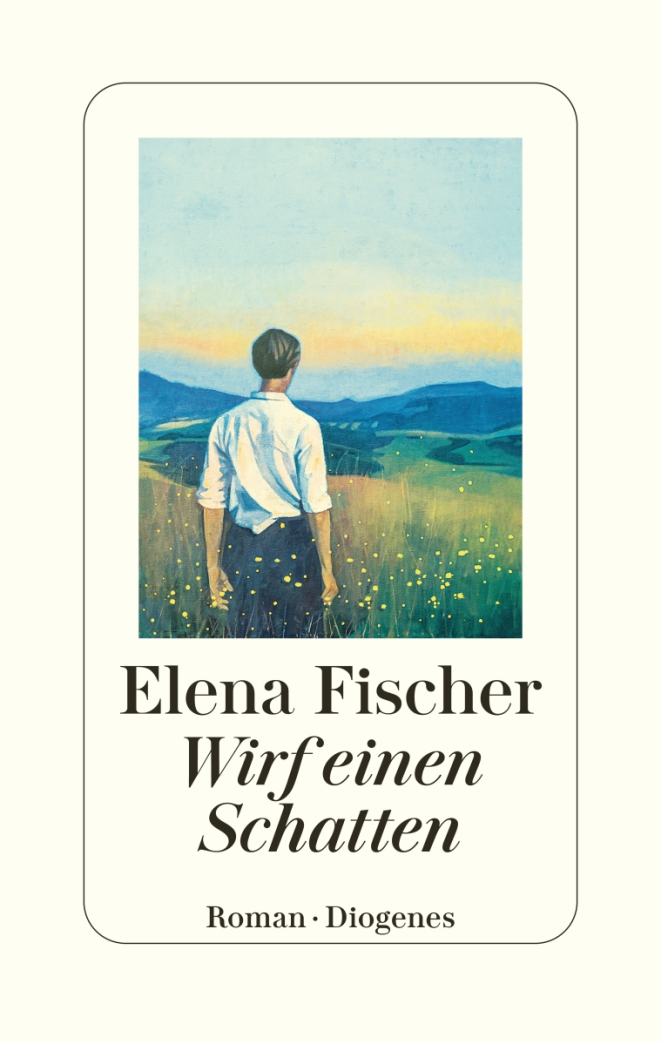
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Elena Fischer
Cast a Shadow

Published by Diogenes as *Wirf einen Schatten*
Original title: *Wirf einen Schatten*



Joseph is lonely and struggling with his lot in life, not least because his wife Lis, unable to bear day-to-day life on the farm, has fled to the city with their son. This is far from a daily occurrence in the 1960s in the countryside. Luckily, Ada, Lis' older sister, is still there — with whom Joseph perhaps always felt more connected. And then 19-year-old Birdie suddenly appears on his doorstep, weak, and fleeing her own predetermined path. Lis, Ada and Birdie — they will turn not only their own lives upside down, but Joseph's too.

Novel, Contemporary Literature
304 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.4 cm
August 2026

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French (Gallmeister)
Hungarian (Helikon)
Russian (Azbooka)

Awards

2024 *Paradise Garden* ist das Debüt des Jahres des Literaturwerks Rheinland-Pfalz-Saar
2023 *Paradise Garden* für das ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ nominiert
2023 *Paradise Garden* nominiert für den ›Debütpreis des Harbour Front Literaturfestivals Hamburg‹
2023 *Paradise Garden* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2021 ›Literatur-Förderpreis‹ der Landeshauptstadt Mainz für junge Autorinnen und Autoren
2021 Finalistin beim 29. open mike

Praise

Cast a Shadow

»*Cast a Shadow* has a different tone, a different mood, a different topic, and it goes beyond expectations.« – Alexander Jürgs / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»There are a thousand ways to tell a story. Elena Fischer chooses the dark, challenging, magical one.« – Claudio Armbruster / ZDF, Mainz

»That's how history evolves. And Elena Fischer tells about it in a magnificent way« – Katja Weise / NDR Kultur, Hamburg

»And it flawlessly interweaves past, present, and future.« – Katharina Teutsch / Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Cologne

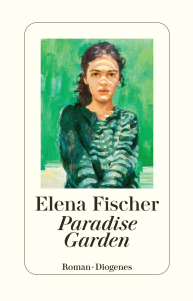
Elena Fischer

»She's got a sound all of her own, feverish, eclectic.« – Éric Neuhoff / Le Figaro Littéraire, Paris



Photo: Alexander Conrads / © Diogenes Verlag

Elena Fischer, born in 1987, studied comparative literature and film in Mainz, where she lives with her family. In 2019 and 2020, she participated in the Darmstadt Text Workshop, led by Kurt Drawert. In 2021 she was a finalist at the 29th ›Open Mike‹ with an extract from her debut novel *Paradise Garden* and won the Mainz provincial government's prize for young authors. Elena Fischer has been nominated for the ›German Book Prize‹ and for the ›Harbour Front Literary Festival's Debut Prize‹ 2023.



Paradise Garden
352 pages
2023
Award winner
Bestseller