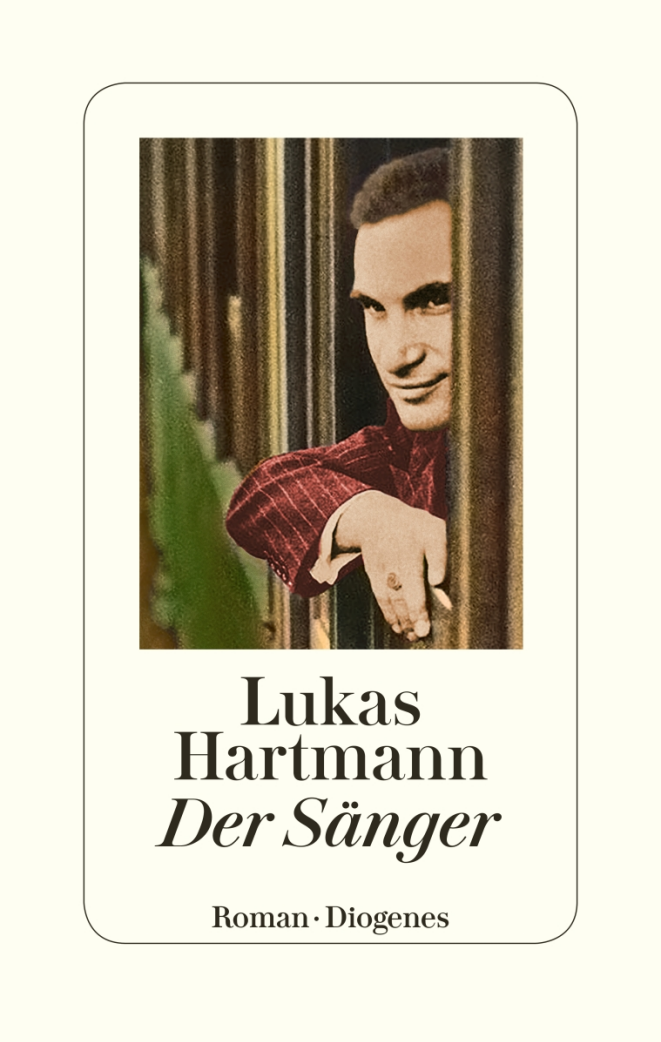
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Lukas Hartmann
The Singer

Published by Diogenes as *Der Sänger*
Original title: *Der Sänger*



From global star to refugee – the incredible story of Joseph Schmidt, one of the most beautiful voices of the 20th century. His voice filled concert halls, beguiled women, captured an audience of millions in Germany, Europe, and America, where they called him »the small man with the great voice«.
Joseph Schmidt, the son of orthodox Jews from Czernowitz, Ukraine, made an incredible success of himself. What a journey from an unknown Eastern European Shtetl to the famous Carnegie Hall! In 1942, however, fame and talent are worth nothing.
On the run from the Nazis, the famous tenor becomes ill and is just one of thousands of exhausted refugees stuck at the Swiss border. Will he make it to the other side, to safety?

Contemporary Literature
288 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.3 cm
May 2019

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

Translation rights currently sold:
Russian (Knizhniki)

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*

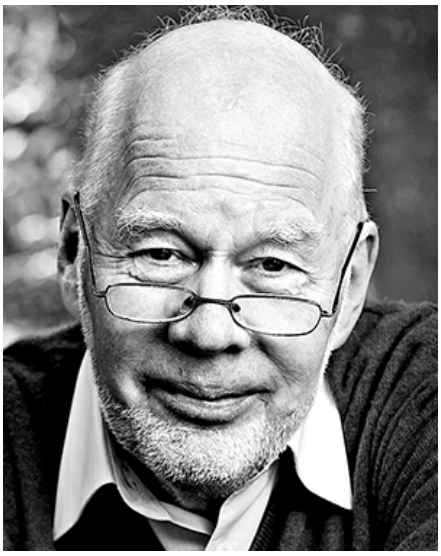


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

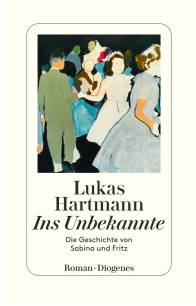
Lukas Hartmann, born in Berne in 1944, studied German and psychology. He was a teacher, journalist and media consultant. Today, he is a freelance writer living in Berne, writing books for adults and children. He is one of Switzerland's best-known authors and his novels regularly feature on the bestseller lists.



The Lost Daughter
256 pages
2027



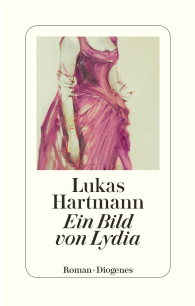
Martha and Her Kin
304 pages
2024
Bestseller



Into the Unknown
288 pages
2022
Bestseller



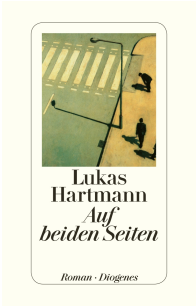
Shadow Dance
256 pages
2021
Bestseller



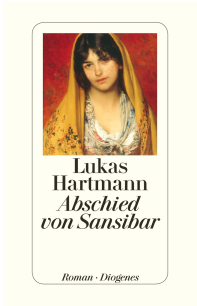
A Picture of Lydia
368 pages
2018
Award winner
Bestseller



A Suitable Tenant
368 pages
2016
Bestseller



On Both Sides
336 pages
2015
Bestseller



Goodbye to Zanzibar
336 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller

Praise

The Singer

»A masterful balancing act.« – Elmar Krekeler / Die Welt, Berlin

»The Swiss author, who repeatedly shows in his novels that the present cannot exist without the past, lambastes his homeland for self-righteously extolling itself as a bastion of democracy throughout history.« – Lilo Solcher / Augsburger Allgemeine

»[. . .] the book's real strength lies in its unspoken topicality, this recurring conflict between humanity and a rationally comprehensible yet often cruel political pragmatism.« – Jutta Duhm-Heitzmann / WDR 3, Cologne

»Through these characters, Hartmann asks questions of history, of the Switzerland from that time, and of his readers too. He doesn't answer them. And that's exactly as it should be.« – Susanne Kübler / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Hartmann dispenses with any pathos and bias, making his realistic novel even more gripping in the process.« – Badische Neueste Nachrichten, Karlsruhe

»On the occasion of the author's anniversary, Lukas Hartmann presents his compatriots with a novel which is both gripping and bitterly angry.« – Deutsche Welle, Bonn

»Joseph Schmidt's voice did not leave anyone cold, and nor does this novel about the tenor's life.« – Rose-Maria Gropp / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»This is an exemplary piece of genre fiction, which records a tragic life dispassionately and without intrusive moral judgement.« – New Books in German, London

»[With his language] Hartmann succeeds in striking a soft chord, and he also manages to describe the horror [of war camps].« – Christian Berzins / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

Lukas Hartmann

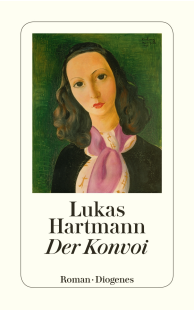
»Lukas Hartmann immerses himself totally in his characters. He has a particular interest in figures who are in danger of being swallowed up by history. He is driven by a strong sense of justice, empathy and meticulousness.« – Beatrice Eichmann-Leutenegger / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»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



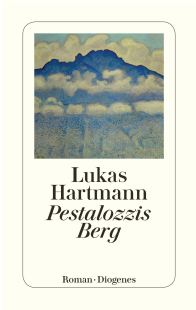
The Convoy
208 pages
2013



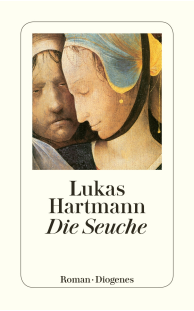
A Robber's Life
352 pages
2012
Bestseller



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

Praise (cont'd)

»Lukas Hartmann knows how to write history in a way that puts the present in a different light.« – Augsburger Allgemeine