

Diogenes

Jörg Fauser
The Snowman

Published by Diogenes as *Der Schneemann*
Original title: *Der Schneemann*



Jörg Fauser Der Schneemann

Roman · Diogenes

All Blum really wants to do on Malta is sell his porno mags, but he suddenly finds himself in Frankfurt, in possession of five pounds of cocaine. His first thought is to sell it quickly, and open a beach bar on a Caribbean island. But then all sorts of things get in his way: his own naïveté, the captivating Cora, the dangerous Rossi, the inscrutable Mr. Haq, and the countless, cashless people interested in his snow.

»The frogs, too, only seemed to be croaking innocently in the swamps. In reality, everyone had a plan.«

Jörg Fauser

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
304 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.3 cm
November 2020

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
English/world (Bitter Lemon)

Movie adaptations

2006: ROHSTOFF. Ein Film über den Schriftsteller Jörg Fauser mit Franz Dobler
Director: Christoph Rüter
Cast: Bekannte und unbekannte Schauspieler

1998: Das Frankfurter Kreuz
Director: Romuald Karmakar
Screenplay: Jörg Fauser
Cast: Michael Degen, Manfred Zapatka

1985: Der Schneemann. Kokain ist sein Geschäft
Director: Peter F. Bringmann
Screenplay: Matthias Seelig
Cast: Marius Müller-Westernhagen, Polly Eltes, Oliver Lentz

Awards

2020 *Rohstoff* in der Kategorie »Bester Interpret« (Lars Eidinger) auf der Shortlist für den »Deutschen Hörbuchpreis«
1988 Postum »Friedrich-Glauser-Preis« auf der Criminale

Praise

The Snowman

»This strange late 1970s melancholy and the beginnings of the over refined decadence and lethargic indifference of the '80s, all of this is accurately captured here. And the key metaphor is cocaine. Brief scenes reminiscent of a screenplay make the book fast-paced.«
– Frank Schäfer / Rolling Stone, Berlin

»He lifted German mystery writing onto a new level with *The Snowman* and *The Snake Mouth*.« – Insa Wilke / SWR Fernsehen

»Fauser, who was a heroin addict in his early years, shows his insight into the milieu in which Blum moves and there are moments of sardonic humour as he plumbs the depths of human desperation and degradation.« – The Sunday Telegraph, London

»A story bursting with delightful scenes and characters.« – Barbara Steinbauer / Radio Aktiv, Hameln



Jörg Fauser (1944 – 1987) was born near Frankfurt. After dropping out of university, he spent some years living in Istanbul and London, making a living in office jobs, as an airport worker and night watchman, among other things. In 1974, he switched to writing. His novels, poems, newspaper articles and short stories occupy an exceptional position in German literature. Jörg Fauser died in an accident on a motorway near Munich on the night after his birthday. »At first, I didn't want to become a professional writer, I just wanted to write. I imagined a normal existence while producing a few eternal things on the side.«

Jörg Fauser



You Just Cling On to What You've Got
464 pages
2023



The Tour
288 pages
2022



Kant
128 pages
2021



A Friendship
368 pages
2021



The White of the Eye
464 pages
2021



The Club We All Play In
400 pages
2020



Marlon Brando
288 pages
2020



Everything Must Be Completely Different
288 pages
2020

Praise (cont'd)

»Damn, what a crazy good story!« – Feridun Zaimoglu / (German author and visual artist of Turkish origin)

»Jörg Fauser knew his way around the world he wrote about. *The Snowman* is a story from the streets, a crime story, it's a story about a loser's attempt to win just once.« – Klaus Brinkbäumer / *Der Spiegel*, Hamburg

»The best German thriller of all times.« – *Die Tageszeitung*, Berlin

»Jörg Fauser's *The Snowman* is a dubious but likeable guy. A man who gets through life with petty crime, has a big sense of humour and not a trace of self-pity. Fauser's dense descriptions are a success – whether of Munich's chic society or Cologne's run-down drug scene.« – dpa, Hamburg

»Jörg Fauser was one of our best: bolshie, earthy, vulnerable. With Blum, the jaded porn-mag dealer who happens to come into possession of a whole lot of coke, he built a monument to the stereotype of the literary loser: romantic naivety and suspicion – no mean alliance.« – *Park Avenue*, Hamburg

»Jörg Fauser's dry sarcastic crime novel has long held cult status.« – *stern*, Hamburg

»Fauser, a heroin addict until he kicked the habit at 30, pulls no punches in his lean, darkly comic debut crime thriller.« – *Publishers Weekly*, New York

Jörg Fauser

»They [Fauser's texts] remain amongst the best long-form journalism written in the German language over the last fifty years. [. . .] to read Fauser is to explore the soul of the old Federal Republic. [. . .] Fauser [. . .] composes his texts with the drive and furor of the language-obsessed desperado [. . .]« – Peter Henning / *Aargauer Zeitung*

»Just like you always return to Chandler in American literature, you should refer to Fauser time and again in German literature. It helps to survive.« – Stefan Maelck / *mdr2*, Halle/Saale

»The future of the German-language crime novel truly began with *The Snowman* and *The Snake Mouth*, far away from the so-called socio-crime novels emulating the *Beck* series by the Swedish writing team Sjöwall/Wahlöö« – Friedrich Ani / (German author)

»No other German writer captured the dark – and therefore authentic – soul of the Federal Republic better than the underground-highbrow wordsmith Jörg Fauser.« – *Berliner Zeitung*

»The literary industry may sing the praises of book after book, but the writing of Jörg Fauser, who received neither awards nor grants during his lifetime, will outlive many of them.« – Franz Dobler / *BR2 Kultur*, Munich

»Stylistically speaking, his novel *Raw Material* seems more fitting to the present day than to 1984.« – Helmut Böttiger / *deutschlandfunk.de*



Jörg Fauser
Ich habe große Städte gesehen
Die Gedichte
Diogenes

I Have Seen Big Cities
352 pages
2019



Jörg Fauser
Caliban Berlin
Kolumnen 1980-84
Diogenes

Caliban Berlin
368 pages
2019



Jörg Fauser
Das Schlangenmaul
Roman
Diogenes

The Snake Mouth
320 pages
2019



Jörg Fauser
Rohstoff Elements
Diogenes

Raw Material Elements
320 pages
2019



Jörg Fauser
Rohstoff
Roman
Diogenes

Raw Material
352 pages
2019



Jörg Fauser
Der Strand der Städte
Blues für Blondinen
Essays
Diogenes

The Beach in the Cities / Blues for Blondes
352 pages
2009



Jörg Fauser
Mann und Maus
Gesammelte Erzählungen und Prosa II
Diogenes

Man and Mouse
528 pages
2009

Praise (cont'd)

»The literary element in Fauser's writing was rooted in his ability to condense reality and, in the process, build uncompromisingly upon his own experiences.« – Helmut Böttiger / deutschlandfunk.de

»This author is a walking contradiction, but his timeless tone makes his work feel absolutely contemporary.« – Helmut Böttiger / deutschlandfunk.de

»Reading Fauser is an experience, even today. [. . .] By reading Fauser, you not only discover more about the colourful – and increasingly so – Federal Republic, but also about life itself.« – Martin Oehlen / Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

»He had something of the beatnik about him, but also an element of aristocratic Englishness. [. . .] You'll be amazed at how fresh his writing feels.« – Michael Köhlmeier / rbb, Berlin

»His texts convey so much about the reality of West German life in the 1970s and 1980s.« – Dunja Welke / rbb, Berlin

»Jörg Fauser is a cult writer and hidden gem rolled into one.« – Stefan Kister / Stuttgarter Zeitung

»Fauser's long-ago present day seems to always be responding to the current present day, and vice versa.« – Katja Kullman / taz, Berlin

»Fauser, the master of shades of grey, doesn't pander to black-and-white thinking.« – Isabell Nina Schirra / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Like almost no one else, Fauser had a talent for linking coarse realism and poetry.« – Volkhard App / NDR1, Hanover

»Hard-hitting on the attack, with tender fervour in adoration, always operating along the ravages of time.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Whatever he wrote left its mark.« – Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»When has an author, before or after, ever taken such a euphoric and existential position as a writer?« – Volker Weidemann / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»There are moments of sardonic humour as he plumbs the depths of human desperation and degradation.« – The Sunday Telegraph, London

»His books are documents of the will to survive. There are masterpieces in his rich oeuvre. Those who find them, think: This is what it is really like, life. That is the greatest compliment you can make to literature.« – Philipp Holstein / Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf

»An unforgotten pioneer of pop literature.« – Christoph Sator / Mannheimer Morgen

»Jörg Fauser was a crosser of borders and a driven man, his style similarly breathless and feverish as his spurt of life between dropout and drug tourist, city magazine and prose, popular and high culture.« – Hendrik Werner / Die Welt, Berlin

»To this day, Fauser has remained a subcultural hero . . .« – Peter Henning / Die Zeit, Hamburg

Praise (cont'd)

»The Clint Eastwood of German literature.« – Franz Dobler / (German author)

»I think Fauser is a genius!« – Lars Eidingen / (German actor)

»Full of integrity, believable and always at the top of his game, Jörg Fauser remained true to two artistic principles: ›Every well-told story is a thriller‹ and ›Good entertainment is about taking a certain stance‹.« – D.B. Blettenberg / (German author)

»Jörg Fauser (1944–1987), the ›German Bukowski‹, was a sublime storyteller, poet and journalist.« – NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»The Clint Eastwood of German literature.« – Franz Dobler / (Author)