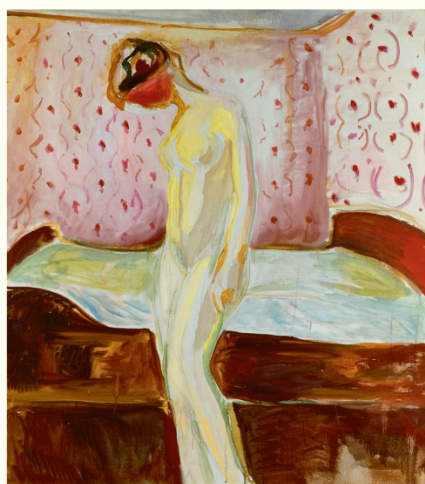


## Hartmut Lange *The Courtyard*

Published by Diogenes as *Der Lichthof*  
Original title: *Der Lichthof*



On existential states of mind, in uniquely condensed form.  
One of the last great masters of the novella writes about the magical power of gathering shadows.  
With an autobiographical text on deeply formative childhood experiences.  
»Love is not an opportunity for freedom; it happens out of necessity,« thinks a woman who realizes her husband has left her. Darkly luminous yet crystal clear sentences like this one have made Hartmut Lange's prose famous.  
Four novellas, complemented by an autobiographical piece, with which Hartmut Lange tells us about the formative experiences for his life and his writing: Christmas 1944 in Naßwerder, the horrors of forced evacuation, the death of his father and later his brother.  
»It was an inkling of how our lives would lack presuppositions, once we could no longer cite the protective hand above us.«  
Hartmut Lange

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
96 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 x 1.2 cm  
March 2020

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

### 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

#### *The Courtyard*

»From the seeming innocence of the narrative style, this calm, almost scrupulously unspectacular tone, something unfathomable suddenly emerges.« – Ulrich Rüdenauer / WDR 3, Cologne

»Lange's calm, precise language is easily recognised.« – Jochen Overbeck / Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»Hartmut Lange continues to write his timeless novellas.« – Jürgen Verdofsky / Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt

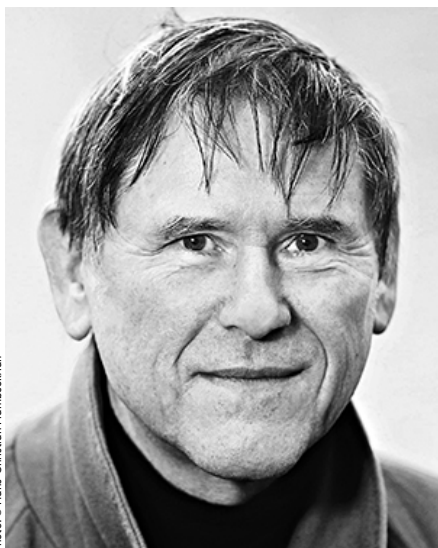
»The inoffensiveness of the narrative, that serene, almost scrupulously unsensational tone, suddenly gives way to something unfathomable« – Ulrich Rüdenauer / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»The reader is gripped by each and every word, and really feels the author's immense capacity for love.« – Christoph Dieckmann / Die Zeit, Hamburg

»His novellas are a literary meditation on evil and mystery.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

#### Hartmut Lange

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



## Praise (cont'd)

»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

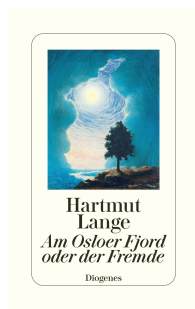
»The fragile elegance of his style is unmatched in contemporary literature.« – Werner Fuld / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

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

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



*On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere*  
128 pages  
2018



*The View from the Window*  
112 pages  
2015



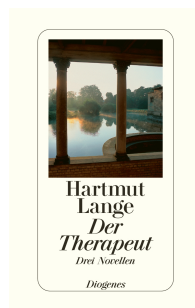
*The House on Dorothea Street*  
128 pages  
2013



*In the Museum*  
128 pages  
2011



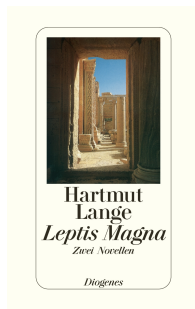
*The Abyss of the Finite*  
144 pages  
2009



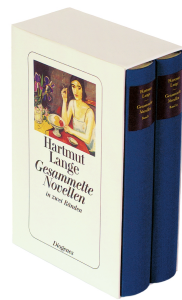
*The Therapist*  
160 pages  
2007



**The Wanderer**  
128 pages  
2005



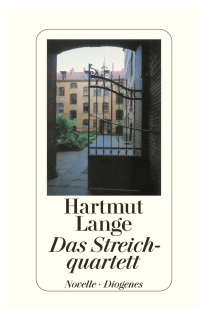
**Leptis Magna**  
176 pages  
2003  
🏆 **Award winner**



**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**