Diogenes

Book factsheet

Benedict Wells
The End of Loneliness

Published by Diogenes as *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
Original title: *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*



»A difficult childhood is like an invisible enemy: you never know when it will come for you.«
Jules and his brother and sister Marty and Liz are all very different, but a tragic event marks all their lives. Having grown up in idyllic circumstances, they lose their parents in an accident. Although they are all sent to the same boarding school, each of them goes their own way, becoming strangers to one another and losing contact. Jules in particular, once a paragon of confidence, withdraws more and more into a dream world. The only friendship he makes is with the mysterious Alva, but he will only realize what she means to him years later – and what she has never told him. When Jules meets Alva again as an adult, it looks like they could make up for lost time. But then the past catches up with them.
Featured title in *New Books in German*

Contemporary Literature
368 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2016

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Macedonian (Tri Publishing Centre)
Norwegian (Press)
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Portuguese/PT (ASA/Leya)
Slovak (Albatros Slovakia)
Spanish/world (Enciclopèdia Catalana)
Vietnamese (BachvietBooks)

Bestseller

30 weeks in the Top Ten of the Spiegel Bestseller List
#2 Dutch Bestseller List

Movie adaptation

Becks letzter Sommer
Director: Frieder Wittich
Screenplay: Oliver Ziegenbalg
Cast: Christian Ulmen, Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Eugene Boateng, Friederike Becht, Fabian Hinrichs

Awards

2022 ›Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis‹ in der Kategorie *Preis der Jugendjury* für *Hard Land*
2022 Benedict Wells wurde neu in das PEN-Zentrum Deutschland aufgenommen
2022 Platz 3 für *Hard Land* beim ›LovelyBooks-Leserpreis‹ in der Kategorie *Literatur*
2021 *Hard Land* für ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ nominiert
2021 *Hard Land* ist ›Das Lieblingsbuch‹ des Deutschschweizer Buchhandels
2020 *Die Wahrheit über das Lügen* auf der Shortlist für den Literaturpreis ›Text & Sprache‹ des Kulturkreises deutsche Wirtschaft
2018 ›Euregio-Schüler-Literaturpreis‹ für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*

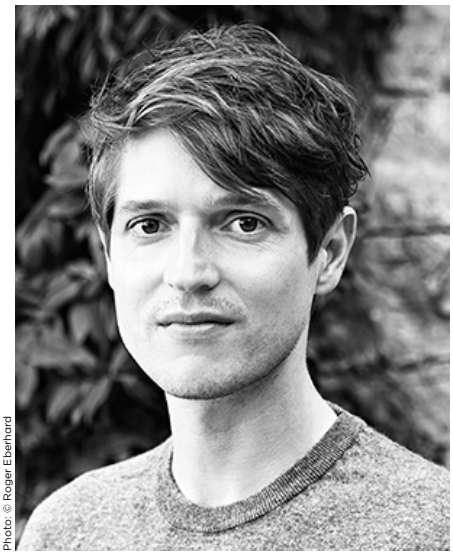
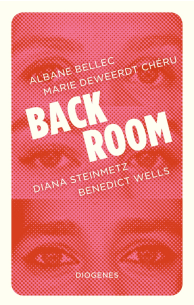


Photo: © Roger Eberhard

Benedict Wells, born in Munich in 1984, moved to Berlin after completing school and focused on his writing, earning a living with various jobs. His fourth novel, *The End of Loneliness,* spent more than a year and a half on the *Spiegel* Bestseller list, was awarded the 2016 ›European Union Prize for Literature‹, among other awards, and has been published in 39 languages. His latest novel *Hard Land* was awarded the independent young adult jury's ›German Youth Literature Award‹ in 2022. After several years in Barcelona, Benedict Wells now lives in Zurich.



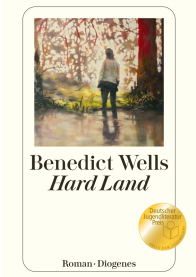
Backroom
240 pages
2027



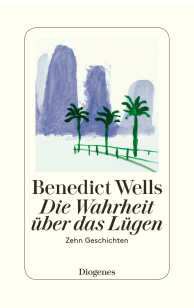
The Night of Books
64 pages
2026



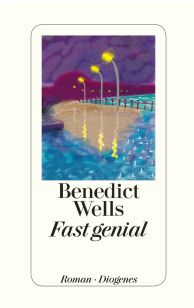
The Stories Inside Us
400 pages
2024
Bestseller



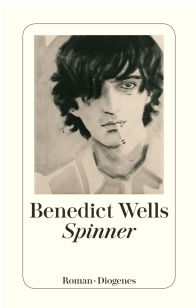
Hard Land
352 pages
2021
Award winner
Bestseller



The Truth About Lying
256 pages
2018
Award winner
Bestseller



Almost Ingenious
336 pages
2011
Bestseller



Crank
320 pages
2009



Beck's Last Summer
464 pages
2008
Award winner
Movie Adaptation

Awards (cont'd)

2016 ›DER LESERPREIS‹ Bronze-Auszeichnung bei Lovelybooks.de für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
2016 ›Bronze‹-Auszeichnung in der Kategorie ›Buch des Jahres‹ für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit,* gewählt von den *Buchmarkt*-Lesern
2016 ›Literaturpreis der Europäischen Union‹ Deutschland an Benedict Wells für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
2016 ›Buchpreis Familienroman‹ der *Stiftung Ravensburger Verlag* für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
2016 ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ anlässlich der Woche unabhängiger Buchhandlungen (WUB) in Deutschland für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
2009 ›Bayerischer Kunstförderpreis‹ in der Sparte Literatur u. a. an Benedict Wells für seinen Debütroman *Becks letzter Sommer*

Praise

The End of Loneliness

»Benedict Wells has dared to tackle a great dramatic subject – and he has mastered it. The narrative tone is quiet, melancholy at times. The tragic never gets loud with Benedict Wells. The images are strong, the characterizations concise.« – Dieter Langhart / St. Galler Tagblatt

»This new novel is his masterpiece.« – Claudio Armbruster / ZDF, Mayence

»The novel develops an undertow like good crime writing, wise and full of empathy with its characters. At just over thirty, Benedict Wells writes like an old master.« – Martin Wolf / Literaturspiegel, Hamburg

»A book like a movie, full of life, hope, despair, laughter, tears. […] This novel is a quiet pleasure. Full of emotion, but not overloaded, full of joy but never loud. Sad, yet with a silver lining on the horizon.« – Christine Westermann / WDR, Cologne

»Benedict Wells has written a beautiful love story, that is equally touching and amusing, that makes you sad and happy. It is a family story in a coming-of-age style novel.« – Frauke Kaberka / dpa, Berlin

»Extremely touching.« – Gong, Ismaning

»An excellent, gripping novel for readers young and old.« – Elke Heidenreich / WDR, Cologne

»With his book *On the End of Loneliness* he presents a linguistic masterpiece. He achieves a gripping family novel, a sensitive love story, a clever book about friendship. Well-constructed and tantalizingly narrated.« – Daniela Hungbaur / Augsburger Allgemeine

»A tear-jerker […] it is impossible to look away from it.« – Paula Cocozza / The Guardian, London

Praise (cont'd)

»Reconciling loss and finding a way to hope again is at the heart of Benedict Wells' *The End of Loneliness*, a moving story [...]« – Caroline Rogers / Southern Living (The Best New Books Coming Out)

»A love story and a life story, this rich and well-translated domestic drama acknowledges that some bonds are truly immutable in the face of, or perhaps because of, tragedy and that our memories and the stories we make of them, though they may change, are as real as anything.« – Annie Bostrom / Booklist (starred review)

»A bittersweet, intricately plotted family saga [...] A tender, affecting novel, one that packs a lot into a slender frame.« – Kirkus Reviews, New York

»Touching and timeless.« – Publishers Weekly, New York

»I didn't want this book to end.« – Claudia Roth / freundin, Munich

»This beautiful book [. . .] brings German author Benedict Wells, only 35, front and center among world writers.«
– John Timpane / The Philadelphia Inquirer

»Touchingly narrated, linguistically excellent [...] A novel not easily forgotten.« – Ravensburger Verlag Foundation

»The writing is as luminous as the subject is dark. The reader cannot but continue to read this intelligent, sensitive and moving tale.« – Elisabeth Clauss / Elle, Paris

»A beautiful melancholic book.« – Linda, Amsterdam

»A grand novel that affects the reader deeply. This intense sensitive story leaves you breathless and slightly sad.« – Margriet de Groot / Zin, Amsterdam

»An undisputed literary masterpiece – reminds me of Jonathan Franzen. [. . .] Benedict Wells manages to inspire grand themes, in a very personal way, directed straight at the reader. His novel about three members of the same family strikes home.« – Jeroen Vullings / Vrij Nederland, Amsterdam

»Our fate is everything we become; yet what happens to Jules and Alva, in the hands of Benedict Wells, is dazzling storytelling. *The End of Loneliness* is both affecting and accomplished – and eternal.« – John Irving / (author of The World According to Garp)

»With a surprising maturity [. . .] Benedict Wells has found a voice to describe, neither cruelly nor over-sensitively, human fragility, failure and ageing.« – Nicolas Weill / Le Monde, Paris

»Whether he reaches his dead father at the time, is a question that you are still wondering about after the close of the novel.« – Michel Krielaars / NRC Handelsblad , Amsterdam

Praise (cont'd)

»It's as though, despite the fullness of his story and characters, Wells keeps a seat free for me as the reader.«

– Sarah Spale / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

Benedict Wells

»This 23-year-old Berliner is the shooting star in Germany's young literary scene: a multi-talented virtuoso with a touch of madness.« – Jan Drees / 1Live, Cologne

»The German Wunderkind« – Paula Cocozza / The Guardian, London

»Benedict Wells is probably the biggest talent our country has seen in the past few years.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»If you want to convince a young person that reading is fun, you'd best offer him a book by Benedict Wells.« – NRC Handelsblad, Amsterdam