

# Diogenes

Jörg Fauser  
*Raw Material*

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



## Jörg Fauser Rohstoff

Roman · Diogenes

Jörg Fauser's autobiographical masterpiece now in a new edition.  
»That summer, drugs were cheaper than books, unless you wrote them yourself.«

Harry Gelb's raw materials are opium on an Istanbul rooftop and LSD in a Berlin commune, heroin in a Göttingen garret and countless beers in the pubs of Frankfurt. Above all, however, his raw material is writing itself.

Fast-paced, brutally honest and funny, Fauser's alter ego tells us of a dangerous and endangered youth and a man who never forgets – either as a night watchman or as an airport worker – what he wants to be: a writer.

With a foreword by Michael Köhlmeier, and an afterword by Matthias Penzel.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
352 pages  
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.3 cm  
June 2019

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### Translation rights currently sold:

English/world (Profile)  
Spanish/world (Sajalín)

### 📺 Movie adaptations

**2006: ROHSTOFF. Ein Film über den Schriftsteller Jörg Fauser mit Franz Dobler**  
Director: Christoph Rüter  
Cast: Bekannte und unbekannte Schauspieler

**1998: Das Frankfurter Kreuz**  
Director: Romuald Karmakar  
Screenplay: Jörg Fauser  
Cast: Michael Degen, Manfred Zapatka

**1985: Der Schneemann. Kokain ist sein Geschäft**  
Director: Peter F. Bringmann  
Screenplay: Matthias Seelig  
Cast: Marius Müller-Westernhagen, Polly Eltes, Oliver Lentz

### 🏆 Awards

- 2020 *Rohstoff* in der Kategorie »Bester Interpret« (Lars Eidinger) auf der Shortlist für den »Deutschen Hörbuchpreis«
- 1988 Postum »Friedrich-Glauser-Preis« auf der Criminale

### Praise

#### *Raw Material*

»As a mostly high as a kite writer, who struggles on as a removal man and night guard, he delivers an authentic image of the 68 generation.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung am Sonntag

»An immensely entertaining read, as well as an excellent document of the times around 1968.« – Andreas Schröter / Ruhr Nachrichten, Dortmund

»The »Fauser sound« is suggestive and – because of the extreme setting – incredibly mood-enhancing.« – Helmut Böttiger / Die Republik, Zurich

»Jörg Fauser depicts his characters with a precise gaze: laconic and full of wit.« – Leonie Berger / SWR 2, Stuttgart



Jörg Fauser (1944 – 1987) was born near Frankfurt. After dropping out of university, he spent some years living in Istanbul and London, making a living in office jobs, as an airport worker and night watchman, among other things. In 1974, he switched to writing. His novels, poems, newspaper articles and short stories occupy an exceptional position in German literature. Jörg Fauser died in an accident on a motorway near Munich on the night after his birthday. »At first, I didn't want to become a professional writer, I just wanted to write. I imagined a normal existence while producing a few eternal things on the side.«

### Jörg Fauser



*You Just Cling On to What You've Got*  
464 pages  
2023



*The Tour*  
288 pages  
2022



*Kant*  
128 pages  
2021



*A Friendship*  
368 pages  
2021



*The White of the Eye*  
464 pages  
2021



*The Snowman*  
304 pages  
2020



*The Club We All Play In*  
400 pages  
2020



*Marlon Brando*  
288 pages  
2020

### Praise (cont'd)

»... the master of West-German pulp. [...] [Raw Material is] one of the best German novels of the 20th century.«  
– Michel Decar / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»But the beat [...] goes on.«  
– Julia Encke / Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung

»It is only after the author's death that his importance was recognized.«  
– Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Every chapter has such a fast pace, a punch line, and a psychologically clear view, that it is a pleasure to read.«  
– Ijoma Mangold / SWR Fernsehen

»This is about sex, about drugs, about a satire on Germany, in other words: absolutely compulsory reading in schools!« – Denis Scheck / (German literary critic)

»This author's absence is noticeable.«  
– Philipp Haibach / Die Welt, Berlin

»Bukowski meets Withnail on schnapps. As beautiful a mess as the characters he wrote, Jörg Fauser's trawl through the anarchist squats of the 70s lays bare the seeds of Germany's new cool. While we were still making war films, Fauser ran with a generation intent on destroying the state and itself; through the voice of Harry Gelb his savage wit leaves no truth unturned in describing its most foibled and hopeless endeavour - decadent revolution. This book makes me wish I was there. « – DBC Pierre / (Australian author)

»Like nothing you've read before. [. . .] a crazed, leaping, unmoored and hilarious voyage.« – Niall Griffiths / (English author)

»Cracking - nothing more needs to be said.« – Nik Cohn / (British rock journalist)

»Fauser drank more beer than Bukowski and shot more heroin than William Burroughs. Sad, funny, cynical and deeply authentic, it's the best novel of the period I've ever read.« – Barry Miles / (English author)

»One of the best German novels ever written.« – Benjamin von Stuckrad-Barre / (German author)

### Jörg Fauser

»They [Fauser's texts] remain amongst the best long-form journalism written in the German language over the last fifty years. [. . .] to read Fauser is to explore the soul of the old Federal Republic. [. . .] Fauser [. . .] composes his texts with the drive and furor of the language-obsessed desperado [. . .]« – Peter Henning / Aargauer Zeitung

»Just like you always return to Chandler in American literature, you should refer to Fauser time and again in German literature. It helps to survive.« – Stefan Maelck / mdr2, Halle/Saale



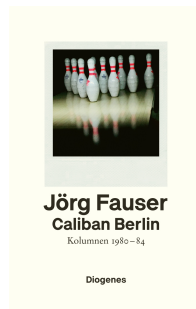
**Jörg Fauser**  
Alles muss  
ganz anders werden  
Erzählungen 1975–79  
Diogenes

*Everything Must Be  
Completely Different*  
288 pages  
2020



**Jörg Fauser**  
Ich habe große  
Städte gesehen  
Die Gedichte  
Diogenes

*I Have Seen Big Cities*  
352 pages  
2019



**Jörg Fauser**  
Caliban Berlin  
Kolumnen 1980–84  
Diogenes

*Caliban Berlin*  
368 pages  
2019



**Jörg Fauser**  
Das  
Schlangenmaul  
Roman · Diogenes

*The Snake Mouth*  
320 pages  
2019



**Jörg Fauser**  
Rohstoff  
Elements  
Diogenes

*Raw Material Elements*  
320 pages  
2019

## Praise (cont'd)

»The future of the German-language crime novel truly began with *The Snowman* and *The Snake Mouth*, far away from the so-called socio-crime novels emulating the *Beck* series by the Swedish writing team Sjöwall/Wahlöö« – Friedrich Ani / (German author)

»No other German writer captured the dark – and therefore authentic – soul of the Federal Republic better than the underground-highbrow wordsmith Jörg Fauser.« – Berliner Zeitung

»The literary industry may sing the praises of book after book, but the writing of Jörg Fauser, who received neither awards nor grants during his lifetime, will outlive many of them.« – Franz Dobler / BR2 Kultur, Munich

»Stylistically speaking, his novel *Raw Material* seems more fitting to the present day than to 1984.« – Helmut Böttiger / deutschlandfunk.de

»The literary element in Fauser's writing was rooted in his ability to condense reality and, in the process, build uncompromisingly upon his own experiences.« – Helmut Böttiger / deutschlandfunk.de

»This author is a walking contradiction, but his timeless tone makes his work feel absolutely contemporary.« – Helmut Böttiger / deutschlandfunk.de

»Reading Fauser is an experience, even today. [ . . . ] By reading Fauser, you not only discover more about the colourful – and increasingly so – Federal Republic, but also about life itself.« – Martin Oehlen / Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

»He had something of the beatnik about him, but also an element of aristocratic Englishness. [ . . . ] You'll be amazed at how fresh his writing feels.« – Michael Köhlmeier / rbb, Berlin

»His texts convey so much about the reality of West German life in the 1970s and 1980s.« – Dunja Welke / rbb, Berlin

»Jörg Fauser is a cult writer and hidden gem rolled into one.« – Stefan Kister / Stuttgarter Zeitung

»Fauser's long-ago present day seems to always be responding to the current present day, and vice versa.« – Katja Kullman / taz, Berlin

»Fauser, the master of shades of grey, doesn't pander to black-and-white thinking.« – Isabell Nina Schirra / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Like almost no one else, Fauser had a talent for linking coarse realism and poetry.« – Volkhard App / NDR1, Hanover

»Hard-hitting on the attack, with tender fervour in adoration, always operating along the ravages of time.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Whatever he wrote left its mark.« – Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»When has an author, before or after, ever taken such a euphoric and existential position as a writer?« – Volker Weidermann / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

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## Praise (cont'd)

»There are moments of sardonic humour as he plumbs the depths of human desperation and degradation.« – The Sunday Telegraph, London

»His books are documents of the will to survive. There are masterpieces in his rich oeuvre. Those who find them, think: This is what it is really like, life. That is the greatest compliment you can make to literature.« – Philipp Holstein / Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»An unforgotten pioneer of pop literature.« – Christoph Sator / Mannheimer Morgen

»Jörg Fauser was a crosser of borders and a driven man, his style similarly breathless and feverish as his spurt of life between dropout and drug tourist, city magazine and prose, popular and high culture.« – Hendrik Werner / Die Welt, Berlin

»To this day, Fauser has remained a subcultural hero . . .« – Peter Henning / Die Zeit, Hamburg

»The Clint Eastwood of German literature.« – Franz Dobler / (German author)

»I think Fauser is a genius!« – Lars Eidinger / (German actor)

»Full of integrity, believable and always at the top of his game, Jörg Fauser remained true to two artistic principles: ›Every well-told story is a thriller‹ and ›Good entertainment is about taking a certain stance‹.« – D.B. Blettenberg / (German author)

»Jörg Fauser (1944–1987), the ›German Bukowski‹, was a sublime storyteller, poet and journalist.« – NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»The Clint Eastwood of German literature.« – Franz Dobler / (Author)