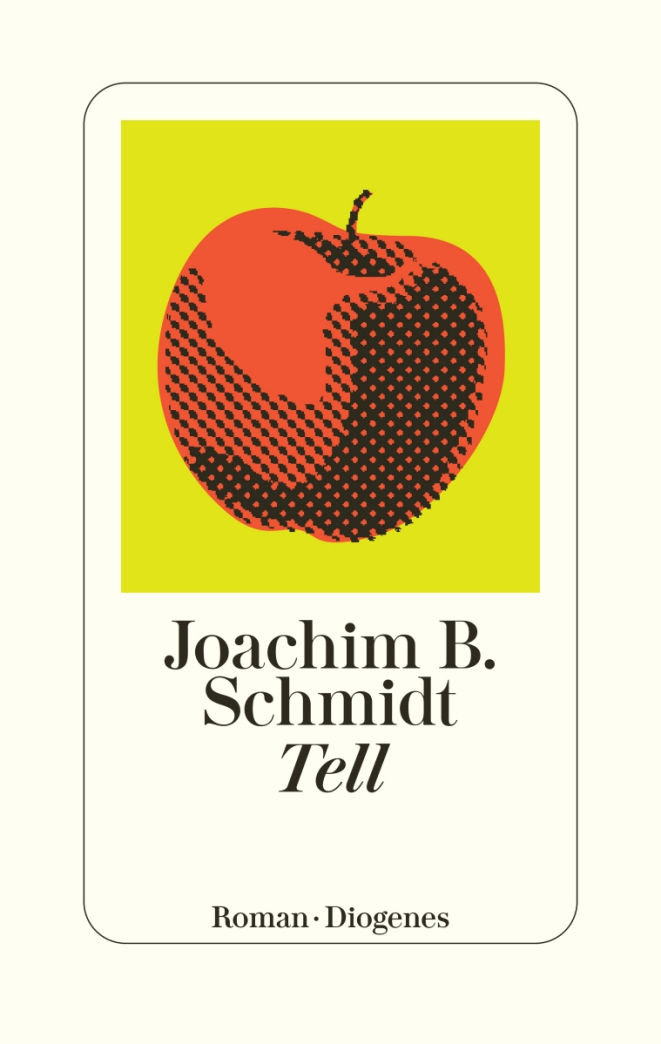
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Joachim B. Schmidt
Tell

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



It is perhaps the most famous legend in Swiss history – the story of William Tell – and Joachim B. Schmidt transforms it into a page-turner, a thriller, an event: Constructed from nearly a hundred fast-paced scenes and featuring twenty different protagonists, the narrative races towards its explosive showdown like a lit fuse. Neither a retelling nor a rehash, this is a blockbuster of a book: think *The Revenant* in the Alps or *Game of Thrones* in Altdorf.

Contemporary Literature
288 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.3 cm
March 2022

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

Translation rights currently sold:
Arabic (Al-Arabi)

Bestseller

#1 Swiss Bestseller
Spiegel Bestseller

Awards

2024 ›GLAUSER-Preis‹ in der Kategorie Roman für *Kalmann und der schlafende Berg*
2023 ›Bündner Literaturpreis‹ für *Tell*
2022 *Tell* ist SBVV-›Lieblingsbuch 2022‹ des Deutschschweizer Buchhandels
2021 *Kalmann* auf dem 3. Platz des zum ersten Mal verliehenen ›Schweizer Krimipreises‹
2021 ›Crime Cologne Award‹ für *Kalmann*

Praise

Tell

»In his new novel, *Tell,* he returns to his homeland to reimagine the ancient Swiss legend of William Tell in a sublime new way – namely, with all the excitement of a western.« – Denis Scheck / SWR, Stuttgart

»218 years after Schiller, Joachim B. Schmidt pulls apart the legend of William Tell, rearranges its component parts, and turns it into a storm of perspectives that reverberates for a long while.« – Oliver Uschmann / Galore, Dortmund

»For anyone after an exciting read, and willing to be persuaded that the story of William Tell can work as a thriller.« – WDR2, Cologne

»In this book, Tell is only reluctantly a freedom fighter – Schmidt wanted to create a realistic Tell.« – SRF, Zurich

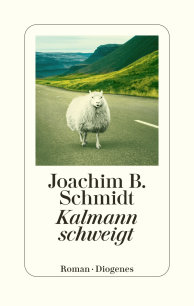
»Driven from cliff-hanger to cliff-hanger by its staccato narrative style, this is literary fare to be devoured with great enjoyment.« – Karin Waldner-Petschutschnig / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»He allows the characters surrounding his shady protagonist to take it in turns to have their say, turning this well-known legend into a psychological kaleidoscope.« – Axel Hill / Kölnische Rundschau, Cologne

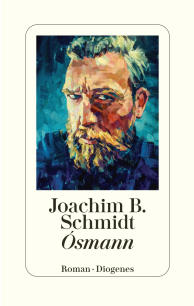


Photo: Eva Schram / © Diogenes Verlag

Joachim B. Schmidt, born in 1981, grew up in the Swiss canton of Grisons before emigrating to Iceland in 2007. His novels are bestsellers and have won numerous awards, including the ›Crime Cologne Award‹ and, most recently, the ›Glauser Prize‹. A dual citizen, Schmidt lives in Reykjavík with his wife and their two children.



Kalmann's Silence
320 pages
2026



Ósmann
288 pages
2025



Kalmann and the Sleeping Mountain
304 pages
2023
Award winner
Bestseller



Kalmann
352 pages
2020
Award winner
Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»*Tell* is one of the best books of the season.« – Ulrike Plapp-Schirmer / Heilbronner Stimme, Heilbronn

»So he is a modern Tell, which may also be so convincing exactly because it was not written in Switzerland, but with a lot of distance in Iceland.« – 3sat Kulturzeit, Mainz

»These sequences are very short and often breathtakingly tense; one cliffhanger follows the next.« – Matthias Jügler / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»The modern way of analyzing people and an archaic-looking Middle Age combine to create a novel that is bitter, polyphonic - and yet heartbreakingly moving and beautiful.« – Jutta Duhm-Heitzmann / WDR3, Cologne

»Anyone who reads it will love it as much as we do.«

– Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»With this novel, Joachim B. Schmidt has shattered the pedestal the Swiss have placed their national hero on, while also making that hero into a human being.« – Lilo Solcher / Augsburger Allgemeine, Augsburg

»This fresh version of an old story reinvigorates enthusiasm for a classic.« – Irene Zöch / Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

»A Tell story that's filled with suspense, and a showdown reminiscent of a Tarantino film.« – Annette König / SRF, Zurich

»In this novel, for the first time, vignettes become human beings, complete with all their contradictions; even the worst berserkers become relatable, despite their misdeeds.« – NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»This is the original Swiss blockbuster - Diogenes hasn't overexaggerated.« – Jano Felice Pajarola / Südostschweiz, Chur

»Endless cliffhangers, twenty different perspectives, narrated at breakneck speed, sometimes by the grandmother, sometimes by the son Walter, rarely by Tell himself.« – Alexander Wasner / SWR2, Stuttgart

»The book is a page turner that you just can't put down.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

»His *Tell* is a psychological thriller with a cinematic, popcorn-worthy showdown.« – Christoph Leibold / ARD, Munich

Joachim B. Schmidt

»An incredibly vivid sense of place, and a gifted storyteller.« – Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»Schmidt reveals himself to be an incredibly empathetic and skilled narrator with a strong sense for light humour.« – Hanspeter Eggenberger / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

Praise (cont'd)

»Joachim B. Schmidt is a genius narrator and author who pulls his readers into the action, along with his characters and their complex inner lives.« – Lisa Wieser / Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, Heidelberg

»A welcome addition to the Icelandic literary flora.« – Egill Helgason / RÚV, Reykjavík