



The Collini Case: A Novel

By Ferdinand von Schirach



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The internationally bestselling courtroom drama centering on a young German lawyer and a case involving World War II

A bestseller in Germany since its 2011 release—with rights sold in seventeen countries—*The Collini Case* combines the classic courtroom procedural with modern European history in a legal thriller worthy of John Grisham and Scott Turow.

Fabrizio Collini is recently retired. He's a quiet, unassuming man with no indications that he's capable of hurting anyone. And yet he brutally murders a prominent industrialist in one of Berlin's most exclusive hotels.

Collini ends up in the charge of Caspar Leinen, a rookie defense lawyer eager to launch his career with a not-guilty verdict. Complications soon arise when Collini admits to the murder but refuses to give his motive, much less speak to anyone. As Leinen searches for clues he discovers a personal connection to the victim and unearths a terrible truth at the heart of Germany's legal system that stretches back to World War II. But how much is he willing to sacrifice to expose the truth?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Von Schirach, a prominent German advocate for the accused and author of two story collections (*Guilt; Crime*), disappoints with this present-day legal thriller, a whydunit. Fabrizio Collini, a toolmaker in his late 70s, pretends to be a reporter for an Italian newspaper when he calls on 85-year-old Jean-Baptiste Meyer, a German businessman, in his room at Berlin's Hotel Adlon. Collini later confesses to shooting Meyer four times in the head, and then stamping repeatedly on Meyer's face. Caspar Leinen, who has just begun work as a defense lawyer, accepts the case before realizing that Meyer's real name is Hans Meyer, and that he's an old friend; but Collini wants Leinen to stay on the case, despite this personal connection. Given the advanced ages of the two principals, readers will have no trouble guessing that the killer's motive has something to do with WWII. Even the courtroom scenes lack genuine drama. (Aug.)

From [Booklist](#)

This spare novel follows the publication of the English translation of von Schirach's debut short-story collection, *Crime and Guilt* (2011). The author's unique perspective and experiences as a defense attorney gave credibility to that collection, as it does to this novel. An Italian living in contemporary Berlin enters a hotel suite and brutally murders its occupant. Then he waits in the lobby to be arrested. All that is known of the killer is that he is a retired machinist at Mercedes-Benz. The victim is one of the richest men in Germany. The focus is on court-appointed defense attorney Caspar Leinen, who has been qualified for only 42 days. This is a pretty typical David-and-Goliath legal case, with Leinen pitted against one of Germany's top prosecutors. But the way that Leinen digs for facts—and his eventual discoveries, which go back through his personal past and extend to the Holocaust—animate what is a tight-lipped but involving mystery. --Connie Fletcher

Review

"A magnificent storyteller" – *Der Spiegel*

"A miracle of purpose and precision that leaves most bloated thrillers on the starting blocks." – *Financial Times*

"Everything about Ferdinand von Schirach and *The Collini Case*... is extraordinary." – *Sunday Times* (London)

"Terrific" – *Elle* (Germany)

"Von Schirach has a style that is elegant, precise and lean." – *The Toronto Star*

"Not just entertaining but historically significant" – *Library Journal*

"The pleasures of the book are its particulars: of the law and how it is practiced in Germany, the anecdotes that give agency and motive to the characters, fascinating tidbits about detonators, the description of an autopsy. This is the stock and trade of crime fiction. All the conventions—even a love interest—are present; a regular reader will check boxes off a list, and yet this book works magic." – *Kirkus*

"But the way Leinen digs for facts... animate what is a tight-lipped but involving mystery." – *Booklist*

“*The Collini Case* takes off running and, without manipulation or stunts other than a brilliantly orchestrated plot, proceeds to tell a whopper of a tale.” – ShelfAwareness

“This certainly isn’t a comfortable story, but it is an important one... and like all the best murder mysteries, this one has a twist.” – *The Spectator* (UK)

“Don’t tell John Grisham but legal dramas don’t actually need to be gratuitously cliffhanger-packed, 4,000 page affairs... Von Schirach’s economy of writing and knowledge of his subject are key to *The Collini Case*’s success.” – *Metro* (UK)

“...Extremely persuasive. The trial scenes are excellent.” – *The Scotsman*

“This is a small gem – sly, trenchant and provocative, none of its conclusions foregone.” – *The Guardian*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leticia Nielson:

This book untitled *The Collini Case: A Novel* to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

Maurice Miller:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a guide will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a e-book you will get new information due to the fact book is one of several ways to share the information as well as their idea. Second, reading through a book will make a person more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fictional works book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to some others. When you read this *The Collini Case: A Novel*, you are able to tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a reserve.

Fannie Wymer:

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David Lau:

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