

Diogenes

Lukas Hartmann
The Singer

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Original title: *Der Sanger*



Lukas
Hartmann
Der Sanger

Roman · Diogenes

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?

Book factsheet

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

Contact:
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne
Hegele, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:

Italian (Ugo Guanda)
Russian (Knizhniki)

🏆 Bestseller

1 Swiss Bestseller

🎬 Movie adaptations

2007: *Die Prinzessin von Sansibar*

Director: Tina Diaz
Screenplay: Tina Diaz
Cast: Dokumentarfilm mit Spielszenen

1992: *Anna annA*

Director: Greti & Jurgen Brauer Klay
Screenplay: Lukas & Greti Klay Hartmann
Cast: Lea Hurlimann, Wanda Hurlimann, Ilona Schulz

1989: *Pestalozzis Berg*

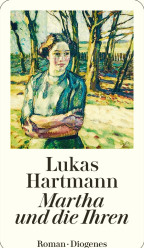

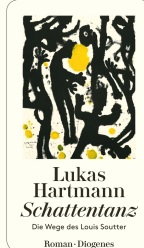





Director: Peter von Gunten
Cast: Gian Maria Volonte, Rolf Hoppe, Mathias Gnadinger, Corinna Harfouch

🏆 Awards

- 2018 ›Literaturpreis‹ Kanton Bern fur *Ein Bild von Lydia*
- 2016 Generationenbuchpreis ›Prix Chronos‹ fur *Mein Dschinn*
- 2010 ›Sir Walter Scott-Literaturpreis‹ fur *Bis ans Ende der Meere*
- 2010 ›Grosser Literaturpreis von Stadt und Kanton Bern‹ fur sein Gesamtwerk
- 2001 Ehrenliste des osterreichischen Kinder- und Jugendbuchpreises: *Leo Schmetterling*
- 1996 Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung fur *Die Mohrin*
- 1995 ›Luchs 108‹ von *Die Zeit und Radio Bremen* fur *Die Mohrin*
- 1995 Schweizer Jugendbuchpreis fur *So eine lange Nase*
- 1993 Buchpreis der Stadt Bern fur *Die Seuche*
- 1988 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia sowie von Stadt und Kanton Bern fur *Einer stirbt in Rom*
- 1983 Werkjahr der Pro Helvetia fur *Aus dem Innern des Mediums*
- 1980 Buchpreis der Stadt Bern fur *Pestalozzis Berg*
- 1980 Buchpreis der Schillerstiftung fur *Pestalozzis Berg*



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.

 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Martha und die Ihren</i> Roman · Diogenes</p>	 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Ins Unbekannte</i> Die Geschichte von Sabina und Fritz Roman · Diogenes</p>	 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Schattentanz</i> Die Wege des Louis Stutter Roman · Diogenes</p>	 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Ein Bild von Lydia</i> Roman · Diogenes</p>
<p><i>Martha and Her Kin</i> 304 pages 2024 🏆 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>Into the Unknown</i> 288 pages 2022 🏆 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>Shadow Dance</i> 256 pages 2021 🏆 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>A Picture of Lydia</i> 368 pages 2018 🏆 Award winner 🏆 Bestseller</p>
 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Ein passender Mieter</i> Roman · Diogenes</p>	 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Auf beiden Seiten</i> Roman · Diogenes</p>	 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Abschied von Sansibar</i> Roman · Diogenes</p>	 <p>Lukas Hartmann <i>Der Konvoi</i> Roman · Diogenes</p>
<p><i>A Suitable Tenant</i> 368 pages 2016 🏆 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>On Both Sides</i> 336 pages 2015 🏆 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>Goodbye to Zanzibar</i> 336 pages 2013 🎬 Movie Adaptation 🏆 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>The Convoy</i> 208 pages 2013</p>

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 / Augsburgener 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



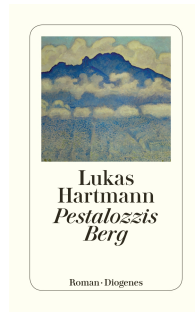
A Robber's Life
352 pages
2012

🏆 **Bestseller**



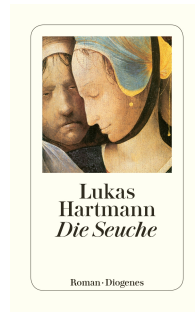
Dark Bliss
320 pages
2010

🏆 **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.« – Augsburgener Allgemeine