

# Diogenes

Lukas Hartmann

*Dark Bliss*

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



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Finsteres  
Glück*

*Roman · Diogenes*

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.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
320 pages  
11.6 x 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: Dokumentarfilm 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  
Grädinger, 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*



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.

**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

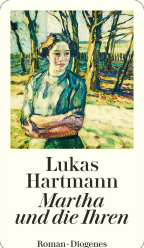

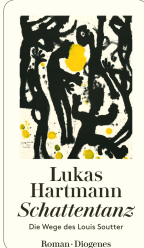
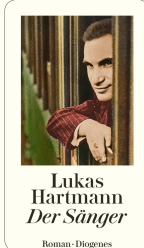







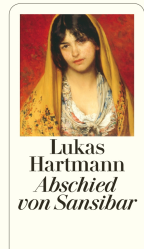






»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

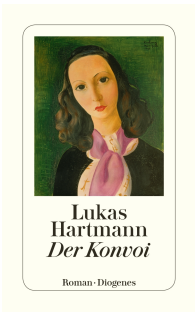
»Lukas Hartmann has an incredible affinity to the world of children.« – Carol Rosa / Berner Zeitung

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

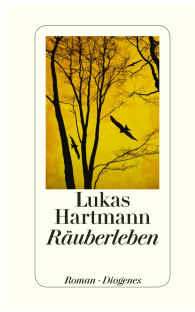
»A virtuoso of the historical novel.« – Charles Linsmayer / NZZ am Sonntag, Zurich

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

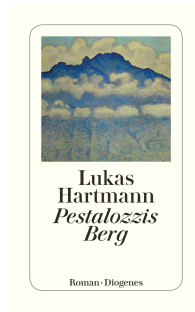
|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Martha und die Ihren</i><br/>Roman · Diogenes</p>   |  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Ins Unbekannte</i><br/>Die Geschichte von Sabina und Fritz<br/>Roman · Diogenes</p> |  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Schattenanz</i><br/>Die Wege des Louis Stutter<br/>Roman · Diogenes</p> |  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Der Sänger</i><br/>Roman · Diogenes</p>  |
| <p><i>Martha and Her Kin</i><br/>304 pages<br/>2024<br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p>  | <p><i>Into the Unknown</i><br/>288 pages<br/>2022<br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p>   | <p><i>Shadow Dance</i><br/>256 pages<br/>2021<br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p>                                 | <p><i>The Singer</i><br/>288 pages<br/>2019<br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p>  |
|  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Ein Bild von Lydia</i><br/>Roman · Diogenes</p>   |  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Ein passender Mieter</i><br/>Roman · Diogenes</p>                                   |  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Auf beiden Seiten</i><br/>Roman · Diogenes</p>                          |  <p><b>Lukas Hartmann</b><br/><i>Abschied von Sansibar</i><br/>Roman · Diogenes</p>   |
| <p><i>A Picture of Lydia</i><br/>368 pages<br/>2018<br/> <b>Award winner</b><br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p> | <p><i>A Suitable Tenant</i><br/>368 pages<br/>2016<br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p>  | <p><i>On Both Sides</i><br/>336 pages<br/>2015<br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p>                                | <p><i>Goodbye to Zanzibar</i><br/>336 pages<br/>2013<br/> <b>Movie Adaptation</b><br/> <b>Bestseller</b></p> |



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