

Hartmut Lange
The Abyss of the Finite

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Hartmut Lange
*Der Abgrund
des Endlichen*
Drei Novellen
Diogenes

Three novellas which have one thing in common: They describe the quest for happiness above the abyss of the finite. In the year of 1948, a young man was murdered near a summer house settlement in Berlin; the culprit was never caught. The brother of the murder victim, by now sixty years older, has all but forgotten him – until one day a man turns up who persistently claims to be the murderer. He says he must atone for his deed and wants the victim's brother to help him in his mission. A historian is fascinated by mystic Hildegard von Bingen, especially her antiphons. When he becomes seriously ill, he must decide where he belongs: in the realm of the past or with his partner, a cardiologist who is used to extending life at all costs. The divorced assistant master with a predilection for his own sex seems as forlorn as the beautiful Mathilde from the Belle Epoque who, unnoticed and walled up, has been left on her pedestal above a car repair shop. His deep yearning revolves around this female figure made of plaster.

Book factsheet

General Fiction
144 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
October 2009

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Awards

- 2016 2016/2017 mit dem ›Rom-Preis‹
verbundenes Stipendiat in der
Deutschen Akademie Rom Villa
Massimo
- 2005 Drei Monate lang Stipendiat der
Hermann-Hesse-Stiftung in Calw
- 2004 ›Literatur-Nord-Preis‹ für *Leptis Magna*
- 2003 ›Italo-Svevo-Preis‹
- 2000 ›Kester-Häusler-Ehregabe‹ der
Deutschen Schillerstiftung von 1859 für
das Lebenswerk
- 1998 ›Literaturpreis‹ der Konrad-Adenauer-
Stiftung
- 1995 Schnitzlers *Würgeengel* ›Buch des
Monats‹ Mai der Darmstädter Jury
- 1989 ›Prix de la littérature traduite‹ für *Die
Waldsteinsonate*
- 1968 ›Gerhart-Hauptmann-Preis‹
- 1966 ›Förderpreis‹ der Niedersächsischen
Landesregierung

Praise

Hartmut Lange

»His novellas are master narratives about the magical force of shadows creeping up unnoticed.« – Hans-Dieter Schütt / (German journalist)

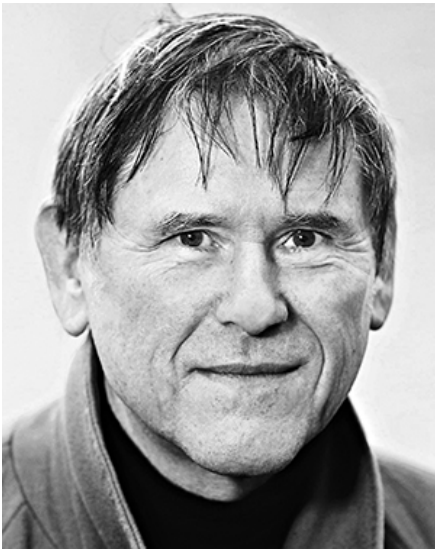
»The master of linguistic stringency.« – Kristina Maidt-Zinke / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»A minimalist with far-reaching effect.« – Hans-Christian Kosler / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Hartmut Lange deserves being read with particular attention because he clearly differs from loud drummers, such as Grass or Boll, on the other side of the Rhine. One feels reminded of the plays by Maeterlinck and Wedekind.« – Alain Bosquet / Le Figaro, Paris

»The fragile elegance of his style is unmatched in contemporary literature.« – Werner Fuld / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»The master among the fantastical rationalists.« – Edelgard Abenstein / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin

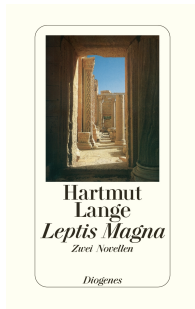


Hartmut Lange, born in Berlin in 1937, studied theatrical production. He has been honoured with several awards for his plays, essays and prose. His most recent publication is the volume of novellas *At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger*. He is now a freelance writer and lives in Berlin.

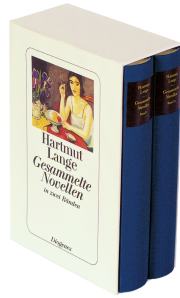
<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der etwa vierzigjährige Mann</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>The Roughly Forty-Year-Old Man</i> 128 pages 2025</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Am Osloer Fjord oder der Fremde</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger</i> 112 pages 2022</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der Lichthof</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>The Courtyard</i> 96 pages 2020</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>An der Prorer Wiek und anderswo</i> Novellen · Diogenes</p> <p><i>On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere</i> 128 pages 2018</p>
<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der Blick aus dem Fenster</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>The View from the Window</i> 112 pages 2015</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Das Haus in der Dorotheenstraße</i> Novellen · Diogenes</p> <p><i>The House on Dorothea Street</i> 128 pages 2013</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Im Museum</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>In the Museum</i> 128 pages 2011</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der Therapeut</i> Drei Novellen · Diogenes</p> <p><i>The Therapist</i> 160 pages 2007</p>



The Wanderer
128 pages
2005



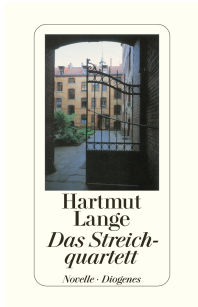
Leptis Magna
176 pages
2003
🏆 **Award winner**



Collected Novellas
1152 pages
2002



Knowledge from Error
208 pages
2002



The String Quartet
144 pages
2001



The Educational Trip
128 pages
2000



A Different Kind of Happiness
144 pages
1999



The ›Waldstein‹ Sonata
112 pages
1984
🏆 **Award winner**