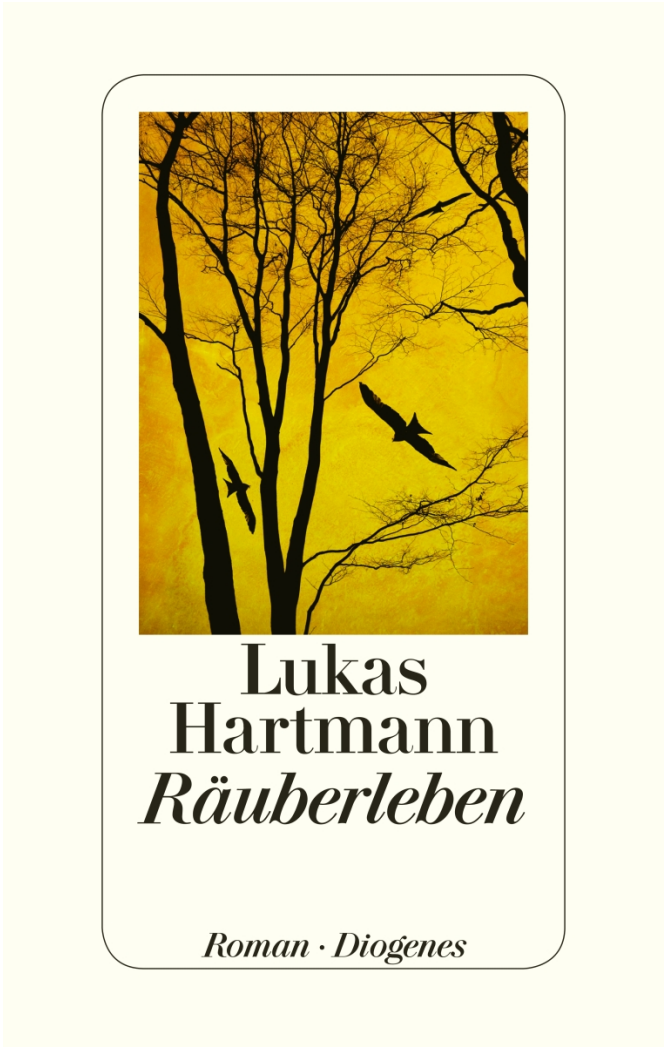
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Lukas Hartmann
A Robber's Life

Published by Diogenes as *Räuberleben*
Original title: *Räuberleben*



Of all the robbers who cast fear and terror at the end of the 18th century, Hannikel was one of the most feared. Just the sound of his name was enough to make any child in the Black Forest or Elsace tremble. And Hannikel is on the run, with his most loyal men, along with their women and children. Where can he find a safe place for them?
Jacob Schäffer, the head magistrate of Sulz, is obsessed with one mission: to put a stop to robbers, crooks and gypsies. After an honour killing, he finally tracks Hannikel down to a sighting in Chur, in Graubünden.
Wilhelm Grau, Schäffer's clerk, has been in on the hunt for the Hannikel band from the start. But he is finding it increasingly difficult to see these people as monsters – especially Dieterle, Hannikel's eleven-year old son.
A gripping and lively novel which leads the reader from gypsy camps in the depths of the Black Forest to the private quarters of Duke Karl Eugen and his wife Franziska.
A tense and multi-layered novel, based on the true story of the robber Hannikel.

Contemporary Literature
352 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
March 2012

Contact:
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and
Suzanne Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

Translation rights currently sold:
Italian (Armando Dadò)

Bestseller

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 ›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*

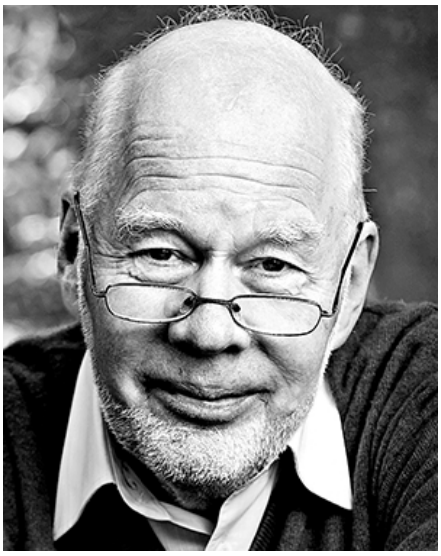
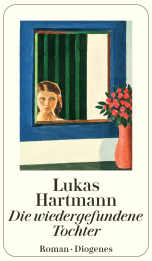
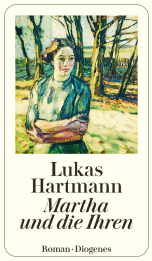


Photo: © Bernard van Dierendonck

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.



The Lost Daughter
256 pages
2027



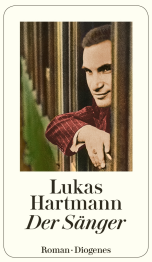
Martha and Her Kin
304 pages
2024
Bestseller



Into the Unknown
288 pages
2022
Bestseller



Shadow Dance
256 pages
2021
Bestseller



The Singer
288 pages
2019
Bestseller



A Picture of Lydia
368 pages
2018
Award winner
Bestseller



A Suitable Tenant
368 pages
2016
Bestseller



On Both Sides
336 pages
2015
Bestseller

Praise

A Robber's Life

»It is almost documentary, good enlightenment literature.« – BuchMarkt, Meerbusch

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

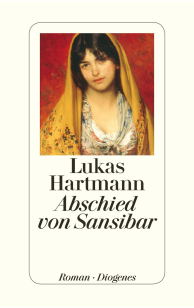
»Lukas Hartmann develops great poetic power, full of sensibility and eloquent silence.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Lukas Hartmann has an incredible affinity to the world of children.« – Carol Rosa / Berner Zeitung

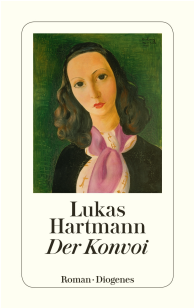
»Lukas Hartmann's ability to see the world through a child's eyes is outstanding.« – Hits for Kids, Gustavsburg

»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.« – Augsburger Allgemeine



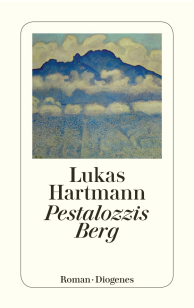
Goodbye to Zanzibar
336 pages
2013
Movie Adaptation
Bestseller



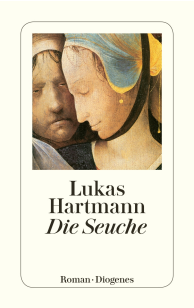
The Convoy
208 pages
2013



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