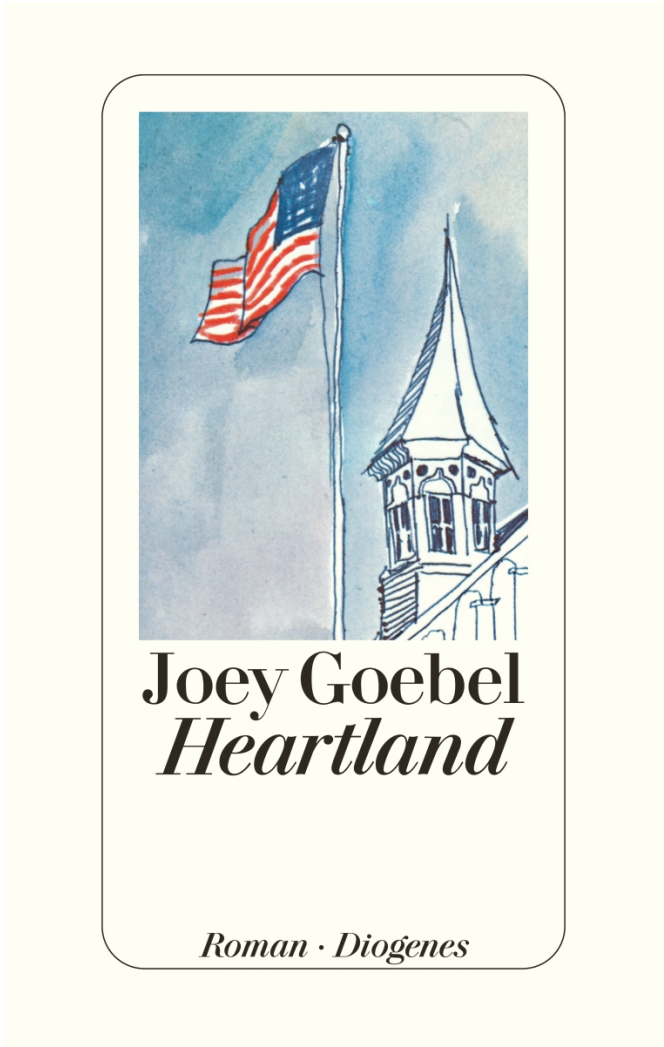
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Joey Goebel
Commonwealth

Published by Diogenes as *Heartland*
Original title: *Commonwealth*



John Mapother, son of the most powerful family in the provincial backwater of Bashford, decides after various private failures that he wants to enter American Congress. Except he has no idea about the world of his constituents. But his younger brother, Blue Gene, the black sheep of the family, does, and he also knows that simple folk are not that simple at all, starting with the rebellious punk rock girl he's fallen in love with.
A great American family drama, highly intelligent, melancholic and surprisingly topical.

Contemporary Literature
720 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2009

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film 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

Commonwealth

»Funny, mean and outstanding.« – Neon, Hamburg

»›Commonwealth‹ is a devastating blow to the soul of the American people and at the same time a modern classic.« – The Gap, Vienna

»*Commonwealth*, besides containing a wealth of great ideas and characters, is also more topical than ever. Anyone who has ever wanted to read a witty satire about politics, election campaigns and family drama has found the right book here.« – Benedict Wells

»*The* novel about America. Outstanding.« – Benedict Wells

»Joey Goebel is without a doubt one of the strongest young talents in U.S. literature, and with *Commonwealth* he has produced his first masterpiece.« – Marius Meller / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin

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

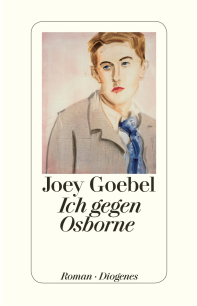
Joey Goebel, born in 1980 in Henderson, Kentucky, is a writer, scriptwriter, and musician – an internationally celebrated multi-talent. His novels *Torture the Artist, The Anomalies* and *Commonwealth* have been published in 15 languages. Joey Goebel has a son and lives in Henderson, where he teaches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



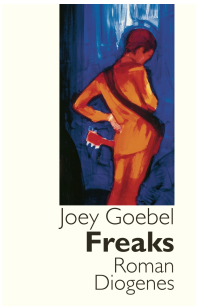
Sunset Flip
384 pages
2026



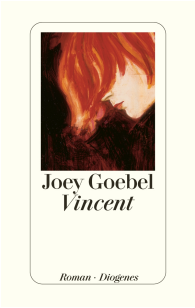
I Know It's Going to Happen for You Someday
320 pages
2019



I Against Osbourne
432 pages
2013



The Anomalies
208 pages
2006
Award winner



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