

# Diogenes

## Benedict Wells *The Truth About Lying*

Published by Diogenes as *Die Wahrheit über das Lügen*  
Original title: *Die Wahrheit über das Lügen*



Ten great stories written over ten years provide multifaceted insights into how a writer develops. Touching, surprising and tragic, funny, wise and fun – Benedict Wells can turn his hand to anything. These are stories about everything and nothing. Stories about the misfortune of being free, and about a woman facing an existential decision. About a place where no one goes voluntarily, yet which still becomes a home. About a struggling present-day screenwriter catapulted back to the New Hollywood of 1973, giving him four years' time to steal the most famous movie idea of the 20th century. Last but not least a story from the world of *The End of Loneliness*, that casts a light on a dark family secret. Ten very different stories from a world in which lies, dreams truths flow together. By turns touching, funny, surprising, and often unforgettable.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller  
256 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 2018

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

### Rights currently sold:

Dutch (Meulenhoff)  
French (Slatkine)  
Icelandic (University of Iceland)

### 📌 Bestseller

# 9 Spiegel Bestseller

### 🎬 Movie adaptation

#### Becks letzter Sommer

Director: Frieder Wittich  
Screenplay: Oliver Ziegenbalg  
Cast: Christian Ulmen, Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Eugene Boateng, Friederike Becht, Fabian Hinrichs

### 🏆 Awards

- 2022 ›Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis‹ in der Kategorie *Preis der Jugendjury für Hard Land*
- 2022 Benedict Wells wurde neu in das PEN-Zentrum Deutschland aufgenommen
- 2022 Platz 3 für *Hard Land* beim ›LovelyBooks-Leserpreis‹ in der Kategorie *Literatur*
- 2021 *Hard Land* für ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ nominiert
- 2021 *Hard Land* ist ›Das Lieblingsbuch‹ des Deutschschweizer Buchhandels
- 2020 *Die Wahrheit über das Lügen* auf der Shortlist für den Literaturpreis ›Text & Sprache‹ des Kulturkreises deutsche Wirtschaft
- 2018 ›Euregio-Schüler-Literaturpreis‹ für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›DER LESERPREIS‹ Bronze-Auszeichnung bei Lovelybooks.de für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›Bronze‹-Auszeichnung in der Kategorie ›Buch des Jahres‹ für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*, gewählt von den *Buchmarkt-Lesern*
- 2016 ›Literaturpreis der Europäischen Union‹ Deutschland an Benedict Wells für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›Buchpreis Familienroman‹ der *Stiftung Ravensburger Verlag* für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2016 ›Lieblingsbuch der Unabhängigen‹ anlässlich der Woche unabhängiger Buchhandlungen (WUB) in Deutschland für *Vom Ende der Einsamkeit*
- 2009 ›Bayerischer Kunstförderpreis‹ in der Sparte *Literatur* u. a. an Benedict Wells für seinen Debütroman *Becks letzter Sommer*



Benedict Wells, born in Munich in 1984, moved to Berlin after completing school and focused on his writing, earning a living with various jobs. His fourth novel, *The End of Loneliness*, spent more than a year and a half on the *Spiegel* Bestseller list, was awarded the 2016 ›European Union Prize for Literature‹, among other awards, and has been published in 39 languages. His latest novel *Hard Land* was awarded the independent young adult jury's ›German Youth Literature Award‹ in 2022. After several years in Barcelona, Benedict Wells now lives in Zurich.

## Praise

### *The Truth About Lying*

»Stories which effortlessly portray all the facets of the human condition.« – kjk / Münchner Merkur, 2018-10-19

»Ten everyday and fantastical stories with a quiet but lasting after-effect. [...] Magical.« – Cosmopolitan, Munich

»It is hard to say which story appeals the most, they are all very well written [. . .]« – Manuela Haselberger / Freie Presse Chemnitz

»He manages to debate big emotional themes without any pathos.« – Carsten Schrader / kulturnews, Hamburg

»And all of this in a laconic and exact tone, which I like so much about Benedict Wells.« – Klaus Sturm with Kristian Thees / SWR 3, Stuttgart

### Benedict Wells

»This 23-year-old Berliner is the shooting star in Germany's young literary scene: a multi-talented virtuoso with a touch of madness.« – Jan Drees / 1Live, Cologne

»The German Wunderkind« – Paula Coccozza / The Guardian, London

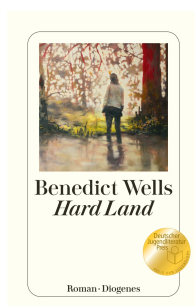
»Benedict Wells is probably the biggest talent our country has seen in the past few years.« – Kester Schlenz / Stern, Hamburg

»If you want to convince a young person that reading is fun, you'd best offer him a book by Benedict Wells.« – NRC Handelsblad, Amsterdam



**The Stories Inside Us**  
400 pages  
2024

🏆 **Bestseller**



**Hard Land**  
352 pages  
2021

🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



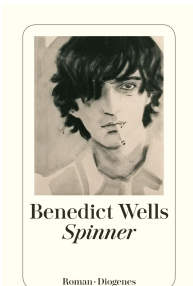
**The End of Loneliness**  
368 pages  
2016

🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**Almost Ingenious**  
336 pages  
2011

🏆 **Bestseller**



**Crank**  
320 pages  
2009



**Beck's Last Summer**  
464 pages  
2008

🏆 **Award winner**  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**