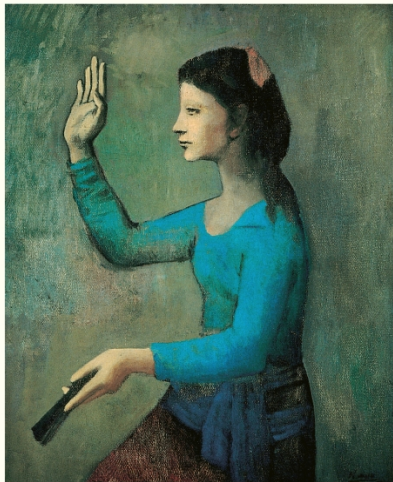


# Diogenes

Erich Hackl

*Love at First Sight*

Published by Diogenes as *Entwurf einer Liebe auf den ersten Blick*  
Original title: *Entwurf einer Liebe auf den ersten Blick*



Erich Hackl  
*Entwurf  
einer Liebe  
auf den  
ersten Blick*  
Diogenes

A love story that begins at a sickbed: in January 1937, the Austrian Karl Sequens is admitted to hospital in Valencia as part of a transport of wounded volunteers. When he and Herminia Roudière Perpiñá meet it is love at first sight for them both. They get married without delay as if they knew there was not much time left to them. One year later their daughter Rosa María is born, shortly before the defeat of the Spanish republic they lose touch. Herminia flees with the child, first to France and subsequently to Vienna where Karl's sister receives her with bad grace and finally has her evacuated to Bavaria. Herminia hasn't heard from her husband for years when three letters arrive: from Dachau, Lublin and Auschwitz. The study of *Love at First Sight* paces our era and continent, tying up hope and sorrow, yearning for justice and for happiness. First of all it is the persisting plea for a love into death; an affection that is living on in their daughter and leading in a new love – at a sickbed again. A radical, deeply moving love story, told in a fascinatingly clear and vivid language, shamefully uncontemporary!

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Compulsory Reading  
80 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 1999

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## Movie adaptations

**2011: Der Heimwehträger. Neunzig Minuten mit Fritz Kalmar. Eine Freundesgabe**

Director: Erich Hackl

Cast: Dokumentation

**1990: Abschied von Sidonie**

Director: Karin Brandauer

Screenplay: Erich Hackl

Cast: Arghavan Sadeghi-Seragi, Kitty Speiser, Georg Marin

## Awards

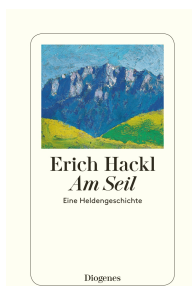
- 2020 ›Theodor Kramer Preis‹ für Schreiben im Widerstand und Exil
- 2017 ›Menschenrechtspreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 2015 ›Willy und Helga Verkauf-Verlon-Preis‹ für österreichische antifaschistische Publizistik an Erich Hackl
- 2015 ›Ehrenring‹ seiner Geburtsstadt Steyr
- 2015 Vom österreichischen Bundeskanzleramt vergebener Übersetzerpreis ›Translatio‹ an Erich Hackl für sein Lebenswerk als Übersetzer von spanischer und insbesondere lateinamerikanischer Literatur
- 2015 ›Literaturpreis der Österreichischen Industrie – Anton Wildgans‹ an Erich Hackl
- 2013 ›Adalbert-Stifter-Preis Oberösterreich‹. Großer Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich
- 2011 Ehrendoktor der Universität Salzburg
- 2006 ›Donauland-Sachbuchpreis‹, Wien
- 2004 ›Ehrenpreis des Österreichischen Buchhandels für Toleranz in Denken und Handeln‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Solothurner Literaturpreis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Preis der Stadt Wien für Literatur‹ für *Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz*
- 1998 ›Premio Hidalgo‹ der spanischen Romavereinigung Presencia Gitana für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1996 ›Bruno Kreisky-Preis für das politische Buch‹ für *In fester Umarmung*
- 1995 ›Gerrit-Engelke-Literaturpreis‹ der Landeshauptstadt Hannover für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1994 ›Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 1991 ›Österreichischer Förderungspreis für Literatur‹
- 1991 ›Prix de littérature étrangère Ecureuil‹ anlässlich der 5. Buchmesse in Bordeaux für *Abschied von Sidonie*



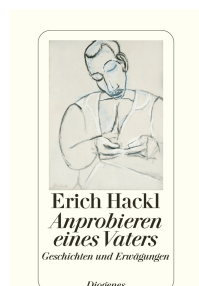
Erich Hackl, born in Steyr, Austria in 1954, studied German and Spanish and worked as a teacher and editor for a number of years. Madrid and Vienna, where he works as a writer and translator, have been home to him for a long time now. His stories are based on authentic cases. *Aurora's Motive* and *Farewell Sidonia* are on school reading lists. Erich Hackl has received numerous awards, including the 2017 ›Human Rights Award‹ of the state of Upper Austria, the ›Anton Wildgans Prize 2015‹ by the Federation of Austrian Industry and the ›Award for Literature‹ from the city of Vienna in 2002.



**More Happiness in Life**  
432 pages  
2019



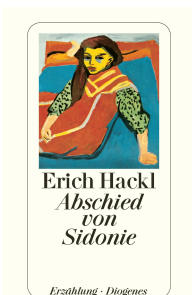
**Roped Together**  
128 pages  
2018  
🏆 **Bestseller**



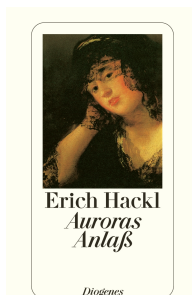
**If the Father Fits**  
304 pages  
2004



**Wedding at Auschwitz**  
192 pages  
2002  
🏆 **Award winner**



**Farewell Sidonia**  
128 pages  
1989  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**  
🏆 **Bestseller**



**Aurora's Motive**  
144 pages  
1987  
🏆 **Award winner**  
🏆 **Bestseller**

## 🏆 Awards (cont'd)

- 1991 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer BÜchereien für *Abschied von Sidonie*
- 1988 ›1. Grand-Prix Genève – Europe‹ der Union europäischer Fernsehanstalten (EBU) für das Filmdrehbuch *Sidonie Adlersburg*
- 1987 ›Aspekte-Literaturpreis‹ für die Erzählung *Auroras Anlaß*

## Praise

### Love at First Sight

›Erich Hackl's stories are not modest in their aspirations: by bursting open the cage of the present, they seek to tear down the wall of the past.« – Ruth Klüger

›Moving and convincing.« – Erich Wolfgang Skwara / World Literature Today, New York

### Erich Hackl

›A masterful and authoritative chronicler.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandradio Berlin

›The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.« – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

›Erich Hackl's concise and hauntingly dense works of prose have gained him a huge audience and great success. At the bottom of his efforts are usually some forgotten beings, victims of our century's cruel history, with their authentic albeit not exactly remembered biography. Here Hackl, the Austrian author, overly sensitized perhaps because of his own country's extreme insensitivities, steps in and tries to bring about an act of belated justice and redemption. This obviates the question whether Hackl is a fiction writer or a historian, a lawyer of the ›small people‹ or a missionary voice of human dignity: he is all of these, and ideally they all add up to make a writer.« – Erich Wolfgang Skwara / World Literature Today, New York

›One of Austria's virtuoso masters of language [. . .] who has done more to correct our image of history than a dozen historians put together.« – Thomas Rothschild / Die Presse, Vienna

›Erich Hackl's narrative is masterful and compelling.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin