

Leon de Winter
Sokolov's Universe

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Original title: *De ruimte van Sokolov*



Leon de Winter *Sokolows Universum*

Roman · Diogenes

On a hot September day in Tel Aviv, a road sweeper is witness to a murder. For a moment, the man doubts his sanity, for he believes he has recognised an old friend in the murderer. And this would contradict all the rules of probability. For Sascha Sokolov is no ordinary road sweeper. Only recently, the emigrated Russian was one of his country's most respected space research experts – until the day when the rocket he had helped to develop inexplicably exploded on take-off. Sokolov and his old project director and friend Lev Lesjava were suspended – and this was the man who looked so strikingly like the murderer in the Rechov Etsel. Ever since Sokolov came to Israel he has been trying to drown his sorrows in drink: the memory of his wrecked career and marriage, his fruitless search for a Jewish identity and, last but not least, the unsolved dilemma of the role Lev had played in the explosion of the rocket and his friend's enigmatic, seemingly unscrupulous character... A rousing novel about friendship and betrayal, a search for identity and the achievements of modern science, and at the same time an exciting thriller about international Mafia machinations against the background of the impending Gulf War which threatens to destroy Israel.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
448 pages
11.3 x 18 x 2.4 cm
May 2001

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Movie adaptations

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

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

1993: Hoffman's hunger
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

Sokolov's Universe

»A remarkably good book! It deserves a place
of honour in Netherlands literature.« – NRC
Handelsblad, Rotterdam

Leon de Winter

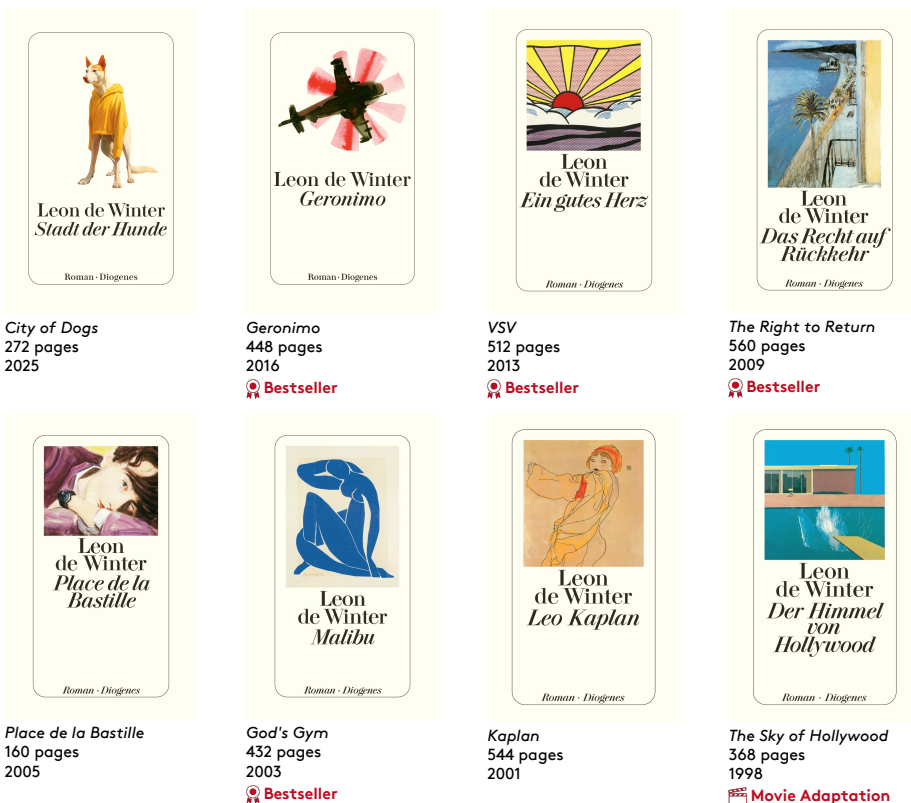
»Ingenious, entertaining, funny – always to the
surprise and delight of the reader.« – Volker
Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

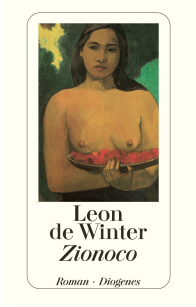


Praise (cont'd)

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

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*.

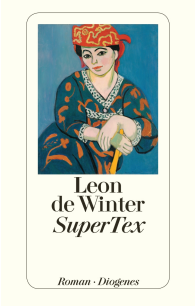




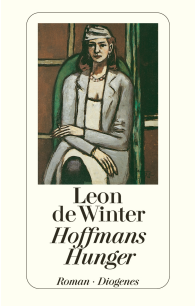
Zionoco
416 pages
1997



Serenade
176 pages
1996



SuperTex
272 pages
1994
 **Movie Adaptation**



Hoffman's Hunger
416 pages
1994
 **Movie Adaptation**