

Diogenes

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

Contemporary Literature
160 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
February 2003

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Translation 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

»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 País, Madrid

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

»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



Praise (cont'd)

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

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

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. Jakob Arjouni's works have been published in 24 languages.



The Kayankaya Novels
1080 pages
2014



Brother Kemal
240 pages
2012



Cherryman Hunts Mister White
176 pages
2011



Holy Eddy
256 pages
2009



Jakob
Arjouni
Chez Max

Roman · Diogenes

Chez Max
224 pages
2006



Jakob
Arjouni
Hausaufgaben

Roman · Diogenes

Homework
192 pages
2004



Jakob
Arjouni
Kismet

Kayankayns vierter Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Kismet
272 pages
2001



Jakob
Arjouni
*Ein
Freund*

Geschichten · Diogenes

A Friend
176 pages
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



Jakob Arjouni
*Edelmanns
Tochter*

Diogenes

Edelmann's Daughter
96 pages
1996



Jakob
Arjouni
*Magic
Hoffmann*

Roman · Diogenes

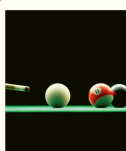
Magic Hoffmann
288 pages
1996



Jakob
Arjouni
*Ein Mann,
ein Mord*

Kayankayns dritter Fall
Roman · Diogenes

One Man, One Murder
192 pages
1991



Jakob
Arjouni
Mehr Bier

Kayankayns zweiter Fall
Roman · Diogenes

More Beer
176 pages
1987



Jakob
Arjouni
*Happy birthday,
Türke!*

Kayankayns erster Fall
Roman · Diogenes

Happy Birthday, Turk!
176 pages
1987

 **Movie Adaptation**