

Jakob Arjouni
Idiots. Five fairy tales

Published by Diogenes as *Idioten. Fünf Märchen*
Original title: *Idioten - Fünf Märchen*



**Jakob
Arjouni**
***Idioten. Fünf
Märchen***

Diogenes

Imagine a fairy visited you and gave you one wish. Not just an ordinary fairy, such as we usually imagine them, but a dry-as-dust office worker with a lunch break and an overfilled appointment diary and overtime. The fairy explains that wishes connected with immortality, health, money and love are not permitted, and she advises caution because wishes often come true in an unexpected way; for, like everything else, there are two sides to wish fulfilment. Perhaps you start thinking about what you would wish for, for after all, you have nothing to lose. Would you be able to think of a wish, of the wish? Or would you, like most people, decide for the most expensive item that the fairy is offering: a dishwasher? Arjouni's five fairy tales will help you to decide.

Book factsheet

General Fiction
160 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
February 2003

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
Russian (Text)
Spanish/world (Siruela)

Movie adaptations

2017: Am Ruder
Director: Stephan Wagner
Screenplay: Stephan und Alexandra Maxeiner Wagner
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Julia Koschitz und Inga Birkenfeld

1992: Happy Birthday, Türke
Director: Doris Dörrie
Cast: Hansa Czipionka, Özay Fecht, Doris Kunstmann, Lambert Hamel

Awards

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1992 | Deutscher Krimi Preis für ›Ein Mann, ein Mord‹. |
| 1987 | Baden-Württembergischer Autorenpreis für das deutschsprachige Jugendtheater für sein Theaterstück ›Nazim schiebt ab‹. |

Praise

Idiots. Five fairy tales

»A book for everyone, from the well-informed bookworm to the somewhat reticent beginner. Great entertainment for everyone!« – Elke Heidenreich / Lesen!

Jakob Arjouni

»Magnificent« – The Guardian

»Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times

»Jakob Arjouni writes the best urban thrillers since Raymond Chandler.« – Tempo

»A master of the sketch and the caricature.« – Die Welt

»Impossible to put his books down.« – El Pais

»A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern

»Arjouni tells real-life stories, and they virtually never have a happy ending. He tells them so well, with such flexible dialogue and cleverly maintained tension, that it is impossible to put his books down.« – El Pais, Madrid



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Praise (cont'd)

»A genuine storyteller who beguiles his readers without the need of tricks.« – L'Unità, Milan

Jakob Arjouni, born 1964 in Frankfurt on the Main, has published novels, short stories, theatre and radio plays.

Arjouni was only twenty-one years old when his acclaimed debut, ›Happy birthday, Turk!‹ was published and its main character, the Frankfurt-based private detective Kemal Kayankaya, took on his very first investigation. In 1991, the book was made into a film, directed by Doris Dörrie. Three further cases followed; for the third, ›One Man, One Murder‹, Jakob Arjouni was awarded the 1992 ›German Crime Fiction Prize‹. In autumn 2012, ›Brother Kemal‹, the fifth volume starring the German-Turkish investigator was published. The series is now firmly established as a classic amongst crime literature.

Apart from his stage plays, his work also includes the Berlin novels ›Magic Hoffmann‹ (1996) and ›Holy Eddy‹ (2009) as well as ›Idiots. Five Fairy Tales‹ (2003). His novels ›Homework‹, ›Chez Max‹, and particularly his novel about an East-German Nazi follower, ›Cherryman Hunts Mister White‹, are now on school reading lists. The theme of addressing violence in all its forms runs through Arjouni's work like a red thread.

His readers loved him for his thrilling, sharp-tongued, linguistically unpretentious, witty and clever books. He died on the 17th of January 2013 in Berlin.



The Kayankaya Novels
1080 pages
2014



Brother Kemal
240 pages
2012



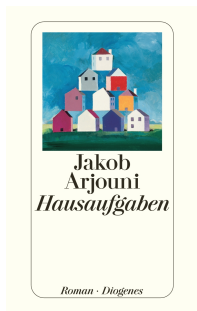
Cherryman Hunts Mister White
176 pages
2011



Holy Eddy
256 pages
2009



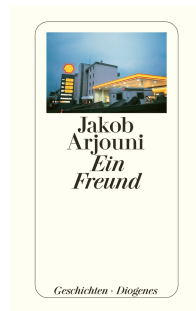
Chez Max
224 pages
2006



Homework
192 pages
2004

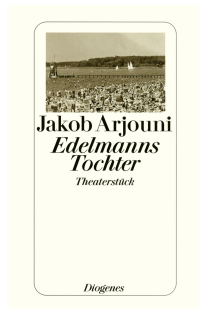


Kismet
272 pages
2001



A Friend
176 pages
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



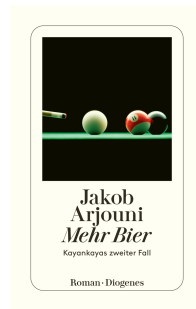
Edelmann's Daughter
96 pages
1996



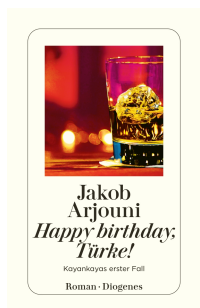
Magic Hoffmann
288 pages
1996



One Man, One Murder
192 pages
1991



More Beer
176 pages
1987



Happy Birthday, Turk!
176 pages
1987

 **Movie Adaptation**