

Erich Hackl
Aurora's Motive

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Original title: *Auroras Anlaß*



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*Auroras
Anlaß*

Diogenes

›Aurora's Motive‹ ist an electrifying novel of feminism gone mad, based on the true story of Aurora Rodriguez. Born in 1890 into the stifling world of provincial bourgeois Spain, Aurora Rodriguez grew up precocious, virtually self-educated, filled with longings for self-realization and cloudy Nietzschean dreams (gleaned from her father's library) of a world made better by a Superwoman – if not herself, than a daughter. In 1914, after her parents died, she moved to Madrid and gave birth to a daughter, Hildegart, whom she proceeded to raise by herself, with utter devotion and according to her own theories, to be the Valkyrie of the New Era. Hildegart was indeed a prodigy – a thirteen-year-old law student at Madrid's Central University, a brilliant socialist activist who led campaigns for sexual freedom and the creation of the Spanish Republic – until, at the age of 17, she fell under the spell of the notoriously seductive H.G. Wells, who invited her to leave Spain. Torn between the superwoman persona her mother had created for her and her own, more worldly desires, Hildegart begged Aurora to rescue her. And so Aurora did...

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Compulsory Reading
144 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
March 1987

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Translation rights currently sold:
Spanish/world (Hoja de Lata)

Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

Movie adaptations

2011: Der Heimwehträger. Neunzig Minuten mit Fritz Kalmar. Eine Freundesgabe

Director: Erich Hackl
Cast: Dokumentation

1990: Abschied von Sidonie

Director: Karin Brandauer
Screenplay: Erich Hackl
Cast: Arghavan Sadeghi-Seragi, Kitty Speiser, Georg Marin

Awards

- 2020 ›Theodor Kramer Preis‹ für Schreiben im Widerstand und Exil
- 2017 ›Menschenrechtspreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 2015 ›Willy und Helga Verkauf-Verlon-Preis‹ für österreichische antifaschistische Publizistik an Erich Hackl
- 2015 ›Ehrenring‹ seiner Geburtsstadt Steyr
- 2015 Vom österreichischen Bundeskanzleramt vergebener Übersetzerpreis ›Translatio‹ an Erich Hackl für sein Lebenswerk als Übersetzer von spanischer und insbesondere lateinamerikanischer Literatur
- 2015 ›Literaturpreis der Österreichischen Industrie – Anton Wildgans‹ an Erich Hackl
- 2013 ›Adalbert-Stifter-Preis Oberösterreich‹. Großer Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich
- 2011 Ehrendoktor der Universität Salzburg
- 2006 ›Donauland-Sachbuchpreis‹, Wien
- 2004 ›Ehrenpreis des Österreichischen Buchhandels für Toleranz in Denken und Handeln‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Solothurner Literaturpreis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Preis der Stadt Wien für Literatur‹ für *Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz*
- 1998 ›Premio Hidalgo‹ der spanischen Romavereinigung Presencia Gitana für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1996 ›Bruno Kreisky-Preis für das politische Buch‹ für *In fester Umarmung*



Erich Hackl, born in Steyr, Austria in 1954, studied German and Spanish and worked as a teacher and editor for a number of years. Madrid and Vienna, where he works as a writer and translator, have been home to him for a long time now. His stories are based on authentic cases. *Aurora's Motive* and *Farewell Sidonia* are on school reading lists. Erich Hackl has received numerous awards, including the 2017 ›Human Rights Award‹ of the state of Upper Austria, the ›Anton Wildgans Prize 2015‹ by the Federation of Austrian Industry and the ›Award for Literature‹ from the city of Vienna in 2002.



More Happiness in Life
432 pages
2019



Roped Together
128 pages
2018
🏆 **Bestseller**



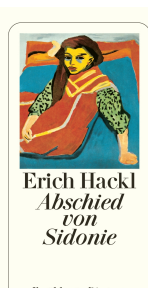
If the Father Fits
304 pages
2004



Wedding at Auschwitz
192 pages
2002
🏆 **Award winner**



Love at First Sight
80 pages
1999



Farewell Sidonia
128 pages
1989
🏆 **Award winner**
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**
🏆 **Bestseller**

🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 1995 ›Gerrit-Engelke-Literaturpreis‹ der Landeshauptstadt Hannover für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1994 ›Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 1991 ›Österreichischer Förderungspreis für Literatur‹
- 1991 ›Prix de littérature étrangère Ecureuil‹ anlässlich der 5. Buchmesse in Bordeaux für *Abschied von Sidonia*
- 1991 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Buchereien für *Abschied von Sidonia*
- 1988 ›1. Grand-Prix Genève – Europe‹ der Union europäischer Fernsehanstalten (EBU) für das Filmdrehbuch *Sidonia Adlersburg*
- 1987 ›Aspekte-Literaturpreis‹ für die Erzählung *Auroras Anlaß*

Praise

Aurora's Motive

›The very sparseness of the tale leaves the peculiar power of the mystery intact.« – Washington Post Book World

Erich Hackl

›A masterful and authoritative chronicler.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandradio Berlin

›The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.« – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

›Erich Hackl's concise and hauntingly dense works of prose have gained him a huge audience and great success. At the bottom of his efforts are usually some forgotten beings, victims of our century's cruel history, with their authentic albeit not exactly remembered biography. Here Hackl, the Austrian author, overly sensitized perhaps because of his own country's extreme insensitivities, steps in and tries to bring about an act of belated justice and redemption. This obviates the question whether Hackl is a fiction writer or a historian, a lawyer of the ›small people‹ or a missionary voice of human dignity: he is all of these, and ideally they all add up to make a writer.« – Erich Wolfgang Skwara / World Literature Today, New York

›One of Austria's virtuoso masters of language [. . .] who has done more to correct our image of history than a dozen historians put together.« – Thomas Rothschild / Die Presse, Vienna

›Erich Hackl's narrative is masterful and compelling.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin