

Diogenes

Friedrich Dürrenmatt
The Assignment

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Original title: *Der Auftrag*



Dürrenmatt
Der Auftrag
oder
Vom Beobachten
des Beobachters
der Beobachter
Novelle · Diogenes

From the moment F., a woman filmmaker, accepts the assignment to go to the Al-Hakim ruins to investigate the rape and murder of the wife of Otto von Lambert, a psychiatrist, she finds herself becoming the central character in a deepening mystery. In the unnamed Arab country where the crime occurred, she is unwittingly involved in a labyrinthine quest for an elusive truth, with frightening consequences at every turn. Under vigilance by the police, she discovers a recent photograph of the supposed murder victim happily reunited with her husband. But what is even more unnerving, F. is trapped in an increasingly apocalyptic landscape riddled with political intrigue, crimes of mistaken identity, espionage, and terrorism.

Book factsheet

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
136 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
February 1986

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Turkish (Yapi Kredi)

📺 Movie adaptations

2015: Im Labyrinth / Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Der kritische Geist der Schweiz

Director: Sabine Gisiger
Screenplay: Sabine Gisiger

2010: Schurkenstück

Director: Torsten C. Fischer
Screenplay: Eva Zahn
Cast: Katharina Schüttler und Oliver Korritke

2008: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Nikolaus Leytner
Screenplay: Thomas Eifler
Cast: Christiane Hörbiger, Michael Mendl,
Muriel Baumeister, Rolf Hoppe, Rüdiger Vogler

2001: The Pledge

Director: Sean Penn
Cast: Margaret Larsen, Helen Jackson

1997: Es geschah am helllichten Tag

Director: Nico Hofmann
Cast: Joachim Król, Barbara Rudnik, Axel
Milberg

1996: Es geschah am helllichten Tag

Director: Bernd Eichinger
Cast: Jochaim Krol, Barbara Rudnik, Axel
Milberg

1995: Tod im kalten Morgenlicht

Director: Rudolf van den Berg
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Lynsey Baxter, Perdita
Weeks

1994: Der Wiedertäufer

Director: Heinrich Koch

1994: In the Cold Light of Day

Director: Rudolf van den Berg
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Perdita Weeks, Simon
Cadell

1993: Justiz

Director: Hans Werner Geißendörfer
Cast: Maximilian Schell, Thomas Heinze,
Matthias Gnädinger, Anna Thalbach



Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921 – 1990) was born in Konolfingen near Berne as the son of a protestant minister. He studied philosophy, German literature and history of art in Berne and Zurich and worked as a playwright, novelist, essayist and painter in Neuchâtel, where he lived with his family.



Subject Matter
2352 pages
2021



The Plays
1584 pages
2015



The Crime Novels
992 pages
2011



His Life in Pictures
376 pages
2011



Labyrinth / Turmbau (Subject Matter I-IX)
736 pages
2002

My Switzerland
256 pages
1998



The Minotaur/ The Assignment; or, On the Observing of the Observers/ Midas
208 pages
1998



Max Frisch, Friedrich Dürrenmatt - Correspondence
240 pages
1998

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1992: Hyänen / Hyènes, Ramatou
Director: Djibril diop Mamberty
Screenplay: Djibril diop Mamberty
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

1992: Hyènes
Director: Djibril diop Mamberty
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

1989: Die Welt ist ein Irrenhaus: Achterloo IV
Director: Roman Brodman

1988: Abendstunde im Spätherbst
Director: August Everding
Cast: Mario Adorf, Horst Bollmann

1988: Achterloo
Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Helmut Lohner, Georg Preusse

1982: Der Besuch der alten Dame
Director: Max Peter Ammann
Cast: Maria Schell, Adolphe Spalinger, Günter Lamprecht

1982: Der Besuch der alten Dame
Director: Max Peter Ammann
Cast: Maria Schell, Günter Lamprecht, Ruedi Walter

1975: Der Richter und sein Henker
Director: Maximilian Schell
Cast: Jon Voight, Jacquerline Bisset, Helmut Qualtinger, Robert Shaw, Friedrich Dürrenmatt

1974: Der Mitmacher
Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Buddy Elias, Elmar Schulte, Werner Schumacher

1973: Der Wiedertäufer
Director: Werner Schlechte
Cast: E. Marks, F. Schütter, V. Lechtenbrink

1973: Der Besuch der alten Dame
Director: Hans/Cella Gaugler/Ettore
Cast: Hasle Rüegsau

1972: La piu bella serata della mia vita
Director: Ettore Scola
Cast: Alberto Sordi, Michel Simon, Pierre Brasseur

1971: Porträt eines Planeten
Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: W. Reichmann, H. Lohner, Ch. Hörbiger

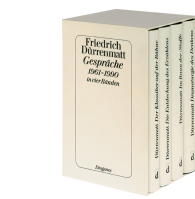
1971: König Johann
Director: Vaclav Hudcek
Cast: H. Qualtinger, H. Seeböck

1967: Der Meteor
Director: Leopold Lindtberg
Cast: Leonard Steckel, Wolfgang Forester, Gert Westphal, Peter Brogle

1967: Frank V. Opfer einer Privatbank
Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Therese Giehse, Hubert von Meyernick



Switzerland - A Prison
80 pages
1997



Conversations 1961-1990
1296 pages
1996

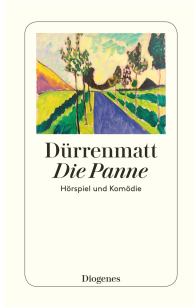


The Pledge
160 pages
1996

Movie Adaptation



The Pensioner
200 pages
1995



Traps
144 pages
1995

Movie Adaptation



The Enormity of the Possible
144 pages
1993

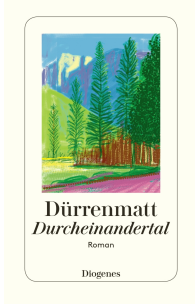


Gedankenfuge
208 pages
1992



Greek Man Seeks Greek Wife
160 pages
1992

Movie Adaptation



The Vale of Confusion
176 pages
1989



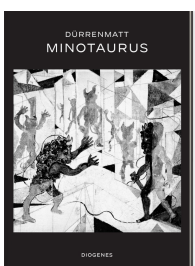
Trials
184 pages
1988



The Judge and His Hangman
128 pages
1986



Suspicion
128 pages
1986



The Minotaur
56 pages
1985

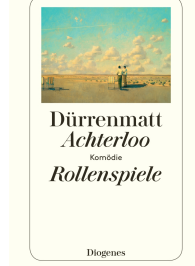


Justice
376 pages
1985

Movie Adaptation



The Winter War in Tibet
192 pages
1984



Achterloo
128 pages
1983

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1966: Grieche sucht Griechin

Director: Rolf Thiele
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Irina Demick, Charles Regnier

1965: Romulus der Große

Director: Helmut Käutner
Cast: Romuald Pekny

1964: Die Physiker

Director: Fritz Umgelter
Cast: Therese Giehse, Gustav Knuth, Kurt Ehrhardt, Wolfgang Kieling, Siegfried Lowitz

1964: Ein Engel kommt nach Babylon

Director: William Dieterle

1963: The Visit

Director: Bernhard Wicki
Cast: Ingrid Bergmann, Anthony Quinn, Hans-Christian Blech

1961: Die Ehe des Herrn Mississippi

Director: Kurt Hoffmann
Cast: O.E. Hasse, Johanna von Koczian, Martin Held, Charles Regnier, Max Haufler

1960: Abendstunde im Spätherbst

Director: Rudolf Noelte
Cast: Ernst Schröder, Friedrich Maurer, Günter Meissner

1959: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Ludwig Cremer
Cast: R. Wanka, E. Flickenschildt, A. Schradiek

1958: Es geschah am helllichten Tag

Director: Ladislav Vajda
Screenplay: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Michel Simon, Gert Fröbe

1957: Die Panne

Director: Fritz Umgelter
Cast: Peter Ahrweiler, Carl Wery, Harry Hardt

1957: Der Richter und sein Henker

Director: Franz Peter Wirth
Cast: Herbert Tiede, Maria Körber, K.G. Saebisch

Praise

The Assignment

»Intelligent, gripping fiction with sinister and unforgettable implications.« – Boston Globe

Friedrich Dürrenmatt

»Even after the death of its author, his huge and unique work is still a dark continent, largely unilluminated and untested, a continent in motion, always good for intellectual surprises and dramatic adventures.« – Gert Ueding

»One of Europe's most important postwar dramatists.« – The Daily Telegraph, London



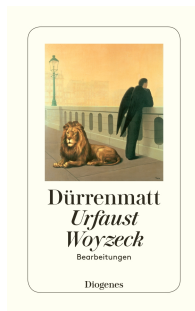
The Winter War in Tibet/ Lunar Eclipse/ The Rebel
360 pages
1981
 Movie Adaptation



Nexus
240 pages
1980



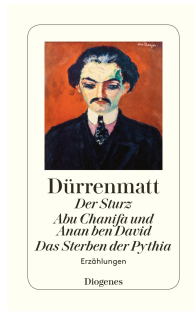
The Anabaptists
144 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Urfaust/ Woyzeck. Adaptations
208 pages
1980



Theatre
272 pages
1980



The Coup/ Abu Chanifa and Anan ben David/ Smyth/ The Dying of the Pythia
160 pages
1980



Romulus the Great
176 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



The Complete Prose Oeuvre
3024 pages
1980



Politics
192 pages
1980



Play Strindberg/ Portrait of a Planet
208 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



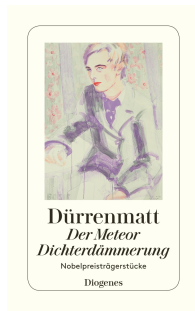
The Physicists
96 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Philosophical Essays
208 pages
1980



The Conformist
336 pages
1980



The Meteor/ Twilight of the Poets
208 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Literature and Painting
240 pages
1980



Reviews
176 pages
1980

Praise (cont'd)

»Dürrenmatt was addressing the real crowd assembled in real theaters with all their swiftly changing feelings, their ignorance, bad habits and vaulting possibilities. At the same time he was a philosopher-poet with one eye on the picture of the real, on artifice, and on the long preoccupations of philosophy and art through the ages.« – Arthur Miller

»Dürrenmatt has always been too impulsive for his times but the chaotic world has quickly caught up with him. That's why his work will last. The purifying force of his irony becomes the more important and useful – particularly because it is driven by the profound humanity that Dürrenmatt's friends always knew in him.« – Peter Brook

»Now, like an avalanche in far-off mountains, comes Friedrich Dürrenmatt, a detective-story writer with a genius for the theater, to give us a new theme, or rather to remind us of an ancient one: justice. His vision is a cold one but pure, and very nearly unique in our day, for in his devotion to the idea of justice he has succeeded in casting across an age committed to false Love the dark shadow of the scales.« – Gore Vidal

»It was once observed by Oscar Wilde that a writer should be able to write anything. Mr. Dürrenmatt meets Wilde's requirement. He adopts a manner well liked by some of our better writers, that of a Roman of the later Empire, a golden weariness. Mr. Dürrenmatt chooses compression of style and strictness of form, but the late Imperial feeling is still there.« – Saul Bellow

»One of the greatest writers of our century.« – Corriere della Sera, Milan

»Next to Kafka and Camus, he is one of the great questioners of this world.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt belonged to the most cheerful apocalyptic writers of the 20th century.« – Thomas Hürlimann / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»Universal, uncomfortable and visionary: Friedrich Dürrenmatt is the worthy reigning literary monarch of the year.« – Wener Krause / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»He is evil, he doesn't think anything good of humanity, and he describes this – but he does it with wit.« – Elke Heidenreich / SRF2, Zurich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt is a centennial author, because he saw the century that was to follow him too.« – Daniele Muscionico / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau



Dürrenmatt
*König Johann
Titus
Andronicus*
Shakespeare-Umarbeitungen
Diogenes

**King John/ Titus
Andronicus**
240 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
*Der Hund
Der Tunnel
Die Panne*
Erzählungen
Diogenes

**The Dog/ The Tunnel/
Traps**
112 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
*Herkules und
der Stall des Augias
Der Prozeß im
des Esels Schatten*
Griechische Stücke
Diogenes

**Hercules and the Augean
Stables/ The Trial about
the Donkey's Shadow**
240 pages
1980



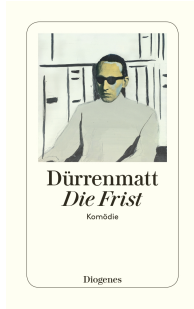
Dürrenmatt
*Grieche
sucht Griechin
Mister X
macht Ferien*
Grottesken
Diogenes

**Greek Man Seeks Greek
Wife/ Mr. X Goes on
Holiday/ News about the
State of Press during the
Stone Age**
208 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
*Nächtliches Gespräch
mit einem verachteten
Menschen*
Hörspiele und Kabarett
Diogenes

**Nocturnal Conversation
with a Scorned Man/
Stranitzky and the
National Hero/ The Vega
Enterprise**
160 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Die Frist
Komödie
Diogenes

The Deadline
160 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
*Frank
der Fünfte*
Komödie einer Privatbank
Diogenes

Frank V
176 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
*Es steht geschrieben
Der Blinde*
Frühe Stücke
Diogenes

**It Is Written/ The Blind
Man**
336 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
*Ein Engel kommt
nach Babylon*
Fragmentarische Komödie
Diogenes

**An Angel Comes to
Babylon**
144 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
*Die Ehe des
Herrn Mississippi*
Komödie und Drehbuch
Diogenes

**The Marriage of Mr.
Mississippi**
224 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation

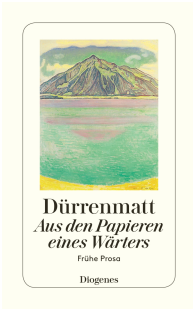


**The Complete Dramatic
Oeuvre**
3408 pages
1980



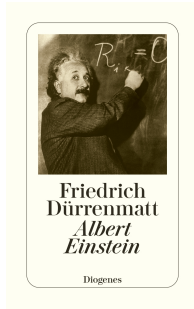
Dürrenmatt
*Der Besuch
der alten Dame*
Tragische Komödie
Diogenes

The Visit
160 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
*Aus den Papieren
eines Wärters*
Frühe Prosa
Diogenes

**Early Prose: Christmas/
The Torturer/ The
Sausage/ The Son/ The
Old Man/ Portrait of
Sisyphos/ The Theatre
Director/ The Trap/
Pilatos/ The Town/ From
the Papers of a
Guardsman**
208 pages
1980



**Friedrich
Dürrenmatt**
*Albert
Einstein*
Diogenes

Albert Einstein
80 pages
1979