

# Diogenes

**Jakob Arjouni**  
***Happy Birthday, Turk!***

Published by Diogenes as *Happy birthday, Türke!*  
Original title: *Happy birthday, Türke!*



**Jakob  
Arjouni**  
***Happy birthday,  
Türke!***

Kayankaya's erster Fall

Roman • Diogenes

A Turkish worker is stabbed to death in Frankfurt's red-light district - no reason for the police to work overtime. Kemal Kayankaya, however, has a different attitude. A 26-year-old, born in Turkey but raised in Germany, he is no stranger to the wrong end of racial harassment. He is also a private investigator, hired to find the killer and the motive for the crime. Not only by colour, but also by character and profession, Kayankaya is the outsider and the outcast, looking in at a rampantly unjust society. In his pursuit of the killer he encounters vicious pimps, over-eager bouncers and easy women, survives beatings, gas attacks and a close encounter with a Fiat and uncovers a drug ring built on the exploitation of Turkish immigrants. Jakob Arjouni's novel confronts police corruption, endemic racism and the spiritual malaise in the German body politic.

## Book factsheet

Crime fiction, General Fiction  
176 pages  
11.3 x 18 x 1.1 cm  
September 1987

World rights are handled by Diogenes

### Rights currently sold:

Arabic (Al-Arabi)  
English/USA (Melville)

### Movie adaptations

#### 2017: Am Ruder

Director: Stephan Wagner  
Screenplay: Stephan und Alexandra Maxeiner Wagner  
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Julia Koschitz und Inga Birkenfeld

#### 1992: Happy Birthday, Türke

Director: Doris Dörrie  
Cast: Hansa Czipionka, Özay Fecht, Doris Kunstmann, Lambert Hamel

### Awards

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1992 | Deutscher Krimi Preis für ›Ein Mann, ein Mord‹.   |
| 1987 | Baden-Württembergischer Autorenpreis für das deutschsprachige Jugendtheater für sein Theaterstück ›Nazim schiebt ab‹. |

### Praise

*Happy Birthday, Turk!*

»A blistering debut: outcast Kayankaya is a perfect hard-boiled detective.« – Kirkus Reviews, New York

»Happy Birthday Turk!« is an exceptional achievement ... It lingers in the mind, a bitter lesson but thrilling in the telling.« – Library Journal, New York

»A remarkable debut.« – The Guardian, London

Jakob Arjouni

»Magnificent« – The Guardian

»Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times

»Jakob Arjouni writes the best urban thrillers since Raymond Chandler.« – Tempo

»A master of the sketch and the caricature.« – Die Welt

»Impossible to put his books down.« – El Pais

»A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern



Photo: © Regine Mostmann / Diogenes Verlag

## Praise (cont'd)

»Arjouni tells real-life stories, and they virtually never have a happy ending. He tells them so well, with such flexible dialogue and cleverly maintained tension, that it is impossible to put his books down.« – El País, Madrid

»A genuine storyteller who beguiles his readers without the need of tricks.« – L'Unità, Milan

Jakob Arjouni, born 1964 in Frankfurt on the Main, has published novels, short stories, theatre and radio plays.

Arjouni was only twenty-one years old when his acclaimed debut, ›Happy birthday, Turk!‹ was published and its main character, the Frankfurt-based private detective Kemal Kayankaya, took on his very first investigation. In 1991, the book was made into a film, directed by Doris Dörrie. Three further cases followed; for the third, ›One Man, One Murder‹, Jakob Arjouni was awarded the 1992 ›German Crime Fiction Prize‹. In autumn 2012, ›Brother Kemal‹, the fifth volume starring the German-Turkish investigator was published. The series is now firmly established as a classic amongst crime literature.

Apart from his stage plays, his work also includes the Berlin novels ›Magic Hoffmann‹ (1996) and ›Holy Eddy‹ (2009) as well as ›Idiots. Five Fairy Tales‹ (2003). His novels ›Homework‹, ›Chez Max‹, and particularly his novel about an East-German Nazi follower, ›Cherryman Hunts Mister White‹, are now on school reading lists. The theme of addressing violence in all its forms runs through Arjouni's work like a red thread.

His readers loved him for his thrilling, sharp-tongued, linguistically unpretentious, witty and clever books. He died on the 17th of January 2013 in Berlin.



The Kayankaya Novels  
1080 pages  
2014



Brother Kemal  
240 pages  
2012



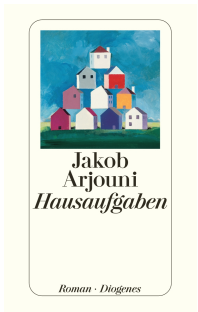
Cherryman Hunts Mister  
White  
176 pages  
2011



Holy Eddy  
256 pages  
2009



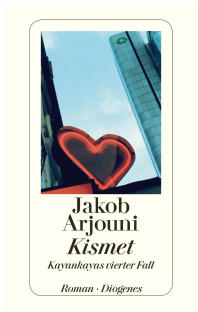
**Chez Max**  
224 pages  
2006



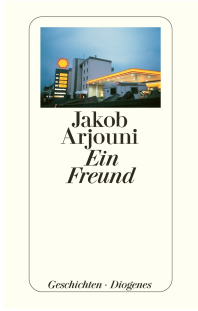
**Homework**  
192 pages  
2004



**Idioten. Five fairy tales**  
160 pages  
2003

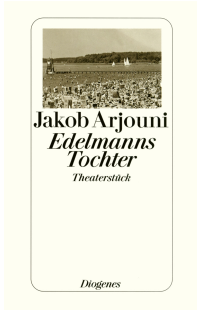


**Kismet**  
272 pages  
2001



**A Friend**  
176 pages  
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



**Edelmann's Daughter**  
96 pages  
1996



**Magic Hoffmann**  
288 pages  
1996



**One Man, One Murder**  
192 pages  
1991



**More Beer**  
176 pages  
1987