



Author	Rainer M. Schröder:
Illustrator	–
Title	The Alchemist's Secret
Original Title	Das geheime Wissen des Alchimisten
Age	12+
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Design	Various maps and explaining illustrations included
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Summary	Rainer Maria Schröder stirred once again captures readers with his wonderfully great adventures in which both the atmosphere he creates and the historical background he describes are incomparable. As the star pupil of the alchemist Copernicus Quint, young Johanna gets caught up in the deadly competition for the magical elixir that is said to be able to turn ordinary metal into gold. A breathtaking novel of black artists, secret knowledge and the dangerous dream of inexhaustible riches.
Catalog text	October 1705: When Johanna rescues the seriously injured Copernicus Quint from his persecutors in the dark alleyways of Cologne, she has no idea of just who she happens to be nursing back to health in her greedy stepfather's insane asylum. She will go on to rescue the silent stranger once more before finally discovering that he is in search of the legendary elixir that can supposedly turn metal into gold – the "stone of the wise men"! Johanna becomes Quint's pupil. It's been more than a year since she began dividing her time between Quint's secret laboratory and her work in the madhouse when a young man she refuses to believe is insane is brought there. As it turns out, Leander had only been poisoned. Once more Johanna saves a life from the murderous thirst for gold – and gains a friend. While disguised as a man known as the "master pupil Johannes," Johanna is just assisting her teacher with a demonstration in the laboratory when Quint's old persecutors turn up again. In the ensuing violence, an explosion occurs and Leander and Quint get trapped behind in the flames. The "master pupil" is kidnapped and taken off to Dresden, where "he" is supposed to create gold alongside another alchemist. Johanna is pursuing that task when Friedrich Böttger discovers his famous "white gold." Nevertheless, she remains a hopeless prisoner – until suddenly, two familiar faces turn up: Quint and Leander, who have survived after all...
Author's biography/ illustrator's biography	<i>Rainer M. Schröder</i> , born in 1951, one of Germany's most successful authors of historical novels, has been living in Germany and the U.S. as a freelance writer since 1977. He has travelled to many countries. His work has received various awards – such as the sophisticated "Buxtehuder Bulle" (2005).