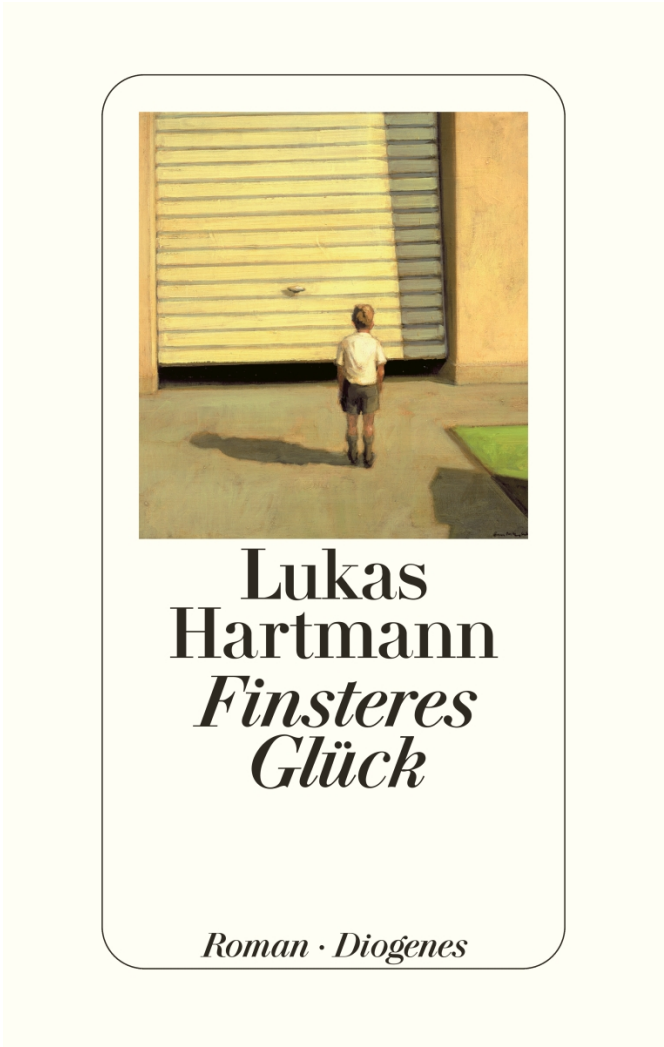
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Lukas Hartmann
Dark Bliss

Published by Diogenes as *Finsteres Glück*
Original title: *Finsteres Glück*



A moving novel about security and loss, about family bonds which we cannot escape and those of our own making. 11 August, 1999 – total eclipse of the sun. Like thousands of others, a family of five drives to Alsace where the natural spectacle is particularly impressive. Only the youngest son, however, returns from this excursion alive. In the night Eliane Hess, psychologist and single mother, is called to the hospital: eight-year-old Yves, miraculously unscathed, is in shock. He chatters nervously on and on – just not about what really matters. What does he remember of the accident? Did his father smash the car into the tunnel wall on purpose? Piece by jigsaw piece, Eliane is discovering a picture of a family headed towards catastrophe with their eyes open. And it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep a professional distance. Yves's fate horrifies and fascinates Eliane – in the same way the Isenheim Altarpiece has since her youth, of which it is said that a solar eclipse is represented on its first panel. When a tug-of-war over the boy's future begins between his relatives, Eliane reaches an unorthodox decision that will irrevocably change her life and that of her two daughters.

Contemporary Literature
320 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2010

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

Bestseller

Swiss Bestseller

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

Dark Bliss

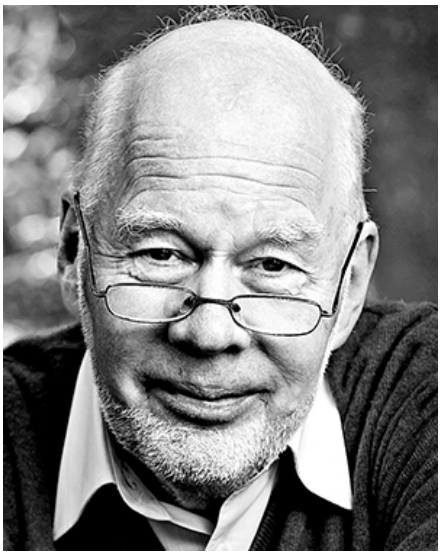
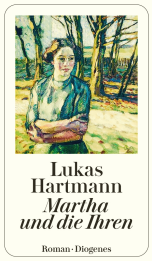


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

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)

»Lukas Hartmann is writing about the psychic injuries of this child with the sure instinct of someone who has written great children books for years.« – Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung,, Essen

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

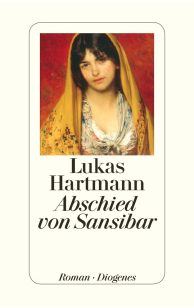
»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

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

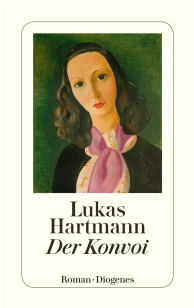
»Lukas Hartmann's ability to see the world through a child's eyes is outstanding.« – Hits for Kids, Gustavsburg

»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



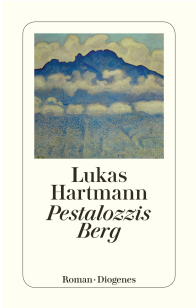
Goodbye to Zanzibar
336 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



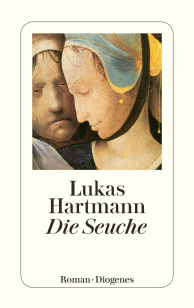
The Convoy
208 pages
2013



A Robber's Life
352 pages
2012
Bestseller



Pestalozzi's Mountain
208 pages
2009
Award winner
Movie Adaptation



The Plague
224 pages
2009
Award winner



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