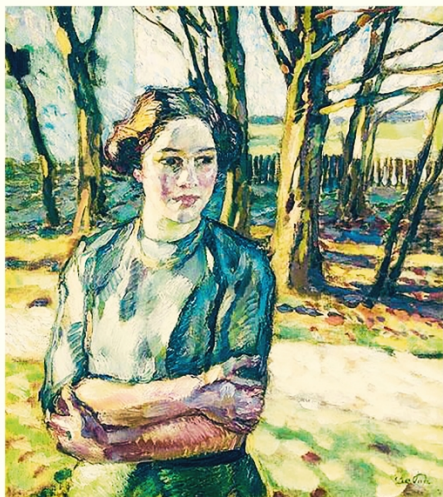


# Diogenes

Lukas Hartmann  
*Martha and Her Kin*

Published by Diogenes as *Martha und die Ihren*  
Original title: *Martha und die Ihren*



## Lukas Hartmann *Martha und die Ihren*

Roman • Diogenes

Martha was a formidable woman who rose from a poor background to achieve modest prosperity. But she could never forget the memories of her deprived childhood as a child labourer with a farming family in the Bernese hinterlands: Show no weakness. Work relentlessly. Be tough on yourself and others. These beliefs also influenced her sons, who were determined to succeed in the post-war period, and her grandchildren, who rebel and, for the first time, dare to dream of a different, freer life.

The most personal novel by the Swiss bestselling author.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
304 pages  
11.3 x 18 x 1.9 cm  
December 2025

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**Translation rights currently sold:**  
Italian (Palingenia)

### Bestseller

#1 Swiss Bestseller

### Movie adaptations

#### **2007: Die Prinzessin von Sansibar**

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

#### **1992: Anna annA**

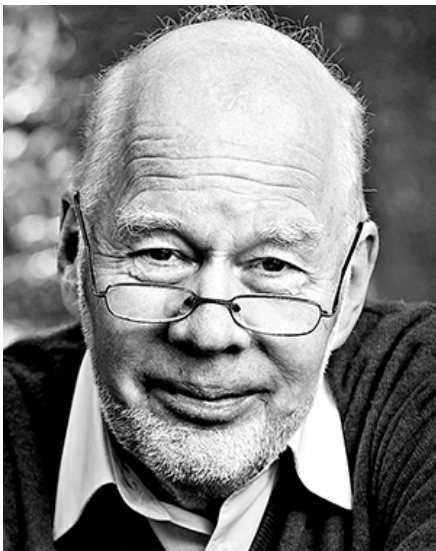
Director: Greti & Jürgen Brauer Kläy  
Screenplay: Lukas & Greti Kläy Hartmann  
Cast: Lea Hürlimann, Wanda Hürlimann, Ilona Schulz

#### **1989: Pestalozzis Berg**

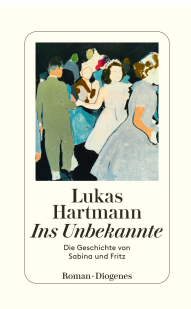
Director: Peter von Gunten  
Cast: Gian Maria Volonté, Rolf Hoppe, Mathias  
Gnädinger, Corinna Harfouch

### 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*



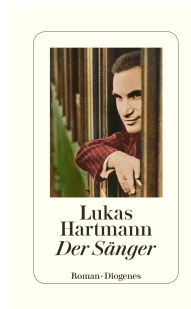
Lukas Hartmann, born in Berne in 1944, studied German and psychology. He was a teacher, journalist and media consultant. Today, he is a freelance writer living in Berne, writing books for adults and children. He is one of Switzerland's best-known authors and his novels regularly feature on the bestseller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



**Into the Unknown**  
288 pages  
2022  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**Shadow Dance**  
256 pages  
2021  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**The Singer**  
288 pages  
2019  
🏆 **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**



**The Convoy**  
208 pages  
2013

**Praise**

*Martha and Her Kin*

»In *Martha and Her Kin*, the biographies of ordinary people merge into an extraordinary narration about Swiss society – a narration from its core.« – Alexander Sury / Der Bund, Berne

»Lukas Hartmann's autobiographical novel *Martha and her Kin* is a precise and moving piece of history of Swiss mentality in the 20th century.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Basler Zeitung, Basel

»It is a novel in which there's a lot to learn about Switzerland and its development in the 20th century.« – Dorothee Meyer-Kahrweg / hr2 Kultur, Frankfurt

»The touching report about a woman who knew nothing in her life but work – for her the only way into safety, into freedom.« – Jutta Duhm-Heizmann / WDR3, Cologne

»Straight and simple, Hartmann tells his own family history and shows once more what an empathetic observer he is.« – Renata Schmid / Kulturtipp, Zürich

»It is in fact puzzling how such an everyday story develops such a pull. Maybe it's because while reading, you are happy that times have changed.« – Gabriele Weingartner / Die Rheinpfalz, Ludwigshafen

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

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



**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**