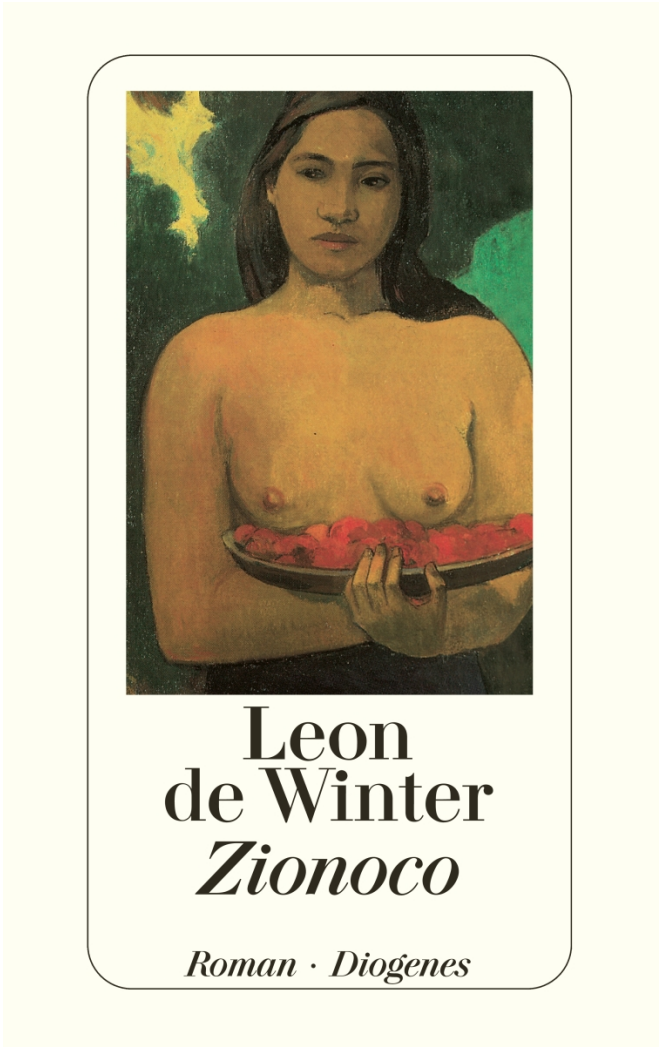
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Leon de Winter
Zionoco

Published by Diogenes as *Zionoco*
Original title: *Zionoco*



Sol Mayer, waiting for take-off clearance for his Boeing 737 flight from Boston to New York, does not yet know that this flight is to change his life: the attractive rabbi, star preacher of Yaakov Temple, the big synagogue on Fifth Avenue, falls desperately in love with the woman in the seat next to him, a singer in a small band. Thus his already somewhat troubled life acquires an added complication. He can no longer turn a blind eye to the crisis in his marriage with Naomi, heiress to a fortune, to whom he owes his social and material prestige. And the liberal-thinking rabbi's public attacks against orthodox Hassidic Jews have brought him some powerful enemies. Above all, however, his murky past in which Sol the roué and never-do-well rebelled against his powerful father comes back sharply into focus. It was only through a miracle that the young man, at the time an unbeliever, decided to follow in his deceased father's footsteps and become a rabbi. A miracle – or the delirium of his alcohol-fuddled brain? A question which has caused Sol metaphysical torment ever since. A series of turbulent and disturbing events force him to embark on a hallucinatory journey which takes him back once more onto his father's trail – a journey stranger than he could possibly have imagined.

Contemporary Literature
416 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
February 1997

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

Movie adaptations

2003: SuperTex
Director: Jan Schütt
Cast: Stephen Mangan, Jan Decleir

2001: The Hollywood Sign
Director: Sönke Wortmann
Cast: Burt Reynolds, Rod Steiger, Tom Berenger

1993: Hoffman's honger
Director: Leon de Winter
Cast: Jacqueline Bisset, Elliot Gould, Thom Hoffman, Huub Stapel

Awards

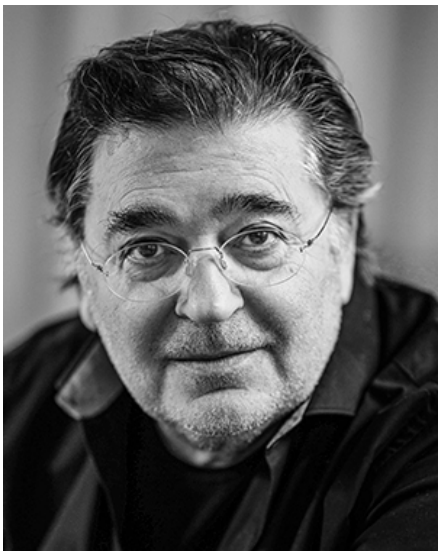
2009 Literaturpreis der Provinz Brabant (›Schrijversprijs der Brabantse Letteren‹) für *Das Recht auf Rückkehr*
2006 Buber-Rosenzweig-Medaille
2002 WELT-Literaturpreis für sein Gesamtwerk
2002 ›*Welt*-Literaturpreis‹ für Leon de Winter: »Die Jury ehrt Leon de Winter für seine so komplex wie spannend angelegten Romane, die am Beispiel meist jüdischer Protagonisten hochkomisch und psychologisch einfühlsam vom Getriebensein des modernen Menschen erzählen. Sein Schreiben zeichnet sich durch einen souveränen Wechsel von Nähe und Distanz im Hinblick auf seine Figuren aus, durch ein meisterliches Gespür für pointierte Dialoge, durch die gekonnte Verknüpfung verschiedener Haupt- und Nebenhandlungen, die seine Bücher so komplex wie spannend machen. Er wird für sein Gesamtwerk geehrt.«
1978 ›Reina Prinsen Geerlings-Preis‹ für *De (ver)wording van de jongere Dürer*

Praise

Leon de Winter

»Ingenious, entertaining, funny – always to the surprise and delight of the reader.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

»Leon de Winter stokes the fires of imagination until the pages are ablaze. It's an approach that makes him unique.« – De Volkskrant, Amsterdam



© Paul Tolenaar

Leon de Winter was born in 's-Hertogenbosch in 1954, the son of Dutch Jews. He has worked as a freelance writer and filmmaker since 1976, and lives in the Netherlands. In 2002, he was awarded the ›Welt Literature Prize‹; in 2006, the ›Buber-Rosenzweig Medal‹ for his fight against Antisemitism; and in 2009, the ›Brabant Literature Prize‹ for *The Right of Return*.



City of Dogs
272 pages
2025



Geronimo
448 pages
2016
Bestseller



VSV
512 pages
2013
Bestseller



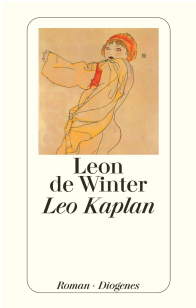
The Right to Return
560 pages
2009
Bestseller



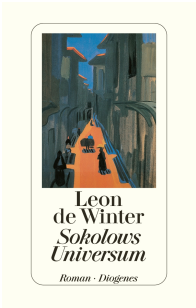
Place de la Bastille
160 pages
2005



God's Gym
432 pages
2003
Bestseller



Kaplan
544 pages
2001



Sokolov's Universe
448 pages
1999



The Sky of Hollywood
368 pages
1998
Movie Adaptation



Serenade
176 pages
1996



SuperTex
272 pages
1994
Movie Adaptation



Hoffman's Hunger
416 pages
1994
Movie Adaptation