

Hartmut Lange
The Abyss of the Finite

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Original title: *Der Abgrund des Endlichen*



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

Contemporary Literature
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

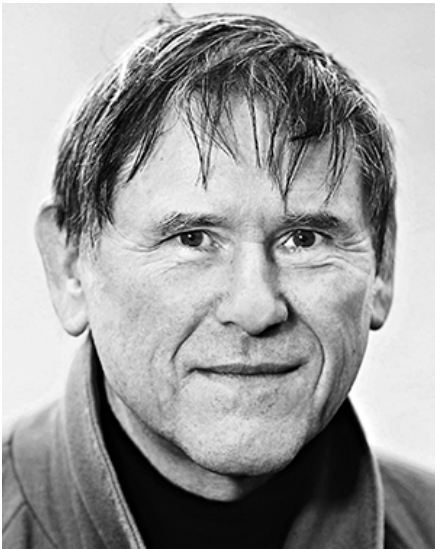
»A minimalist with far-reaching effect.« – Hans-Christian Kosler / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Hartmut Lange deserves being read with particular attention because he clearly differs from loud drummers, such as Grass or Böll, 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

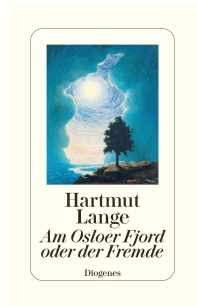
Photo: © Hans-Christian Plambeck/afp



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.



The Roughly Forty-Year-Old Man
128 pages
2025



At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger
112 pages
2022



The Courtyard
96 pages
2020



On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere
128 pages
2018



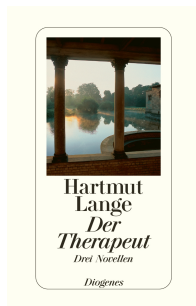
The View from the Window
112 pages
2015



The House on Dorothea Street
128 pages
2013



In the Museum
128 pages
2011



The Therapist
160 pages
2007



Hartmut
Lange
Der Wanderer

Novelle · Diogenes

The Wanderer
128 pages
2005

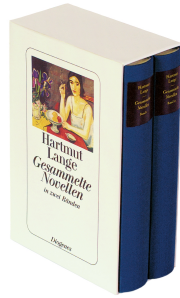


Hartmut
Lange
Leptis Magna
Zwei Novellen

Diogenes

Leptis Magna
176 pages
2003

🏆 **Award winner**



Collected Novellas
1152 pages
2002



Hartmut
Lange
*Irrtum als
Erkenntnis*
Meine Resümee-Führung
als Schriftsteller

Diogenes

Knowledge from Error
208 pages
2002



Hartmut
Lange
*Das Streich-
quartett*

Novelle · Diogenes

The String Quartet
144 pages
2001



Hartmut
Lange
*Die
Bildungsreise*

Novelle · Diogenes

The Educational Trip
128 pages
2000



Hartmut
Lange
*Eine andere
Form
des Glücks*

Novelle · Diogenes

**A Different Kind of
Happiness**
144 pages
1999



Hartmut Lange
*Die Waldstein-
sonate*
Fünf Novellen

Diogenes

The ›Waldstein‹ Sonata
112 pages
1984

🏆 **Award winner**