

# Diogenes

Charles Lewinsky  
*The Stutterer*

Published by Diogenes as *Der Stotterer*  
Original title: *Der Stotterer*



Charles  
Lewinsky  
*Der Stotterer*

Roman · Diogenes

A book about the power of language, both philosophical and playful – by the acclaimed author of the international bestselling novel *Melnitz*.

Being a stutterer, Johannes Hosea Stärckle trusts entirely in the power of the written word and uses it ruthlessly, in self-defence and for his career. A fraud case – he calls it a writerly carelessness – puts him in prison. Using letters, avowals and invented stories, he tries to win over the people who have a say over his life behind bars: the prison chaplain, the drugs boss, his publisher.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
416 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
April 2019

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Arabic (Al-Arabi)  
Chinese/CN (Archipel Press)  
Dutch (Meridiaan)

### 📌 Bestseller

# 1 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

#### *The Stutterer*

›Entertaining and shrewd – pure delight.« –  
Börsenblatt, Frankfurt

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

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



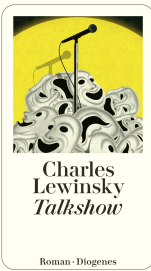
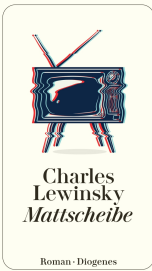
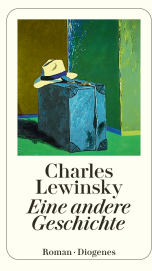
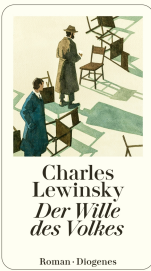
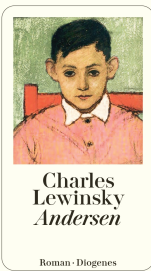

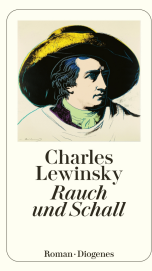

Charles Lewinsky, born in Zurich in 1946, has been a freelance writer since 1980. He won international renown with his novel *Melnitz*, which was awarded numerous prizes, including the French ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹. His novel *Halfbeard* was nominated for both the ›Swiss Book Prize‹ and the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

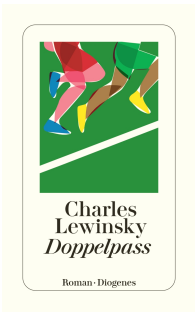
### Praise (cont'd)

- »This is a masterful novel by a writer who has already created a reputation for himself in English with the sweeping family saga *Melnitz*.«  
– New Books in German, London
- »An exhilarating read: intelligent, sophisticated – what else do you want?« – Denis Scheck / ARD
- »The novel is flowing, thrilling, suspenseful and – not least of all – funny.«  
– Denis Scheck / WDR 2 Buchtipps, Cologne
- » ... a consistent and well-rounded intimate play and play on words.«  
– Daniel Lüthi / Literarischer Monat, Zurich
- »[Lewinsky is] a master of attracting and retaining readers.«  
– Martin Ebel / Sonntagszeitung, Zurich
- »Charles Lewinsky is one of Switzerland's most important contemporary authors [...] *The Stutterer*, like the works of Friedrich Durrenmatt, could become a classic.« – Gerhard Beckmann / BuchMarkt, Meerbusch
- »With *The Stutterer*, Lewinsky presents a novel which overflows with imagination, wordplay, literary rebukes and social themes (child abuse, sects, drug trade, etc.).«  
– Wiener Zeitung

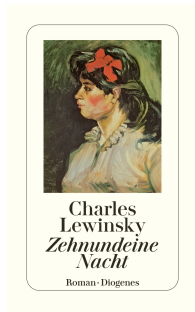
### Charles Lewinsky

- »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 Mürger / Radio SRF2 Kultur, Basel

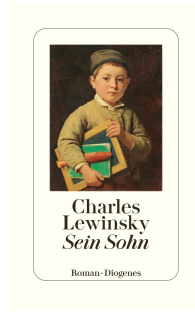
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 Roman · Diogenes Andersen 608 pages 2026	 Roman · Diogenes Deceptively Real 352 pages 2024 Bestseller	 Roman · Diogenes Smoke and Sound 304 pages 2023 Bestseller	 Diogenes The Devil on Christmas Night / The Good Lord on Inspection Day 88 pages 2023



*Give-and-Go*  
384 pages  
2023

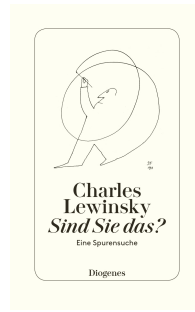


*Ten and One Nights*  
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2023

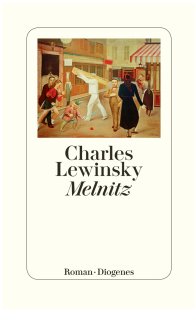


*His Son*  
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2022

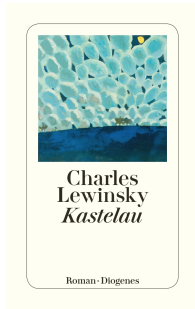
📌 **Bestseller**



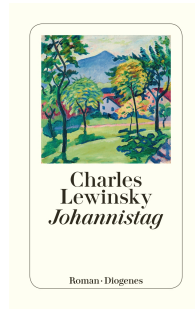
*Is that You?*  
288 pages  
2021



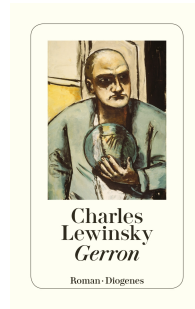
*Melnitz*  
944 pages  
2021



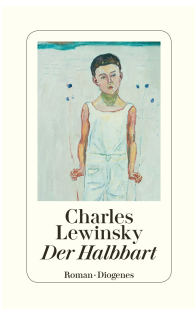
*Kastelau*  
416 pages  
2021



*Midsummer's Day*  
368 pages  
2021



*Gerron*  
704 pages  
2021



*Halfbeard*  
688 pages  
2020

🏆 **Award winner**  
📌 **Bestseller**

### Praise (cont'd)

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