

Diogenes

Lukas Hartmann
A Picture of Lydia

Published by Diogenes as *Ein Bild von Lydia*
Original title: *Ein Bild von Lydia*



Lukas
Hartmann
*Ein Bild
von Lydia*

Roman · Diogenes

A millionaire heiress and a genius painter: a scandalous belle époque love affair. Lukas Hartmann has written a novel about the fate of a woman who breaks with the conventions of her time. She is intelligent, fascinated by art – and after the death of her father, the »railway king« Alfred Escher, she is the richest woman in Switzerland. She is married to the son of a powerful politician. She is prepared to put all that at risk out of her love for an artist. Who is Lydia? No one knows her better than Luise, the maid who stays by her side through all of life's twists and turns. And yet Lydia remains a mystery to her.

›Literature Prize of the Canton of Berne‹
English sample translation available.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
368 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
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Translation rights currently sold:
Italian (Armando Dadò)

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

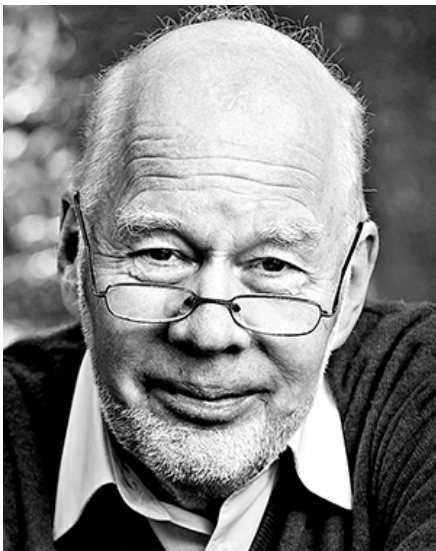
1989: Pestalozzis Berg

Director: Peter von Gunten

Cast: Gian Maria Volonté, Rolf Hoppe, Mathias
Gnädinger, Corinna Harfouch

Awards

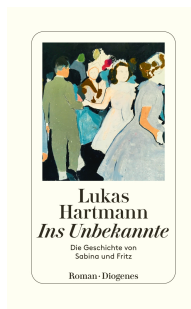
- 2018 ›Literaturpreis‹ Kanton Bern für *Ein Bild von Lydia*
- 2016 Generationenbuchpreis ›Prix Chronos‹ für *Mein Dschinn*
- 2010 ›Sir Walter Scott-Literaturpreis‹ für *Bis ans Ende der Meere*
- 2010 ›Grosser Literaturpreis von Stadt und Kanton Bern‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2001 Ehrenliste des Österreichischen 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.



Martha and Her Kin
304 pages
2024
🏆 Bestseller



Into the Unknown
288 pages
2022
🏆 Bestseller



Shadow Dance
256 pages
2021
🏆 Bestseller



The Singer
288 pages
2019
🏆 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

A Picture of Lydia

»The complex relationship between Lydia and Luise [. . .] creates a fascinating dynamic which will appeal to readers of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels. This beautifully-written novel will also find an eager English-language readership among the international *Downton Abbey* fan-base.« – New Books in German, London

»The plot has got everything it takes to make it a riveting novel. And it also has a special note of being based on a true story.« – Birgit Ruf / Nürnberger Nachrichten

»A true story about Lydia Welte-Escher and Karl Stauffer-Bern, told by their maid. With fascinating insights into high society.« – Freundin, Munich

»In his approach, Lukas Hartmann makes skilled use of literature's advantage, making historical facts come to life again and combining them with emotions.« – Alexander Sury / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

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**