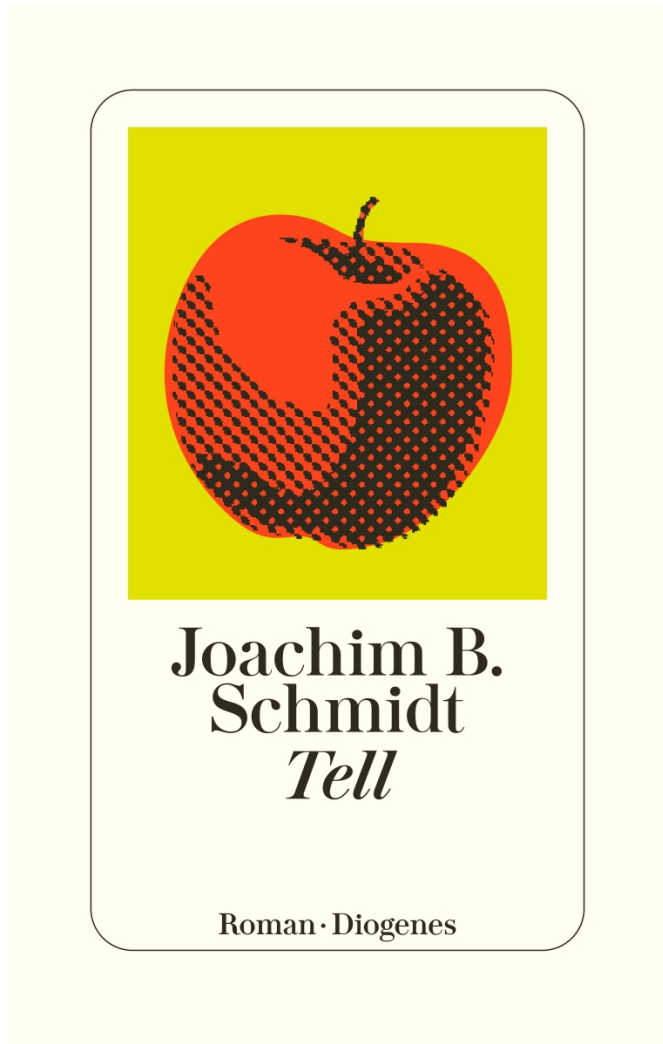


# Diogenes

Joachim B. Schmidt  
*Tell*

Published by Diogenes as *Tell*  
Original title: *Tell*



It is perhaps the most famous legend in Swiss history – the story of William Tell – and Joachim B. Schmidt transforms it into a page-turner, a thriller, an event: Constructed from nearly a hundred fast-paced scenes and featuring twenty different protagonists, the narrative races towards its explosive showdown like a lit fuse. Neither a retelling nor a rehash, this is a blockbuster of a book: think *The Revenant in the Alps* or *Game of Thrones* in Altdorf.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
288 pages  
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.3 cm  
March 2022

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

### 📌 Bestseller

#1 Swiss Bestseller  
Spiegel Bestseller

### 🏆 Awards

- 2022 *Tell* ist SBVV-›Lieblingsbuch 2022‹ des Deutschschweizer Buchhandels  
2021 ›Crime Cologne Award‹ für *Kalman*  
2021 *Kalman* auf dem 3. Platz des zum ersten Mal verliehenen ›Schweizer Krimipreises‹

### Praise

*Tell*

›This fresh version of an old story reinvigorates enthusiasm for a classic.« – Irene Zöch / Die Presse am Sonntag, Vienna

›In this novel, for the first time, vignettes become human beings, complete with all their contradictions; even the worst berserkers become relatable, despite their misdeeds.« – NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

›With this novel, Joachim B. Schmidt has shattered the pedestal the Swiss have placed their national hero on, while also making that hero into a human being.« – Lilo Solcher / Augsburg Allgemeine, Augsburg

›The book is a page turner that you just can't put down.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

›His *Tell* is a psychological thriller with a cinematic, popcorn-worthy showdown.« – Christoph Leibold / ARD, Munich

›A *Tell* story that's filled with suspense, and a showdown reminiscent of a Tarantino film.« – Annette König / SRF, Zurich

›Endless cliffhangers, twenty different perspectives, narrated at breakneck speed, sometimes by the grandmother, sometimes by the son Walter, rarely by *Tell* himself.« – Alexander Wasner / SWR2, Stuttgart

›This is the original Swiss blockbuster – Diogenes hasn't overexaggerated.« – Jano Felice Pajarola / Südostschweiz, Chur

›He allows the characters surrounding his shady protagonist to take it in turns to have their say, turning this well-known legend into a psychological kaleidoscope.« – Axel Hill / Kölnische Rundschau, Cologne



Joachim B. Schmidt, born in 1981, grew up in the Swiss canton of Grisons before emigrating to Iceland in 2007. His novels *Tell* and *Kalman* were bestsellers, with *Kalman* receiving the ›Crime Cologne Award‹ and placing third for the ›Swiss Crime Fiction Prize‹. *Tell* was number one on the Swiss bestseller list. Schmidt, who has dual citizenship, lives with his wife and their two children in Reykjavík.



*Kalman*  
352 pages  
2020

 Award winner  
 Bestseller

### Praise (cont'd)

»218 years after Schiller, Joachim B. Schmidt pulls apart the legend of William Tell, rearranges its component parts, and turns it into a storm of perspectives that reverberates for a long while.« – Oliver Uschmann / Galore, Dortmund

»For anyone after an exciting read, and willing to be persuaded that the story of William Tell can work as a thriller.« – WDR2, Cologne

»In this book, Tell is only reluctantly a freedom fighter – Schmidt wanted to create a realistic Tell.« – SRF, Zurich

»Driven from cliff-hanger to cliff-hanger by its staccato narrative style, this is literary fare to be devoured with great enjoyment.« – Karin Waldner-Petschutschnig / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»In his new novel, *Tell*, he returns to his homeland to reimagine the ancient Swiss legend of William Tell in a sublime new way – namely, with all the excitement of a western.« – Denis Scheck / SWR, Stuttgart

»*Tell* is one of the best books of the season.« – Ulrike Plapp-Schirmer / Heilbronner Stimme, Heilbronn

»So he is a modern Tell, which may also be so convincing exactly because it was not written in Switzerland, but with a lot of distance in Iceland.« – 3sat Kulturzeit, Mainz

»These sequences are very short and often breathtakingly tense; one cliffhanger follows the next.« – Matthias Jügler / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

Joachim B. Schmidt

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

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