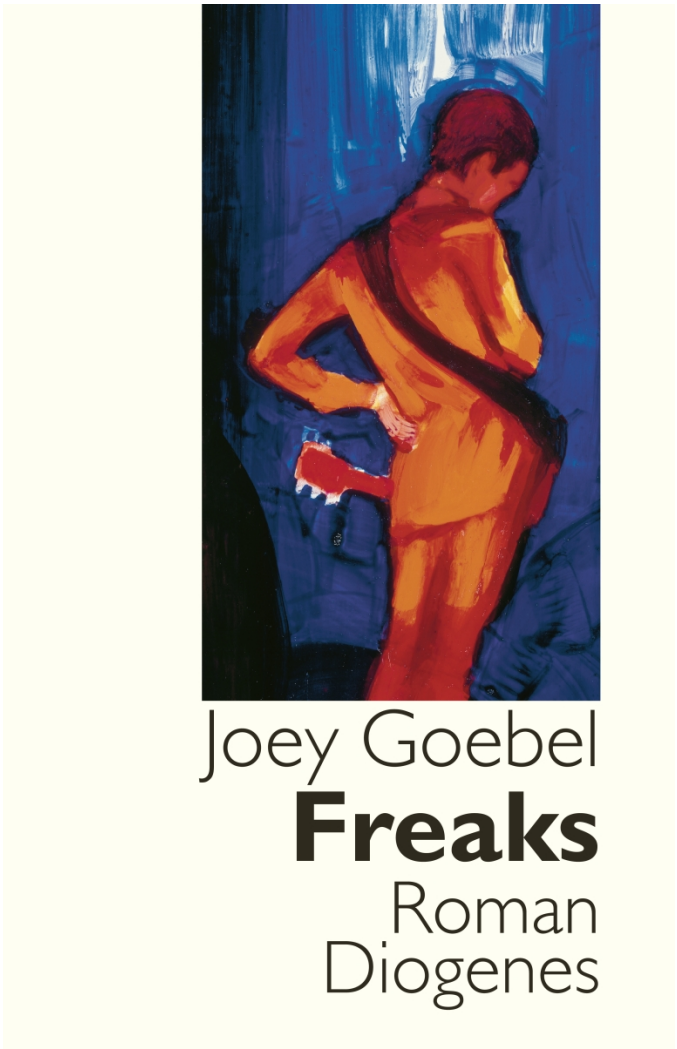
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Joey Goebel
The Anomalies

Published by Diogenes as *Freaks*
Original title: *The Anomalies*



In a small town in Kentucky, five outsiders have come together: an eighty-year-old woman who walks around in cowboy boots and a Sex Pistols t-shirt; a beautiful woman in a wheelchair; a young Iraqi searching for the American soldier who wounded him in the First Gulf War; a precocious young girl; and an extremely articulate African American, who seems to be constantly on drugs but in reality makes his way through life completely sober. Wherever the five freaks show up, people laugh at them. The passion that unites them is music, their shared dream is to conquer the world with their music, and together they form the power-pop new-wave heavy-metal punk-rock band known as THE FREAKS. In the words of their lead singer, »The only way to make this a better place would be for God to drop the bomb.« Alone they are only outsiders, but as a group they might just be the bomb that God does not want to drop ...

Contemporary Literature
208 pages
13.5 × 21 cm
September 2006

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Awards

2009 ›Festival-Preis‹ des Internationalen Festivals und Kolloquiums ›Days and Nights of Literature‹ (Rumänien)
2007 Nominierung für den Kritikerpreis in der Altersgruppe 16–18 Jahre der Jury der jungen Leser für *Freaks*
2007 ›Silberner Lufti, Lufti-Jugendbuchpreis‹ für *Freaks*
2006 Nominierung von *Torture the Artist (Vincent)* für die Longlist des ›Dylan Thomas Prize‹ in England
2006 ›Jugendbuchpreis‹ der Jury der jungen Kritiker in Wien für *Vincent*

Praise

The Anomalies

»We got it: this book of youth revolution - which might bring us to mind ›High Fidelity‹ by Nick Hornby – this crazy comedy in which the irony is ›pushed to its peek‹, as the author said by himself, this book is a means to denunciate our mass culture.« – Le Monde, Paris

»Young Joey Goebel is a born writer, one of those fated originals upon whose brainpan the mad language elves have drummed with their rubidium wands. Brutally insightful, ferociously funny – yet somehow strangely touching – *The Anomalies* is the freshest novel so far of the twenty-first century.« – Tom Robbins / Author of Even Cowgirls Get The Blues

»As the *Anaomalies* rise to a sort of fame, Goebel ensures that we the conventional realize, if not our predictability, then at least the necessity of heeding the unpredictable - the uncommon, in those we mights otherwise dismiss as misfits, quirks, oddballs. Rock on.« – Publishers Weekly Daily

Joey Goebel

»Joey Goebel is being acclaimed as a literary discovery of the calibre of a John Irving or T. C. Boyle.« – Stefan Maelck / Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Hamburg

»So as Fitzgerald tagged his generation's excesses and delusions in ›The Great Gatsby‹ and Bret Easton Ellis did the same in the 1980s with ›Less Than Zero‹, Joey Goebel grabs the Zeitgeist by the nape of the neck and gives it a good twirl...« – Pages Magazine, USA

»Joey Goebel is a quirky, fresh, and relevant voice for our time.« – Library Journal, USA

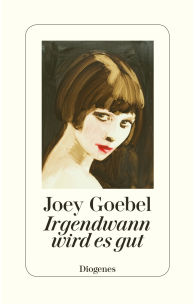


Photo: Nate Fish / © Diogenes Verlag

Joey Goebel, born in 1980 in Henderson, Kentucky, is a writer, scriptwriter, and musician – an internationally celebrated multi-talent. His novels *Torture the Artist, The Anomalies* and *Commonwealth* have been published in 15 languages. Joey Goebel has a son and lives in Henderson, where he teaches English literature.



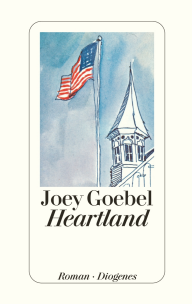
Sunset Flip
384 pages
2026



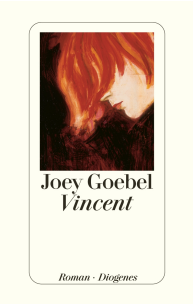
I Know It's Going to Happen for You Someday
320 pages
2019



I Against Osbourne
432 pages
2013



Commonwealth
720 pages
2009



Torture the Artist
448 pages
2005
Award winner

Praise (cont'd)

»There is hope as long as we have young writers like Joey Goebel.« – Die Welt, Berlin

»Joey Goebel writes with the passion and humour of a modern day Mark Twain.« – Daulton Dickey / Pop Matters

»Read this incredible author!« – Benedict Wells

»Wickedly ingenious [...] Goebel's ebulliently funny writing sparkles off the page.« – Caroline Leavitt / Boston Globe

»Like a sleepwalker, the author strolls through the pop-cultural iconic universe as earlier authors moved among the Grecian gods.« – Evelyn Finger / Die Zeit, Hamburg