

Diogenes

Leon de Winter
Serenade

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Original title: *Serenade*



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Roman · Diogenes

›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-Élysées, 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.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
February 1996

Contact:

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

🎬 Movie adaptations

2003: SuperTex

Director: Jan Schütt
Cast: Stephen Mangan, Jan Declair

2001: The Hollywood Sign

Director: Sönke Wortmann
Cast: Burt Reynolds, Rod Steiger, Tom Berenger

1993: Hoffman's hunger

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

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

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Praise (cont'd)

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

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*.



City of Dogs
272 pages
2025



Geronimo
448 pages
2016
Bestseller



VSV
512 pages
2013
Bestseller



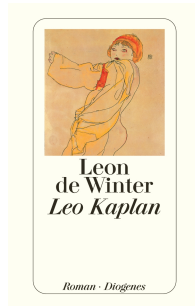
The Right to Return
560 pages
2009
Bestseller



Place de la Bastille
160 pages
2005



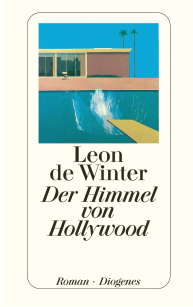
God's Gym
432 pages
2003
Bestseller



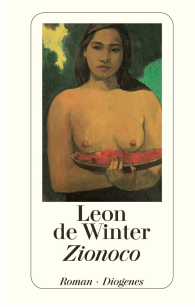
Kaplan
544 pages
2001



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**