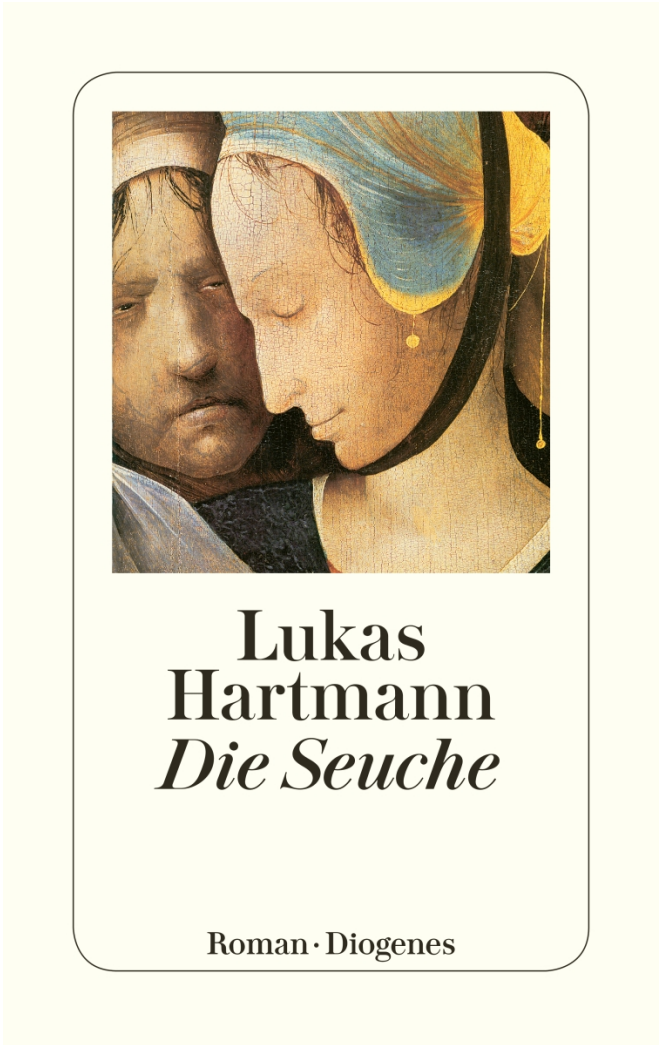
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Lukas Hartmann
The Plague

Published by Diogenes as *Die Seuche*
Original title: *Die Seuche*



A village in the 14th century. For weeks, rumours have been heard about a terrible disease. And then it reaches the village. The helpless people try to stop the dying through faith, superstition and magic. Nobody knows why so many die and only a few survive. A young girl, Hanna, and her brother, Matthis, bury their grandmother and, although it is forbidden, flee into the forest. On the way, they meet a flagellant procession, and Matthis joins the religious fanatics, while Hanna continues her flight. She finds refuge with an old, silent fisherman, for whom she sells fish on the market. There, she repeatedly sees a child who smiles at her. She soon has the feeling that she must follow this mysterious child …

Contemporary Literature
224 pages
11.3 × 18 × 1.4 cm
April 2009

Contact:
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and
Suzanne Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:
Italian (Armando Dadò)

Movie adaptations

2007: Die Prinzessin von Sansibar
Director: Tina Diaz
Screenplay: Tina Diaz
Cast: Dokumtarfilm mit Spielszenen

1992: Anna annA
Director: Greti & Jürgen Brauer Kläy
Screenplay: Lukas & Greti Kläy Hartmann
Cast: Lea Hürlimann,Wanda Hürlimann,Ilona Schulz

1989: Pestalozzis Berg
Director: Peter von Gunten
Cast: Gian Maria Volonté, Rolf Hoppe, Mathias Gnädinger, Corinna Harfouch

Awards

2018 ›Literaturpreis‹ Kanton Bern für *Ein Bild von Lydia*
2016 Generationenbuchpreis ›Prix Chronos‹ für *Mein Dschinn*
2010 ›Sir Walter Scott-Literaturpreis‹ für *Bis ans Ende der Meere*
2010 ›Grosser Literaturpreis von Stadt und Kanton Bern‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
2001 Ehrenliste des Österreichischen Kinder- und Jugendbuchpreises: *Leo Schmetterling*
1996 Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung für *Die Mohrin*
1995 ›Luchs 108‹ von *Die Zeit* und Radio Bremen für *Die Mohrin*
1995 Schweizer Jugendbuchpreis für *So eine lange Nase*
1993 Buchpreis der Stadt Bern für *Die Seuche*
1988 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia sowie von Stadt und Kanton Bern für *Einer stirbt in Rom*
1983 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia für *Aus dem Innern des Mediums*
1980 Buchpreis der Stadt Bern für *Pestalozzis Berg*
1980 Buchpreis der Schillerstiftung für *Pestalozzis Berg*

Praise

The Plague

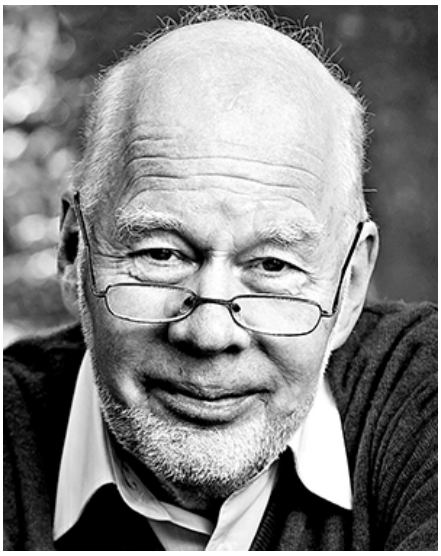
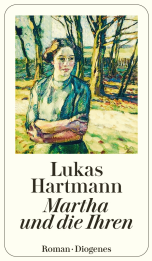


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

Lukas Hartmann, born in Berne in 1944, studied German and psychology. He was a teacher, journalist and media consultant. Today, he is a freelance writer living in Berne, writing books for adults and children. He is one of Switzerland's best-known authors and his novels regularly feature on the bestseller lists.



The Lost Daughter
256 pages
2027



Martha and Her Kin
304 pages
2024
Bestseller



Into the Unknown
288 pages
2022
Bestseller



Shadow Dance
256 pages
2021
Bestseller



The Singer
288 pages
2019
Bestseller



A Picture of Lydia
368 pages
2018
Award winner
Bestseller



A Suitable Tenant
368 pages
2016
Bestseller



On Both Sides
336 pages
2015
Bestseller

Praise (cont'd)

»The plague in the 14th century. A seemingly remote time becomes a distant mirror: This is a great and captivating book.« – Der Bund, Berne

Lukas Hartmann

»Lukas Hartmann immerses himself totally in his characters. He has a particular interest in figures who are in danger of being swallowed up by history. He is driven by a strong sense of justice, empathy and meticulousness.« – Beatrice Eichmann-Leutenegger / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

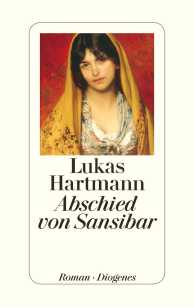
»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Lukas Hartmann has an incredible affinity to the world of children.« – Carol Rosa / Berner Zeitung

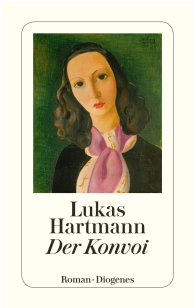
»Lukas Hartmann's ability to see the world through a child's eyes is outstanding.« – Hits for Kids, Gustavsburg

»A virtuoso of the historical novel.« – Charles Linsmayer / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

»Lukas Hartmann knows how to write history in a way that puts the present in a different light.« – Augsburger Allgemeine



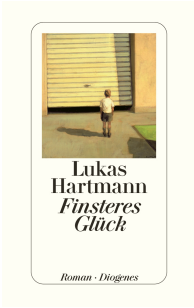
Goodbye to Zanzibar
336 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



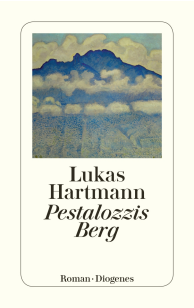
The Convoy
208 pages
2013



A Robber's Life
352 pages
2012
Bestseller



Dark Bliss
320 pages
2010
Bestseller



Pestalozzi's Mountain
208 pages
2009
Award winner
Movie Adaptation



To the End of the Sea
496 pages
2009
Award winner
Bestseller