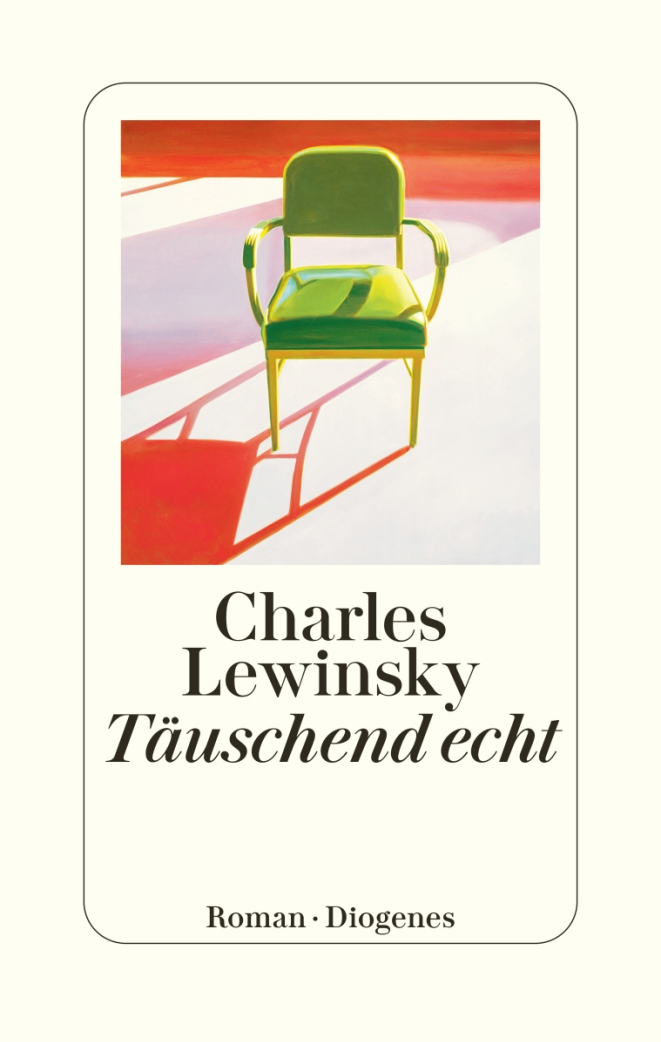
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Charles Lewinsky
Deceptively Real

Published by Diogenes as *Täuschend echt*
Original title: *Täuschend echt*



A copywriter loses everything in one go: love, money, and his career. But with the help of artificial intelligence, he manages to get back on his feet. The latest technology helps him write a book that generates considerable attention, because it supposedly tells the ›story of a genuine fate‹. Only one woman knows this isn't true: the former lover of the now-celebrated author, who once took everything from him.
A smart, engaging mind game about authorship in the age of AI, and a gripping read on a highly topical theme.

Contemporary Literature
352 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.5 cm
November 2024

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

Bestseller

#8 Swiss bestseller

Awards

2020 *Der Halbbart* auf der Shortlist des ›Schweizer Buchpreises‹
2020 *Der Halbbart* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2020 ›Dreitannen-Literaturpreis‹ des Buchfestivals Olten
2016 *Andersen* auf der Shortlist des ›Schweizer Buchpreises‹
2014 *Kastelau* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2011 *Gerron* für den ›Schweizer Buchpreis‹ nominiert
2009 ›Prix Lipp‹ für *Melnitz*, Genf
2008 ›Best Foreign Novel‹ für *Melnitz*, Foreign Literature Learned Society, Peking
2008 ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹ für *Melnitz*, Paris
2007 *Melnitz* wird als ›Bester deutscher Roman 2006‹ von der ›Jury für den besten fremdsprachigen Roman des Jahres im 21. Jahrhundert‹ in China ausgezeichnet.
2001 ›Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung‹ für *Johannistag*

Praise

Deceptively Real

»In his new novel, the Swiss bestselling author Charles Lewinsky intelligently plays with the new opportunities of the digital age.« – Sonntagsblick Magazine, Zurich

»The Swiss author connects the copywriter's derisive self-observation, the crooked girlfriend, the initially disdained neighbours, the rich patron and of course ›Kirsten‹ in an amusing manner.« – Christiane Oelrich / Münchner Merkur, Munich

»A highly pleasant read. Lewinsky is a greatly skilled inventor of comical scenes. […] It's definitely one of the most interesting books of the season.« – Next Book Please podcast (Literaturhaus Hamburg / Hamburger Abendblatt)

»Splendid publicity for real, genuine authors. […] A delightfully dark-humoured text on truth and deception.« – Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

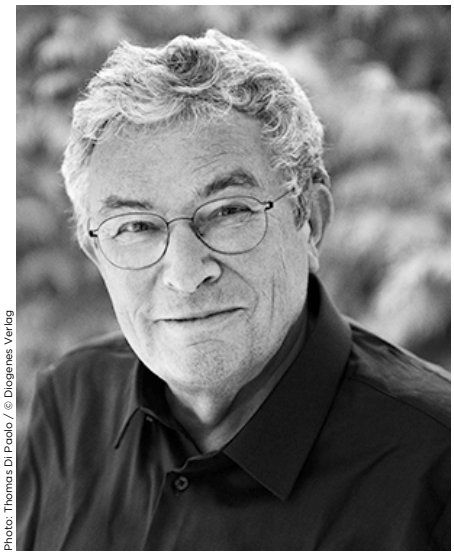
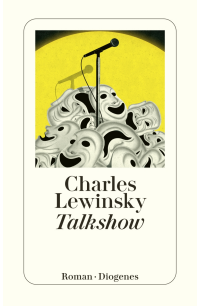
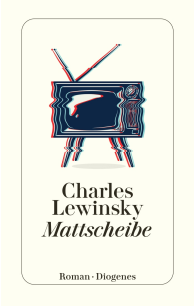


Photo: Thomas Di Paolo / © Diogenes Verlag

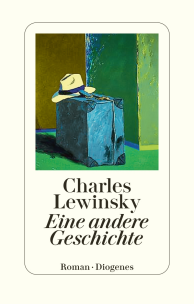
Charles Lewinsky, born in Zurich in 1946, has been a freelance writer since 1980. He won international renown with his novel *Melnitz,* which was awarded numerous prizes, including the French ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹. His novel *Halfbeard* was nominated for both the ›Swiss Book Prize‹ and the ›German Book Prize‹. His works have been published in 16 languages. Charles Lewinsky lives in Vereux (France) in summer, and in Zurich in winter.



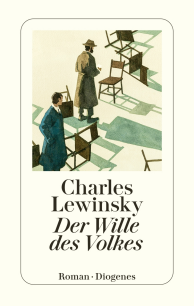
Talkshow
240 pages
2026



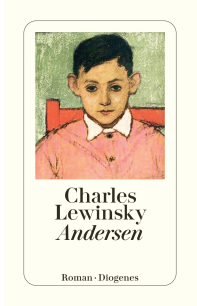
Telly
240 pages
2026



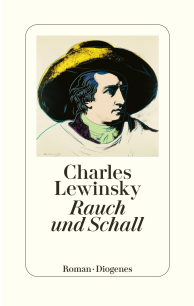
A Different Story
416 pages
2026



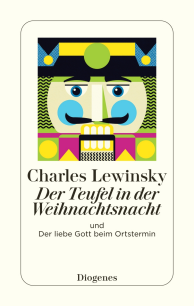
The People's Will
416 pages
2026



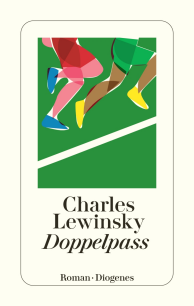
Andersen
608 pages
2026



Smoke and Sound
304 pages
2023
Bestseller



The Devil on Christmas Night / The Good Lord on Inspection Day
88 pages
2023



Give-and-Go
384 pages
2023

Praise (cont'd)

»An amusing and light-footed novel. A novel bearing evidence that artificial intelligence doesn't have to be the end of literature – it can be played with beautifully.« – Katja Schönherr / SRF, Zurich

»An original, entertaining and smart novel about the other, artificial kind of intelligence coming into power.« – Thomas Andre / Hamburger Abendblatt

»Charles Lewinsky presents yet another inventive text with sparkling humour, gently revolving around the serious question of the meaning of genuine writing in times of AI.« – Rainer Moritz / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»Light-handedly and with a sensible wink, Charles Lewinsky encircles the great field of tension between artificial intelligence and literary writing.« – Peter Mohr / Aachener Zeitung

»An accomplished interplay displaying that AI doesn't have to mean the end of literature.« – Juliane Krebs / WDR, Cologne

»Spot on and audacious. And ultimately, *Deceptively Real* is a proper thriller where the revelation is suspended to the last line.« – Rolf Fath / Badische Neueste Nachrichten, Karlsruhe

Charles Lewinsky

»Rare linguistic splendour and striking narrative virtuosity.« – Andreas Isenschmid / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»Lewinsky has a deft feel for drama; you get the impression he has a field day setting the readers on one track and then drawing them onto another.« – Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Charles Lewinsky is a literary jack of all trades. Wilding a sharp pen and with a keen eye he moves between different genres in a virtuoso manner. He has dedicated his life to words and today is one of the most read Swiss authors.« – Kurt Aeschbacher / SRF 1, Zurich

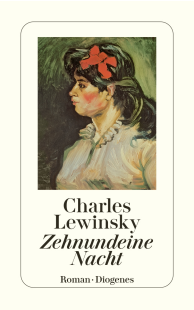
»Charles Lewinsky is probably one of the hardest-working and undisputedly one of the most successful and versatile Swiss writers.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Charles Lewinsky is a rascal in literature who masters all styles and eras.« – Rolf Fath / Badische Neueste Nachrichten, Karlsruhe

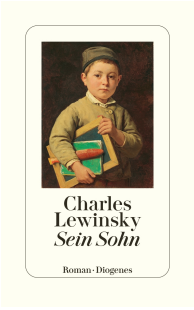
»The versatile star of contemporary Swiss literature.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»Above all, though, the tradition, the storytelling itself is always part of the narrative; this is the allure of the multi-layered works.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

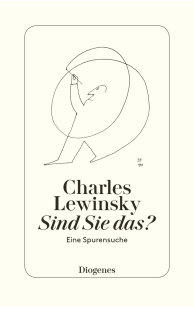
»Charles Lewinsky is the Swiss author with the broadest range when it comes to forms of expression.« – Felix Münger / Radio SRF2 Kultur, Basel



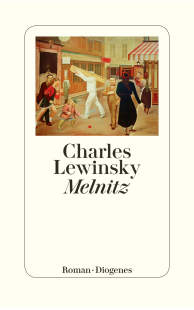
Ten and One Nights
240 pages
2023



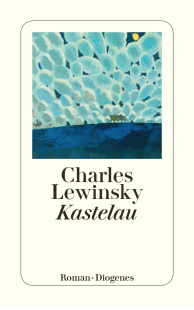
His Son
368 pages
2022
Bestseller



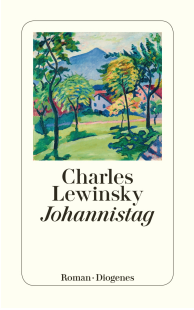
Is that You?
288 pages
2021



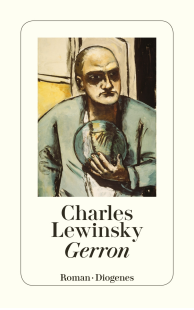
Melnitz
944 pages
2021



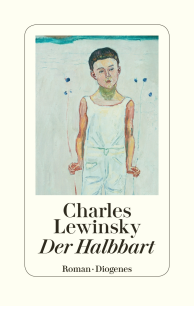
Kastelau
416 pages
2021



Midsummer's Day
368 pages
2021



Gerron
704 pages
2021



Halfbeard
688 pages
2020
Award winner
Bestseller



The Stutterer
416 pages
2019
Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»Lewinsky is a gifted writer.« – Reza Rafi / Blick, Zurich

»Charles Lewinsky has a sure instinct for dramaturgy. Immensely entertaining.« – Helmut Maurò / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich