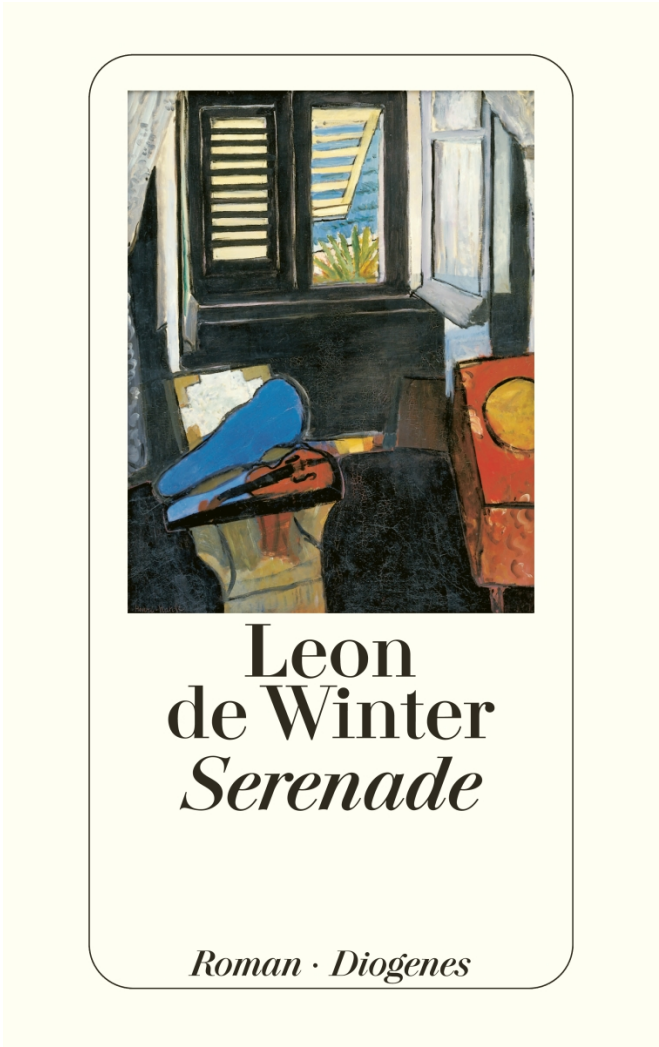
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Leon de Winter
Serenade

Published by Diogenes as *Serenade*
Original title: *Serenade*



›Serenade‹ is exciting, entertaining and witty, and at the same time concerned with serious issues. The story of a son who rediscovers his mother. And a disturbing book about the helplessness of all of us who follow the news, know about the terrible things that are happening in the world, and are unable to do anything about it. Anneke Weiss, in her middle seventies and long since widowed, has just rediscovered her lust for life and her desire to interfere in the life of her son Bennie, a would-be composer. Then the doctors diagnose cancer. Bennie insists that they don't inform his mother about her terminal illness. Life seems to be carrying on as usual, and Anneke even falls in love with the 77-year-old Fred Bachmann. Then suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, the elderly lady disappears without trace. The only hope is that she has gone off on one of her pleasure jaunts with which she is constantly surprising her son. But why doesn't she give any sign of life? Bennie and Fred set off to look for Anneke. When they find her it is not on the Champs-Elysées, but in the freight station in Split. What made Anneke embark on this »journey«? This novel, only superficially humorous and carefree, is about a trauma which can break out at any time.

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
February 1996

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Movie adaptations

2003: SuperTex
Director: Jan Schütt
Cast: Stephen Mangan, Jan Decleir

2001: The Hollywood Sign
Director: Sönke Wortmann
Cast: Burt Reynolds, Rod Steiger, Tom Berenger

1993: Hoffman's honger
Director: Leon de Winter
Cast: Jacqueline Bisset, Elliot Gould, Thom Hoffman, Huub Stapel

Awards

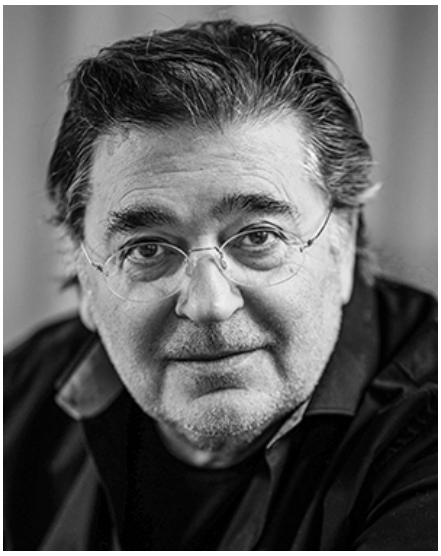
2009 Literaturpreis der Provinz Brabant (›Schrijversprijs der Brabantse Letteren‹) für *Das Recht auf Rückkehr*
2006 Buber-Rosenzweig-Medaille
2002 WELT-Literaturpreis für sein Gesamtwerk
2002 ›*Welt*-Literaturpreis‹ für Leon de Winter: »Die Jury ehrt Leon de Winter für seine so komplex wie spannend angelegten Romane, die am Beispiel meist jüdischer Protagonisten hochkomisch und psychologisch einfühlsam vom Getriebensein des modernen Menschen erzählen. Sein Schreiben zeichnet sich durch einen souveränen Wechsel von Nähe und Distanz im Hinblick auf seine Figuren aus, durch ein meisterliches Gespür für pointierte Dialoge, durch die gekonnte Verknüpfung verschiedener Haupt- und Nebenhandlungen, die seine Bücher so komplex wie spannend machen. Er wird für sein Gesamtwerk geehrt.«
1978 ›Reina Prinsen Geerlings-Preis‹ für *De (ver)wording van de jongere Dürer*

Praise

Serenade

»Leon de Winter is a leading contemporary writer, on a par with John Updike, Philip Roth and Harry Mulisch.« – Ellen Pomikalko / Brigitte, Hamburg

Leon de Winter



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Leon de Winter was born in 's-Hertogenbosch in 1954, the son of Dutch Jews. He has worked as a freelance writer and filmmaker since 1976, and lives in the Netherlands. In 2002, he was awarded the ›Welt Literature Prize‹; in 2006, the ›Buber-Rosenzweig Medal‹ for his fight against Antisemitism; and in 2009, the ›Brabant Literature Prize‹ for *The Right of Return*.

Praise (cont'd)

»Ingenious, entertaining, funny – always to the surprise and delight of the reader.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»Leon de Winter stokes the fires of imagination until the pages are ablaze. It's an approach that makes him unique.« – De Volkskrant, Amsterdam



City of Dogs
272 pages
2025



Geronimo
448 pages
2016
Bestseller



VSV
512 pages
2013
Bestseller



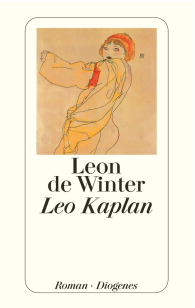
The Right to Return
560 pages
2009
Bestseller



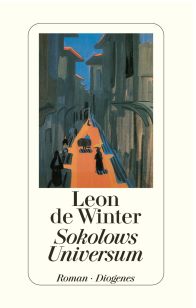
Place de la Bastille
160 pages
2005



God's Gym
432 pages
2003
Bestseller



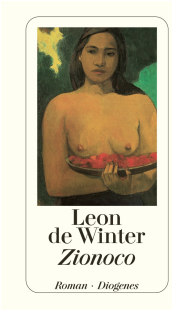
Kaplan
544 pages
2001



Sokolov's Universe
448 pages
1999



The Sky of Hollywood
368 pages
1998
Movie Adaptation



Zionoco
416 pages
1997



SuperTex
272 pages
1994
Movie Adaptation



Hoffman's Hunger
416 pages
1994
Movie Adaptation