

Diogenes

Chris Kraus
Cold Blood

Published by Diogenes as *Das kalte Blut*
Original title: *Das kalte Blut*



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Roman · Diogenes

The great new German novel by filmmaker Chris Kraus who proves himself a great narrator and finds images of biblical force. An epos of two Baltic-German brothers in the maelstrom of the 20th century.

A novel that takes readers to the dark chambers of the rubble of the Nazi regime.

Cold Blood tells the story of an entire epoch: a drama of betrayal and self-delusion spanning the years 1905 to 1975 and taking us from Riga to Moscow, Berlin and Munich all the way to Tel Aviv.

The protagonists are Hubert, Konstantin and Ev Solm – two Baltic-German brothers and their Jewish adopted sister.

Their constant companion on their convoluted paths through life is a lie, disguised as a secret.

Two brothers from Riga climb the career ladder: first in Nazi Germany, then as spies for the young West Germany. Along with and between them is the Jewess Ev, the lover of both of them by turns. A passionate ménage à trois unfolds that takes the protagonists to terrifying moral and political depths.

The story of the Solms is also the story of twentieth-century Germany: the decline of an old world and the rise of a new one – under new auspices but with the same familiar protagonists.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
1200 pages
12.5 x 20 cm
April 2017

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:

Dutch (Signatuur)
English/world (Pan Macmillan)
French (Belfond)
Italian (SEM Libri)
Spanish/world (Salamandra)

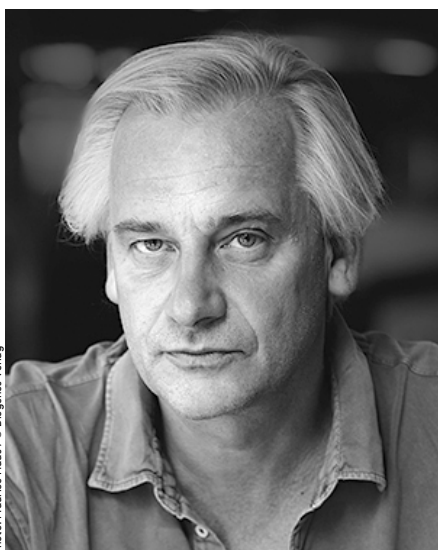
🎬 Movie adaptation

2017: *Die Blumen von gestern*

Director: Chris Kraus
Screenplay: Chris Kraus
Cast: Lars Eidinger, Adèle Haenel, Hannah Herzprung, Jan Josef Liefers

🏆 Awards

- 2023 Spanische Übersetzung von *Das kalte Blut* mit dem Preis des besten historischen Romans in Übersetzung am »XIII Premios de Literatura Histórica Hislibris« ausgezeichnet
- 2021 Chris Kraus für Drehbuch *15 Jahre* für »Thomas Strittmatter Preis« nominiert
- 2020 Vom französischen Goethe-Institut für den »Prix Nerval Goethe« nominiert
- 2019 Französische Übersetzung von *Das kalte Blut* auf Platz 3 der Lieblingsbücher von *Livres Hebdo* in der Kategorie »foreign fiction« und unter den 10 besten Büchern der »Rentrée Littéraire«, ausgewählt von France Culture und L'Obs
- 2019 Französische Übersetzung von *Das kalte Blut* eines der 13 besten Bücher des Jahres 2019 der Zeitschrift *Lire* in der Kategorie »Foreign Fiction/Littérature étrangère«
- 2019 Französische Übersetzung von *Das kalte Blut* für den »Prix du meilleur livre étranger« nominiert
- 2019 Französische Übersetzung von *Das kalte Blut* für den »Prix Femina« nominiert
- 2017 »Gilde Filmpreis« im Rahmen der Filmkunstmesse Leipzig für *Die Blumen von gestern* als bester nationaler Film des Kinjahres
- 2017 Hauptpreis als »Bester Spielfilm« beim »3rd Jewish Festival Moscow«, einem der größten jüdischen Filmfestivals Europas für Verfilmung *Die Blumen von gestern*
- 2017 »CLIO«, Preis für den besten Film zu einem historischen Thema für *Die Blumen von gestern* am 1. Filmfestival Moving History (Festival des historischen Films Potsdam)
- 2016 »Prädikat besonders wertvoll« (Deutsche Film- und Medienbewertung (FBW)) für *Die Blumen von gestern*



Chris Kraus, born in 1963 in Göttingen, is a writer, scriptwriter and filmmaker. His films, which have achieved international renown (including *Dance on Shards* and *Poll*) have received multiple awards, including seven ›German Film Prizes‹. Chris Kraus has published four novels. His literary breakthrough, the family epic *Cold Blood*, was translated into numerous languages and became a bestseller in France and Spain. The author lives in Berlin.

🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 2016 Doppelauszeichnung am 29. Internationalen Filmfestival von Tokyo: Publikumspreis ›WOWOW Viewer's Choice Award‹ und Hauptpreis ›Tokyo Grand Prix‹ für *Die Blumen von gestern*
- 2016 ›BadenWürttembergischer Filmpreis‹ für *Die Blumen von gestern*
- 2013 ›Thomas Strittmatter Preis‹ für das Drehbuch *Die Blumen von gestern*
- 2007 Deutscher Filmpreis für *Vier Minuten* als bester Spielfilm

Praise

Cold Blood

»The furors of the twentieth century present themselves to us in this great novel, which is as worthwhile reading as historical essays.« – Denis Lefebvre / Historia, Paris

»Love, family, blood, and tears: this extraordinary tome is a brilliant page-turner!« – Cosmopolitan, Clichy

»Don't be afraid of spending 900 pages in the company of a monster, you won't regret it.« – Arnaud Laporte / Grazia, Montrouge

»I devoured *Cold Blood*, 887 pages of unprecedented terror.« – Hélène Viollovitch / Elle, Levallois-Perret

»A monumental symphony by a writer-filmmaker living in Berlin, *Cold Blood* loses many of its soldiers en route, but the scale of the project demands admiration.« – Didier Jacob / L'Obs, Paris

»This is a magnum opus.« – Damien Aubeil / Transfuge, Roubaix

»If you want to understand what Europe is today, and how Germany became what it is today, how it managed to overcome the terrible trauma of National Socialism, then you have to read *Cold Blood*.« – Bernard Poirrette / Europe 1, Paris

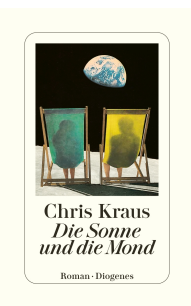
»We haven't read anything this ambitious since *The Kindly Ones*.« – Le Figaro, Paris

»This barbarity which was continued in the shadows by the worst survivors, was awaiting its epic poem. Kraus has written it.« – Nicolas Weill / Le Monde, Paris

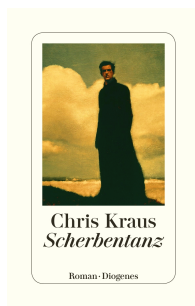
»A breath-taking novel, at times simultaneously sad and funny, sometimes almost unbearable, covering 70 years of history.« – Fabrice Colin / Le nouveau magazine littéraire, Paris

»Of course it makes you think of *The Kindly Ones*, but a lighter, more easily accessible version, less intellectual, very captivating and a times veering into the intimate.« – Le Point, Paris

»With *Cold Blood* Chris Kraus climbs a mountain to the very top. A thousand things happen in this excellently translated novel.« – L'Express, Paris



Sun and Moon
608 pages
2025



Dance on Shards
256 pages
2020



Summer Women, Winter Women
416 pages
2018



The Bloom of Yesterday
192 pages
2017
🏆 Award winner
🎬 Movie Adaptation

Praise (cont'd)

»A historical fresco, spy novel, political and philosophical fable: in this literary labyrinth you get lost with gusto.« – Lire, Noailles

»A great novel. Brilliant!« – Radio Europe 1, Paris

»Chris Kraus masterfully tells a story of moral chasms in politics, love and society in the last century.« – Donna, Munich

»The most hotly anticipated book of the German literary calendar is an epic tale of betrayal and self-delusion spanning seventy years. [...] Despite the weightiness of its topic, Kraus's lightness of touch, combined with the compelling story he has to tell, make this a novel that is hard to put down.« – New Books in German (US Jury Pick), London

»A furious opus magnum. Full of the joy of storytelling and strong images, drunk on emotion, as sensual as it is unscrupulous. An insanely good book.« – Harald Pauli / Focus, Berlin

»It's an impressive ride – the 900 pages, give or take, flow by with impetuous rhythm – a common thread through more than sixty years of the past century, from the rise of National Socialism into the Cold War.« – Letizia Tortello / La Stampa, Torino

»*Cold Blood* is suspenseful, well written and vaguely reminds one of the novel *The Kindly Ones* by Jonathan Littell.« – Maarten Moll / Het Parool, Amsterdam

Chris Kraus

»Kraus has a distinct feel for punch lines.« – Silja Ukena / Kulturspiegel, Hamburg

»Chris Kraus is excellent at observing the small things.« – Stefan May / Die Presse, Vienna