Diogenes

Book factsheet

Lukas Hartmann
Martha and Her Kin

Published by Diogenes as *Martha und die Ihren*
Original title: *Martha und die Ihren*



Martha was a formidable woman who rose from a poor background to achieve modest prosperity. But she could never forget the memories of her deprived childhood as a child labourer with a farming family in the Bernese hinterlands: Show no weakness. Work relentlessly. Be tough on yourself and others. These beliefs also influenced her sons, who were determined to succeed in the post-war period, and her grandchildren, who rebel and, for the first time, dare to dream of a different, freer life. The most personal novel by the Swiss bestselling author.

Contemporary Literature
304 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.4 cm
May 2024

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

Translation rights currently sold:
Italian (Palingenia)

Bestseller

#1 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*

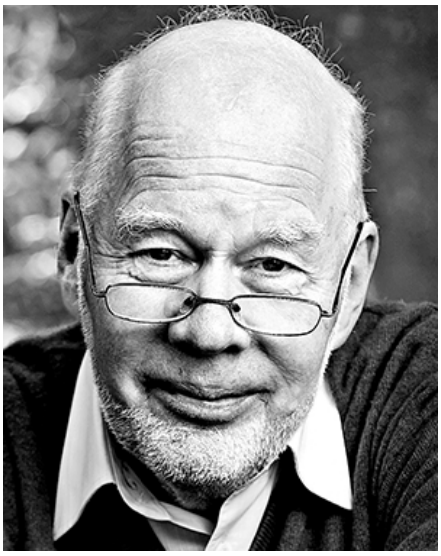


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

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.



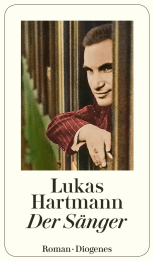
The Lost Daughter
256 pages
2027



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



Goodbye to Zanzibar
336 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller

Praise

Martha and Her Kin

»In *Martha and Her Kin*, the biographies of ordinary people merge into an extraordinary narration about Swiss society – a narration from its core.« – Alexander Sury / Der Bund, Berne

»Lukas Hartmann's autobiographical novel *Martha and her Kin* is a precise and moving piece of history of Swiss mentality in the 20th century.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Basler Zeitung, Basel

»It is a novel in which there's a lot to learn about Switzerland and its development in the 20th century.« – Dorothee Meyer-Kahrweg / hr2 Kultur, Frankfurt

»The touching report about a woman who knew nothing in her life but work – for her the only way into safety, into freedom.« – Jutta Duhm-Heizmann / WDR3, Cologne

»Straight and simple, Hartmann tells his own family history and shows once more what an empathetic observer he is.« – Renata Schmid / Kulturtipp, Zürich

»It is in fact puzzling how such an everyday story develops such a pull. Maybe it's because while reading, you are happy that times have changed.« – Gabriele Weingartner / Die Rheinpfalz, Ludwigshafen

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

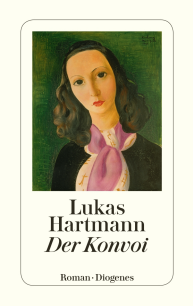
»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

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

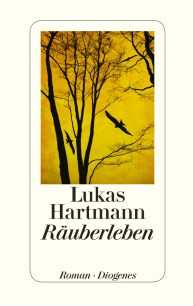
»Lukas Hartmann's ability to see the world through a child's eyes is outstanding.« – Hits for Kids, Gustavsburg

»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



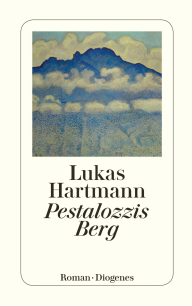
The Convoy
208 pages
2013



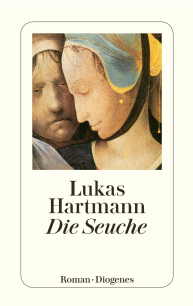
A Robber's Life
352 pages
2012
Bestseller



Dark Bliss
320 pages
2010
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