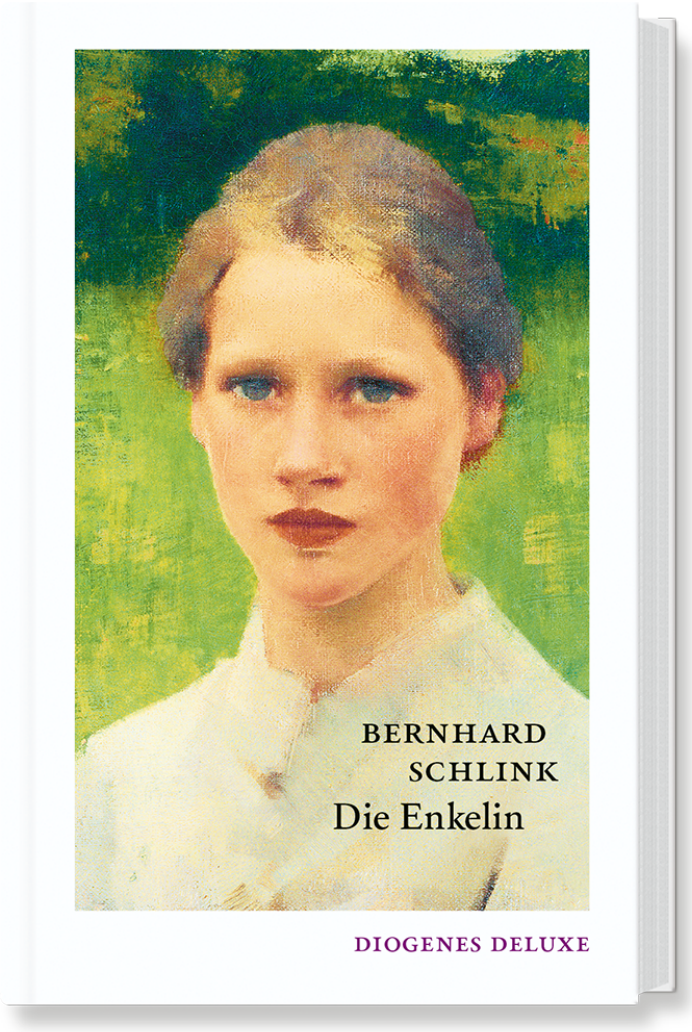
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Bernhard Schlink
The Granddaughter

Published by Diogenes as *Die Enkelin*
Original title: *Die Enkelin*



Birgit fled to West Berlin to Kaspar, choosing love and freedom. It is only after Birgit's death that he discovers the price she paid. He sets out to uncover her secret in the East, meeting those she cared about, witnessing their oppression and their stubbornness first-hand. His search leads him to a rural community of neo-Nazis – and to a young girl who comes to think of him as a grandfather, and whom he considers a granddaughter. Their worlds could not be more different – but he is determined to fight for her.

Gift Books, Contemporary Literature
512 pages
9 × 14.4 cm
November 2026

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

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Albanian (Dudaj)
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Dutch (Cossee)
English/UK (Weidenfeld & Nicolson/Orion)
English/USA (HarperCollins)
Finnish (WSOY)
French (Gallimard)
Georgian (Intelekti)
Greek (Kritiki)
Italian (Neri Pozza)
Japanese (Shinchosha)
Korean (Sigongsa)
Macedonian (Ili-Ili)
Portuguese/PT (Leya/ASA)
Romanian
Romanian (Polirom)
Russian (Azbooka)
Serbian (Plato)
Spanish/world (Anagrama)
Turkish (Dogan)

Bestseller

#2 Swiss Bestseller
#3 Spiegel Bestseller

Movie adaptations

2011: Das Wochenende
Director: Nina Grosse
Cast: Katja Riemann, Sebastian Koch, Barbara Auer

2009: The Reader
Director: Stephen Daldry
Screenplay: David Hare
Cast: Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, David Kross, Bruno Ganz, Karoline Herfurth, Volker Bruch, Hannah Herzsprung und Alexandra Maria Lara

2008: The Other Man
Director: Richard Eyre
Screenplay: Richard Eyre
Cast: Liam Neeson , Laura Linney und Antonio Banderas

1991: Der Tod kam als Freund
Director: Nico Hoffmann
Cast: Martin Benrath, Hannelore Elsner, Heino Ferch, Marianne Hoppe

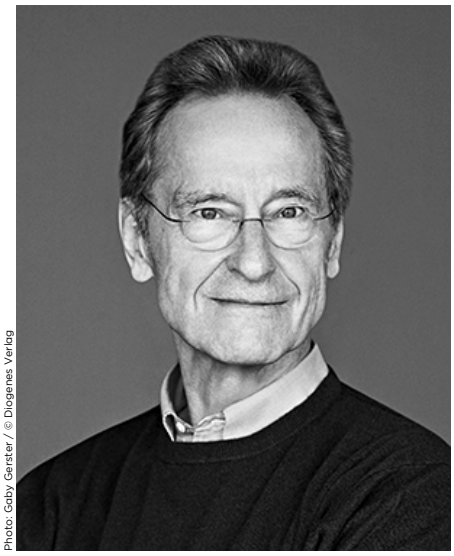


Photo: Gaby Gerster / © Diogenes Verlag

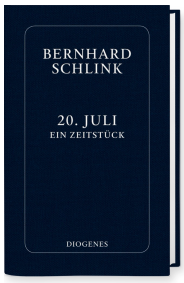
Bernhard Schlink, born in 1944, was a Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy and a former judge at the Constitutional Court of North Rhine-Westphalia. His first novel, *Self's Justice*, was published in 1987; his 1995 novel *The Reader*, translated into more than fifty languages and adapted by Stephen Daldry into a film starring Kate Winslet, established his worldwide renown. He has been awarded with national and international prizes like the German ›Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit) 1st Class‹, the French ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur‹ and the Italian ›Grinzane Cavour Prize‹. His latest novel is *The Late Life*.



Justice
208 pages
2026



The Late Life
240 pages
2024
Bestseller



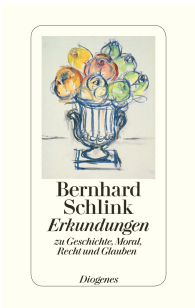
The 20th of July
96 pages
2021



Colours of Farewell
240 pages
2020
Bestseller



Olga
320 pages
2018
Bestseller



Explorations
288 pages
2015



The Woman on the Stairs
256 pages
2014
Bestseller



Thoughts on Writing
96 pages
2011

Awards

2024 Spanische Übersetzung von *Die Enkelin* mit dem ›Premio de las Librerias de Navarra‹ ausgezeichnet
2014 ›Pak Kyong-ni Prize‹ der südkoreanischen Kulturstiftung Toji für sein schriftstellerisches Schaffen
2003 ›Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse‹ für *Der Vorleser*
2002 ›Preis des German-British Forum‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
2001 Finnischer Literaturpreis ›Eeva Joenpelto-Preis‹ der Gemeinde Lohja
2001 Ernennung zum ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur‹
2000 ›Ehrengabe‹ der Heinrich-Heine-Gesellschaft in Düsseldorf
2000 ›Sonderkulturpreis‹ der japanischen Tageszeitung *Mainichi Shinbun*, der jedes Jahr an einen japanischen Buchbestseller vergeben wird, für *Der Vorleser*
2000 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Büchereien für *Der Vorleser*
1999 Erstmals verliehener ›WELT-Literaturpreis‹ für sein literarisches Schaffen
1997 ›Grinzane-Cavour-Preis‹ (Italien) für *Der Vorleser*
1997 ›Prix Laure Bataillon‹ (Frankreich) für *Der Vorleser* (Auszeichnung für den Autor sowie für den Übersetzer Bernard Lortholary)
1997 ›Hans-Fallada-Preis‹ der Stadt Neumünster für *Der Vorleser*
1993 ›Deutscher Krimi-Preis‹ des Bochumer Krimi Archivs für *Selbs Betrug*

Praise

The Granddaughter

»Schlink once again presents a gripping relationship drama.« – Focus, Berlin

»In his new novel *The Granddaughter,* he picks up thematically from his most successful book: *The Reader.*« – Res Strehle / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Bernhard Schlink has once again woven his new novel around an exciting plot, within which the existential topics intensify further still.« – Bernadette Conrad / Weltwoche, Zurich

»Schlink packs a great deal into this novel. The soft tones are convincing, as is grief as an impetus to search for the lost daughter; and especially the initial, sensitively narrated section.« – Dorothea Westphal / Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Cologne

»Because one can relate to this immediacy of personal experience, the novel is very gripping.« – Christian Mayer / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»He puts a big sign of hope at the end.« – Karin Grossmann / Sächsische Zeitung, Dresden

»Bernhard Schlink's new novel is, in its own way, brave too.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg



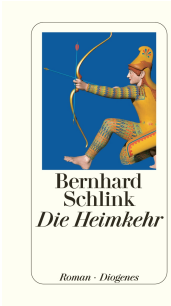
Summer Lies
288 pages
2010
Bestseller



The Weekend
240 pages
2008
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



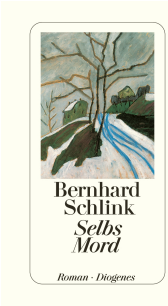
Guilt of the Past
192 pages
2007



The Homecoming
384 pages
2006
Bestseller



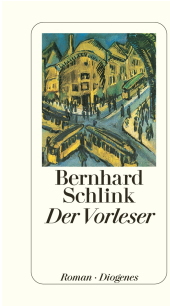
Verifications
368 pages
2005



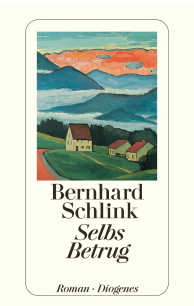
Self's Murder
272 pages
2001



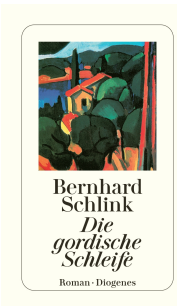
Flights of Love
320 pages
2000
Movie Adaptation



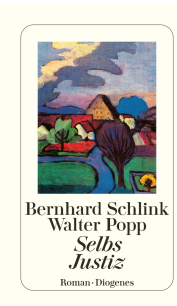
The Reader
208 pages
1995
Award winner
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



Self's Deception
304 pages
1992
Award winner



The Gordian Knot
272 pages
1988



Self's Punishment
352 pages
1987
Movie Adaptation

Praise (cont'd)

»Once again, a very readable book.« – Lothar Schröder / Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»Solving major conflicts like those in *The Granddaughter* requires not only understanding and knowledge, but also patience, empathy, listening, music and good reading material.« – Hedwig Kainberger / Salzburger Nachrichten, Salzburg

»The book is also a reflection of the complex and by no means finalized process of reunification, underpinned by numerous historical details.« – Thomas Groß / Mannheimer Morgen, Mannheim

»A great book with a brilliant ending.« – Helmut Atteneder / Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, Linz

»Bernhard Schlink has written a novel that you will carry with you everywhere, just in case you have a spare moment to read further.« – Annemarie Stoltenberg / NDR Kultur, Hamburg

»Schlink's novel remains captivating because he gives space to the main character's doubts and ruminations.« – Emilia Menkveld / De Volkskrant, Amsterdam

»The history of the past century separates the generations – even now, as can be read in the touching novel by Bernhard Schlink. People are driven by incomprehension and discontent.« – NRC Handelsblad, Netherlands

»*The Granddaughter* is a well-conceived novel based on thorough research. In its humanity, it attempts to make irreconcilable points of view a touch more comprehensible« – André Keikes / Tzum, Groningen

»An excellent narrator who is a pleasure to follow.« – VPRO-Rundfunkmagazin, Netherlands

»Schlink's *Granddaughter* – a novel that will again conquer the world.« – Bram Hulzebos / Leesbeest, Netherlands

»The novel time and again provides insights into contemporary German history. That, too, is a merit of this author, who writes about war, shame and guilt like no other.« – Lies Schut / De Telegraaf, Amsterdam

»A fascinating political journey through the history of contemporary Germany and its reunification, charged with dark concern.« – Memento

»The cohabitation of these irreconcilables, the permanence of the country's ills and wounds - these are all things that the author of the hugely successful *The Reader* (1996) manages to capture with elegance and acuity.« – Rocco Zacheo / Tribune de Genève, Geneva

Praise (cont'd)

»There are historians who have made Germany's work on its Nazi past their favourite discipline. And then there's Bernhard Schlink.« – Stéphane Brussard / Le Temps , Geneva

»Once again, Bernhard Schlink explores with humanity the transmission of the memory of his country.« – Christian Desmeules / Le Devoir, Montreal

»Bernhard Schlink tells a wonderful story of relationships tinged with bitterness that are far more complex than we think [...] It's a bright book of dazzling generosity, devoid of hatred. It's a crush of hearts that will become permanent [...]« – Laurent Lemire / Le Journal du Dimanche, Paris

»Beyond Germany, *The Granddaughter* is above all a dazzling story of love, reparation, and completed mourning. And it is a story that constantly lifts the spirits of the reader, as the pages are written in the tightest, most painful way. For it is all about loving the other to the end of his unbearable, indecipherable otherness.« – Fabienne Pascaud / Télérama, Paris

»The German writer Bernhard Schlink, author of the impeccable *The Reader* in 1995, is back with a great novel, *The Granddaughter.* Rightly considered one of the best contemporary authors, he offers a journey between two Germanys, in space and in time. Without hesitation, we follow him. An essential text.« – Serge Bressan / We Culte!

»Bernhard Schlink deals with the issues of transmission, exile and commitment with great sensitivity.« – Pages

»An admirable novel about Germany after reunification. Beautiful and heartbreaking.« – Didier Jacob / L'Obs, Paris

»A masterpiece.« – Maurice Szafran / ChallengeS

»Schlink offers an unflinching look at the neo-Nazi movement and the compromises people make out of love. It's a powerful story of loss and the desire to move forward.« – Publishers Weekly, New York

»A brilliant dissection of a fragmented nation in which a glimmer of hope relieves a somber but wholly memorable tale.« – Kirkus Reviews (starred review), New York

»Compelling...Schlink does a superb job of character development and sensitively charts the evolving relationship between Kaspar and Sigrun.« – Booklist (starred review), Chicago

»The weight of the past hasn't disappeared, it has shape-shifted. Perpetrators are dead, but the record of their evil deeds lives on. How best to cope? Schlink has his doppelgänger provide an answer.«
– Clare McHugh / The Washington Post

Praise (cont'd)

»Mr. Schlink's timing is . . . astute. The rise of antisemitism and right-wing nationalism across Europe and the U.S. imbues *The Granddaughter* with a wider, more profound resonance.« – Julia M. Klein / Wall Street Journal, New York

Bernhard Schlink

»Schlink has won his huge popular following by bringing to bear a penetrating intelligence about the psyche of his characters and an empathy for their dilemmas. Professor Schlink may be an expert on the letter of the law, but writer Schlink is an intrepid explorer of the much trickier terrain of the human heart.« – Andrew Nagorski / Newsweek, London

»[Schlink] writes instructive tales that adeptly raise difficult questions and propose appealing answers.« – New York Times Book Review

»The German novelist Bernhard Schlink is pretty much second to none when it comes to storytelling.« – Helmut Atteneder / Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, Linz

»Schlink knows the depths of the human soul all too well. The writer and judge proves with each of his books that he knows how to transform German history into literature.« – ZeitPunkt, Leipzig

»One of the most successful and versatile German writers of our time.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»The truly masterly aspect of Schlink's prose is its intelligence – an intelligence that is firmly rooted in common sense.« – Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg