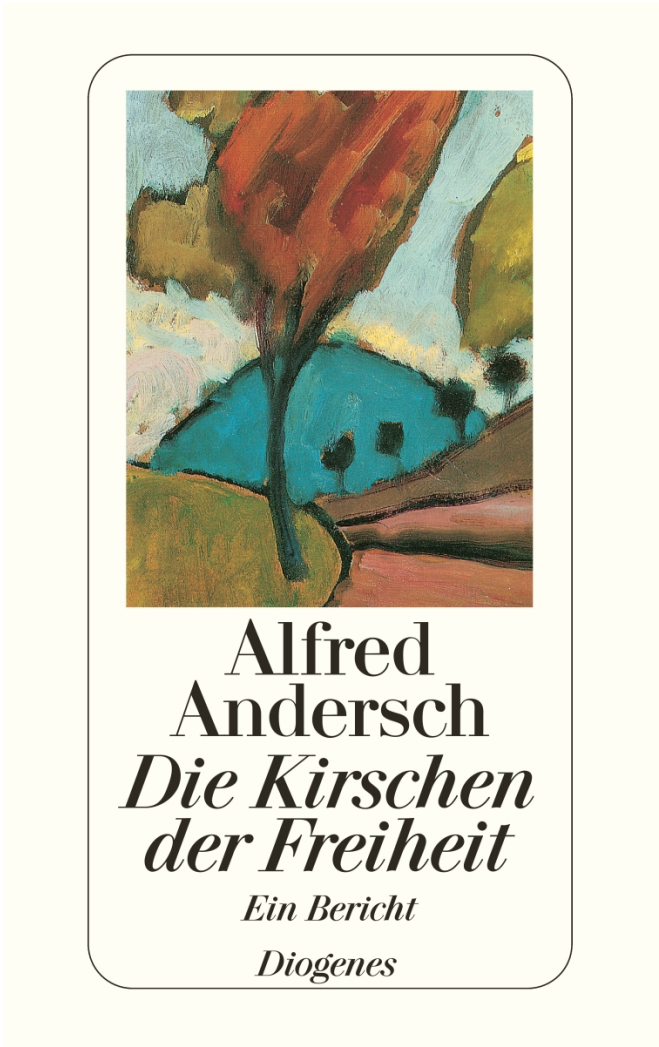
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Alfred Andersch
Cherries of Freedom

Published by Diogenes as *Die Kirschen der Freiheit*
Original title: *Die Kirschen der Freiheit*



Alfred Andersch, one of the foremost novelists of post-war Germany, spent most of the war plotting his desertion from the Wehrmacht. ›At a certain moment I chose to act in a way that gave meaning to my life, and from that time on that action became the axle around which the wheel of my existence revolved…‹

When the opportunity arose at last, in the idyllic Italian countryside on the day of the Normandy landings in 1944 and until he was safely taken POW by the advancing American army, Andersch found himself in a wilderness, a place of freedom. The cherries he plucked from a tree were the cherries of freedom, and the taste of them was one Andersch had not known for all of the years of the Third Reich: the taste of freedom.

Contemporary Literature
144 pages
11.3 × 18 cm
February 1971

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Dutch (Arbeiderspers)

Movie adaptations

1993: Tochter
Director: Guy Kubli
Cast: Rudin Denise, Förnbacher Helmut

1988: Die Kirschen der Freiheit
Director: Stephan Reinhardt

1987: Sansibar oder der letzte Grund
Director: Bernhard Wicki
Screenplay: Karin Hagen
Cast: Peter Kremer, Cornelia Schmaus, Gisela Stein

1985: Vater eines Mörders
Director: Carl-Heinz Caspari

1977: Winterspelt 1944
Director: Eberhard Fechner
Cast: Ulrich von Dobschütz, Katharina Thalbach, Hans-Christian Blech

1965: Haakons Hosentaschen
Director: Martin Bosboom
Cast: Filmessay/Dokumentation (HR) von Alfred Andersch, aus der das Buch »Hohe Breitengrade« entstand.

1962: La rossa
Director: Helmut Käutner
Cast: Ruth Leuwerik, Rossanzo Brazzi, Gert Fröbe

1961: Sansibar oder der letzte Grund
Director: Rainer Wolffhardt
Cast: Robert Graf, Beatrice Schweizer, Paul Dahlke

Praise

Cherries of Freedom

»›The Cherries of Freedom‹ is a unique testament to the pernicious boredom Fascism inflicted on a young man with heightened aesthetic sensibility, deprived of outlets for expression.« – Carolin McGinn / Times Literary Supplement, London

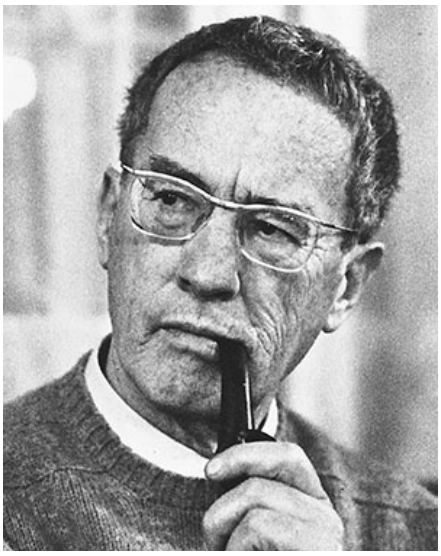


Photo: © Isolde Ohlbaum

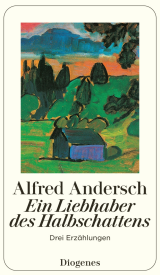
Alfred Andersch (1914 – 1980) was sent to Dachau concentration camp in 1933. After deserting from the Wehrmacht in 1944, he became an American prisoner of war. After his return to Germany, he worked as a journalist and publicist, and was one of the founders of German radio. Andersch is one of Germany's most important post-war authors, and his books are on school reading lists. Alfred Andersch died in Berzona / Ticino in 1980.



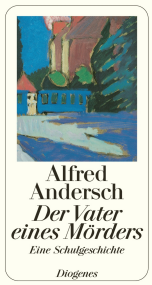
Leeward Islands
544 pages
2014



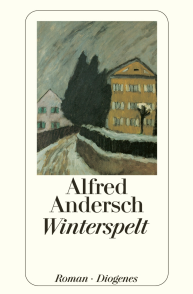
Correspondence
192 pages
2014



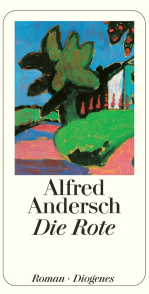
An Admirer of Half Shadows
112 pages
2006



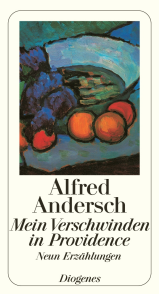
The Father of a Murderer
144 pages
1980
Movie Adaptation



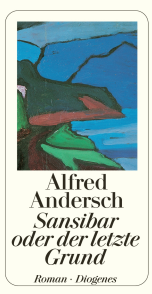
Winterspelt
604 pages
1974



The Redhead
272 pages
1972
Movie Adaptation



My Disappearance in Providence
276 pages
1971



Flight to Afar
224 pages
1970

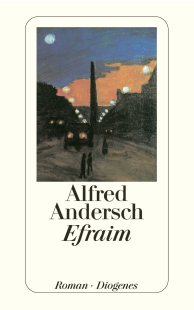
Praise (cont'd)

»Andersch's rambling coming-of-age story is grim, acutely self-aware, and written entirely in the first person with the barest taste of dialogue. (...) How all this adds up to such a compelling book is a mystery - but it does.« – Neal Wyatt / Publisher's Weekly, New York

»A small gem: still brilliantly alive and relevant.« – Kirkus Reviews

Alfred Andersch

»A master of German prose.« – Max Frisch



Efraim's Book
472 pages
1967
Award winner