

# Diogenes

**Anthony McCarten**  
***The English Harem***

Published by Diogenes as *Englischer Harem*  
Original title: *The English Harem*



## Anthony McCarten *Englischer Harem*

*Roman · Diogenes*

An Oriental fairy tale – set in present-day London.

Young supermarket checkout girl Tracy Pringle, who lives in a rundown high rise in London, has a very lively imagination indeed. As she blip-blips the groceries of her exhausted customers she transforms them into her favourite fairy-tale heroines and pop celebrities. Of course, Tracy doesn't detain Queen Elizabeth II or Madonna when they steal from the store, and of course, Tracy loses her job. But she enters a real daydream when she meets and falls in love with her new employer, restaurateur Saaman Sahar, the distinguished older owner of a vegetarian restaurant, offspring of a butcher dynasty from Teheran, Oxford graduate, Moslem and member of an Anglican Church choir... With two wives already.

The contrasts smash against each other: East and West, rich and poor, vegetables and meat, polygamy and monogamy, old and young, tolerant humanity and blind force... »Are we still the rulers in our own country?«, complain Tracy's parents, while Tracy and Sam are long since asking what homeland, faithfulness, religion, a family – and happiness – mean today.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
592 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2008

World rights are handled by Diogenes

 **Bestseller**

Spiegel Bestseller

 **Movie adaptations**

**2019: The Two Popes**

Director: Fernando Meirelles  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Jonathan Pryce, Anthony Hopkins, Juan Minujin

**2011: Superhero**

Director: Ian FitzGibbon  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Andy Serkis, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Jessica Schwarz, Michael McElhatton und Sharon Horgan

**2008: Show of Hands**

Director: Anthony McCarten  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Melanie Lynskey, Craig Hall, Stephen Lovatt

**2005: The English Harem**

Director: Robin Sheppard  
Screenplay: Anthony McCarten  
Cast: Art Malik, Martine McCutcheon, Tom Georgeson, Linda Bassett, John Sessions

 **Awards**

- 2023 *Going Zero* auf der Shortlist für den ›Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize‹
- 2020 Oscar-Nominierung ›Bestes Drehbuch‹ für *Die zwei Päpste*
- 2018 Oscar-Nominierung ›Bester Film‹ für *Darkest Hour*
- 2015 Oscar-Nominierung ›Bester Film‹ für *The Theory of Everything*
- 2015 ›Bestes adaptiertes Drehbuch‹ für *The Theory of Everything* bei der Verleihung der 68. BAFTA Awards
- 2012 ›Young Generation Award‹ des 6. FSFF (Fünf-Seen-Filmfestival) für die Verfilmung *Am Ende eines viel zu kurzen Tages*
- 2008 ›Jugendbuchpreis‹ der Jury der Jungen Leser (Altersgruppe 15/16) für *Superhero*
- 2007 ›hörBücher Grandios- Auszeichnung des Magazins *Hörbücher* für das Hörbuch *Superhero*, gelesen von Rufus Beck
- 2001 ›Molière-Preis‹ für das beste ausländische Stück für *Ladies Night*

**Praise**

*The English Harem*



Anthony McCarten, born in New Zealand in 1961, is an award-winning novelist, playwright and screen-writer. He has adapted several of his novels, acclaimed by critics and readers alike, for the big screen. In 2015 he was nominated for two ›Oscars‹ and won two ›BAFTAs‹ for his screenplay *The Theory Of Everything*, starring Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking. His play *Ladies Night* continues to be an international hit. Anthony McCarten divides his time between London and Munich.

### Praise (cont'd)

»A culture-clash-comedy of hearty tenderness with a melancholic ending.« – Basler Zeitung, bazkulturmagazin, Basel

»A great novel about love, food and the fascination of a foreign culture.« – SonntagsBlick, Zürich

»McCarten's novel hovers between indignant satire and engaging comedy of manners while sounding a clarion call against the bigotry and intolerance in our society.« – Sunday Times, London

»Anthony McCarten dares to speak of English multiculturalism in the satirical tongue that most native writers keep mute.« – The Observer, London

»Everyone who reads McCarten's generous, humane, funny, and moving novel will come away enriched.« – Timothy Mo

»English Harem« is a satire on society without match.« – Preußische Allgemeine Zeitung, Hamburg

»A sensitive, witty and political novel.« – Lutz Bunk / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin

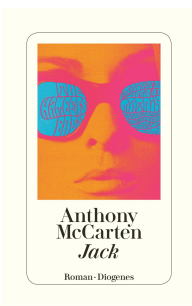
Anthony McCarten

»One of New Zealand's most exciting literary exports.« – International Herald Tribune, Paris

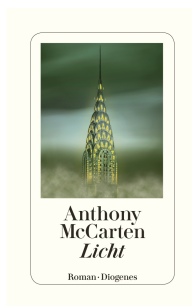
»Here's a writer with heart and an amazing boldness of invention ... There is not a false sentiment or conventional genuflection in this book.« – Timothy Mo

»Anthony McCarten is surely the most creative author of his generation in New Zealand.« – Günter Keil / Münchner Feuilleton

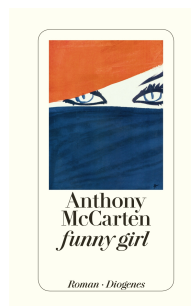
»Anthony McCarten has a knack for great stories, a talent for treating serious subjects with a great deal of wit.« – Antje Deistler / Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Cologne



American Letters  
256 pages  
2018



Brilliance  
368 pages  
2017

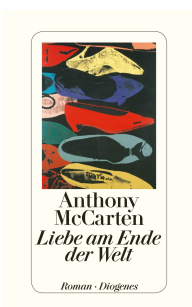


funny girl  
384 pages  
2014

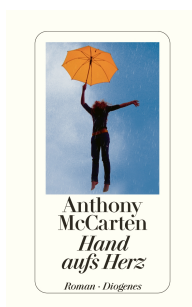
🔴 Bestseller



In the Absence of Heroes  
464 pages  
2012



Spinners  
368 pages  
2011



Show of Hands  
336 pages  
2009

📺 Movie Adaptation



Death of a Superhero  
304 pages  
2007

🏆 Award winner  
📺 Movie Adaptation  
🔴 Bestseller