

DOBYNS, Stephen (*1941), USA

The Wrestler's Cruel Story (1993)

Dt keine Übersetzung nachgewiesen

In Dobyns' brillianter Inszenierung von Gnosis und Manichäismus, Nietzsche, Catch-as-you-can und einem halben Dutzend Grimms Märchen im heutigen New York sind die Zwillingschwwestern Rose und Violet White Figurinen für Gut und Böse. Die leidenschaftliche, durchtriebene Violet "ist epileptisch" und hat trotz Medikamenten gelegentlich Anfälle, "meist petit mals, manchmal aber auch ein Grand mal, das auf der Straße passieren und zu einem Menschaufmarsch führen konnte." Sie geht aus solchen Episoden eigenartig gekräftigt hervor und steht deshalb im Verdacht, gelegentlich durch Weglassen der Pillen einen Anfall zu provozieren.

Zum Autor (Wiki 27.11.24):

„**Stephen J. Dobyns** (born February 19, 1941) is an American poet and novelist born in Orange, New Jersey.

He was born on February 19, 1941, in Orange, New Jersey, to Lester L., an Episcopal minister, and Barbara Johnston Dobyns. Dobyns was raised in New Jersey, Michigan, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He was educated at Shimer College, transferred to and graduated from Wayne State University in 1964, and received an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa in 1967. He has worked as a reporter for the *Detroit News*.



He has taught at various academic institutions, including Sarah Lawrence College, the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers, the University of Iowa, Syracuse University, and Boston University.

In 1995, as a professor of English at Syracuse University, he was accused of sexual harassment after an incident in which he also threw a drink at his accuser and made a rude remark about her in front of numerous witnesses. Syracuse University suspended him for two years, after which he resigned. Francine Prose defended him—as did university professor/writers Tobias Wolff, Hayden Carruth, and Agha Shahid Ali.

Dobyns has written 24 novels in a variety of genres, as well as 14 poetry collections and two non-fiction works about the craft of poetry.

In much of his work, Dobyns uses the ridiculous and the absurd as vehicles to introduce more profound meditations on life, love, and art. His journalistic training has strongly informed this voice.

His poetry has won numerous accolades, including a Lamont Poetry Selection (*Concurring Beasts*), a National Poetry Series selection (*Black Dog, Red Dog*), and a Melville Cane Award (*Cemetery Nights*).

His novel *Cold Dog Soup* (1985) has been made into two films, the American *Cold Dog Soup* and the French *Doggy Bag*. *The Two Deaths of Señora Puccini* (1988) was made into the 1995 film *Two Deaths*. The movie *Wild Turkey* is based on a short story by Dobyns.

He has written many detective stories about a private detective named Charlie Bradshaw who works out of Saratoga Springs in upstate New York. Bradshaw is unusual as a private eye protagonist, an ordinary man who was once a police officer. All the books have the word "Saratoga" in the title.

In the comic novel ***The Wrestler's Cruel Study*** (1993), the protagonist roams through a modern cityscape governed by fairy-tale rituals, searching for his missing fiancée. He is alternately aided or hindered by a Friedrich Nietzsche-quoting manager and his Hegelian nemesis, to find that his wrestling matches are choreographed by a shadowy organization that enacts their various Gnostic theological debates through the pageantry and panoply of the ring. He eventually learns to resolve his own dualistic nature and determine who he is despite the role he plays.

The Church of Dead Girls (1997) is a novel about a small town's hysterical response to the mysterious disappearance of three of its teenaged girls.

Boy in the Water (1999) is a novel about events in a secluded private school in the United States.

Jenny Hilborne wrote in *New York Journal of Books* that *The Burn Palace* (2013) "is an intriguing fictional mystery set in the town of Brewster, Rhode Island, and includes elements of the supernatural, satanism, and other alternate religions, including neo-pagans, Wicca, and witchcraft...mysterious and engaging . . ."

Is Fat Bob Dead Yet? was named one of *Publishers Weekly's* Best Mysteries of 2015."

Ich habe ihm mal über den Verlag geschrieben und ein paar Fragen zu seinem Roman und dem Epilepsiemotiv gestellt, aber keine Antwort bekommen.

Literatur