

# 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

General Fiction  
368 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2018

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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: Dokumtarfilm 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 »Grosser Literaturpreis von Stadt und Kanton Bern« für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2010 »Sir Walter Scott-Literaturpreis« für *Bis ans Ende der Meere*
- 2001 Ehrenliste des Österreichischen Kinder- und Jugendbuchpreises: *Leo Schmetterling*
- 1996 Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung für *Die Mohrin*
- 1995 Schweizer Jugendbuchpreis für *So eine lange Nase*
- 1995 »Luchs 108« von *Die Zeit* und Radio Bremen für *Die Mohrin*
- 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*

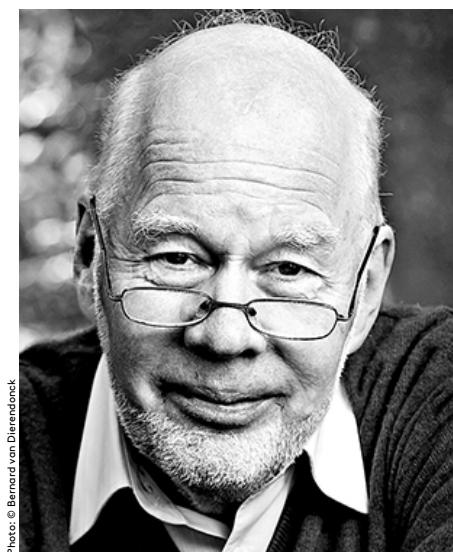


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

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.

## Praise

### A Picture of Lydia

»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

»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 Welti-Escher and Karl Stauffer-Bern, told by their maid. With fascinating insights into high society.« – Freundin, Munich

»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

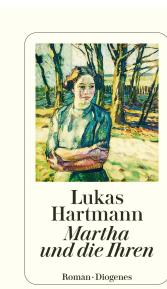
### Lukas Hartmann

»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

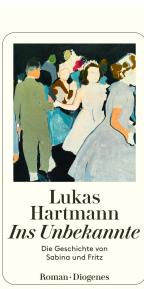
»Lukas Hartmann immerses himself totally in his characters. He has a particular interest in figures who are in danger of being swallowed up by history. He is driven by a strong sense of justice, empathy and meticulousness.« – Beatrice Eichmann-Leutenegger / *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

»A virtuoso of the historical novel.« – Charles Linsmayer / *NZZ am Sonntag*, Zurich

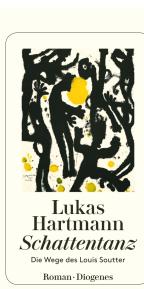
»Lukas Hartmann knows how to write history in a way that puts the present in a different light.« – *Augsburger Allgemeine*



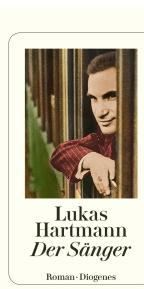
*Martha und die Ihnen*  
304 pages  
2024  
Bestseller



*Ins Unbekannte*  
288 pages  
2022  
Bestseller



*Schattentanz*  
256 pages  
2021  
Bestseller



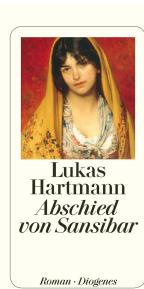
*Der Sänger*  
288 pages  
2019  
Bestseller



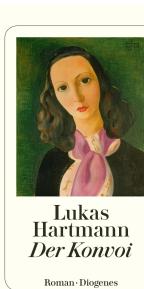
*Ein passender Mieter*  
368 pages  
2016  
Bestseller



*Auf beiden Seiten*  
336 pages  
2015  
Bestseller



*Abschied von Sansibar*  
336 pages  
2013  
Movie Adaptation  
Bestseller



*Der Konvoi*  
208 pages  
2013



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Räuberleben*

Roman · Diogenes

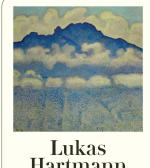
A Robber's Life  
352 pages  
2012



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Finsternes  
Glück*

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Dark Bliss  
320 pages  
2010



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Pestalozzis  
Berg*

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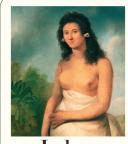
Pestalozzi's Mountain  
208 pages  
2009



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Die Seuche*

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The Plague  
224 pages  
2009



Lukas  
Hartmann  
*Bis ans Ende  
der Meere*

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To the End of the Sea  
496 pages  
2009

