

# Diogenes

**Anthony McCarten**  
***In the Absence of Heroes***

Published by Diogenes as *Ganz normale Helden*  
Original title: *In the Absence of Heroes*



**Anthony  
McCarten**  
*Ganz  
normale  
Helden*

*Roman · Diogenes*

For a year, Jeff Delpé, 18, has tried to help his parents after the death of his younger brother, Donald. Now he is fed up: His father sees moving to the countryside as the only solution to the family tragedy, and his mother spends her days chatting with an unknown man named God. So Jeff decides to disappear. His new address is [www.lifeoflore.com](http://www.lifeoflore.com), where he is the big star of an online game and earns a lot of money.

In order not to lose another son, his distraught father ends up looking for him in the place that is more foreign to him than any other. Reluctantly he sneaks into Jeff's online world... creating havoc, most of all for himself. While he fights his way up, level after level, to his son's sphere, offline he falls into an abyss and risks losing his job and his wife.

Is that the end of the Delpé family? Far from it.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
464 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 2012

World rights are handled by Diogenes

### Movie adaptations

#### 2019: *The Two Popes*

Director: Fernando Meirelles  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Jonathon Pryce, Anthony Hopkins, Juan Minujín

#### 2011: *Superhero*

Director: Ian FitzGibbon  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Andy Serkis, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Jessica Schwarz, Michael McElhatton und Sharon Horgan

#### 2008: *Show of Hands*

Director: Anthony McCarten  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Melanie Lynskey, Craig Hall, Stephen Lovatt

#### 2005: *The English Harem*

Director: Robin Sheppard  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Art Malik, Martine McCutcheon, Tom Georgeson, Linda Bassett, John Sessions

### Awards

- 2023 *Going Zero* auf der Shortlist für den ›Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize‹
- 2020 Oscar-Nominierung ›Bestes Drehbuch‹ für *Die zwei Päpste*
- 2018 Oscar-Nominierung ›Bester Film‹ für *Darkest Hour*
- 2015 Oscar-Nominierung ›Bester Film‹ für *The Theory of Everything*
- 2015 ›Bestes adaptiertes Drehbuch‹ für *The Theory of Everything* bei der Verleihung der 68. BAFTA Awards
- 2012 ›Young Generation Award‹ des 6. FSFF (Fünf-Seen-Filmfestival) für die Verfilmung *Am Ende eines viel zu kurzen Tages*
- 2008 ›Jugendbuchpreis‹ der Jury der Jungen Leser (Altersgruppe 15/16) für *Superhero*
- 2007 ›hörBücher Grandios‹-Auszeichnung des Magazins *Hörbücher* für das Hörbuch *Superhero*, gelesen von Rufus Beck
- 2001 ›Molière-Preis‹ für das beste ausländische Stück für *Ladies Night*

### Praise

*In the Absence of Heroes*

»Anthony McCarten's narrative is compelling, funny and clever, with sparkling dialogue and told at a rattling pace.« – Anja Hirsch / Der Falter, Vienna



Anthony McCarten, born in New Zealand in 1961, is an award-winning novelist, playwright and screen-writer. He has adapted several of his novels, acclaimed by critics and readers alike, for the big screen. In 2015 he was nominated for two ›Oscars‹ and won two ›BAFTAs‹ for his screenplay *The Theory Of Everything*, starring Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking. His play *Ladies Night* continues to be an international hit. Anthony McCarten divides his time between London and Munich.

### Praise (cont'd)

»How skilfully Anthony McCarten pulls the strings in his exciting but touching social novel – and with plenty of surprises.« – Südwest Presse, Ulm

»Another sparkling novel by Anthony McCarten.« – Stefan Hauck / Börsenblatt, Frankfurt

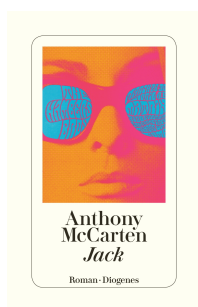
Anthony McCarten

»One of New Zealand's most exciting literary exports.« – International Herald Tribune, Paris

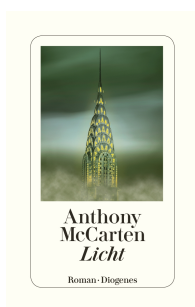
»Here's a writer with heart and an amazing boldness of invention ... There is not a false sentiment or conventional genuflection in this book.« – Timothy Mo

»Anthony McCarten is surely the most creative author of his generation in New Zealand.« – Günter Keil / Münchner Feuilleton

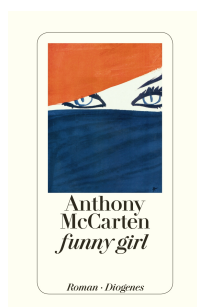
»Anthony McCarten has a knack for great stories, a talent for treating serious subjects with a great deal of wit.« – Antje Deistler / Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Cologne



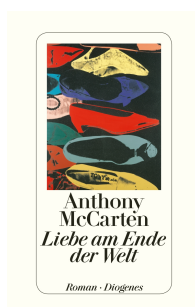
*American Letters*  
256 pages  
2018



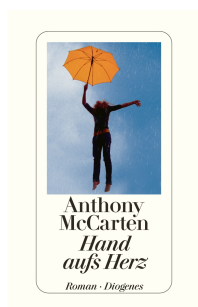
*Brilliance*  
368 pages  
2017



*funny girl*  
384 pages  
2014  
**Bestseller**



*Spinners*  
368 pages  
2011



*Show of Hands*  
336 pages  
2009  
**Movie Adaptation**



*The English Harem*  
592 pages  
2008  
**Movie Adaptation**  
**Bestseller**



*Death of a Superhero*  
304 pages  
2007  
**Award winner**  
**Movie Adaptation**  
**Bestseller**