

Diogenes

Joachim B. Schmidt
Kalmann

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Original title: *Kalmann*



He is the self-appointed sheriff of Raufarhöfn, and has everything under control. There's no need to worry. Day by day, he treks the wide plains which surround the almost deserted village, hunts Arctic foxes and lays shark bait in the sea — to process the fish into the Icelandic fermented delicacy, hákarl. But inside Kalmann's head, the wheels sometimes spin backwards. One winter, after he discovers a pool of blood in the snow, the swiftly unfolding events threaten to overwhelm him. But with his naive wisdom and pure-hearted courage, he makes sure everything takes a turn for the better. There's no need to worry.
»It can get pretty dark beneath a polar bear.«
Kalmann

Book factsheet

General Fiction
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World rights are handled by Diogenes

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Rights currently sold:

Arabic (Al-Arabi)
Icelandic (Forlagið)
Spanish/world (Gatopardo)

🏆 Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller
Swiss Bestseller

Praise

Kalmann

»This is an incredibly funny, highly suspenseful, very beautiful and affectionate novel.« – Johannes Köbler / ORF, Vienna

»A gripping novel with a light criminal plot.« – Pia Zesilsky / WDR 2 Lesen, Cologne

»He lets the Icelandic world shine from within and you grow fond of the main character.« – Manfred Papst / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»Joachim B. Schmidt's novel *Kalmann* sensitively depicts Iceland's answer to *Forrest Gump* – a guy who may be slow on the uptake, but who is, in his own unique way, a connoisseur when it comes to the art of living.« – Augsburg Allgemeine, Augsburg

»What makes *Kalmann* so unique is the language.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

»Just because an idiot says something, that doesn't mean it's meaningless.« – Nicolas Freund / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Joachim B. Schmidt, who lives in Iceland, has written an incredible, moving book with an unusual hero who instantaneously wins the reader's heart.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»An incredibly vivid sense of place, and a gifted storyteller.« – Welt am Sonntag, Berlin

»Joachim B. Schmidt's novel is more than a crime novel; it's a meticulously researched, unpretentiously narrated reportage of everyday life in a far, icy corner of the earth.« – Martin Halter / FAZ, Frankfurt

»To know *Kalmann* is to love him.« – Stefan Keim / WDR 4, Cologne



Joachim B. Schmidt, born in Grisons, Switzerland in 1981, is a journalist and the author of three novels and numerous short stories. He emigrated to Iceland in 2007, where he lives with his family in Reykjavík and also works as a tour guide.

Praise (cont'd)

»*Kalmann* is a remarkable portrayal of a remote Icelandic community and the devastating impact of the decline of the herring and fishing industries. The tensions between this rural community and the latte-drinking townies of Reykjavík are sensitively depicted, as well as hostility and racism towards the Eastern European migrant workers.« – New Books in German, London

»There isn't much that Kalli doesn't know.« – Sylvia Staude / Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt

»Schmidt reveals himself to be an incredibly empathetic and skilled narrator with a strong sense for light humour.« – Hanspeter Eggenberger / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»That a Swiss author could write the best Iceland mystery novel of the year is something you deem improbable only until you read this book.« – Tobias Gohlis / Krimibestenliste, Hamburg

»*Kalmann* is a wonderful non-crime novel, which, because the negated can persist in the negation, is nonetheless a wonderful crime novel.« – Thomas Wörtche / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

»Joachim B. Schmidt depicts his central character with great empathy, psychological tact – and humour. He pulls off his protagonist's seemingly naive narrative style with great success.« – Christel Wester / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

»What makes this novel especially stand out is its linguistic style. Schmidt narrates entirely from *Kalmann's* perspective.« – Tiroler Tageszeitung, Innsbruck

»*Kalmann's* thoughts are often philosophical pearls, which amaze not just for their simplicity, but also their truth.« – Constanze Matthes / Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle

»A captivatingly charming blend of *Fargo* und *Parsifal*.« – Hörzu, Hamburg

»This is a social novel, and a sensitive portrait of *Kalmann* – a young, self-aware Icelander who is very different to everyone else.« – Denis Scheck / ARD, Munich

»Gripping, funny, empathetic, and cleverly structured.« – Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

»An unusual tale from the edge of the world.« – Kleine Zeitung, Graz