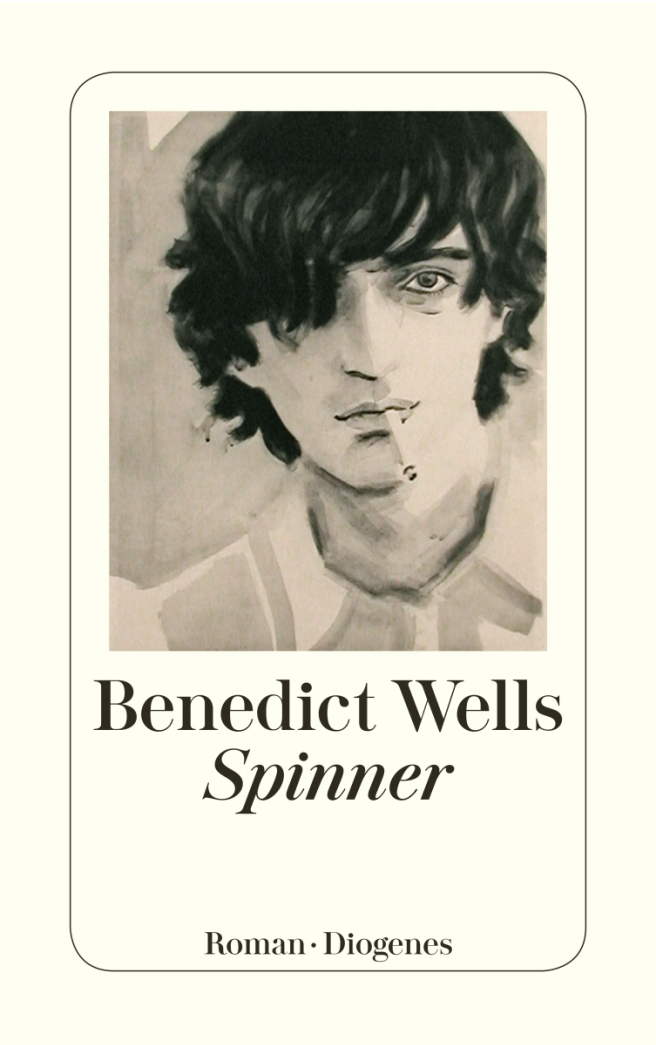
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Benedict Wells
Crank

Published by Diogenes as *Spinner*
Original title: *Spinner*



Jesper Lier, 20, has come to Berlin full of expectations: He hopes for an exciting life in the city of promise and for a fulminant start as a writer. Instead, he lives in a damp cellar on Prenzlauerberg, his novel ›The Fellow Sufferer‹ has turned into a monstrosity, and his aversion against society and the self-celebrating city has turned him into a loner. Jesper alternately consumes alcohol and sleeping pills and develops alarming daydreams. Until one day his friends Gustav and Frank turn up at his place and drag him out of his loneliness. For one crazy week, the three friends experience a Dionysian odyssey through Berlin during which Jesper not only bumps into the girl of his dreams but also many odd individuals and even his own literary characters. And they do not always mean well when they meet their author.

Contemporary Literature
320 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
August 2009

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Dutch (Meulenhoff)

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*

Praise

Crank

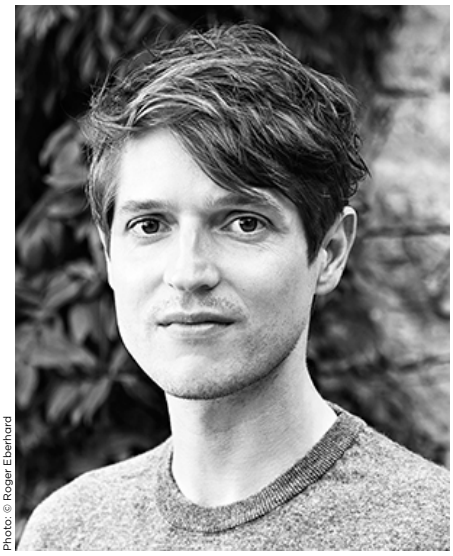
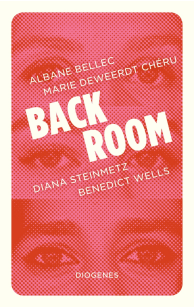


Photo: © Roger Eberhard

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.



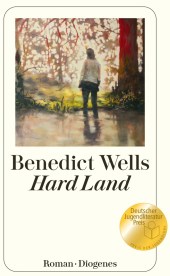
Backroom
240 pages
2027



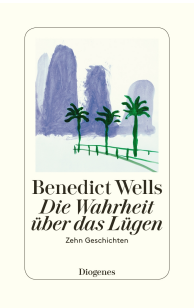
The Night of Books
64 pages
2026



The Stories Inside Us
400 pages
2024
Bestseller



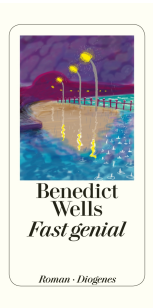
Hard Land
352 pages
2021
Award winner
Bestseller



The Truth About Lying
256 pages
2018
Award winner
Bestseller



The End of Loneliness
368 pages
2016
Award winner
Bestseller



Almost Ingenious
336 pages
2011
Bestseller



Beck's Last Summer
464 pages
2008
Award winner
Movie Adaptation

Praise (cont'd)

»A multi-talented virtuoso with a touch of madness.« – Jan Drees / 1Live, Cologne

»With his clear, unadorned language Benedict Wells plunges the reader deep into Jesper's strange universe.« – Marc Wiegand / Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, Essen

»Jesper Lier is a disorganised hero in a disorganised story - one which is simply tremendous.« – Jan Drees / WDR, Cologne

»A crazy, unputdownable read.« – emotion, Munich

»With his clear, unadorned language Benedict Wells plunges the reader deep into Jesper's strange universe.« – Marc Wiegand / WAZ, Essen

»In recent times few have succeeded so emphatically well in portraying Berlin as Benedict Wells does.« – U_mag, Hamburg

»A recommended read. The protagonist's chaotic but funny journey to find himself.« – Kieler Nachrichten

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 Cocozza / 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