

# Diogenes

**Donna Leon**  
***Wilful Behaviour***

Published by Diogenes as *Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima*  
Original title: *Wilful Behaviour*



**Donna Leon**  
***Die dunkle Stunde  
der Serenissima***  
*Commissario Brunettis  
elfter Fall*  
*Roman · Diogenes*

Paola Brunetti has just finished her lecture on the code of honour in Edith Wharton's novels, when Claudia Leonardo, one of her students, asks her a favour: She's troubled by a dark spot in her family's past. Years ago, her grandfather was accused of fishy business dealings. What could one do to restore his good name? Can Paola's husband with his knowledge of the law help her? But before the Commissario and Paola can find out what is the reason for the girl's distress, Claudia is dead. The investigation of her death takes Brunetti back to World War II, a time which neither his own father nor his father-in-law, Conte Orazio, have ever been keen to discuss. Brunetti starts to unearth long buried secrets of collaboration, racketeering, and the exploitation of Italian Jews during the War. Gripping, atmospheric and threatening: Commissario Brunetti is taking on dangerous enemies, and the ghosts of the past are more powerful than he thinks...

## Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature  
384 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
June 2003

World rights are handled by Diogenes

### **Rights currently sold:**

English/UK (William Heinemann)  
English/USA (Grove /Atlantic)  
Estonian (Pegasus)  
French (Calmann-Lévy)  
Polish (Noir sur Blanc)  
Spanish/world (Planeta)

### **Bestseller**

Spiegel Bestseller

### **Movie adaptations**

#### **2019: Ewige Jugend**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Screenplay: Jens-Frederik Otto  
Cast: Mit: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett Renneberg, Karl Fischer, Michael Degen. In Episodenrollen: Max von Thun, Nadja Bobyleva, Hildegard Schmahl, Andreas Pietschmann, Nina Kronjäger.

#### **2019: Stille Wasser**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Screenplay: Stefan und Florian Iwersen Holtz  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Marie Leuenberger, Suzanne von Borsody

#### **2018: Endlich mein**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Screenplay: Stefan Holtz und Florian Iwersen  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen, Annett Renneberg. In Episodenrollen Leslie Malton, Edin Hasanovic und Jürgen Tarrach.

#### **2017: Tod zwischen den Zeilen**

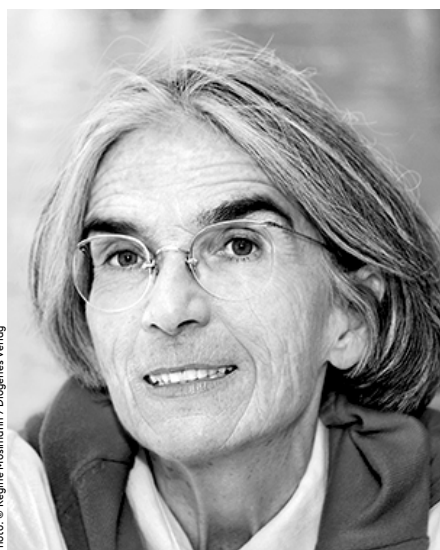
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Screenplay: Stefan und Florian Iwersen Holtz  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen und Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen: Jenny Schily, Thorsten Merten, Harald Schrott.

#### **2016: Das goldene Ei**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Screenplay: Florian & Stefan Holtz Iwersen  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen, Juliane Köhler, Imogen Kogge

#### **2015: Tierische Profite**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Screenplay: Florian Iwersen  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett Renneberg, Karl Fischer, Michael Degen, Alice Dwyer, Florian Bartholomäi, Max Hopp, Walter Kreye



Donna Leon, born in New Jersey in 1942, has worked as a travel guide in Rome and as a copywriter in London. She taught literature in universities in Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia. The Brunetti novels brought her to world-wide fame. Donna Leon lived in Italy for many years, and although she now lives in Switzerland, she often visits Venice.

**📺 Movie adaptations (cont'd)**

**2014: Reiches Erbe**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Screenplay: Florian Iwersen  
 Cast: Neben dem beliebten Stammensemble um Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Annett Renneberg, Karl Fischer und Michael Degen spielen in Episodenrollen David Rott, Lisa Wagner, Tilo Prückner, Renate Delfs und Liv Lisa Fries.

**2013: Auf Treu und Glauben**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Screenplay: Holger Joos  
 Cast: Mit der bewährten Besetzung rund um Uwe Kockisch, in Episodenrollen u.a. Jeanette Hain, Stephan Grossmann und Nicole Heesters

**2012: Schöner Schein**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Screenplay: Holger Joos  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen u.a. Michael Mendl, Esther Schweins und Merab Ninidze.

**2011: Das Mädchen seiner Träume**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen, Annett Renneberg, Jasmin Tabatabai, Martin Feifel, Valerie Niehaus

**2010: Lasset die Kinder zu mir kommen (TV)**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen und Julia Jäger. In Episodenrollen u.a.: Nadeshda Brennicke, Michael Gwisdek und Gregor Törzs

**2009: Wie durch ein dunkles Glas**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Michael Degen und Annett Renneberg. In Episodenrollen Heikko Deutschmann, Katharina Wackernagel und Birge Schade.

**2008: Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger, Axel Milberg, Katrin Sass, Bettina Zimmermann, Rike Schmid

**2008: Blutige Steine**


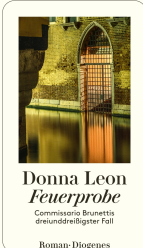






Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Karl Fischer, Annett Renneberg, Michael Degen, Julia Jäger, Helmut Zierl, Ernest Allan Hausmann, Rosel Zech

**2006: Endstation Venedig**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Esther Schweins, Heiner Lauterbach, Monica Bleibtreu

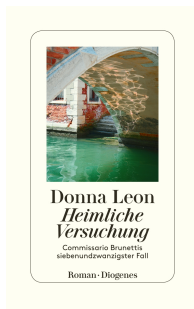
**2006: Das Gesetz der Lagune**

Director: Sigi Rothemund  
 Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger, Tim Bergmann, Laura-Charlotte Syniawa

 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Backstage</i> Diogenes</p> <p><b>Backstage</b> 256 pages 2025</p>	 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Feuerprobe</i> Commissario Brunetti dreiunddreißigster Fall Roman-Diogenes</p> <p><b>A Refiner's Fire</b> 336 pages 2024 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Wie die Saat, so die Ernte</i> Commissario Brunetti zweiunddreißigster Fall Roman-Diogenes</p> <p><b>So Shall You Reap</b> 320 pages 2023 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Ein Leben in Geschichten</i> Diogenes</p> <p><b>Wandering Through Life</b> 192 pages 2022 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>
 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Milde Gaben</i> Commissario Brunetti einunddreißigster Fall Roman-Diogenes</p> <p><b>Give Unto Others</b> 352 pages 2022 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Flüchtiges Begehren</i> Commissario Brunetti dreißigster Fall Roman-Diogenes</p> <p><b>Transient Desires</b> 320 pages 2021 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Mit Brunetti durchs Leben</i> Brevier für nachdenkliche Optimisten Diogenes</p> <p><b>Brunetti's Miscellany</b> 400 pages 2021</p>	 <p><b>Donna Leon</b> <i>Geheime Quellen</i> Commissario Brunetti neunundzwanzigster Fall Roman-Diogenes</p> <p><b>Trace Elements</b> 320 pages 2020 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>



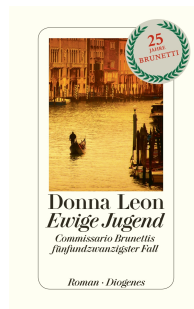
**Unto Us a Son Is Given**  
320 pages  
2019  
🎬 **Award winner**  
📌 **Bestseller**



**The Temptation of Forgiveness**  
336 pages  
2018  
📌 **Bestseller**



**Earthly Remains**  
352 pages  
2017  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



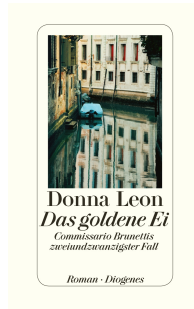
**The Waters of Eternal Youth**  
336 pages  
2016  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



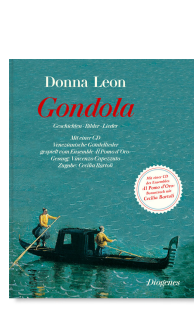
**Falling in Love**  
320 pages  
2015  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



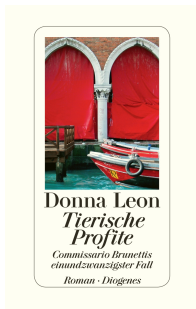
**By its Cover**  
288 pages  
2015  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



**The Golden Egg**  
320 pages  
2014  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



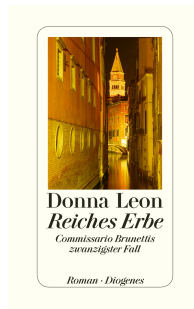
**Gondola**  
140 pages  
2013



**Beastly Things**  
336 pages  
2013  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



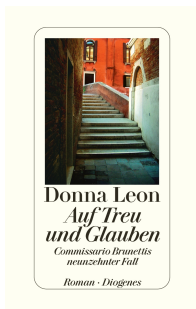
**The Jewels of Paradise**  
304 pages  
2012  
📌 **Bestseller**



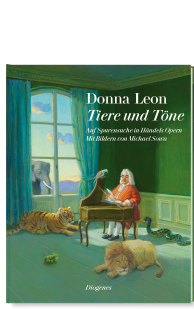
**Drawing Conclusions**  
320 pages  
2012  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



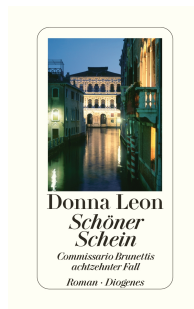
**Venetian Curiosities**  
80 pages  
2011



**A Question of Belief**  
320 pages  
2011  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



**Handel's Bestiary**  
144 pages  
2010



**About Face**  
352 pages  
2010  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
📌 **Bestseller**



**At Table with the Brunettis**  
288 pages  
2009

🎬 **Movie adaptations (cont'd)**

**2005: Beweise, dass es böse ist**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

**2005: Verschwiegene Kanäle**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

**2004: Sanft entschlafen**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

**2004: Acqua Alta**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

**2003: Venezianisches Finale**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

**2003: Feine Freunde**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Uwe Kockisch, Julia Jäger u.a.

**2002: Nobiltà**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

**2001: In Sachen Signora Brunetti**  
Director: Sigi Rothemund  
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

**2001: Davon stirbt man nicht**  
Director: Christine Hartmann  
Cast: J. Prochnow

**2000: Vendetta**  
Director: Christian Castelberg  
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

**2000: Venizianische Scharade**  
Director: Christian Castelberg  
Cast: Joachim Krol, Barbara Auer

🏆 **Awards**

- 2024 ›Ehrenpreis des Bayerischen Ministerpräsidenten‹ für ihr Werk
- 2024 ›Ripper Award‹ von der Jury des Europäischen Preises für Kriminalliteratur
- 2021 ›Gaudium Award‹ des Breukelein Institutes
- 2019 ›Lifetime Achievement Award‹ vom Strand Magazine
- 2019 Ein Sohn ist uns geboren war auf der Shortlist des ›Golden Dagger Award‹
- 2018 ›B.Z.-Kulturpreis‹ (Berliner Zeitung)
- 2016 ›Premio Pepe Carvalho‹ anlässlich des Krimifestivals BCNegra von der Stadtregierung Barcelonas
- 2006 Das Hörbuch *Mein Venedig* ist auf den 1. Platz des österreichischen Publikumspreises ›Buchliebbling‹ gewählt worden, der Roman *Verschwiegene Kanäle* erzielte den 3. Platz in der Rubrik ›Krimis und Thriller‹



**Donna Leon**  
*Das Mädchen seiner Träume*  
Commissario Brunetti's siebenter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*The Girl of His Dreams*  
352 pages  
2009

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Toni Sepeda**  
*Mit Brunetti durch Venedig*  
Venedig von Donna Leon  
Diogenes

*Brunetti's Venice*  
368 pages  
2008



**Donna Leon**  
*Lasset die Kinder mit mir kommen*  
Commissario Brunetti's sechster Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Suffer the Little Children*  
368 pages  
2008

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Wie durch ein dunkles Glas*  
Commissario Brunetti's fünfter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Through a Glass Darkly*  
352 pages  
2007

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Blutige Steine*  
Commissario Brunetti's vierter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Blood from a Stone*  
368 pages  
2006

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Über Venedig, Musik, Menschen und Bücher*  
Diogenes

*On Venice, Music, People and Books*  
352 pages  
2005



**Donna Leon**  
*Beweise, daß es böse ist*  
Commissario Brunetti's dritter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Doctored Evidence*  
336 pages  
2005

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Verschwiegene Kanäle*  
Commissario Brunetti's zweiter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Uniform Justice*  
336 pages  
2004

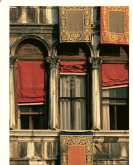
**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Das Gesetz der Lagune*  
Commissario Brunetti's erster Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*A Sea of Troubles*  
336 pages  
2002

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Feine Freunde*  
Commissario Brunetti's neunter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Friends in High Places*  
336 pages  
2001

**Award winner**  
 **Movie Adaptation**



**Donna Leon**  
*In Sachen Signora Brunetti*  
Der achte Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Fatal Remedies*  
320 pages  
2000

**Movie Adaptation**



**Donna Leon**  
*Eine Amerikanerin in Venedig*  
Geschichten aus dem Alltag  
Diogenes

*An American in Venice*  
96 pages  
2000

## Awards (cont'd)

- 2005 ›Silver Award‹ in der Kategorie ›Krimi/Thriller‹ des britischen Hörbuchpreises ›Spoken Word Awards‹ für das englische Hörbuch *Blood from a Stone* (dt. *Blutige Steine*)
- 2003 Donna Leon erhält den ›Corine – Internationaler Buchpreis‹ für *Die dunkle Stunde der Serenissima*
- 2000 Donna Leon ist im Rahmen der Veranstaltungen zum Welttag des Buches für *Nobiltà* mit dem ›Goldenen Buch‹ des Österreichischen Hauptverbandes des Buchhandels ausgezeichnet worden.
- 2000 Donna Leon erhält den ›Silver Dagger‹ der Crime Writers' Association für *Friends in High Places* (dt. *Feine Freunde*)
- 1997 3. Platz für *Venezianische Scharade* in der Internationalen Sparte beim 13. ›Deutschen Krimi-Preis‹
- 1991 Japans renommiertes ›Suntory‹-Preis für *Death at la Fenice* (dt. *Venezianisches Finale*)

## Praise

### *Wilful Behaviour*

»This is a powerful story, brilliantly evoking Venetian atmosphere, and the characters of Brunetti and his family continue to deepen throughout this series.« – The Times, London

»A classic example of detective-book murder, it is satisfyingly difficult to resolve ... Leon whips up a brilliant narrative storm.« – Sunday Times, London

### Donna Leon

»Brilliant.« – Sunday Times, London

»A splendid series . . . with a backdrop of the city so vivid you can almost smell it.« – The Sunday Telegraph, London

»Donna Leon can paralyze the reader with joyful suspense.« – The Mail on Sunday, London

»[Donna Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation.« – Ursula K. LeGuin / The New York Times

»The most obvious appeal of Donna Leon's novels about Commissario Guido Brunetti is that they are so supremely civilized. For readers with a certain mindset—distaste for violence, love of Italy's cultural and sensual pleasures and scorn for officialdom — Donna Leon's novels are always a pleasure.« – Patrick Anderson / The Washington Post

»Donna Leon guides us through Venice like James Ellroy through Los Angeles or Manuel Vázquez Montalbán through Barcelona: with an eye used to detect what lies behind the façade.« – Le Figaro, Paris



**Donna Leon**  
*Nobiltà*  
Commissario Brunetti's achter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*A Noble Radiance*  
304 pages  
1999

**Award winner**  
 **Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Latin Lover*  
Von Männern und Frauen  
Diogenes

*Latin Lover*  
112 pages  
1999



**Donna Leon**  
*Sanft entschlafen*  
Commissario Brunetti's achter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Quietly in Their Sleep*  
352 pages  
1998

**Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Donna Leon**  
*Acqua alta*  
Commissario Brunetti's fünfter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

*Acqua alta*  
384 pages  
1997

**Movie Adaptation**



**Donna Leon**  
*Vendetta*  
Commissario Brunetti  
erster Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

**Death and Judgment**  
352 pages  
1997

**Movie Adaptation**



**Donna Leon**  
*Venezianische Scharade*  
Commissario Brunetti  
dritter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

**Dressed for Death**  
384 pages  
1996

**Award winner**  
 **Movie Adaptation**



**Donna Leon**  
*Endstation Venedig*  
Commissario Brunetti  
zweiter Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

**Death in a Strange Country**  
400 pages  
1995

**Movie Adaptation**



**Donna Leon**  
*Venezianisches Finale*  
Commissario Brunetti  
erster Fall  
Roman · Diogenes

**Death at La Fenice**  
352 pages  
1993

**Award winner**  
 **Movie Adaptation**

## Praise (cont'd)

»Donna Leon is a top thriller writer, on a par with Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Patricia Highsmith and Ruth Rendell. Women, so it would seem from literary history, have always been in their element with the genre of murder and violence.« – Sonntags Zeitung, Zurich

»Brilliantly evokes Venetian atmosphere. The characters of Brunetti and his family continue to deepen throughout this series.« – The Times, London

»Donna Leon is the undisputed crime fiction queen.« – Sarah Weinman / Baltimore Sun

»In the footsteps of Brunetti, endowed with a ruthless humor and a healthy appetite, Donna Leon's readers discover Venice better than with a guide book.« – Le Monde, Paris

»Brunetti's humane police work is disarming, and his ambles through the city are a delight.« – The New York Times, Book Review

»Brunetti remains unique – an everyman who's also extraordinary.« – Publishers Weekly

»Donna Leon's Venetian mysteries never disappoint, calling up the romantic sights and sound of La Serenissima even as they acquaint us with the practical matters that concern the city's residents.« – Marilyn Stasio / The New York Times Book Review

»Donna Leon's books are a joy.« – The Guardian, London

»When writing about her beloved Venice, Donna Leon can do no wrong.« – The New York Times

»[Leon] has never become perfunctory, never failed to give us vivid portraits of people and of Venice, never lost her fine, disillusioned indignation.« – Ursula K. Le Guin / New York Times, New York

»Hers is an unusually potent cocktail of atmosphere and event.« – The New Yorker, New York

»[Leon] uses the relatively small and crime-free canvas of Venice for rips about Italian life, sexual styles and – best of all – the kind of ingrown business and political corruption that seems to lurk just below the surface.« – Chicago Tribune, Chicago

»Leon started out with offhand, elegant excellence, and has simply kept it up.« – The Guardian, London

»Leon whips up a brilliant narrative storm.« – Sunday Times, London

»Her depiction of Venice, its crimes and beauties, villains and heroes, high and low and the character of Brunetti and his family and friends has long been a delight for discerning readers. The warmth, understanding and shrewdness with which Leon's elegant, witty prose depicts this particular part of Italy is a joy. She is one of the best European novelists around, and her unflinching address to current affairs makes her worthy of the highest regard.« – Amanda Craig

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**Praise (cont'd)**

»She has reinvented Venice.« – Kristina Maidt-Zinke / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Her love for this city shines through from every line of her crime novels.« – Maria Wiesner / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»Leon's pedagogical eros is akin to that of Mary Poppins. Who could resist it?« – Simone Dattenberger / Münchner Merkur, Munich

»To read her is to restore the soul.« – Mark Sanderson / The Times, London