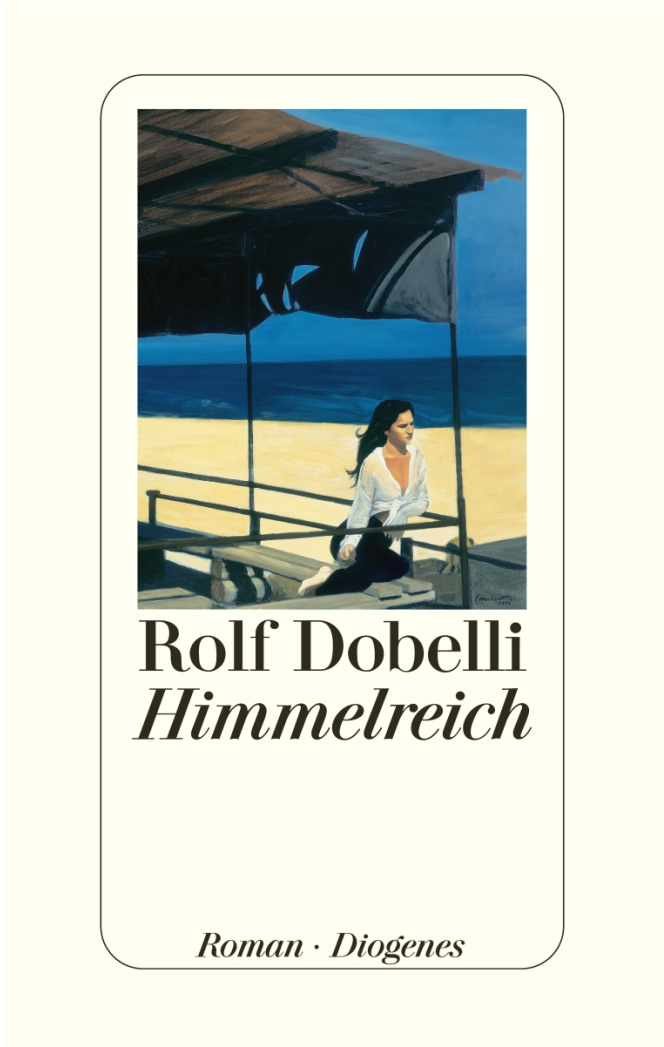
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Rolf Dobelli
Himmelreich

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



Contemporary Literature
384 pages
11.6 × 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

Rolf Dobelli

»The fact that Dobelli has mastered the art of precise expression can be readily gleaned from his novels – a more compact prose would be difficult to imagine.« – Kölnische Rundschau, Köln

»Dobelli's prose is compact, clear, precise.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»Dobelli's advices and findings are perfectly fit for everyday life, inspiring, and highly readable.« – Thüringer Allgemeine, Erfurt

»Rolf Dobelli's books don't only make you smarter, they also make you happier indeed.« – Denis Scheck / Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»It is Dobelli's aim to sharpen our judgment — particularly in a time of permanent distraction.« – Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf

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 is 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.



Photo: Bodo Rüedi

Rolf Dobelli, born in Lucerne in 1966, studied philosophy and business management, worked for Swissair, founded several companies and lived in Australia, Hong Kong, England and in the USA. He is the founder of World.Minds and has published eight books with Diogenes, most recently *Your Turn.* His novels and non-fiction, among them the global bestsellers *The Art of Thinking Clearly* and *The Art of Acting Clearly,* have been published in 50 languages. Rolf Dobelli lives with his family in Berne.



Only You Can Answer That
288 pages
2026



Your Turn
320 pages
2026



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