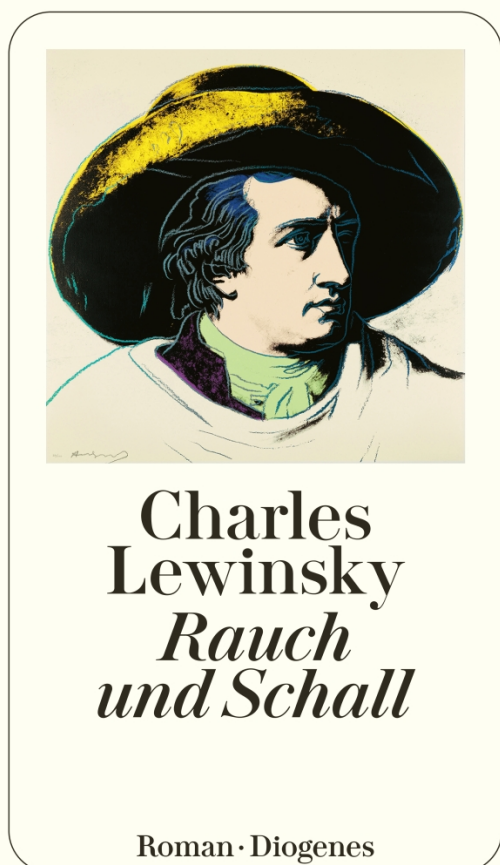


Charles Lewinsky  
*Smoke and Sound*

Published by Diogenes as *Rauch und Schall*  
Original title: *Rauch und Schall*



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

General Fiction  
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 ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹ für *Melnitz*, Paris
- 2008 ›Best Foreign Novel‹ für *Melnitz*, Foreign Literature Learned Society, Peking
- 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

»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

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

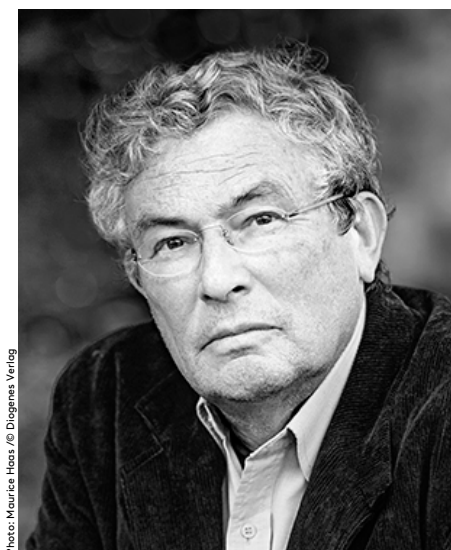


Photo: Maurice Haas / © Diogenes Verlag

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‹. Charles Lewinsky lives in Vereux (France) in summer, and in Zurich in winter.

## Praise (cont'd)

»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

Charles Lewinsky

»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

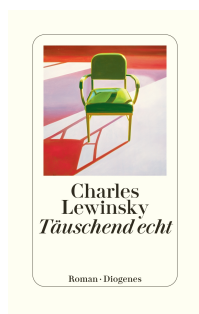
»Lewinsky has a deft feel for drama; you get the impression he has a field day setting the readers on one track and then drawing them onto another.« – Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

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

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

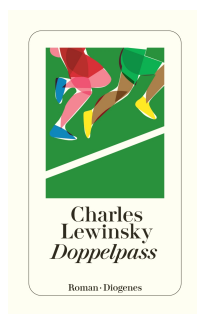
»Charles Lewinsky is probably one of the hardest-working and undisputedly one of the most successful and versatile Swiss writers.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich



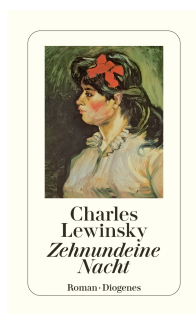
*Deceptively Real*  
320 pages  
2024



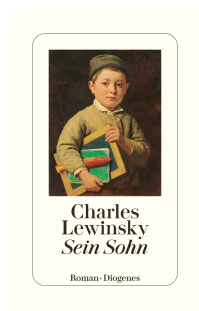
*The Devil on Christmas Night / The Good Lord on Inspection Day*  
88 pages  
2023



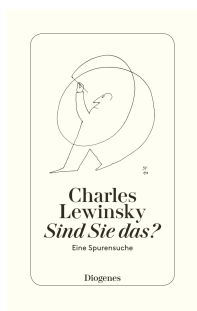
*Give-and-Go*  
384 pages  
2023



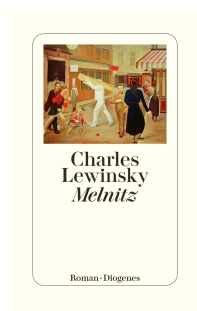
*Ten and One Nights*  
240 pages  
2023



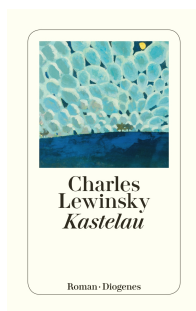
*His Son*  
368 pages  
2022  
Bestseller



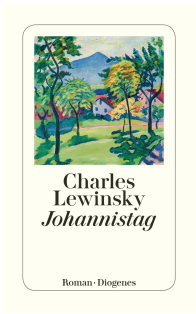
*Is that You?*  
288 pages  
2021



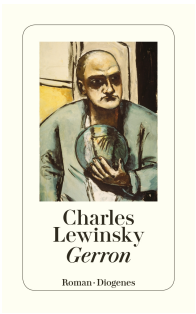
*Melnitz*  
944 pages  
2021



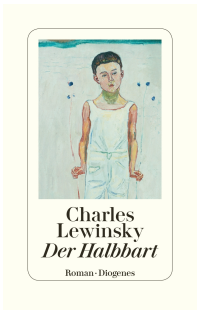
*Kastelau*  
416 pages  
2021



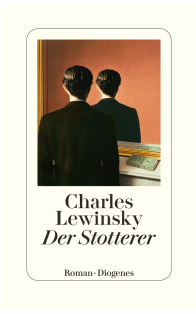
*Midsummer's Day*  
368 pages  
2021



*Gerron*  
704 pages  
2021



*Halfbeard*  
688 pages  
2020  
🏆 Award winner  
📈 Bestseller



*The Stutterer*  
416 pages  
2019  
📈 Bestseller