

Leon de Winter
The Right to Return

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Original title: *Het Recht op Terugkeer*



Leon
de Winter
*Das Recht auf
Rückkehr*

Roman · Diogenes

Tel Aviv in the year 2024: Israel is reduced to a heavily secured city state, a narrow strip of land by the sea. Those able to leave have left. Bram Mannheim has stayed and is looking after his ill father. Twenty years ago Bram, who grew up in Amsterdam, was a well-known university teacher in Princeton. When Bennie, his four-year-old son, vanished into thin air, his life collapsed; and with it Bram's marriage, his career, and his self-confidence. In Tel Aviv he runs a support service helping parents track down their disappeared children. Then a new series of suicide bombings shock the small country. And Bram discovers that an atrocious secret lurks behind the attacks which at the same time, however, gives him hope that Bennie may still be alive. A serious subject matter, brilliantly and poignantly told.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
560 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
September 2009

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📍 Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

🎬 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

The Right to Return

»He can tell a story like hardly any other writer
in Western Europe.« – Literaturen, Berlin

»A depiction of Israel's near future. By a
novelist with a panoramic view!« – Trouw,
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*.

Praise (cont'd)

»A novel, broad in scope and audacious, which does not confine itself to one country or one continent. Instead, it takes a wider, international perspective.« – De Volkskrant, Amsterdam

»You want to read it all, and immediately.« – De Groene Amsterdammer

»In ›Right to Return‹ Leon de Winter has written a nightmarish and visionary novel of Israel. An impressive, sombre novel. A master is here at work.« – Die Welt, Berlin

»This novel is his masterpiece.« – Focus, Munich

»Leon de Winter's novel, which is as exciting as it is complex, is also a book about forbidden thoughts and self-delusion.« – Münchner Merkur

Leon de Winter

»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**



VSV
512 pages
2013

🔴 **Bestseller**

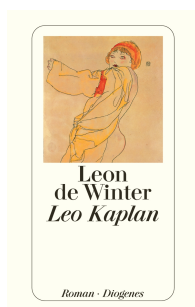


Place de la Bastille
160 pages
2005

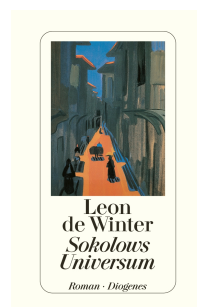


God's Gym
432 pages
2003

🔴 **Bestseller**



Kaplan
544 pages
2001

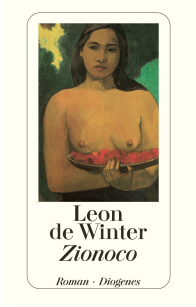


Sokolov's Universe
448 pages
1999



The Sky of Hollywood
368 pages
1998

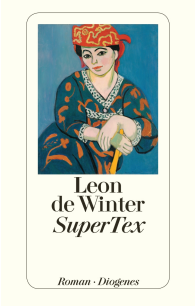
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**



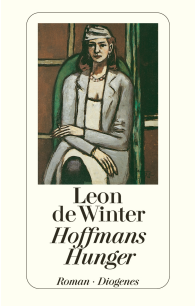
Zionoco
416 pages
1997



Serenade
176 pages
1996



SuperTex
272 pages
1994
 **Movie Adaptation**



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