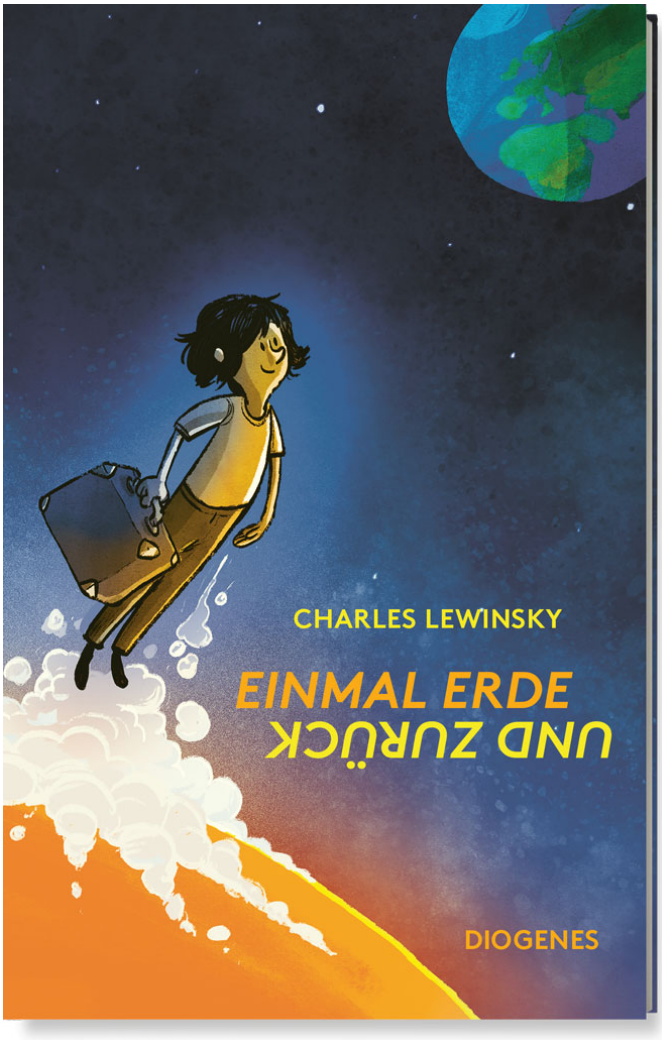
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Charles Lewinsky & Julian Meyer (Ill.)
To the Earth and Back

Published by Diogenes as *Einmal Erde und zurück*
Original title: *Einmal Erde und zurück*



When a child asks: »Why?«, it questions everything we previously thought to be true, turning the world on its head.
A 499 year old child comes from a distant planet, where instead of growing up in the course of their lifetime, the people become children – and therefore sensible beings. The child often finds the inhabitants on earth impossible to understand. Why do they want to disfigure the forest with a road? Why do people have to compete while playing sports, and why do they lock animals up in the zoo? The child tries to put an end to this nonsense.
A book packed with wordplay and practical jokes; subversive, funny and clever, just as readers both young and old enjoy. Suitable for reading out loud with children, and for them to read alone.

Books for Young Readers, Children's Books
192 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
October 2019

Contact:
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and
Suzanne Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:
Turkish (Uyurgezer Kitap)

Awards

2020 *Der Halbbart* auf der Shortlist des ›Schweizer Buchpreises‹
2020 *Der Halbbart* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2020 ›Dreitannen-Literaturpreis‹ des Buchfestivals Olten
2016 *Andersen* auf der Shortlist des ›Schweizer Buchpreises‹
2014 *Kastelau* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2011 *Gerron* für den ›Schweizer Buchpreis‹ nominiert
2009 ›Prix Lipp‹ für *Melnitz*, Genf
2008 ›Best Foreign Novel‹ für *Melnitz*, Foreign Literature Learned Society, Peking
2008 ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹ für *Melnitz*, Paris
2007 *Melnitz* wird als ›Bester deutscher Roman 2006‹ von der ›Jury für den besten fremdsprachigen Roman des Jahres im 21. Jahrhundert‹ in China ausgezeichnet.
2001 ›Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung‹ für *Johannistag*

Praise

To the Earth and Back

»This child is an endearing, anarchic rascal [. . .] who teaches us how to see the familiar in a new way.« – Darmstädter Echo

»The wordplay and practical jokes dance around from the first to the last page.« – Buch und Maus (Magazine of the Swiss Institute of Children's Media)

Charles Lewinsky

»Rare linguistic splendour and striking narrative virtuosity.« – Andreas Isenschmid / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»Lewinsky has a deft feel for drama; you get the impression he has a field day setting the readers on one track and then drawing them onto another.« – Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

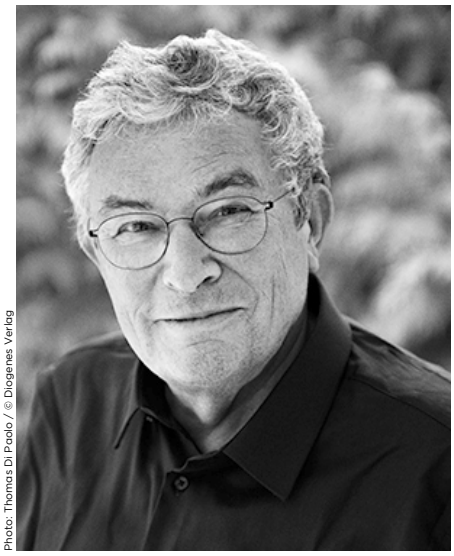


Photo: Thomas Di Paolo / © Diogenes Verlag

Charles Lewinsky, born in Zurich in 1946, has been a freelance writer since 1980. He won international renown with his novel *Melnitz,* which was awarded numerous prizes, including the French ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹. His novel *Halfbeard* was nominated for both the ›Swiss Book Prize‹ and the ›German Book Prize‹. His works have been published in 16 languages. Charles Lewinsky lives in Vereux (France) in summer, and in Zurich in winter.

Praise (cont'd)

»Charles Lewinsky is a literary jack of all trades. Wilding a sharp pen and with a keen eye he moves between different genres in a virtuoso manner. He has dedicated his life to words and today is one of the most read Swiss authors.« – Kurt Aeschbacher / SRF 1, Zurich

»Charles Lewinsky is probably one of the hardest-working and undisputedly one of the most successful and versatile Swiss writers.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Charles Lewinsky is a rascal in literature who masters all styles and eras.« – Rolf Fath / Badische Neueste Nachrichten, Karlsruhe

»The versatile star of contemporary Swiss literature.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»Above all, though, the tradition, the storytelling itself is always part of the narrative; this is the allure of the multi-layered works.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

»Charles Lewinsky is the Swiss author with the broadest range when it comes to forms of expression.« – Felix Münger / Radio SRF2 Kultur, Basel

»Lewinsky is a gifted writer.« – Reza Rafi / Blick, Zurich

»Charles Lewinsky has a sure instinct for dramaturgy. Immensely entertaining.« – Helmut Maurò / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich