

# Diogenes

**Rolf Dobelli**  
***Himmelreich***

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



## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
384 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 2006

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## Praise

*Himmelreich*

»A magnificent, astute, bewildering and wonderfully written literary game at the intersection between reality and fantasy.« – Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»In the tradition of Max Frisch, Rolf Dobelli sets out to disturb the reader in this razor-sharp, yet extremely poetic novel.« – Kurier, Vienna

Philipp Himmelreich's transfer to New York could not have come at a better time: with one stroke, he is able to save his marriage and escape the clutches of a passionate affair with the young bookseller Josephine. In the plane, at an altitude of 30,000 feet, Philipp finally manages to clear his mind again. And so he indulges, one last time, in a myriad of delightful fantasies. I am free to imagine it now, because I can – because there is no danger that the affair with Josephine will ever be repeated. At least, that is what Himmelreich believes. He revels in his romantic imagination: instead of boarding his flight to New York, he is kidnapped at Zurich airport by Josephine. As her hostage, he is forced to travel across Europe in a VW van and then to sail for weeks across the Atlantic to the New World. And gradually, he is transformed into the very opposite of himself. His existence in New York appears undisturbed by all of this, his successes as a banker, his life with his wife Anna, who has found her way back to his heart. Then, completely out of the blue, he is summonsed by the FBI: Josephine has been reported missing – and there is compelling evidence that Himmelreich has abducted her. All of a sudden, fantasy takes the upper hand and begins, in a startling manner, to turn his life on its head. A masterly tale, at once astute and poetic.



Rolf Dobelli, born in Lucerne in 1966, studied philosophy and business management, worked for Swissair, founded a company and lived in Australia, Hong Kong, England and in the USA. He has published six books with Diogenes, most recently ›Massimo Marini‹, and with Carl Hanser Verlag his two non-fiction bestsellers ›The Art of Thinking Clearly‹ and ›The Art of Acting Clearly‹. Rolf Dobelli lives with his family in Berne.



**Questions to Ask of Life**  
208 pages  
2014



**Massimo Marini**  
384 pages  
2010



**Turbulence**  
160 pages  
2007



**Who Am I?**  
144 pages  
2007



**What Do You Do for a Living?**  
240 pages  
2004



**Thirty-five**  
208 pages  
2003