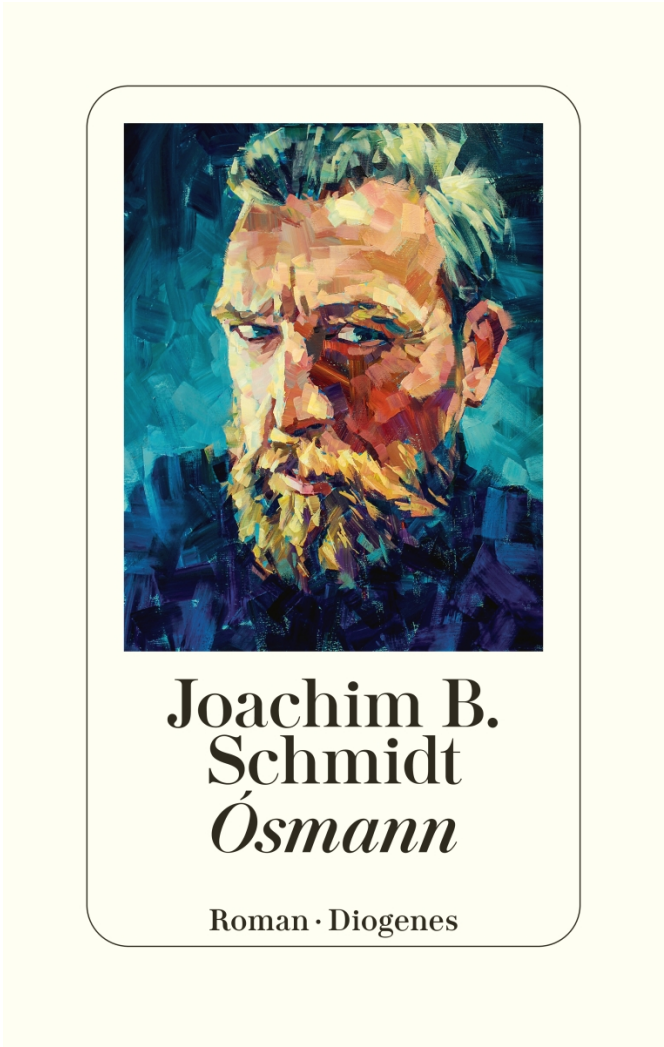
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Joachim B. Schmidt
Ósmann

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



The far north of Iceland, around the turn of the nineteenth century. With his rope ferry, Jón Magnússon Ósmann transports people, animals and wares across the waters of the Skagafjord. He's a fisherman and a seal hunter who sees ghosts and elves; a friend of all mankind who cares for and shelters those in need; and he's also a God-fearing drinker and poet. Larger-than-life, strong and companionable, and yet so tormented by his own fate that the floods he has sailed for over forty years begin to lure him in. Bursting with life, this is an almost unbelievable story based on a real life.

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller
288 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
April 2025

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Translation rights currently sold:
Czech (Prostor)
English/world (Bitter Lemon)
Icelandic (Forlagið)

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

Ósmann

»Based on notes and oral tradition, Joachim B. Schmidt tells a fast-paced novel in which nature, in its fractiousness, meant refuge and miracle […].« – Nora Zukker / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Schmidt makes this character come alive.« – Irene Zöch / Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

»Schmidt has written an impressive book that sprays you with spindrift from the Greenland Sea and from an eventful life.« – Katharina Teutsch / Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Cologne

»The author skilfully incorporates certain forerunners of the modern age, such as the installation of submarine telephone cables between the European continent and Iceland.« – Tina Uhlmann / SDA / Keystone

»Schmidt interweaves all these little, delicate stories into a big cosmos, with the man from the Ós at its centre.« – Petra Pluwatsch / Kölnische Rundschau, Cologne

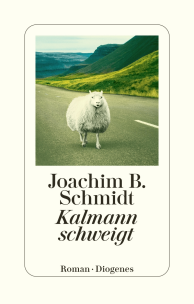
»A must-read for fans of Scandinavian culture, and for enthusiasts of portraits of fascinating persons who have been meaningful for many people's lives.« – Benedikt Dirrigl / Nordbayern, Nuremberg

»Joachim B. Schmidt brings this archaic world to life in all its ambivalence – in wild, mystical beauty and harsh reality.« – Babina Cathomen / Kulturtipp, Zurich



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



Kalmann and the Sleeping Mountain
304 pages
2023
Award winner
Bestseller



Tell
288 pages
2022
Award winner
Bestseller



Kalmann
352 pages
2020
Award winner
Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»*Ósmann* is a beautiful and moving literary treat by a hugely talented author.« – New Books in German

»Without appearing intrusive, he allows us to feel with Ósmann, his deep grief as well as his happiness, his fears, his melancholia and his friendliness.« – Benedikt Dirrigl / Nordbayern, Nuremberg

»A remarkable book about an incredible man [...] an absolute miracle.« – Hallgrímur Helgason / (101 Reykjavík, Sixty Kilos of Sunshine)

»One of the best books of the year here in Iceland.« – Hallgrímur Helgason / (author of 101 Reykjavík)

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

»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