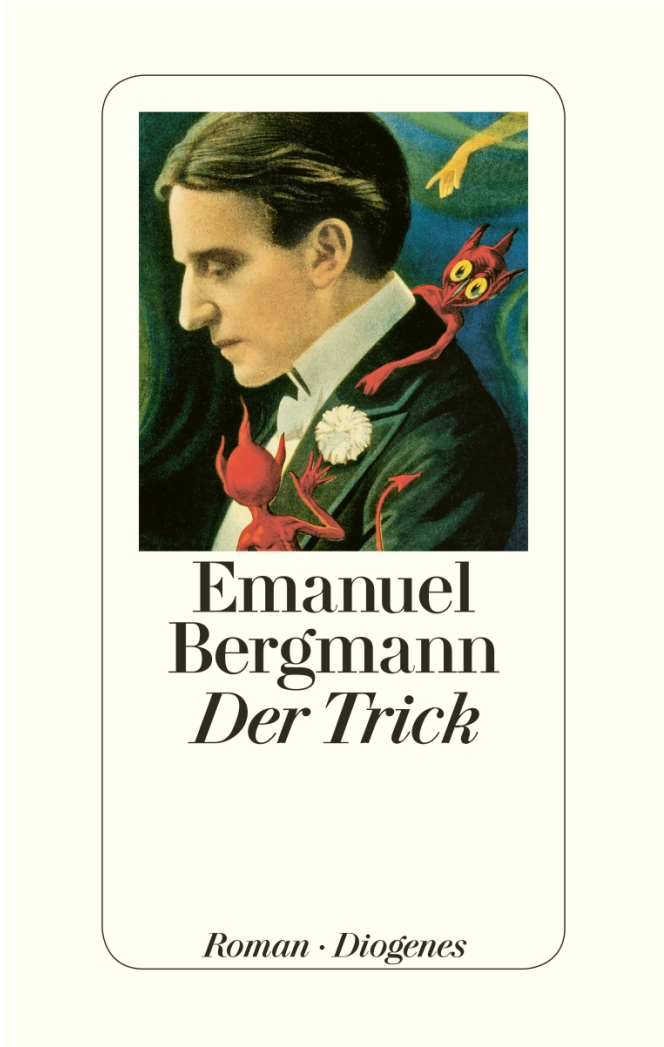
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Emanuel Bergmann
The Trick

Published by Diogenes as *Der Trick*
Original title: *Der Trick*



They meet in Los Angeles: a small boy who believes in everything and an old man who believes in nothing any more. What could possibly bring these two together other than the course of world history, which has the cruellest and most bewildering tricks up its sleeve? Prague, 1934: The fifteen-year-old rabbi's son Moshe Goldenhirsch marvels at the legendary circus magician known as the ›Half-Moon Man‹ and his delightful assistant – he falls head over heels in love, twice over. Moshe runs away from home to join the circus, which is slowly making its way to Germany. Los Angeles, 2007: Ten-year-old Max Cohn climbs out of his bedroom window to find the Great Zabbatini, a jaded old magician. The boy is convinced – only magic can bring his estranged parents back together before divorce strikes. A moving and absurdly funny story spanning eras and continents, a novel about the fragility of life and the will to let magic do its work.

Contemporary Literature
400 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2016

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

Translation rights currently sold:
Bulgarian (Kibea)
Catalan (La Campana)
Chinese/CN (Horizon Media)
Dutch (Prometheus/Bert Bakker)
English/world (Atria/Simon&Schuster)
French (Belfond)
Hebrew (Yedioth)
Italian (La nave di Teseo)
Japanese (Shinchosha)
Russian (Knizhniki)
Spanish/world (Anagrama)

Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

Award

2019 *Der Trick* war auf der Longlist des ›International Dublin Literary Award‹

Praise

The Trick

»One can never guess what will happen in the next few pages. Emanuel Bergmann writes in a fresh, original style full of empathy. *The Trick* is both thrilling entertainment and sophisticated literature.« – Stefan Keim / WDR, Cologne

»Haunting« – Mackenzie Dawson / New York Post

»This is a wonderful, inspiring book. Don't miss it.« – Aaron Leibel / The Jerusalem Post

»Bergmann packs in enough minor magic and miracles along the way to leave the reader willing to fall under his spell in an entrancing diversion.« – Jaclyn Fulwood / www.shelf-awareness.com

»The novel has humor and magic.« – Sandee Brawarsky / The New York Jewish Week

»A sensational debut.« – Harald Loch / Frankfurter Neue Presse

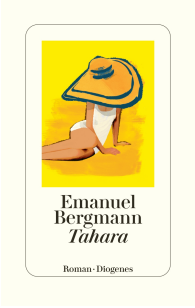
»Bergmann's storytelling is a feat of magic in and of itself.« – RT Book Reviews, New York

»Sweet, funny, magical.«
– Bridget Keown / Kirkus Review, New York



Photo: Joël Hunn / © Diogenes Verlag

Emanuel Bergmann, born in Saarbrucken in 1972, moved to Los Angeles to study film and journalism after his high school graduation. He has worked for various movie studios, production companies and media in Germany and the USA. His literary debut *The Trick* has been published in 18 languages. Emanuel Bergmann lives near Frankfurt with his wife and two children.



Tahara
288 pages
2024

Praise (cont'd)

»A lovely story. A tale for those who continue to look for magic in the world.« – Toni V. Sweeney / New York Journal of Books

»The tragedy of the past weaves together with humor, love, and a belief in the impossible in *The Trick.*« – Chika Gujarathi / BookPage, Nashville

»*The Trick* [. . .] is a cheerful picaresque novel, in which even extreme pain transforms into a smile and history becomes reconciled with a pleasant and reassuring story, instead of catching fire and burning in a devastating blaze.« – Andrea Baiani / La Repubblica, Roma

»The most significant peculiarity of the novel lies in the immediacy of its writing, in its simplicity and flow, in the subtle irony that pervades it, even when it evokes the most tragic moments of Europe's history. [. . .] People like to read stories like this one, even if they cannot believe in magic or charitable deceptions.«
– Matteo Collura / Il Messaggero, Roma