# Diogenes

# Hartmut Lange A Different Kind of Happiness

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»Truth lies in disappearance«, a puzzling sentence which runs through the book like a leitmotif and poses many questions. Corinna Mühlbauer, the reticent girlfriend of the renowned Berlin structural engineer Kippenberger, throws doubt not only on her relationship with Kippenberger but also on the marriage of their friends, a dentist couple called Dahlhaus. How does she do it? How does she, who is so often silent and apparently uninvolved, manage to irritate the people around her and plunge them into despair? She is there one minute and gone the next, vanished as if into thin air. The truth lies in disappearance...

It is not clear why Corinna suddenly refuses to marry Kippenberger, why she always takes the same route to the Grunewald lake, and why the moon over the lake is visible in the south-east at first, and then in the north-west.

The perspectives are confused, nothing is in its right place. The marriage carousel starts slowly to revolve, until Corinna finds the man who she believes understands her »different kind of happiness«. In this mysterious subtle book, Hartmut Lange penetrates spaces far beyond the hectic life of the Berlin metropolis. In brilliantly dense and laconic language, he describes people willing to embark on tortuous paths in their search for happiness.

#### Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature 144 pages 11.6 × 18.4 cm September 1999

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#### Translation rights currently sold:

Catalan (Quaderns)
Spanish/world (Quaderns)

#### 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-Preisa

2000 ›Kester-Häusler-Ehrengabe‹ 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-Preisc

1966 ›Förderpreis‹ der Niedersächsischen Landesregierung

#### Praise

## A Different Kind of Happiness

»Hartmut Lange is a master of story-telling.« – Deutsche Welle, Cologne

#### Hartmut Lanae

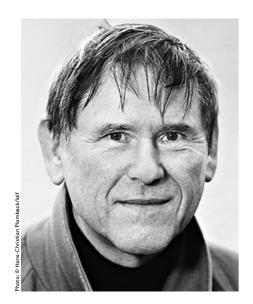
»His novellas are master narratives about the magical force of shadows creeping up unnoticed.« – Hans-Dieter Schütt / (German journalist)

»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 Boll, 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



### Praise (cont'd)

»The master among the fantastical rationalists.« – Edelgard Abenstein / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin

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



The View from the Window 112 pages 2015



At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger 112 pages 2022



The House on Dorothea Street 128 pages 2013



The Courtyard 96 pages 2020



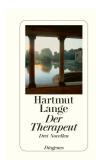
In the Museum 128 pages 2011



On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere 128 pages 2018



The Abyss of the Finite 144 pages 2009



The Therapist 160 pages 2007



The Wanderer 128 pages 2005



Leptis Magna 176 pages 2003 Award winner



Collected Novellas 1152 pages 2002



Knowledge from Error 208 pages 2002



The String Quartet 144 pages 2001



The Educational Trip 128 pages 2000



The >Waldstein< Sonata 112 pages 1984

Award winner