Diogenes

Book factsheet

Jakob Arjouni
Magic Hoffmann

Published by Diogenes as *Magic Hoffmann*
Original title: *Magic Hoffmann*



The thousand-mark-notes fluttered in the sky like a flight of swallows circling towards the setting sun. When Fred whistled through his fingers they came and slipped back into the pocket of his trousers... Fred, Nickel and Annette are young, and the world – although not the one they live in – is their oyster. They dream a common dream, and it has a name: Canada. There they'll be able to live as they please, fishing and taking photographs, far away from boring, antiquated provincial Germany. But it's impossible to go straight from Dieburg to Vancouver on the Canadian west coast without a detour. For Fred this means going to prison and then to Berlin after the fall of the wall to pick up Nickel, Annette and his money. The three of them had planned to go to Canada together – but ›the times they are a-changin'‹... Jakob Arjouni writes about Germany and the times we live in – and about a man who tries his utmost not to be beaten either by his country or his friends. In a language that is unsentimental, apt and agile, he paints a picture of the German Republic. This is a novel in the mood of a road movie, an exciting story full of irony about private and political illusions, about Germany, Berlin and the provinces.

Contemporary Literature
288 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 1996

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Movie adaptations

2017: Am Ruder
Director: Stephan Wagner
Screenplay: Stephan und Alexandra Maxeiner Wagner
Cast: Wotan Wilke Möhring, Julia Koschitz und Inga Birkenfeld

1992: Happy Birthday, Türke
Director: Doris Dörrie
Cast: Hansa Czypionka, Özay Fecht, Doris Kunstmann, Lambert Hamel

Awards

1992	Deutscher Krimi Preis für ›Ein Mann, ein Mord‹.
1987	Baden-Württembergischer Autorenpreis für das deutschsprachige Jugendtheater für sein Theaterstück ›Nazim schiebt ab‹.

Praise

Magic Hoffmann

»Arjouni's spotlight on the darker side of the German affluent society is caustic, witty and exciting – and never moralising.« – Le Monde, Paris

Jakob Arjouni

»Arjouni tells real-life stories, and they virtually never have a happy ending. He tells them so well, with such flexible dialogue and cleverly maintained tension, that it is impossible to put his books down.« – El País, Madrid

»A genuine storyteller who beguiles his readers without the need of tricks.« – L'Unità, Milan

»Magnificent« – The Guardian

»Arjouni deserves to be better known in the English speaking world.« – The Times

»Jakob Arjouni writes the best urban thrillers since Raymond Chandler.« – Tempo

»A master of the sketch and the caricature.« – Die Welt

»Impossible to put his books down.« – El Pais

»A worthy grandson of Marlowe and Spade.« – Stern

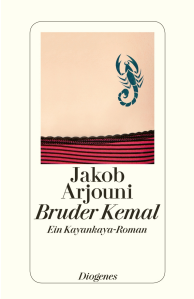


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Jakob Arjouni, born 1964 in Frankfurt on the Main, has published novels, short stories, theatre and radio plays. Arjouni was only twenty-one years old when his acclaimed debut, ›Happy birthday, Turk!‹ was published and its main character, the Frankfurt-based private detective Kemal Kayankaya, took on his very first investigation. In 1991, the book was made into a film, directed by Doris Dörrie. Three further cases followed; for the third, ›One Man, One Murder‹, Jakob Arjouni was awarded the 1992 ›German Crime Fiction Prize‹. In autumn 2012, ›Brother Kemal‹, the fifth volume starring the German-Turkish investigator was published. The series is now firmly established as a classic amongst crime literature. Apart from his stage plays, his work also includes the Berlin novels ›Magic Hoffmann‹ (1996) and ›Holy Eddy‹ (2009) as well as ›Idiots. Five Fairy Tales‹ (2003). His novels ›Homework‹, ›Chez Max‹, and particularly his novel about an East-German Nazi follower, ›Cherryman Hunts Mister White‹, are now on school reading lists. The theme of addressing violence in all its forms runs through Arjouni's work like a red thread. His readers loved him for his thrilling, sharp-tongued, linguistically unpretentious, witty and clever books. He died on the 17th of January 2013 in Berlin.
Jakob Arjouni's works have been published in 24 languages.



The Kayankaya Novels
1080 pages
2014



Brother Kemal
240 pages
2012



Cherryman Hunts Mister White
176 pages
2011



Holy Eddy
256 pages
2009



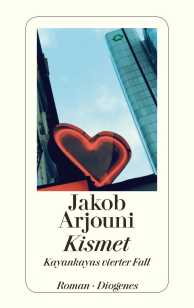
Chez Max
224 pages
2006



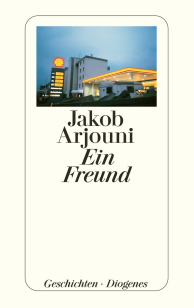
Homework
192 pages
2004



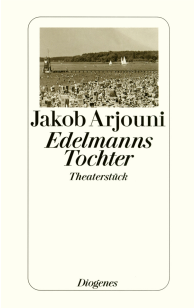
Idiots. Five fairy tales
160 pages
2003



Kismet
272 pages
2001



A Friend
176 pages
1998
Movie Adaptation



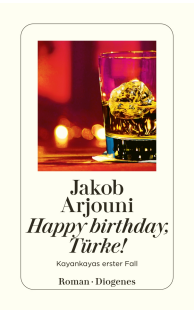
Edelmann's Daughter
96 pages
1996



One Man, One Murder
192 pages
1991



More Beer
176 pages
1987



Happy Birthday, Turk!
176 pages
1987
Movie Adaptation