

Diogenes

Charles Lewinsky
Smoke and Sound

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Charles
Lewinsky
*Rauch
und Schall*

Roman · Diogenes

Goethe returns from Switzerland to find himself back home in Weimar, suffering from writer's block. It doesn't matter how quiet his young son August is, or how lovingly his wife Christiane looks after him. Ultimately, it's his brother-in-law, Christian August Vulpius – also a writer, much despised by Goethe as a hack – who proves an unlikely source of aid. Aid that Goethe does not want yet desperately needs.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
304 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.5 cm
November 2023

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

📌 Bestseller

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

Smoke and Sound

»This is a marvellous Goethe parody, told in a tongue-in-cheek manner and ironic tone, and truly amusing.« – Elke Heidenreich / Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne

»Lewinsky realized the Weimar classic period in charming language and with conquering metaphors, as well as with a finely tuned balance between truth and telling.« – Hartmut Buchholz / General-Anzeiger, Bonn

»It is deliberately not as profound as the approaches taken by Thomas Mann (*Lotte in Weimar*) or Martin Walker (*A Loving Man*), but is much funnier.« – Martin Ebel / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Goethe research should most definitely be spurred on by Lewinsky. It obviously seems to have overlooked one or two things.« – Rainer Moritz / NZZ, Zurich



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)

»In the novel *Smoke and Sound* Charles Lewinsky not only undertakes a cheerful, quotation-rich toppling of monuments but also acquaints us with the demands and abysses of the creative individual.« – Michael Köhler / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

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

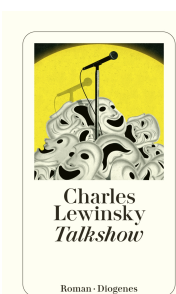
»The versatile star of contemporary Swiss literature.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»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

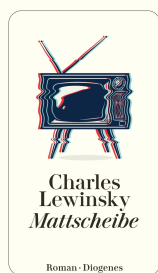
»Charles Lewinsky is the Swiss author with the broadest range when it comes to forms of expression.« – Felix Münger / Radio SRF2 Kultur, Basel

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

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



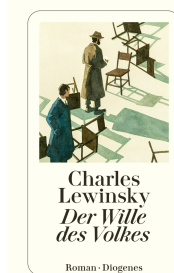
Talkshow
240 pages
2026



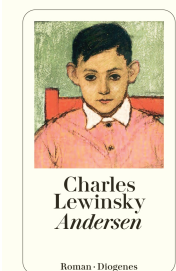
Telly
240 pages
2026



A Different Story
416 pages
2026



The People's Will
416 pages
2026



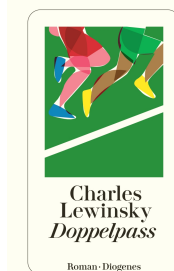
Andersen
608 pages
2026



Deceptively Real
352 pages
2024
 Bestseller



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



Give-and-Go
384 pages
2023



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