

# Diogenes

**Jakob Arjouni**  
***Magic Hoffmann***

Published by Diogenes as *Magic Hoffmann*  
Original title: *Magic Hoffmann*



**Jakob  
Arjouni**  
*Magic  
Hoffmann*

*Roman · Diogenes*

The thousand-mark-notes fluttered in the sky like a flight of swallows circling towards the setting sun. When Fred whistled through his fingers they came and slipped back into the pocket of his trousers... Fred, Nickel and Annette are young, and the world – although not the one they live in – is their oyster. They dream a common dream, and it has a name: Canada. There they'll be able to live as they please, fishing and taking photographs, far away from boring, antiquated provincial Germany. But it's impossible to go straight from Dieburg to Vancouver on the Canadian west coast without a detour. For Fred this means going to prison and then to Berlin after the fall of the wall to pick up Nickel, Annette and his money. The three of them had planned to go to Canada together – but »the times they are a-changin'«... Jakob Arjouni writes about Germany and the times we live in – and about a man who tries his utmost not to be beaten either by his country or his friends. In a language that is unsentimental, apt and agile, he paints a picture of the German Republic. This is a novel in the mood of a road movie, an exciting story full of irony about private and political illusions, about Germany, Berlin and the provinces.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
288 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 1996

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### Movie adaptations

#### 2017: **Am Ruder**

Director: Stephan Wagner  
Screenplay: Stephan und Alexandra Maxeiner  
Wagner  
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Julia Koschitz und  
Inga Birkenfeld

#### 1992: **Happy Birthday, Türke**

Director: Doris Dörrie  
Cast: Hansa Czipionka, Özay Fecht, Doris  
Kunstmann, Lambert Hamel

### Awards

- 1992 Deutscher Krimi Preis für »Ein Mann, ein Mord«.
- 1987 Baden-Württembergischer Autorenpreis für das deutschsprachige Jugendtheater für sein Theaterstück »Nazim schiebt ab«.

### Praise

#### *Magic Hoffmann*

»Arjouni's spotlight on the darker side of the German affluent society is caustic, witty and exciting – and never moralising.« – Le Monde, Paris

#### Jakob Arjouni

»Arjouni tells real-life stories, and they virtually never have a happy ending. He tells them so well, with such flexible dialogue and cleverly maintained tension, that it is impossible to put his books down.« – El País, Madrid

»A genuine storyteller who beguiles his readers without the need of tricks.« – L'Unità, Milan

»Magnificent« – The Guardian

»Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times

»Jakob Arjouni writes the best urban thrillers since Raymond Chandler.« – Tempo

»A master of the sketch and the caricature.« – Die Welt

»Impossible to put his books down.« – El País

»A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern



Jakob Arjouni, born 1964 in Frankfurt on the Main, has published novels, short stories, theatre and radio plays. Arjouni was only twenty-one years old when his acclaimed debut, ›Happy birthday, Turk!‹ was published and its main character, the Frankfurt-based private detective Kemal Kayankaya, took on his very first investigation. In 1991, the book was made into a film, directed by Doris Dörrie. Three further cases followed; for the third, ›One Man, One Murder‹, Jakob Arjouni was awarded the 1992 ›German Crime Fiction Prize‹. In autumn 2012, ›Brother Kemal‹, the fifth volume starring the German-Turkish investigator was published. The series is now firmly established as a classic amongst crime literature. Apart from his stage plays, his work also includes the Berlin novels ›Magic Hoffmann‹ (1996) and ›Holy Eddy‹ (2009) as well as ›Idiots. Five Fairy Tales‹ (2003). His novels ›Homework‹, ›Chez Max‹, and particularly his novel about an East-German Nazi follower, ›Cherryman Hunts Mister White‹, are now on school reading lists. The theme of addressing violence in all its forms runs through Arjouni's work like a red thread. His readers loved him for his thrilling, sharp-tongued, linguistically unpretentious, witty and clever books. He died on the 17th of January 2013 in Berlin. Jakob Arjouni's works have been published in 24 languages.



**The Kayankaya Novels**  
1080 pages  
2014



**Brother Kemal**  
240 pages  
2012



**Cherryman Hunts Mister White**  
176 pages  
2011



**Holy Eddy**  
256 pages  
2009



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Chez Max*

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**Chez Max**  
224 pages  
2006



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Hausaufgaben*

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**Homework**  
192 pages  
2004



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Idioten, Fünf  
Märchen*

Diogenes

**Idiots. Five fairy tales**  
160 pages  
2003



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Kismet*

Kayankayus vierter Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**Kismet**  
272 pages  
2001



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Ein  
Freund*

Geschichten · Diogenes

**A Friend**  
176 pages  
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



Jakob Arjouni  
*Edelmanns  
Tochter*

Diogenes

**Edelmann's Daughter**  
96 pages  
1996

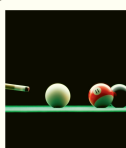


Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Ein Mann,  
ein Mord*

Kayankayus dritter Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**One Man, One Murder**  
192 pages  
1991



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Mehr Bier*

Kayankayus zweiter Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**More Beer**  
176 pages  
1987



Jakob  
Arjouni  
*Happy birthday,  
Türke!*

Kayankayus erster Fall

Roman · Diogenes

**Happy Birthday, Turk!**  
176 pages  
1987

 **Movie Adaptation**