

# Diogenes

**Bernhard Schlink**  
***The Weekend***

Published by Diogenes as *Das Wochenende*  
Original title: *Das Wochenende*



**Bernhard  
Schlink**  
*Das  
Wochenende*

*Roman · Diogenes*

After twenty years in prison, he is unexpectedly pardoned. Christiane, his sister, wants to celebrate his first weekend of freedom with a dozen old friends in a run-down villa in the country, without reporters and cameras. Henner, a journalist, Ilse, a teacher, Ulrich, a businessman, accompanied by his wife and daughter, Karin, the bishop of a small country church, Andreas, an attorney – they all supported the revolution in one form or another at that time. Today, they have their established place in bourgeois society. They come out of loyalty, nostalgia, curiosity. They would like to advise and help and, at the same time, keep their distance. But they are not able to avoid a confrontation with their own biographies, life dreams and lies. The past comes to life. Accounts are settled in the atmospheric intensity of a drawing room theatre.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
240 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2008

World rights are handled by Diogenes

**Rights currently sold:**

Chinese/CN (Shanghai Translation)  
English/world (Pantheon)  
French (Gallimard)  
Greek (Kritiki)  
Korean (Sigongsa)  
Russian (Azbooka)  
Serbian (Plato)  
Spanish/world (Anagrama)  
Turkish (Dogan)

**🏆 Bestseller**

Spiegel Bestseller

**🎬 Movie adaptations**

**2011: *Das Wochenende***

Director: Nina Grosse  
Cast: Katja Riemann, Sebastian Koch, Barbara Auer

**2009: *The Reader***

Director: Stephen Daldry  
Screenplay: David Hare  
Cast: Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, David Kross, Bruno Ganz, Karoline Herfurth, Volker Bruch, Hannah Herzsprung und Alexandra Maria Lara

**2008: *The Other Man***

Director: Richard Eyre  
Screenplay: Richard Eyre  
Cast: Liam Neeson, Laura Linney und Antonio Banderas

**1991: *Der Tod kam als Freund***

Director: Nico Hoffmann  
Cast: Martin Benrath, Hannelore Elsner, Heino Ferch, Marianne Hoppe

**🏆 Awards**

- 2024 Spanische Übersetzung von *Die Enkelin* mit dem ›Premio de las Librerías de Navarra‹ ausgezeichnet
- 2014 ›Pak Kyong-ni Prize‹ der südkoreanischen Kulturstiftung Toji für sein schriftstellerisches Schaffen
- 2003 ›Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse‹ für *Der Vorleser*
- 2002 ›Preis des German-British Forum‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2001 Finnischer Literaturpreis ›Eeva Joenpelto-Preis‹ der Gemeinde Lohja
- 2001 Ernennung zum ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur‹
- 2000 ›Ehrengabe‹ der Heinrich-Heine-Gesellschaft in Düsseldorf



Bernhard Schlink, born in 1944, was a Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy and a former judge at the Constitutional Court of North Rhine-Westphalia. His first novel, *Self's Justice*, was published in 1987; his 1995 novel *The Reader*, translated into more than fifty languages and adapted by Stephen Daldry into a film starring Kate Winslet, established his worldwide renown. He has been awarded with national and international prizes like the German ›Bundesverdienstkreuz (Order of Merit) 1st Class‹, the French ›Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur‹ and the Italian ›Grinzane Cavour Prize‹. His latest novel is *The Late Life*.

### 🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 2000 ›Sonderkulturpreis‹ der japanischen Tageszeitung *Mainichi Shinbun*, der jedes Jahr an einen japanischen Buchbestseller vergeben wird, für *Der Vorleser*
- 2000 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer BÜchereien für *Der Vorleser*
- 1999 Erstmals verliehener ›WELT-Literaturpreis‹ für sein literarisches Schaffen
- 1997 ›Grinzane-Cavour-Preis‹ (Italien) für *Der Vorleser*
- 1997 ›Prix Laure Bataillon‹ (Frankreich) für *Der Vorleser* (Auszeichnung für den Autor sowie für den Übersetzer Bernard Lortholary)
- 1997 ›Hans-Fallada-Preis‹ der Stadt Neumünster für *Der Vorleser*
- 1993 ›Deutscher Krimi-Preis‹ des Bochumer Krimi Archivs für *Selbs Betrug*
- 1989 Autorenpreis deutschsprachige Kriminalliteratur ›Der Glauser‹ für *Die gordische Schleife*

### Praise

#### *The Weekend*

»Bernhard Schlink has a keen sense of topical issues. He has chosen his characters well and has given each an individual voice.« – Focus, Munich

#### Bernhard Schlink

»Schlink has won his huge popular following by bringing to bear a penetrating intelligence about the psyche of his characters and an empathy for their dilemmas. Professor Schlink may be an expert on the letter of the law, but writer Schlink is an intrepid explorer of the much trickier terrain of the human heart.« – Andrew Nagorski / Newsweek, London

»[Schlink] writes instructive tales that adeptly raise difficult questions and propose appealing answers.« – New York Times Book Review

»The German novelist Bernhard Schlink is pretty much second to none when it comes to storytelling.« – Helmut Atteneder / Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, Linz

»Schlink knows the depths of the human soul all too well. The writer and judge proves with each of his books that he knows how to transform German history into literature.« – Zeitpunkt, Leipzig

»One of the most successful and versatile German writers of our time.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

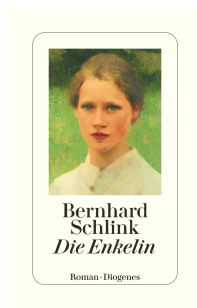
»The truly masterly aspect of Schlink's prose is its intelligence – an intelligence that is firmly rooted in common sense.« – Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg



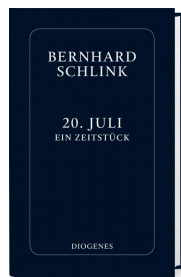
*Justice*  
208 pages  
2026



*The Late Life*  
240 pages  
2024  
🏆 **Bestseller**



*The Granddaughter*  
368 pages  
2021  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



*The 20th of July*  
96 pages  
2021



*Colours of Farewell*  
240 pages  
2020  
🏆 **Bestseller**



*Olga*  
320 pages  
2018  
🏆 **Bestseller**



*Explorations*  
288 pages  
2015



*The Woman on the Stairs*  
256 pages  
2014  
🏆 **Bestseller**



Bernhard Schlink  
*Gedanken über das Schreiben*

Diogenes

Thoughts on Writing  
96 pages  
2011



Bernhard Schlink  
*Sommerlügen*

Diogenes

Summer Lies  
288 pages  
2010

🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink  
*Vergangenheits-schuld*  
Beiträge zu einem deutschen Thema

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Guilt of the Past  
192 pages  
2007



Bernhard Schlink  
*Die Heimkehr*

Roman - Diogenes

The Homecoming  
384 pages  
2006

🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink  
*Vergewisserungen*  
Über Politik, Recht, Schreiben und Glauben

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Verifications  
368 pages  
2005



Bernhard Schlink  
*Selbs Mord*

Roman - Diogenes

Self's Murder  
272 pages  
2001



Bernhard Schlink  
*Liebesfluchten*

Diogenes

Flights of Love  
320 pages  
2000

🎬 Movie Adaptation



Bernhard Schlink  
*Der Vorleser*

Roman - Diogenes

The Reader  
208 pages  
1995

🏆 Award winner  
🎬 Movie Adaptation  
🏆 Bestseller



Bernhard Schlink  
*Selbs Betrug*

Roman - Diogenes

Self's Deception  
304 pages  
1992

🏆 Award winner



Bernhard Schlink  
*Die gordische Schleife*

Roman - Diogenes

The Gordian Knot  
272 pages  
1988

🏆 Award winner



Bernhard Schlink  
Walter Popp  
*Selbs Justiz*

Roman - Diogenes

Self's Punishment  
352 pages  
1987

🎬 Movie Adaptation