

Charles Lewinsky
Halfbeard

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Original title: *Der Halbbart*



Charles
Lewinsky
Der Halbbart

Roman · Diogenes

Sebi, our teenage hero and narrator in Charles Lewinsky's epos, is not exactly tailored to the rough medieval world he's born into: gifted with youthful wisdom, he is more of a storyteller than a warhorse. With these qualities, he hardly meets the demands in the rural Swiss village in 1313. However from *Halfbeard*, a stranger from a distant region, the boy discovers both the good and the bad in humanity – and does come into his own as he dedicates himself to the power of narration: the truth is in the telling.

Book factsheet

General Fiction
688 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
September 2020

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Translation rights currently sold:

Dutch (Meridiaan)
Italian (SEM Libri)
Russian (Foliant)

🏆 Bestseller

1 Swiss Bestseller
Spiegel Bestseller

🏆 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

Halfbeard

»Like this figure its creator Charles Lewinsky is a storytelling machine who proves his versatility in his new novel *Halfbeard*.« – Tobias Sedlmaier / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»The art of storytelling is critically examined and rapturously appreciated. That is both a celebration and a joy.« – Martin Oehlen / Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt

»But he also tells touching, moving events, he portrays highly differentiated characters with inner lives that cannot be fully unearthed.« – Roman Bucheli / NZZ, Zurich

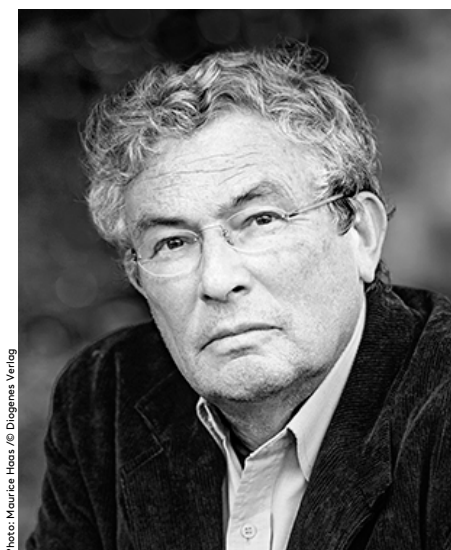


Photo: Maurice Haas / © Diogenes Verlag

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‹. Charles Lewinsky lives in Vereux (France) in summer, and in Zurich in winter.

Praise (cont'd)

»Above all Lewinsky reveals the power stories possess and what terrible realities can come out of them.« – Fabienne Nägeli / SRF 2, Zurich

»The lines between fiction and reality blur. This is what good literature is.« – Frank Pommer / Die Rheinpfalz, Ludwigshafen

»Exciting, funny and drastic, distressing and sensitive – and saturated with a melancholy faith in reason.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»Lewinsky is in top form with his narrative exuberance.« – Rico Bandle / Der Bund, Berne

»Charles Lewinsky knows how to make history into a compelling story.« – Mathias Ziegler / Wiener Zeitung, Vienna

»That such a book is in the best sense of the word a page-turner, which one can hardly put down, proves the proficiency of the author.« – Oliver Jungen / FAZ, Frankfurt

»The richness and depth of Lewinsky's narrative guarantee its appeal to a broad readership.«

– New Books in German, London

»In *Halfbeard*, Charles Lewinsky hasn't only written a rousing novel, but a political one too.« – Anne-Sophie Scholl / Die Republik, Zurich

»Lewinsky's tome isn't just an accomplished historical novel, but above all a humorous, ingenious and wonderful celebration of storytelling.« – Heinz Storrer / Schweizer Familie, Zurich

»Just like Sebi can't stop telling his story, nor can this reader pull themselves away from it – and for the duration of almost 700 captivating pages.« – Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgart

»A lesson in storytelling and historiography.« – Jörg Magenau / Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Berlin

»Charles Lewinsky is a great storyteller.« – Mark Stokmans / Trouw, Amsterdam

Charles Lewinsky

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

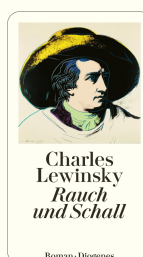
»Lewinsky has a deft feel for drama; you get the impression he has a field day setting the readers on one track and then drawing them onto another.« – Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»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



Deceptively Real
352 pages
2024
🏆 Bestseller



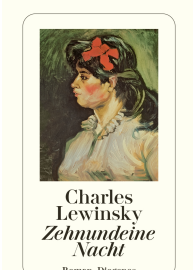
Smoke and Sound
304 pages
2023
🏆 Bestseller



The Devil on Christmas Night / The Good Lord on Inspection Day
88 pages
2023



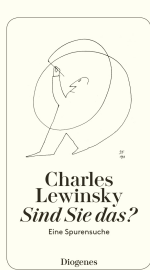
Give-and-Go
384 pages
2023



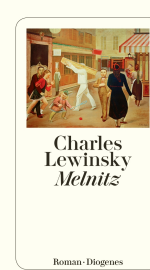
Ten and One Nights
240 pages
2023



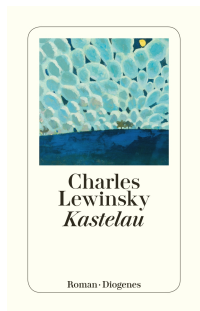
His Son
368 pages
2022
🏆 Bestseller



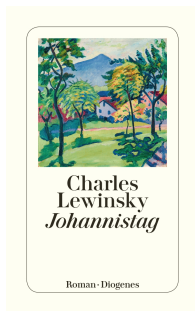
Is that You?
288 pages
2021



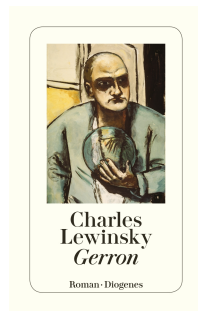
Melnitz
944 pages
2021



Kastelau
416 pages
2021



Midsummer's Day
368 pages
2021



Gerron
704 pages
2021



The Stutterer
416 pages
2019
 **Bestseller**

Praise (cont'd)

»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

The People's Will
368 pages