Diogenes

Book factsheet

Rolf Dobelli
Thirty-five

Published by Diogenes as *Fünfunddreißig*
Original title: *Fünfunddreißig*



Wine and hors d'oeuvres reflect the lively atmosphere at the office as the company awaits the return of its brilliant head of marketing, Gehrer, from Harvard. And today is his 35th birthday! Gehrer has indeed arrived at Zurich airport, but he was not on the plane from Boston. He has been in India. And on this cold February day, he is not sitting in his office, but on a bench by the lake, taking stock, engaged in a monologue of disarming accuracy. What does life's zenith have in store? Who is he, at 35? And why does everything suddenly seem so different? Then the insight: there is nothing Gehrer would like more than to rid himself of Gehrer, to become someone else. And here his problem begins. Rolf Dobelli's prose is racy and funny. His gift for observation and his discerning intellect –
at times poetic, ironic and sarcastic – are reminiscent of Max Frisch.

Contemporary Literature
208 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2003

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Praise

Thirty-five

»A modern novel, laconic and racy, full of jokes and insights into the existential chasm of the 35-year-old. Accurate, honest, entertaining.« – Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»At times ironic, at times melancholy, but always imbued with a merciless talent for observation. A must read!« – Nike Vlacjos / Playboy, Munich

Rolf Dobelli

»The fact that Dobelli has mastered the art of precise expression can be readily gleaned from his novels – a more compact prose would be difficult to imagine.« – Kölnische Rundschau, Köln

»Dobelli's prose is compact, clear, precise.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»Dobelli's advices and findings are perfectly fit for everyday life, inspiring, and highly readable.« – Thüringer Allgemeine, Erfurt

»Rolf Dobelli's books don't only make you smarter, they also make you happier indeed.« – Denis Scheck / Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»It is Dobelli's aim to sharpen our judgment — particularly in a time of permanent distraction.« – Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf



Photo: Bodo Rüedi

Rolf Dobelli, born in Lucerne in 1966, studied philosophy and business management, worked for Swissair, founded several companies and lived in Australia, Hong Kong, England and in the USA. He is the founder of World.Minds and has published eight books with Diogenes, most recently *Your Turn.* His novels and non-fiction, among them the global bestsellers *The Art of Thinking Clearly* and *The Art of Acting Clearly,* have been published in 50 languages. Rolf Dobelli lives with his family in Berne.



Only You Can Answer That
288 pages
2026



Your Turn
320 pages
2026



Questions to Ask of Life
208 pages
2014



Massimo Marini
384 pages
2010



Turbulence
160 pages
2007



Who Am I?
144 pages
2007



Himmelreich
384 pages
2006



What Do You Do for a Living?
240 pages
2004