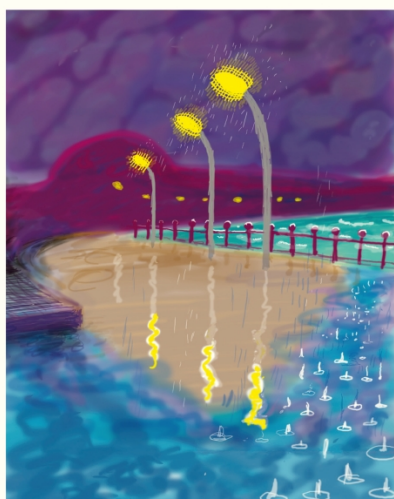


# Diogenes

**Benedict Wells**  
***Almost Ingenious***

Published by Diogenes as *Fast genial*  
Original title: *Fast genial*



**Benedict  
Wells**  
***Fast genial***

*Roman · Diogenes*

Francis Dean lives with his mother in a rundown trailer park in New Jersey. He figures he will probably live there until he dies. That is, until the day when he finds out the truth about how he was brought into the world. Apparently his existence is the result of an absurd experiment that his mother took part in. And it seems that his father is not some loser who left his family in the lurch after all, but a scientific genius from Harvard. Meeting him could change Francis' life. Together with his best friend Grover, an eccentric brain-box, and the girl of his dreams, the delicate, unpredictable Anne-May, he sets off on a cross-country journey to the West coast to find his father. Francis wants to find out who he really is, and he has nothing to lose – or does he? A dramatic journey of discovery with unrelenting twists and turns and a truly breathtaking showdown.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller  
336 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 2011

### Contact:

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Dutch (Meulenhoff)  
French (Slatkine)  
Hebrew (Hakibbutz Hameuhad)

### 📌 Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

### 🎬 Movie adaptation

#### **Becks letzter Sommer**

Director: Frieder Wittich  
Screenplay: Oliver Ziegenbalg  
Cast: Christian Ulmen, Nahuel Pérez Biscayart,  
Eugene Boateng, Friederike Becht, Fabian  
Hinrichs

### 🏆 Awards

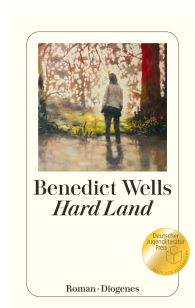
- 2022 ›Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis‹ in der Kategorie *Preis der Jugendjury* für *Hard Land*
- 2022 Benedict Wells wurde neu in das PEN-Zentrum Deutschland aufgenommen
- 2022 Platz 3 für *Hard Land* beim ›LovelyBooks-Leserpreis‹ in der Kategorie *Literatur*
- 2021 *Hard Land* für ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ nominiert
- 2021 *Hard Land* ist ›Das Lieblingsbuch‹ des Deutschschweizer Buchhandels
- 2020 *Die Wahrheit über das Lügen* auf der Shortlist für den Literaturpreis ›Text & Sprache‹ des Kulturkreises deutsche Wirtschaft
- 2018 ›Euregio-Schüler-Literaturpreis‹ für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›DER LESERPREIS‹ Bronze-Auszeichnung bei lovelybooks.de für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›Bronze‹-Auszeichnung in der Kategorie ›Buch des Jahres‹ für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*, gewählt von den *Buchmarkt-Lesern*
- 2016 ›Literaturpreis der Europäischen Union‹ Deutschland an Benedict Wells für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›Buchpreis Familienroman‹ der *Stiftung Ravensburger Verlag* für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ anlässlich der Woche unabhängiger Buchhandlungen (WUB) in Deutschland für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*



Benedict Wells, born in Munich in 1984, moved to Berlin after completing school and focused on his writing, earning a living with various jobs. His fourth novel, *The End of Loneliness*, spent more than a year and a half on the *Spiegel* Bestseller list, was awarded the 2016 ›European Union Prize for Literature‹, among other awards, and has been published in 39 languages. His latest novel *Hard Land* was awarded the independent young adult jury's ›German Youth Literature Award‹ in 2022. After several years in Barcelona, Benedict Wells now lives in Zurich.



**The Stories Inside Us**  
400 pages  
2024  
🏆 **Bestseller**



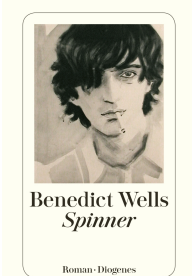
**Hard Land**  
352 pages  
2021  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**The Truth About Lying**  
256 pages  
2018  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**The End of Loneliness**  
368 pages  
2016  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**Crank**  
320 pages  
2009



**Beck's Last Summer**  
464 pages  
2008  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**

## 🏆 Awards (cont'd)

2009 ›Bayerischer Kunstförderpreis‹ in der Sparte Literatur u. a. an Benedict Wells für seinen Debütroman *Becks letzter Sommer*

## Praise

### *Almost Ingenious*

»Wells knows how to breathe life into big topics in a very personal way, tailored to both the unique characteristics of the protagonist and the reader. This novel, about three family members, moves the reader deeply.« – Vrij Nederland, Amsterdam

»Benedict Wells writes about doubting, struggling characters; and he hits a nerve.« – Nederlands Dagblad, Amersfoort

»In addition to being a classic road novel and a psychologically sophisticated coming-of-age story, *Almost Ingenious* is also the tale of a doomed, imbalanced love. Benedict Wells leads the reader masterfully into this high-pressure boiler.«

– Elsevier, Amsterdam

»Wells is an outstanding storyteller; this absorbing novel can be read in one sitting. He deftly addresses issues such as poverty, inequality and the influence of the past.« – AD Magazine, Amsterdam

»A remarkably good novel. In the first half of his book, Wells constructs a page-turning secret, which he then resolves in the second half in a consistently enthralling manner.« – NRC Handelsblad, Amsterdam

»Gripping and moving.« – De Volkskrant, Amsterdam

### Benedict Wells

»This 23-year-old Berliner is the shooting star in Germany's young literary scene: a multi-talented virtuoso with a touch of madness.« – Jan Drees / 1Live, Cologne

»The German Wunderkind« – Paula Coccozza / The Guardian, London

»Benedict Wells is probably the biggest talent our country has seen in the past few years.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»If you want to convince a young person that reading is fun, you'd best offer him a book by Benedict Wells.« – NRC Handelsblad, Amsterdam