Diogenes

Book factsheet

Christian Schünemann & Jelena Volic
Peony Red

Published by Diogenes as *Pfingstrosenrot*
Original title: *Pfingstrosenrot*



»Only here does the peony bloom in such strong shades of red, because the ground was soaked in so much blood.«
What happened on the night when a Serbian couple were brutally murdered in their house in Kosovo?
Milena Lukin might never have looked into the matter if her uncle Miodrag had not recognized the murdered woman as his first love. She contacts the couple's children and ventures to the scene of the crime – and into the dark depths of politics. Gradually, she comes to suspect that the killers are not from far away, but very close to her, in beautiful Belgrade.
Peony Red tells a story of how the flames of political conflict are fanned and kept alive behind the scenes because Serbs and Kosovars profit from that conflict.

Crime Fiction, Contemporary Literature
368 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2016

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
English/world (Haus)
French (Héloïse d'Ormesson)

Awards

2002 Am Open Mike wurde ein Auszug aus *Der Frisör* preisgekrönt.
2001 ›Helmut-Stegmann-Preis‹ für eine Reportage in der *Süddeutschen Zeitung*

Praise

Peony Red

»An intelligent crime novel with a highly explosive political topic.« – Frauke Kaberka / dpa, Berlin

Christian Schünemann

»Schünemann is a keen observer.« – Mannheimer Morgen

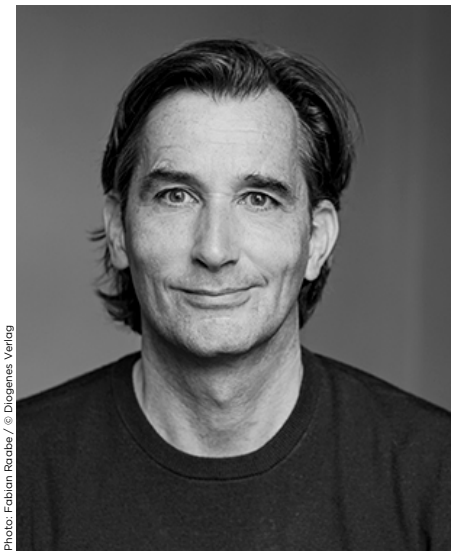


Photo: Fabian Raabe / © Diogenes Verlag

Christian Schünemann, born in 1968 in Bremen, studied Slavic Studies in Berlin and Saint Petersburg. He has worked in Moscow and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and was a storyliner and screenwriter. Diogenes has previously published his crime series about the star hairdresser Tomas Prinz, and his crime novels — co-written with Jelena Volič — about the Serbian amateur detective Milena Lukin. Christian Schünemann lives in Berlin.

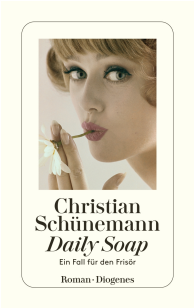


Photo: Nathan Beck / © Diogenes Verlag

Jelena Volić, born in Belgrade, studied Literary Criticism and Italian, Slavonic and Germanic Studies. She is a lecturer in contemporary German literature and cultural history in Belgrade. She is a member of various forums, which address the accession of Serbia to the European Union, and an expert on German-Serbian relations. She divides her time between Belgrade and Berlin.



Until the Sun Shines
256 pages
2025



Daily Soap
240 pages
2011



The Student
272 pages
2009



The Brother
288 pages
2008



The Hairdresser
256 pages
2004
Award winner



Lily-of-the-Valley White
352 pages
2017



Cornflower Blue
368 pages
2013