Diogenes

Book factsheet

Hartmut Lange
The Courtyard

Published by Diogenes as *Der Lichthof*
Original title: *Der Lichthof*



On existential states of mind, in uniquely condensed form.
One of the last great masters of the novella writes about the magical power of gathering shadows.
With an autobiographical text on deeply formative childhood experiences.
»Love is not an opportunity for freedom; it happens out of necessity,« thinks a woman who realizes her husband has left her. Darkly luminous yet crystal clear sentences like this one have made Hartmut Lange's prose famous.
Four novellas, complemented by an autobiographical piece, with which Hartmut Lange tells us about the formative experiences for his life and his writing: Christmas 1944 in Naßwerder, the horrors of forced evacuation, the death of his father and later his brother.
»It was an inkling of how our lives would lack presuppositions, once we could no longer cite the protective hand above us.«
Hartmut Lange

Contemporary Literature
96 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 1.2 cm
March 2020

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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-Preis‹
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-Preis‹
1966	›Förderpreis‹ der Niedersächsischen Landesregierung

Praise

The Courtyard

»From the seeming innocence of the narrative style, this calm, almost scrupulously unspectacular tone, something unfathomable suddenly emerges.« – Ulrich Rüdenauer / WDR 3, Cologne

»Lange's calm, precise language is easily recognised.« – Jochen Overbeck / Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»Hartmut Lange continues to write his timeless novellas.« – Jürgen Verdofsky / Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt

»The inoffensiveness of the narrative, that serene, almost scrupulously unsensational tone, suddenly gives way to something unfathomable« – Ulrich Rüdenauer / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»The reader is gripped by each and every word, and really feels the author's immense capacity for love.« – Christoph Dieckmann / Die Zeit, Hamburg

»His novellas are a literary meditation on evil and mystery.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

Hartmut Lange

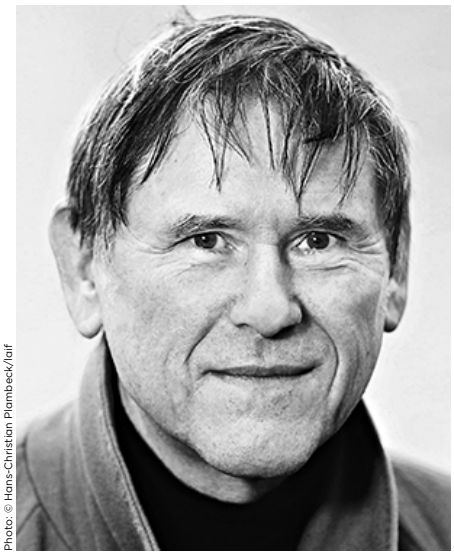


Photo: © Hans-Christian Plambeck/laif

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



At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger
112 pages
2022



On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere
128 pages
2018



The View from the Window
112 pages
2015



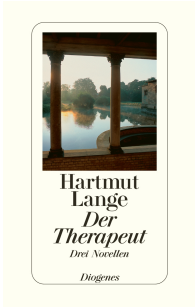
The House on Dorothea Street
128 pages
2013



In the Museum
128 pages
2011



The Abyss of the Finite
144 pages
2009



The Therapist
160 pages
2007

Praise (cont'd)

»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

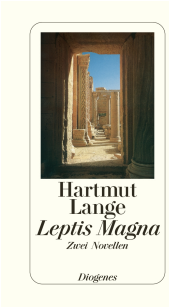
»Hartmut Lange deserves being read with particular attention because he clearly differs from loud drummers, such as Grass or Boll, on the other side of the Rhine. One feels reminded of the plays by Maeterlinck and Wedekind.« – Alain Bosquet / Le Figaro, Paris

»The fragile elegance of his style is unmatched in contemporary literature.« – Werner Fuld / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

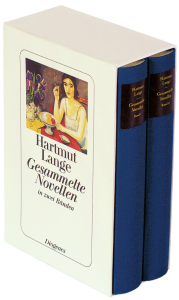
»The master among the fantastical rationalists.« – Edelgard Abenstein / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin



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



A Different Kind of Happiness
144 pages
1999



The ›Waldstein‹ Sonata
112 pages
1984
Award winner