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1989: *Die Welt ist ein Irrenhaus: Achterloo IV*

Director: Roman Brodman

1988: *Abendstunde im Spätherbst*

Director: August Everding

Cast: Mario Adorf, Horst Bollmann

1988: *Achterloo*

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Cast: Helmut Lohner, Georg Preusse

1982: *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Director: Max Peter Ammann

Cast: Maria Schell, Adolphe Spalinger, Günter Lamprecht

1982: *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Director: Max Peter Ammann

Cast: Maria Schell, Günter Lamprecht, Ruedi Walter

1975: *Der Richter und sein Henker*

Director: Maximilian Schell

Cast: Jon Voight, Jacqueline Bisset, Helmut Qualtinger, Robert Shaw, Friedrich Dürrenmatt

1974: *Der Mitmacher*

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Cast: Buddy Elias, Elmar Schulte, Werner Schumacher

1973: *Der Wiedertäufer*

Director: Werner Schlechte

Cast: E. Marks, F. Schütter, V. Lechtenbrink

1973: *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Director: Hans/Cella Gaugler/Ettore

Cast: Hasle Rüegsau

1972: *La piu bella serata della mia vita*

Director: Ettore Scola

Cast: Alberto Sordi, Michel Simon, Pierre Brasseur

1971: *Porträt eines Planeten*

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Cast: W. Reichmann, H. Lohner, Ch. Hörbiger

1971: *König Johann*

Director: Vaclav Hudcek

Cast: H. Qualtinger, H. Seeböck

1967: *Der Meteor*

Director: Leopold Lindtberg

Cast: Leonard Steckel, Wolfgang Forester, Gert Westphal, Peter Brogle

1967: *Frank V. Opfer einer Privatbank*

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Cast: Therese Giehse, Hubert von Meyernick

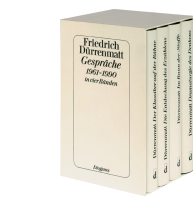
1966: *Grieche sucht Griechin*

Director: Rolf Thiele

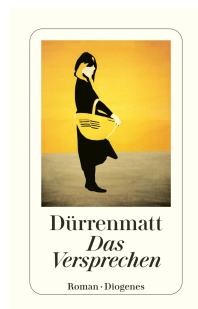
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Irina Demick, Charles Regnier



Switzerland - A Prison
80 pages
1997



Conversations 1961-1990
1296 pages
1996

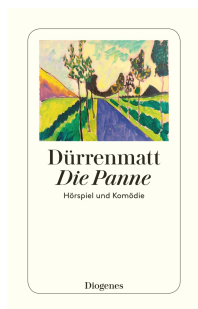


The Pledge
160 pages
1996

Movie Adaptation



The Pensioner
200 pages
1995



Traps
144 pages
1995

Movie Adaptation



The Enormity of the Possible
144 pages
1993

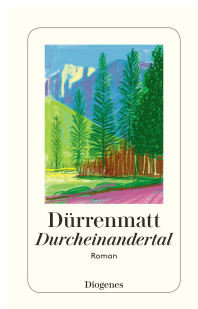


Gedankenfuge
208 pages
1992



Greek Man Seeks Greek Wife
160 pages
1992

Movie Adaptation



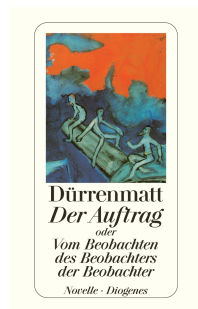
The Vale of Confusion
176 pages
1989



Trials
184 pages
1988



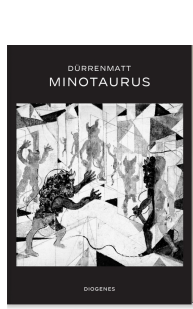
The Judge and His Hangman
128 pages
1986



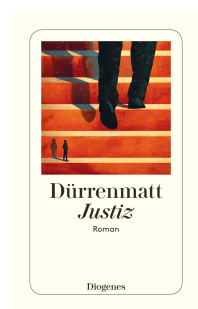
The Assignment
136 pages
1986



Suspicion
128 pages
1986



The Minotaur
56 pages
1985



Justice
376 pages
1985

Movie Adaptation



The Winter War in Tibet
192 pages
1984

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1965: Romulus der Große

Director: Helmut Käutner
Cast: Romuald Pekny

1964: Die Physiker

Director: Fritz Umgelter
Cast: Therese Giehse, Gustav Knuth, Kurt Ehrhardt, Wolfgang Kieling, Siegfried Lowitz

1964: Ein Engel kommt nach Babylon

Director: William Dieterle

1963: The Visit

Director: Bernhard Wicki
Cast: Ingrid Bergmann, Anthony Quinn, Hans-Christian Blech

1961: Die Ehe des Herrn Mississippi

Director: Kurt Hoffmann
Cast: O.E. Hasse, Johanna von Koczan, Martin Held, Charles Regnier, Max Haufler

1960: Abendstunde im Spätherbst

Director: Rudolf Noelte
Cast: Ernst Schröder, Friedrich Maurer, Günter Meissner

1959: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Ludwig Cremer
Cast: R. Wanka, E. Flickenschmidt, A. Schradiek

1958: Es geschah am hellichten Tag

Director: Ladislao Vajda
Screenplay: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Michel Simon, Gert Fröbe

1957: Die Panne

Director: Fritz Umgelter
Cast: Peter Ahrweiler, Carl Wery, Harry Hardt

1957: Der Richter und sein Henker

Director: Franz Peter Wirth
Cast: Herbert Tiede, Maria Körber, K.G. Saebisch

Praise

»A stark essay in crime and pursuit, as terse and assured in construction as the best of Simenon.« – Spectator, London

»Altogether a book quite out of the ordinary.« – The New York Times

Friedrich Dürrenmatt

»Even after the death of its author, his huge and unique work is still a dark continent, largely unilluminated and untested, a continent in motion, always good for intellectual surprises and dramatic adventures.« – Gert Ueding

»One of Europe's most important postwar dramatists.« – The Daily Telegraph, London



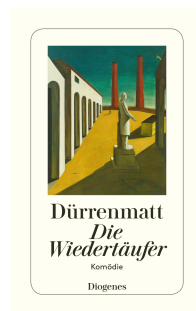
Achterloo
128 pages
1983



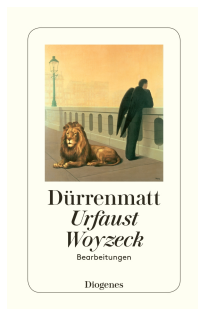
The Winter War in Tibet/ Lunar Eclipse/ The Rebel
360 pages
1981
Movie Adaptation



Nexus
240 pages
1980



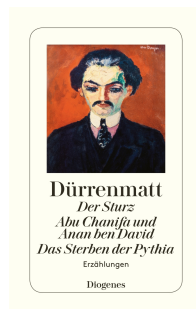
The Anabaptists
144 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



Urfaust/ Woyzeck. Adaptations
208 pages
1980



Theatre
272 pages
1980



The Coup/ Abu Chanifa and Anan ben David/ Smithy/ The Dying of the Pythia
160 pages
1980



Romulus the Great
176 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



The Complete Prose Oeuvre
3024 pages
1980



Politics
192 pages
1980



Play Strinberg/ Portrait of a Planet
208 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



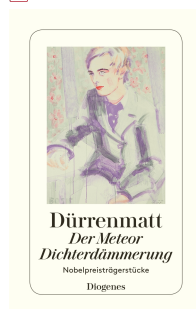
The Physicists
96 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



Philosophical Essays
208 pages
1980



The Conformist
336 pages
1980



The Meteor/ Twilight of the Poets
208 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



Literature and Painting
240 pages
1980

Praise (cont'd)

»Dürrenmatt was addressing the real crowd assembled in real theaters with all their swiftly changing feelings, their ignorance, bad habits and vaulting possibilities. At the same time he was a philosopher-poet with one eye on the picture of the real, on artifice, and on the long preoccupations of philosophy and art through the ages.« – Arthur Miller

»Dürrenmatt has always been too impulsive for his times but the chaotic world has quickly caught up with him. That's why his work will last. The purifying force of his irony becomes the more important and useful – particularly because it is driven by the profound humanity that Dürrenmatt's friends always knew in him.« – Peter Brook

»Now, like an avalanche in far-off mountains, comes Friedrich Dürrenmatt, a detective-story writer with a genius for the theater, to give us a new theme, or rather to remind us of an ancient one: justice. His vision is a cold one but pure, and very nearly unique in our day, for in his devotion to the idea of justice he has succeeded in casting across an age committed to false Love the dark shadow of the scales.« – Gore Vidal

»It was once observed by Oscar Wilde that a writer should be able to write anything. Mr. Dürrenmatt meets Wilde's requirement. He adopts a manner well liked by some of our better writers, that of a Roman of the later Empire, a golden weariness. Mr. Dürrenmatt chooses compression of style and strictness of form, but the late Imperial feeling is still there.« – Saul Bellow

»One of the greatest writers of our century.« – Corriere della Sera, Milan

»Next to Kafka and Camus, he is one of the great questioners of this world.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt belonged to the most cheerful apocalyptic writers of the 20th century.« – Thomas Hürlimann / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»Universal, uncomfortable and visionary: Friedrich Dürrenmatt is the worthy reigning literary monarch of the year.« – Wener Krause / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»He is evil, he doesn't think anything good of humanity, and he describes this – but he does it with wit.« – Elke Heidenreich / SRF2, Zurich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt is a centennial author, because he saw the century that was to follow him too.« – Daniele Musciconico / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau



Reviews
176 pages
1980



King John/ Titus
Andronicus
240 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



The Dog/ The Tunnel/
Traps
112 pages
1980



Hercules and the
Augean Stables/ The
Trial about the
Donkey's Shadow
240 pages
1980



Greek Man Seeks Greek
Wife/ Mr. X Goes on
Holiday/ News about
the State of Press
during the Stone Age
208 pages
1980



Nocturnal Conversation
with a Scorned Man/
Stranitzky and the
National Hero/ The
Vega Enterprise
160 pages
1980



The Deadline
160 pages
1980



Frank V
176 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



It is Written/ The Blind
Man
336 pages
1980



An Angel Comes to
Babylon
144 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



The Marriage of Mr.
Mississippi
224 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



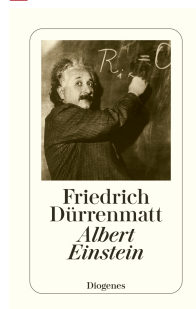
The Complete Dramatic
Oeuvre
3408 pages
1980



The Visit
160 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Early Prose: Christmas/
The Torturer/ The
Sausage/ The Son/ The
Old Man/ Portrait of
Sisyphos/ The Theatre
Director/ The Trap/
Pilatos/ The Town/
From the Papers of a
Guardsman
208 pages
1980



Albert Einstein
80 pages
1979