

Diogenes

Joachim B. Schmidt
Kalmann

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Original title: *Kalmann*



He is the self-appointed sheriff of Raufarhöfn, and has everything under control. There's no need to worry. Day by day, he treks the wide plains which surround the almost deserted village, hunts Arctic foxes and lays shark bait in the sea — to process the fish into the Icelandic fermented delicacy, hákarl. But inside Kalmann's head, the wheels sometimes spin backwards. One winter, after he discovers a pool of blood in the snow, the swiftly unfolding events threaten to overwhelm him. But with his naive wisdom and pure-hearted courage, he makes sure everything takes a turn for the better. There's no need to worry.
»It can get pretty dark beneath a polar bear.«
Kalmann

Book factsheet

General Fiction, Crime fiction
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Contact:

Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
bau@diogenes.ch and Bozena Huser, Film
Rights, bhu@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:

Arabic (Al-Arabi)
Czech (Prostor)
English/world (Bitter Lemon)
French (Gallimard)
Icelandic (Forlagið)
Slovak (Literárna bašta)
Spanish/world (Gatopardo)

📌 Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller
Swiss Bestseller

🏆 Awards

- 2021 *Kalmann* auf dem 3. Platz des ›Schweizer Krimipreises‹
- 2021 *Kalmann* auf der Shortlist des ›Crime Cologne Award‹
- 2021 *Kalmann* auf der Longlist des ›Crime Cologne Award‹
- 2021 *Kalmann* für den zum ersten Mal verliehenen ›Schweizer Krimipreis‹ nominiert

Praise

Kalmann

»This is an incredibly funny, highly suspenseful, very beautiful and affectionate novel.« – Johannes Köbler / ORF, Vienna

»A gripping novel with a light criminal plot.« – Pia Zesilsky / WDR 2 Lesen, Cologne

»He lets the Icelandic world shine from within and you grow fond of the main character.« – Manfred Papst / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»Joachim B. Schmidt's novel is more than a crime novel; it's a meticulously researched, unpretentiously narrated reportage of everyday life in a far, icy corner of the earth.« – Martin Halter / FAZ, Frankfurt

»To know Kalmann is to love him.« – Stefan Keim / WDR 4, Cologne

»Joachim B. Schmidt's novel *Kalmann* sensitively depicts Iceland's answer to *Forrest Gump* – a guy who may be slow on the uptake, but who is, in his own unique way, a connoisseur when it comes to the art of living.« – Augsburg Allgemeine, Augsburg



Joachim B. Schmidt, born in Grisons, Switzerland in 1981, is a journalist and the author of three novels and numerous short stories. He emigrated to Iceland in 2007, where he lives with his family in Reykjavík and also works as a tour guide.

Praise (cont'd)

»The brushstrokes of humour are impeccable; the attention to detail turns this work of fiction into a tender portrait of the Icelandic landscape and its inhabitants.« – Marta Marne / El Periódico, Barcelona

»There's a crime to solve, certainly, but that's only a small part of this powerful novel.« – El País, Madrid

»His abilities may appear impaired, but he impresses through his kindness and courage; attributes which are more important to solving the case than all the usual police paraphernalia.« – Verónica Piñera / El Comercio, Gijón

»A protagonist who is hard to forget, and who occasionally finds his wires crossed.« – El Periódico, Barcelona

»*Kalmann* (Gatopardo) is quite a character in his Icelandic small town, the likeable, not entirely normal – nor stupid – boy that everyone knows. But when it comes to a missing person investigation, he can offer the best explanation.« – La Vanguardia, Barcelona

»A novel that reads like an Icelandic Fargo drama. Crude, droll, bloody, very funny and with a multitude of surprising twists.« – Radio Ö1, Vienna

»Kalmann, more Forrest Gump than Miss Marple, takes on the challenge. It's as lively as it is icy.« – Spiegel, Hamburg

»Kalmann's thoughts are often philosophical pearls, which amaze not just for their simplicity, but also their truth.« – Constanze Matthes / Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle

»A captivatingly charming blend of Fargo und Parsifal.« – Hörzu, Hamburg

»What makes this novel especially stand out is its linguistic style. Schmidt narrates entirely from Kalmann's perspective.« – Tiroler Tageszeitung, Innsbruck

»Joachim B. Schmidt depicts his central character with great empathy, psychological tact – and humour. He pulls off his protagonist's seemingly naïve narrative style with great success.« – Christel Wester / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

»This is a social novel, and a sensitive portrait of Kalmann – a young, self-aware Icelander who is very different to everyone else.« – Denis Scheck / ARD, Munich

»Gripping, funny, empathetic, and cleverly structured.« – Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

»An unusual tale from the edge of the world.« – Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»That a Swiss author could write the best Iceland mystery novel of the year is something you deem improbable only until you read this book.« – Tobias Gohlis / Krimibestenliste, Hamburg

»Schmidt reveals himself to be an incredibly empathetic and skilled narrator with a strong sense for light humour.« – Hanspeter Eggenberger / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

Praise (cont'd)

»There isn't much that Kalli doesn't know.« – Sylvia Staude / Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt

»*Kalmann* is a remarkable portrayal of a remote Icelandic community and the devastating impact of the decline of the herring and fishing industries. The tensions between this rural community and the latte-drinking townies of Reykjavik are sensitively depicted, as well as hostility and racism towards the Eastern European migrant workers.« – New Books in German, London

»An incredibly vivid sense of place, and a gifted storyteller.« – Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»What makes *Kalmann* so unique is the language.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

»Joachim B. Schmidt, who lives in Iceland, has written an incredible, moving book with an unusual hero who instantaneously wins the reader's heart.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»Just because an idiot says something, that doesn't mean it's meaningless.« – Nicolas Freund / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»*Kalmann* is a wonderful non-crime novel, which, because the negated can persist in the negation, is nonetheless a wonderful crime novel.« – Thomas Wörtche / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne