

# Diogenes

**Michel Bergmann**  
***Mameleben***

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



**Michel  
Bergmann**  
***Mameleben***

oder  
das gestohlene Glück

Diogenes

Magnificent and infuriating, loving and stifling, self-sacrificing yet interfering – Michel Bergmann loves his mother Charlotte, and sometimes he can't stand her. In this unvarnished book, he tells the story of a strong, obstinate woman who was driven out of Germany, lost nearly her entire family, and was ultimately happily reunited with her future husband, yet too often had to face her troubles alone.

Book factsheet

Biographies, Contemporary Literature, History,  
Current Affairs  
256 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 x 2.1 cm  
March 2023

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 **Bestseller**

Spiegel Bestseller (non fiction)

**Praise**

*Mameleben*

»We laugh and we cry while reading, and we congratulate the author on a marvellous, unforgettable book, written out of pain and love.« – Elke Heidenreich / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»The author succeeds at telling this grim story with wit, ironic self-reflection and subtle humour, even when his mother acts uninhibitedly and feistily meshugge.« – Lerke von Saalfeld / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»With an artistically daring balance of natural empathy and ironic distance, he contours a psychologically pungent biopic in rhapsodic style.« – Hans-Dietrich Grünefeld / Buchkultur, Vienna

»A pure pleasure.« – Hans Riebsamen / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»Bergmann writes with so much warmth and wit.« – Sabine Doering / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»Hilarious, deeply sad. The fact that Charlotte's fate reads as an example of the shattering of an entire generation makes it important. In view of the war in Ukraine, it is also terribly topical.« – Daniele Muscionico / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»[. . .] a truly exceptional reading pleasure!« – Simone Neidlinger / Aachener Zeitung

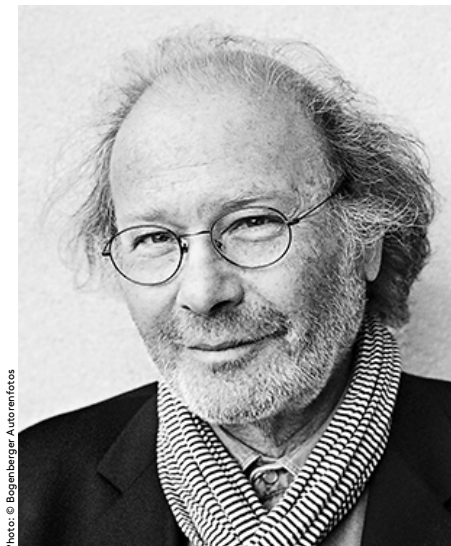


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Michel Bergmann was born in Riehen, near Basel, in 1945, the child of interned Jewish refugees. He spent his early childhood in Paris and his youth in Frankfurt. After his studies he trained with the *Frankfurter Rundschau* before working as a journalist, then as a director and producer, and from 1990 on as a screenwriter (his credits include *Otto – The Disaster Movie* and *Bye Bye Germany*). In 2010 he published his first novel, *Die Teilacher*, and eight subsequent volumes. Michel Bergmann passed away in Berlin in 2025.