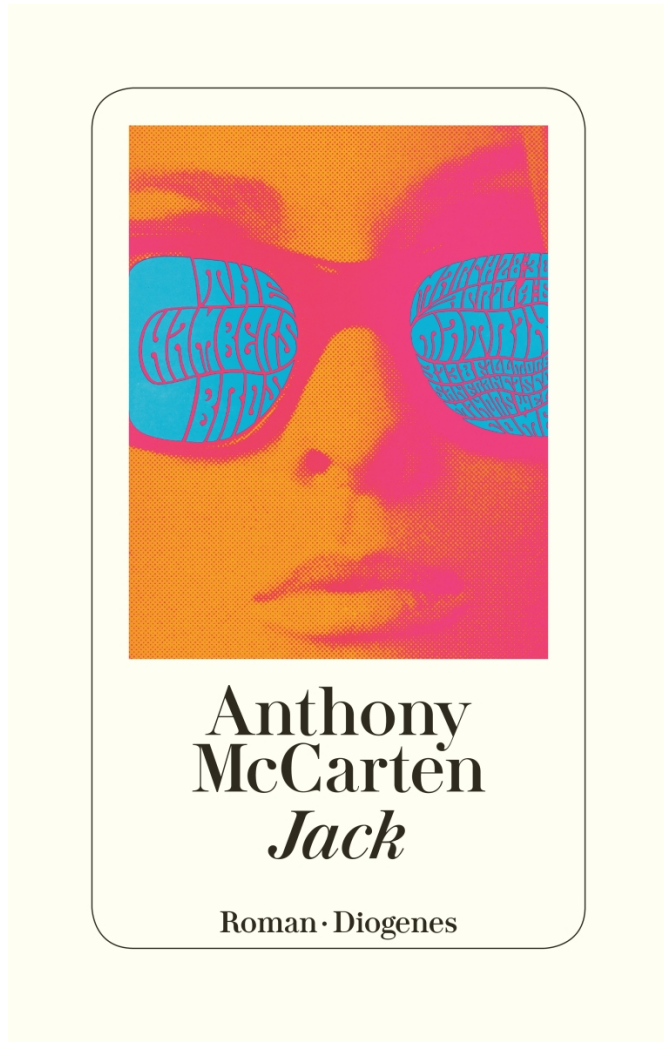


# Diogenes

**Anthony McCarten**  
**American Letters**

Published by Diogenes as *Jack*  
Original title: *American Letters*



The new novel by Anthony McCarten, the master storyteller of fascinating changes of identity, is a tale of false and real heroes and about the challenge of tolerating doubts in oneself. He is a shadow of his former self, drinking himself to death in Florida: Jack Kerouac, the beatnik idol who once cannibalized his friend Neal Cassady's life to make the cult novel *On the Road*. One day a student of literature knocks on his door out of the blue. Her dream is to write down his life story, to be his first biographer. Jack refuses and yet he lets Jan's admiration seduce him into looking back. A trip from which no one comes back unharmed. How much of our life is really our own and how much is only borrowed, emulated?

»Reading Kerouac taught me how to write. I knew his angels and demons. He is the hero of *American Letters*: a story that seeks to ask ›Who am I?‹, or perhaps even ›Who is anyone?‹.«

Anthony McCarten

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
256 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2018

World rights are handled by Diogenes  
(except English)

### Movie adaptations

#### 2019: *The Two Popes*

Director: Fernando Meirelles  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Jonathan Pryce, Anthony Hopkins, Juan Minujin

#### 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

*American Letters*



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)

»A game of identities and a great homage to the erstwhile idol of the worldwide hippie movement, written in a sensuous voice that you can't get enough of.« – Manuela Haselberger / Bücher Magazin, Kiel

»In this artfully composed text McCarten leads the reader up and down the garden path.« – Sebastian Hetheier / Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, Essen

»An exhilarating portrait of a delicate character.« – Thomas Merten / Geo Saison, Hamburg

»A nimble could-have-been-this-way-novel and wild history lesson in one. Not just for Kerouac fans!« – Christine Ritzenhoff / Emotion, Hamburg

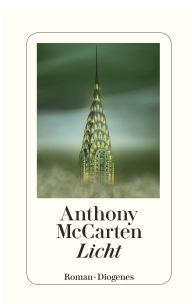
Anthony McCarten

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

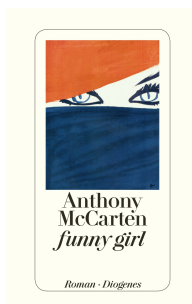
»Here's a writer with heart and an amazing boldness of invention ... There is not a false sentiment or conventional genuflection in this book.« – Timothy Mo

»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



Brilliance  
368 pages  
2017



funny girl  
384 pages  
2014

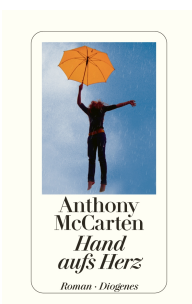
Bestseller



In the Absence of Heroes  
464 pages  
2012

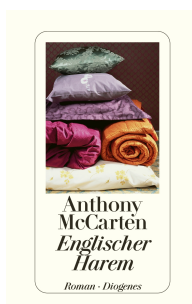


Spinners  
368 pages  
2011



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