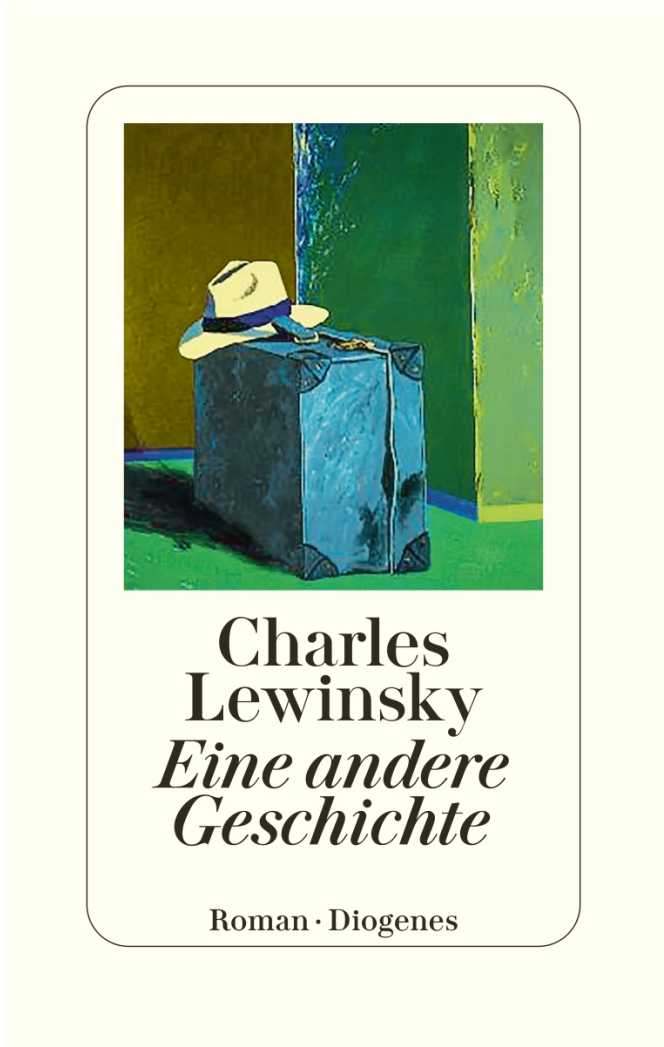
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Charles Lewinsky
A Different Story

Published by Diogenes as *Eine andere Geschichte*
Original title: *Eine andere Geschichte*



Los Angeles, 1959. The aging filmmaker Curtis Melnitz is tormented by nightmares. He is in dire need of sleeping pills – but can only get them if he regularly visits the psychoanalyst. On the analyst's couch, he reluctantly recounts the story of his life, from Hollywood to Berlin, from the black-and-white, silent dream factory to the garish and glaring German reality of the early 20th century. A chapter for every appointment on the couch. A life like a novel.

Contemporary Literature, Novel
416 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.8 cm
April 2026

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Rights currently sold:
Dutch (Meridiaan)

Awards

2020 *Der Halbbart* auf der Shortlist des ›Schweizer Buchpreises‹
2020 *Der Halbbart* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2020 ›Dreitannen-Literaturpreis‹ des Buchfestivals Olten
2016 *Andersen* auf der Shortlist des ›Schweizer Buchpreises‹
2014 *Kastelau* auf der Longlist des ›Deutschen Buchpreises‹
2011 *Gerron* für den ›Schweizer Buchpreis‹ nominiert
2009 ›Prix Lipp‹ für *Melnitz*, Genf
2008 ›Best Foreign Novel‹ für *Melnitz*, Foreign Literature Learned Society, Peking
2008 ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹ für *Melnitz*, Paris
2007 *Melnitz* wird als ›Bester deutscher Roman 2006‹ von der ›Jury für den besten fremdsprachigen Roman des Jahres im 21. Jahrhundert‹ in China ausgezeichnet.
2001 ›Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung‹ für *Johannistag*

Praise

A Different Story

»Wonderfully told, sophisticated and with a lot of humour.« – Young-Sim Song / Watson, Zurich

»A great late work, which is also about storytelling and remembering.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

»A work with the potential to become a success just as big as *Melnitz*.« – Ellen Presser / Jüdische Allgemeine, Berlin

»An intelligent, entertaining novel, full of spirit and historical depth – worth reading.« – Andreas Schröter / Ruhr Nachrichten, Dortmund

»The cool one-liners alone make this novel worthwhile; it features a single voice: that of Melnitz.« – Susanne Schramm / Aachener Zeitung

Charles Lewinsky

»Rare linguistic splendour and striking narrative virtuosity.« – Andreas Isenschmid / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

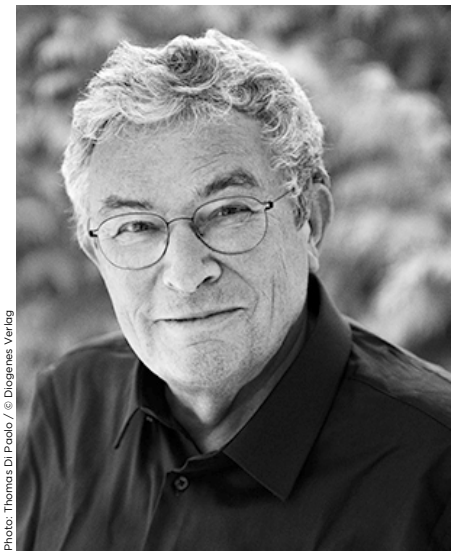
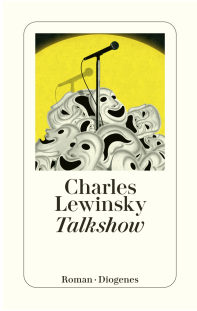
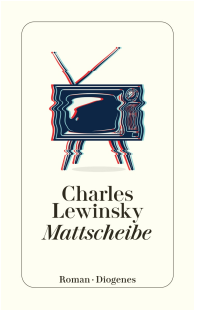


Photo: Thomas Di Paolo / © Diogenes Verlag

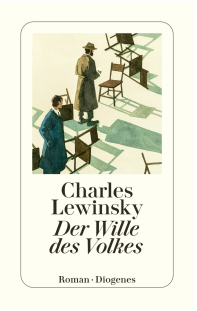
Charles Lewinsky, born in Zurich in 1946, has been a freelance writer since 1980. He won international renown with his novel *Melnitz,* which was awarded numerous prizes, including the French ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹. His novel *Halfbeard* was nominated for both the ›Swiss Book Prize‹ and the ›German Book Prize‹. His works have been published in 16 languages. Charles Lewinsky lives in Vereux (France) in summer, and in Zurich in winter.



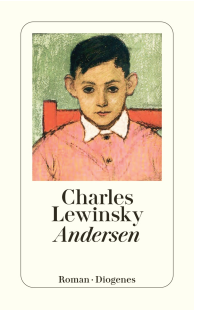
Talkshow
240 pages
2026



Telly
240 pages
2026



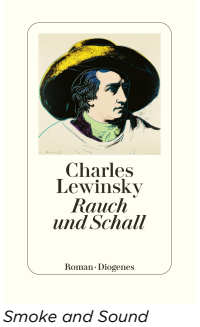
The People's Will
416 pages
2026



Andersen
608 pages
2026



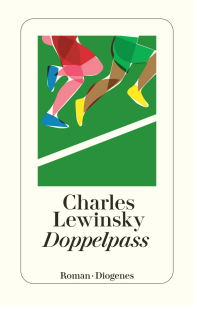
Deceptively Real
352 pages
2024
Bestseller



Smoke and Sound
304 pages
2023
Bestseller



The Devil on Christmas Night / The Good Lord on Inspection Day
88 pages
2023



Give-and-Go
384 pages
2023

Praise (cont'd)

»Lewinsky has a deft feel for drama; you get the impression he has a field day setting the readers on one track and then drawing them onto another.« – Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Charles Lewinsky is a literary jack of all trades. Wilding a sharp pen and with a keen eye he moves between different genres in a virtuoso manner. He has dedicated his life to words and today is one of the most read Swiss authors.« – Kurt Aeschbacher / SRF 1, Zurich

»Charles Lewinsky is probably one of the hardest-working and undisputedly one of the most successful and versatile Swiss writers.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Charles Lewinsky is a rascal in literature who masters all styles and eras.« – Rolf Fath / Badische Neueste Nachrichten, Karlsruhe

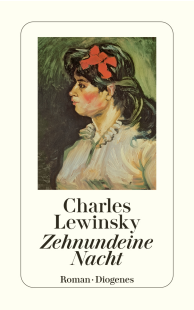
»The versatile star of contemporary Swiss literature.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau

»Above all, though, the tradition, the storytelling itself is always part of the narrative; this is the allure of the multi-layered works.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin

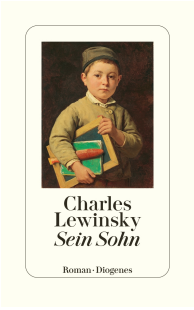
»Charles Lewinsky is the Swiss author with the broadest range when it comes to forms of expression.« – Felix Münger / Radio SRF2 Kultur, Basel

»Lewinsky is a gifted writer.« – Reza Rafi / Blick, Zurich

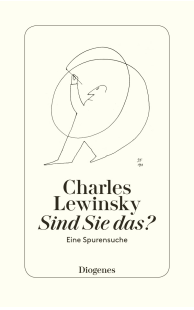
»Charles Lewinsky has a sure instinct for dramaturgy. Immensely entertaining.« – Helmut Maurò / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich



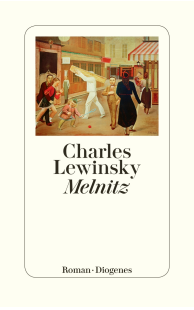
Ten and One Nights
240 pages
2023



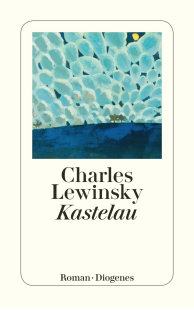
His Son
368 pages
2022
Bestseller



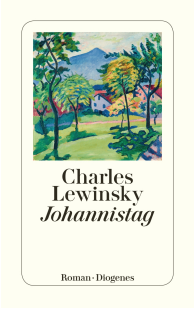
Is that You?
288 pages
2021



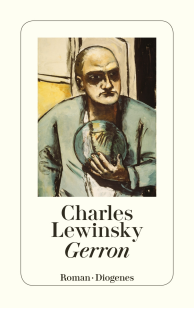
Melnitz
944 pages
2021



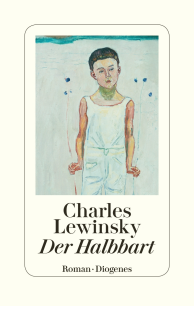
Kastelau
416 pages
2021



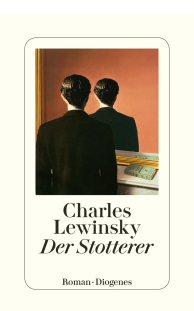
Midsummer's Day
368 pages
2021



Gerron
704 pages
2021



Halfbeard
688 pages
2020
Award winner
Bestseller



The Stutterer
416 pages
2019
Bestseller