

# Diogenes

Bernhard Schlink  
*The Late Life*

Published by Diogenes as *Das späte Leben*  
Original title: *Das späte Leben*



## Bernhard Schlink *Das späte Leben*

Roman · Diogenes

At seventy-six, Martin is devoted to his family life with his young wife and six-year-old son when he suddenly learns that he has only a few months to live. Shocked, he searches for answers, wrestling with his feelings and existential questions about his legacy, the meaning of his love and what can be achieved in the short time he has left. Martin wants to do everything right, but later life is full of surprises and unforeseen challenges that he must face.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
240 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 x 2 cm  
January 2024

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Czech (Euromedia)  
Dutch (Cossee)  
English/UK (Weidenfeld & Nicolson/Orion)  
French (Gallimard)  
Greek (Kritiki)  
Italian (Neri Pozza)  
Romanian (Polirom)

### Bestseller

#1 Swiss Bestseller  
#3 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 Ernennung zum >Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur<
- 2001 Finnischer Literaturpreis >Eeva Joenpelto-Preis< der Gemeinde Lohja

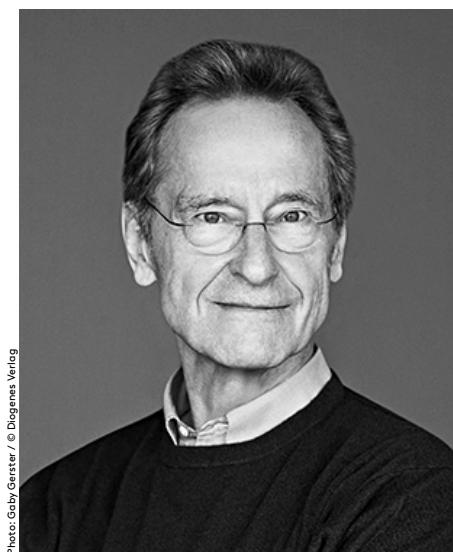
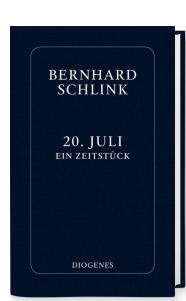


Photo: Gabi Gerster / © Diogenes Verlag

Bernhard Schlink, born near Bielefeld in 1944, is a lawyer and lives in Berlin and New York. His novel *The Reader*, published in 1995 and turned into a movie by Stephen Daldry in 2009, has been translated into more than 50 languages and established Bernhard Schlink's worldwide renown as an author. 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«.



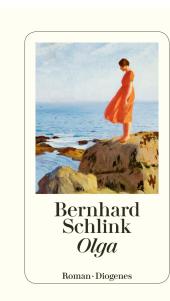
*The Granddaughter*  
368 pages  
2021  
Award winner  
Bestseller



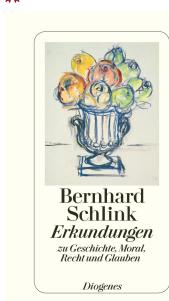
*The 20th of July*  
96 pages  
2021



*Colours of Farewell*  
240 pages  
2020  
Bestseller



*Olga*  
320 pages  
2018  
Bestseller



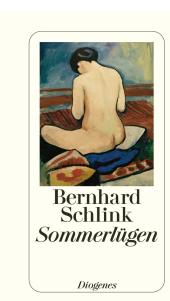
*Explorations*  
288 pages  
2015



*The Woman on the Stairs*  
256 pages  
2014  
Bestseller



*Thoughts on Writing*  
96 pages  
2011



*Summer Lies*  
288 pages  
2010  
Bestseller

## ❖ Awards (cont'd)

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

## Praise

### *The Late Life*

»Death - what can it teach me about my life? Schlink introduces his contemporary readers to this old question with masterful dexterity.« – Nils Minkmar / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»The evidently strongly autobiographical novel impresses and moves as a radically honest self-examination in the face of death, waiting at the door.« – Ronald Schneider / Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»A powerful, unpretentious text about what matters in life when it comes to an end.« – Bernd Melichar / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»A remarkable late-life narrative achievement. Chapeau.« – Peter Mohr / Aachener Zeitung, Aachen

### Bernhard Schlink

»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

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

»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

»One of Germany's most successful and versatile contemporary writers.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

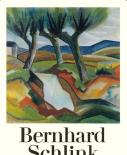


Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Das  
Wochenende*

Roman · Diogenes

The Weekend  
240 pages  
2008

🎬 Movie Adaptation  
🏆 Bestseller



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

Diogenes

Guilt of the Past  
192 pages  
2007

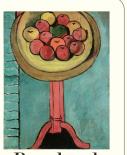


Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Die Heimkehr*

Roman · Diogenes

The Homecoming  
384 pages  
2006

🏆 Bestseller



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

Diogenes

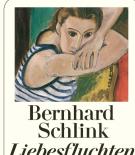
Verifications  
368 pages  
2005



Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Selbs  
Mord*

Roman · Diogenes

Self's Murder  
272 pages  
2001

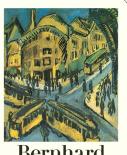


Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Liebesfluchten*

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

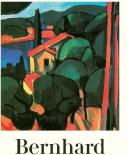


Bernhard  
Schlink  
*Selbs  
Betrug*

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