

Charles Lewinsky
The People's Will

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Original title: *Der Wille des Volkes*



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*Der Wille
des Volkes*

Roman · Diogenes

A retired journalist receives an enigmatic message from a colleague who dies shortly afterwards. A dystopian crime novel, set against a politically explosive backdrop where Switzerland is ruled by a right-wing populist party: Charles Lewinsky unfolds a classic detective story in an eerie setting.

When Kurt Weilemann receives Felix Derendinger's message, he immediately senses that his colleague is afraid. But what on earth of? He can no longer ask him, because shortly after, Derendinger is found dead on the bank of Zurich's River Limmat. Suicide by jumping off the wall. Or so the report says. Yet, his beautiful young acquaintance claims otherwise: Derendinger cannot have been fit enough to make the distance between the wall and the river shore in a single leap. She wants Weilemann to solve the murder. He feels flattered and significantly rejuvenated by the task. But his enthusiasm is soon overpowered by fear because those who want to cover up the murder hold key positions in the new state system. They are powerful enough to make him disappear – and the truth along with him.

Book factsheet

Novel
416 pages
11.3 x 18 x 2.3 cm
April 2026

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
Italian (Armando Dadò)

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

Charles Lewinsky

»Rare linguistic splendor 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



Praise (cont'd)

»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

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.

<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Talkshow</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>Talkshow 240 pages 2026</p>	<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Mattscheibe</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>Telly 240 pages 2026</p>	<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Eine andere Geschichte</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>A Different Story 416 pages 2026</p>	<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Andersen</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>Andersen 608 pages 2026</p>
<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Täuschend echt</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>Deceptively Real 352 pages 2024 Bestseller</p>	<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Rauch und Schall</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>Smoke and Sound 304 pages 2023 Bestseller</p>	<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Der Teufel in der Weihnachtsnacht</i> und <i>Der liebe Gott beim Ortstermin</i></p> <p>Diogenes</p> <p>The Devil on Christmas Night / The Good Lord on Inspection Day 88 pages 2023</p>	<p>Charles Lewinsky <i>Doppelpass</i></p> <p>Roman · Diogenes</p> <p>Give-and-Go 384 pages 2023</p>



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2021



Melnitz
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2021



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2021



Halfbeard
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🏆 Award winner
🏆 Bestseller



The Stutterer
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