

# Diogenes

**Erich Hackl**  
***Roped Together***

Published by Diogenes as *Am Seil*  
Original title: *Am Seil*



**Erich Hackl**  
***Am Seil***

Eine Heldengeschichte

Diogenes

Based on true events, this is a story of intelligent resistance and civic courage in times of inhumanity, then and now. Award-winning author Erich Hackl draws a vivid picture of Second World War Vienna – and of the fate of people leaving the city, to start new lives in Iran, Australia, China and other places. How the taciturn Vienna craftsman and passionate mountaineer Reinhold Duschka came to save two Jewish lives during the Nazi reign of terror. How he managed to hide Regina Steinig and her daughter Lucia in his workshop over four years. How the three of them, tied by an invisible rope, survived thanks to good fortune and mutual trust. What happened afterwards. This meticulously researched story develops an incredible undertow, while affecting the reader deeply. Featured in New Books in German.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
128 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
August 2018

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Arabic (Al-Arabi)  
English/world (Haus)

### Bestseller

# 1 on the Austrian bestseller list  
›Best Book‹ August and September 2018 by  
Austrian public radio ORF

### Movie adaptations

**2011: Der Heimwehträger. Neunzig Minuten  
mit Fritz Kalmar. Eine Freundesgabe**

Director: Erich Hackl  
Cast: Dokumentation

### **1990: Abschied von Sidonie**

Director: Karin Brandauer  
Screenplay: Erich Hackl  
Cast: Arghavan Sadeghi-Seragi, Kitty Speiser,  
Georg Marin

### Awards

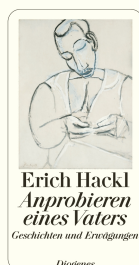
- 2020 ›Theodor Kramer Preis‹ für Schreiben im Widerstand und Exil
- 2017 ›Menschenrechtspreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 2015 ›Willy und Helga Verkauf-Verlon-Preis‹ für österreichische antifaschistische Publizistik an Erich Hackl
- 2015 ›Ehrenring‹ seiner Geburtsstadt Steyr
- 2015 Vom österreichischen Bundeskanzleramt vergebener Übersetzerpreis ›Translatio‹ an Erich Hackl für sein Lebenswerk als Übersetzer von spanischer und insbesondere lateinamerikanischer Literatur
- 2015 ›Literaturpreis der Österreichischen Industrie – Anton Wildgans‹ an Erich Hackl
- 2013 ›Adalbert-Stifter-Preis Oberösterreich‹. Großer Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich
- 2011 Ehrendoktor der Universität Salzburg
- 2006 ›Donauland-Sachbuchpreis‹, Wien
- 2004 ›Ehrenpreis des Österreichischen Buchhandels für Toleranz in Denken und Handeln‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Solothurner Literaturpreis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Preis der Stadt Wien für Literatur‹ für *Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz*



Erich Hackl, born in Steyr, Austria in 1954, studied German and Spanish and worked as a teacher and editor for a number of years. Madrid and Vienna, where he works as a writer and translator, have been home to him for a long time now. His stories are based on authentic cases. *Aurora's Motive* and *Farewell Sidonia* are on school reading lists. Erich Hackl has received numerous awards, including the 2017 ›Human Rights Award‹ of the state of Upper Austria, the ›Anton Wildgans Prize 2015‹ by the Federation of Austrian Industry and the ›Award for Literature‹ from the city of Vienna in 2002.



**More Happiness in Life**  
432 pages  
2019

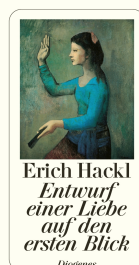


**If the Father Fits**  
304 pages  
2004



**Wedding at Auschwitz**  
192 pages  
2002

**Award winner**



**Love at First Sight**  
80 pages  
1999



**Farewell Sidonia**  
128 pages  
1989

**Award winner**  
 **Movie Adaptation**  
 **Bestseller**



**Aurora's Motive**  
144 pages  
1987

**Award winner**  
 **Bestseller**

## Awards (cont'd)

- 1998 ›Premio Hidalgo‹ der spanischen Romavereinigung Presencia Gitana für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1996 ›Bruno Kreisky-Preis für das politische Buch‹ für *In fester Umarmung*
- 1995 ›Gerrit-Engelke-Literaturpreis‹ der Landeshauptstadt Hannover für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1994 ›Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 1991 ›Österreichischer Förderungspreis für Literatur‹
- 1991 ›Prix de littérature étrangère Ecureuil‹ anlässlich der 5. Buchmesse in Bordeaux für *Abschied von Sidonia*
- 1991 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Buchereien für *Abschied von Sidonia*
- 1988 ›1. Grand-Prix Genève – Europe‹ der Union europäischer Fernsehanstalten (EBU) für das Filmdrehbuch *Sidonia Adlersburg*
- 1987 ›Aspekte-Literaturpreis‹ für die Erzählung *Auroras Anlaß*

## Praise

### *Roped Together*

»As always Erich Hackl tells this story of survival with great detail and carefully researched.« – Eva Pfister / WOZ, Zurich

»Hackl depicts powerful scenes, like a the longing of a child, on the verge of despair at the monotony of having to live in hiding.« – Gerlinde Tamerl / Tiroler Tageszeitung, Innsbruck

»Even if *Roped Together* recounts the most terrible things, the book possesses a hopeful radiance.« – ORF TV, Vienna

»[. . .] a story of displacement and survival which explores the bonds of friendship and family. [. . .] The work not only paints a vivid picture of the hardships forced upon people by war and separation, but also depicts the ravelling and unravelling of relationships as a fact of life in times of peace and freedom.« – New Books in German, London

»A great book that erects a monument to Reinhold Duschka, who was a modest man all of his life. Required reading at school!« – Andreas Wallentin / WDR 5, Cologne

»An important book!« – Kronen Zeitung, Vienna

»The ambiguity of a person turning into a hero because it just so happens is the real strength of this book.« – Bernhard Flieler / Salzburger Nachrichten

»One of Austria's virtuoso masters of language, who has done more to correct our image of history than a dozen historians put together.« – Thomas Rothschild / Die Presse, Vienna

»The tone is restrained, the story vast and stirring.« – Martina Sulner / Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung

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## Praise (cont'd)

»The Me-Myself-and-I literature, as he likes to call it, has never been his thing. [...] Just like for all of his books, Hackl researched archives and talked to relatives and contemporary witnesses.« – Welf Grombacher / Schwäbische Zeitung, Ravensburg

»*Roped Together* reads like an exciting case record based on circumstantial evidence to investigate a case of moral courage.« – Martin Doerry / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»With *Roped Together*, Erich Hackl has produced an insistent lesson on empathy.« – Katja Gasser / ORF 1, Vienna

»... jumps from a third-person to a first-person narrator. This simple trick gives the deliberately matter-of-fact and simply told story an emotionality that is at the same time distressing and impressive.« – Melanie Brandl / Münchner Merkur

»A book, reduced to the essentials, so that nothing appears to be embellished.« – Peter Pisa / Kurier, Vienna

»... his books, which capture the Nazi past in chronicles of loss, grief and death, are complex sums of many little moments of remembering and forgetting. [...] Small form, great art.« – Profil, Vienna

»This captivating story continues to work in me, a convincing appeal for humanity and solidarity.« – Doron Rabinovici / Israeli-Austrian writer, historian and essayist

»Erich Hackl's *On the Rope* is a compelling story of unheralded courage and survival. With prose stripped to the bone, it reminds us that humanity in the middle of great inhumanity is still a possibility.« – Andrew Williams / British Writer

»This moving, gripping account of survival over a terrifying four years is based on interviews with Lucia by the well-known Austrian author.« – The Irish Times

Erich Hackl

»A masterful and authoritative chronicler.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandradio Berlin

»The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.« – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

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### Praise (cont'd)

»Erich Hackl's concise and hauntingly dense works of prose have gained him a huge audience and great success. At the bottom of his efforts are usually some forgotten beings, victims of our century's cruel history, with their authentic albeit not exactly remembered biography. Here Hackl, the Austrian author, overly sensitized perhaps because of his own country's extreme insensitivities, steps in and tries to bring about an act of belated justice and redemption. This obviates the question whether Hackl is a fiction writer or a historian, a lawyer of the ›small people‹ or a missionary voice of human dignity: he is all of these, and ideally they all add up to make a writer.« – Erich Wolfgang Skwara / World Literature Today, New York

»One of Austria's virtuoso masters of language [. . .] who has done more to correct our image of history than a dozen historians put together.« – Thomas Rothschild / Die Presse, Vienna

»Erich Hackl's narrative is masterful and compelling.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin