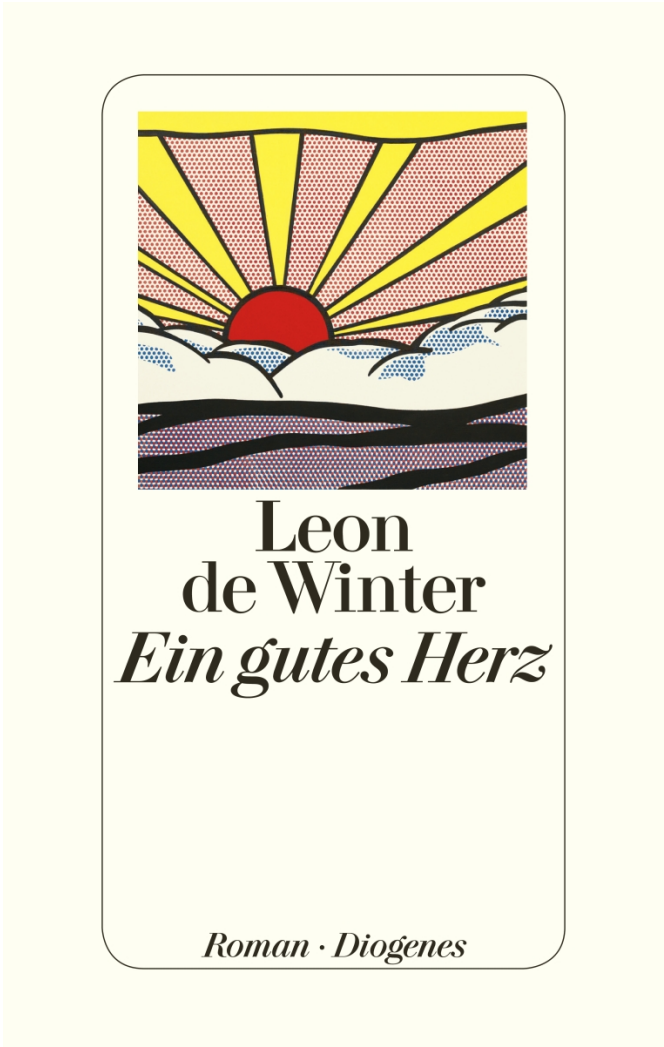
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Leon de Winter
VSV

Published by Diogenes as *Ein gutes Herz*
Original title: *VSV*



Leon de Winter's great novel is true world theatre, where the threads are pulled not just by made-up protagonists, but those from real life too. A dead filmmaker – Theo van Gogh – on probation in heaven, and his imprisoned murderer down on earth. A shady Jewish businessman and drug dealer and a black Franciscan priest who has bequeathed his heart to him. A writer called Leon de Winter, who, having been left by his wife, seeks comfort in writing a novel about his favourite enemy, van Gogh, and also with the beautiful Sonja Verstraete (although she is, admittedly, in love with the man she has been running away from for years).
And a group of young radicalised Moroccans. They stage a series of violent crimes and plunge Amsterdam into a state of emergency. Ingenuity is called-for; either criminal or metaphysical synergies are needed in order to regain control. Or both.

Contemporary Literature
512 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2013

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Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

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

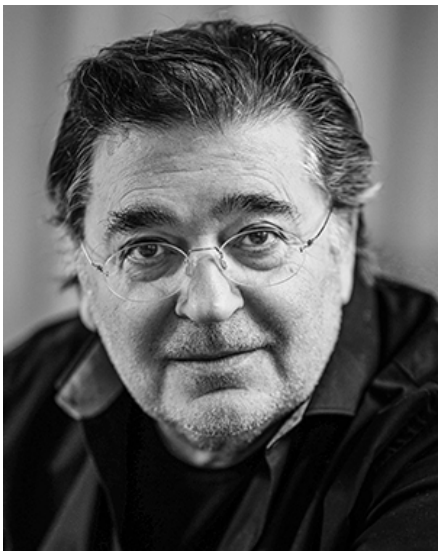
2009 Literaturpreis der Provinz Brabant (›Schrijversprijs der Brabantse Letteren‹) für *Das Recht auf Rückkehr*
2006 Buber-Rosenzweig-Medaille
2002 WELT-Literaturpreis für sein Gesamtwerk
2002 ›*Welt*-Literaturpreis‹ für Leon de Winter: »Die Jury ehrt Leon de Winter für seine so komplex wie spannend 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

VSV

»Splendid!« – Bücher, Kiel

Leon de Winter



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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*.

Praise (cont'd)

»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



City of Dogs
272 pages
2025



Geronimo
448 pages
2016
Bestseller



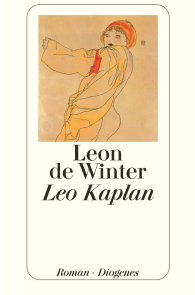
The Right to Return
560 pages
2009
Bestseller



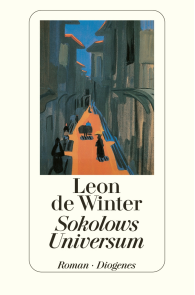
Place de la Bastille
160 pages
2005



God's Gym
432 pages
2003
Bestseller



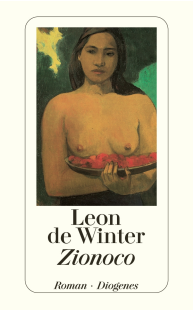
Kaplan
544 pages
2001



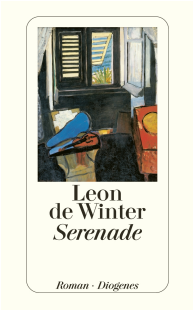
Sokolov's Universe
448 pages
1999



The Sky of Hollywood
368 pages
1998
Movie Adaptation



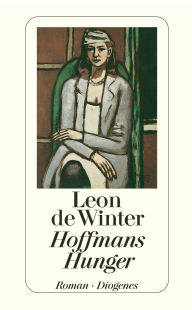
Zionoco
416 pages
1997



Serenade
176 pages
1996



SuperTex
272 pages
1994
Movie Adaptation



Hoffman's Hunger
416 pages
1994
Movie Adaptation