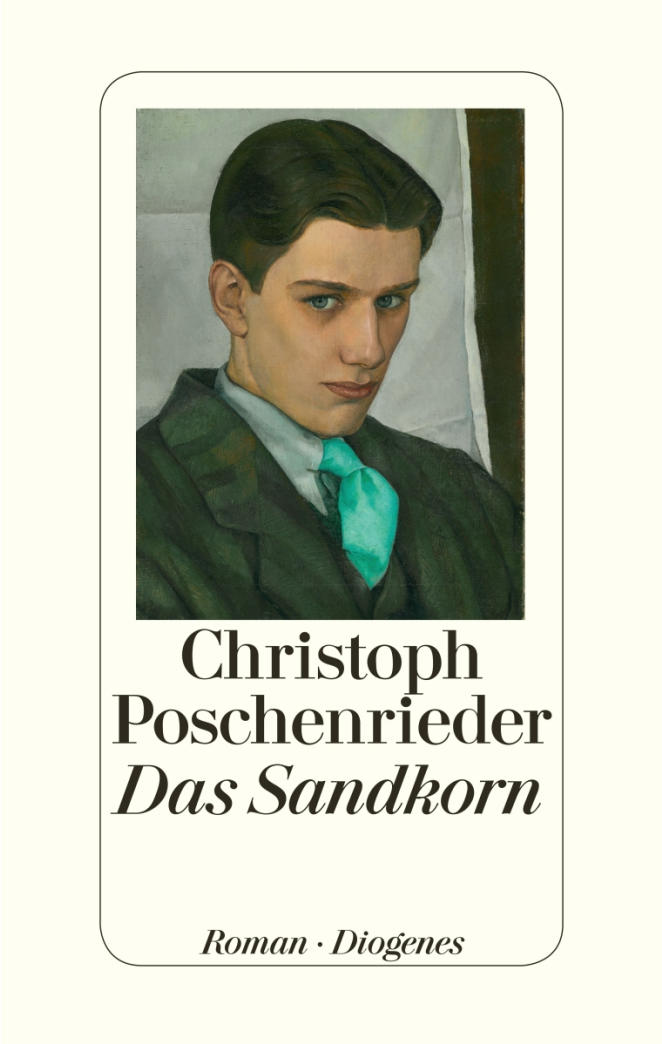
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Christoph Poschenrieder
A Grain of Sand

Published by Diogenes as *Das Sandkorn*
Original title: *Das Sandkorn*



1914. A man scatters sand from the South of Italy on the streets of Berlin. At a time of war, such behaviour is not only strange, but suspicious, too. The inspector who takes on the mysterious case finds himself caught up in a story of love and taboo between two men and a woman: Jacob Tolmeyn, an art historian from Berlin, fears persecution due to his homosexuality and takes up a research post in Southern Italy, far away from the dangers of the big city. He inspects the Staufian forts together with his assistant Beat, a former Papal Swiss Guard, when they meet Letizia, an Italian women's rights campaigner. The three of them experience the dangers and opportunities of their era until Tolmeyn returns to Berlin, where he unwillingly attracts the inspector's attention with a trail of sand. *A Grain of Sand* on the Longlist of the *German Book Prize 2014*.

Contemporary Literature
416 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2014

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Awards

2019	›Stern des Jahres‹ der *Münchner Abendzeitung* für *Der unsichtbare Roman* als der beste Roman
2017	Arbeitsstipendium der Landeshauptstadt München für sein sechstes Romanprojekt *Meyrink und die Macht des Wortes*
2016	Mit dem Rom-Preis verbundenes Stipendiat des Deutschen Studienzentrums in Venedig
2015	›Bamberger Villa-Concordia-Stipendium‹ für einen elfmonatigen Aufenthalt ab April 2015

Praise

A Grain of Sand

»Christoph Poschenrieder's story is told cleverly and carefully and with stylistic brilliance.« – Martin Halter / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Christoph Poschenrieder's very entertaining novel cleverly links world history with biography and private matters.« – Jochen Kürten / Deutsche Welle, Bonn

»Well researched and splendidly written. And flavoured with a pinch of humour.« – Harald E. Gersfeld / Publik-Forum, Oberursel

Christoph Poschenrieder

»Christoph Poschenrieder's light story telling is both stylistically brilliant and highly readable.« – Eckart Baier / Buchjournal, Frankfurt

»What a quick-witted narrator!« – Karin Grossmann / Sächsische Zeitung, Dresden

»He has so much fun with his writing, this Christoph Poschenrieder – one of the best German authors around today.« – Kristian Thees / SWR, Stuttgart

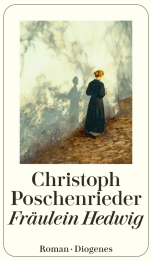
»Christoph Poschenrieder dresses heavy subjects in lightness and humour.« – Barbara Schulz / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»Poschenrieder's novels captivate the reader with their depth, ambiguity and intelligent humour.« – Ditta Rudle / Buchkultur, Vienna

»Poschenrieder, philosophy graduate and trained journalist, knows how to present serious topics with a light touch.« – Steffen Radlmaier / Nürnberger Nachrichten

Photo: © Daniela Agostini / Diogenes Verlag

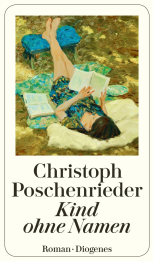
Christoph Poschenrieder, born in Boston in 1964, studied philosophy in Munich and journalism in New York. Since 1993 he has been a freelance journalist and documentary film maker, though today his focus is literary writing. His debut, the critically acclaimed *The World in the Head,* was an international hit, while *A Grain of Sand* was nominated for the ›German Book Prize‹ in 2014. He lives in Munich.



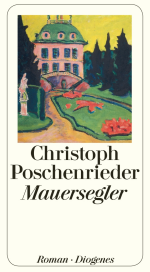
Miss Hedwig
336 pages
2025

For a Lifetime
304 pages
2022

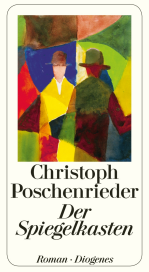
The Invisible Novel
272 pages
2019
Award winner



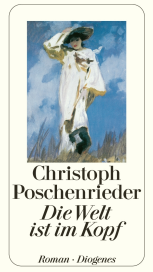
A Child with No Name
288 pages
2017



Common Swift
224 pages
2015
Bestseller



The Mirror Box
224 pages
2011



The World in the Head
352 pages
2010