Diogenes

Hartmut Lange
Leptis Magna

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Original title: *Leptis Magna*

General Fiction
176 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2003

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⚜ Awards

2016	2016/2017 mit dem ›Rom-Preis‹ verbundenes Stipendiat in der Deutschen Akademie Rom Villa Massimo
2005	Drei Monate lang Stipendiat der Hermann-Hesse-Stiftung in Calw
2004	›Literatur-Nord-Preis‹ für *Leptis Magna*
2003	›Italo-Svevo-Preis‹
2000	›Kester-Häusler-Ehrengabe‹ der Deutschen Schillerstiftung von 1859 für das Lebenswerk
1998	›Literaturpreis‹ der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
1995	*Schnitzlers Würgeengel* ›Buch des Monats‹ Mai der Darmstädter Jury
1989	›Prix de la littérature traduite‹ für *Die Waldsteinsonate*
1968	›Gerhart-Hauptmann-Preis‹
1966	›Förderpreis‹ der Niedersächsischen Landesregierung

Praise

Hartmut Lange

»His novellas are master narratives about the magical force of shadows creeping up unnoticed.« – Hans-Dieter Schütt / (German journalist)

»The master of linguistic stringency.« – Kristina Maidt-Zinke / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»A minimalist with far-reaching effect.« – Hans-Christian Kosler / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Hartmut Lange deserves being read with particular attention because he clearly differs from loud drummers, such as Grass or Boll, on the other side of the Rhine. One feels reminded of the plays by Maeterlinck and Wedekind.« – Alain Bosquet / Le Figaro, Paris

»The fragile elegance of his style is unmatched in contemporary literature.« – Werner Fuld / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»The master among the fantastical rationalists.« – Edelgard Abenstein / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin

Professor Bodewig wanted to discover new territory, and it seemed as though his wish might just be fulfilled. Bodewig, a political scientist at Dahlem University, has unexpectedly inherited a property in Vienna. He asks his wife to take a look at the house and to get the renovations underway. Although it is highly unlikely that he will be able to transfer his job, he seems to be considering a move to Vienna. His apartment in Berlin is almost empty, the furniture in storage, the house in Vienna is ready – but still Bodewig does not arrive. Something seems to prevent him from leaving his old lodgings.

Van der Velde promised to marry Sybille. They have been together for so long now, but the computer specialist keeps delaying this last formality. Instead he wants Sybille to fly with him to Leptis Magna in Libya, to see the famous ruins. Meanwhile he keeps disappearing, with ever-increasing haste, on secret journeys of his own. Sybille has no idea what he is up to, but does get one little hint: when he comes home, she finds fine, red sand trickling out of his suitcase.

Two masterful novellas about human crises and grand delusions, about the balance between clinging to the known and the loss of the self, about the fear of involvement and the maelstrom of self-disintegration. Novellas of irritating beauty and almost metaphysical transparency.
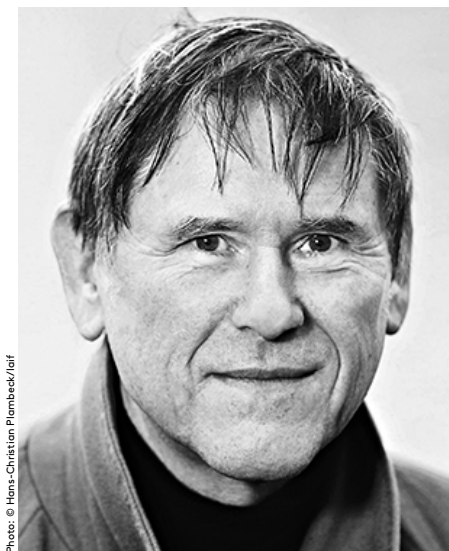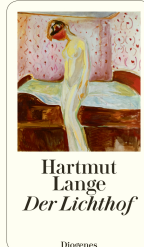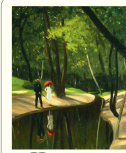

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Hartmut Lange, born in Berlin in 1937, studied theatrical production. He has been honoured with several awards for his plays, essays and prose. His most recent publication is the volume of novellas *At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger*. He is now a freelance writer and lives in Berlin.

The Roughly Forty-Year-Old Man
128 pages
2025

At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger
112 pages
2022

The Courtyard
96 pages
2020

On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere
128 pages
2018

The View from the Window
112 pages
2015

The House on Dorothea Street
128 pages
2013

In the Museum
128 pages
2011

The Abyss of the Finite
144 pages
2009

The Therapist
160 pages
2007

The Wanderer
128 pages
2005
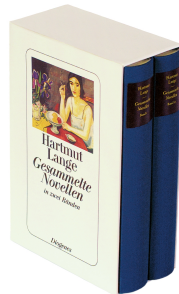
Collected Novellas
1152 pages
2002

Knowledge from Error
208 pages
2002

The String Quartet
144 pages
2001

The Educational Trip
128 pages
2000

A Different Kind of Happiness
144 pages
1999

The ›Waldstein‹ Sonata
112 pages
1984
🎖**Award winner**