

# Diogenes

Leon de Winter  
*Serenade*

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



Leon  
de Winter  
*Serenade*

*Roman · Diogenes*

›*Serenade*‹ is exciting, entertaining and witty, and at the same time concerned with serious issues. The story of a son who rediscovers his mother. And a disturbing book about the helplessness of all of us who follow the news, know about the terrible things that are happening in the world, and are unable to do anything about it. Anneke Weiss, in her middle seventies and long since widowed, has just rediscovered her lust for life and her desire to interfere in the life of her son Bennie, a would-be composer. Then the doctors diagnose cancer. Bennie insists that they don't inform his mother about her terminal illness. Life seems to be carrying on as usual, and Anneke even falls in love with the 77-year-old Fred Bachmann. Then suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, the elderly lady disappears without trace. The only hope is that she has gone off on one of her pleasure jaunts with which she is constantly surprising her son. But why doesn't she give any sign of life? Bennie and Fred set off to look for Anneke. When they find her it is not on the Champs-Élysées, but in the freight station in Split. What made Anneke embark on this ›journey‹? This novel, only superficially humorous and carefree, is about a trauma which can break out at any time.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
176 pages  
11.6 × 18.4 cm  
February 1996

World rights are handled by Diogenes  
(except Dutch)

### 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

#### *Serenade*

›Leon de Winter is a leading contemporary writer, on a par with John Updike, Philip Roth and Harry Mulisch.« – Ellen Pomikalko / Brigitte, Hamburg

#### Leon de Winter

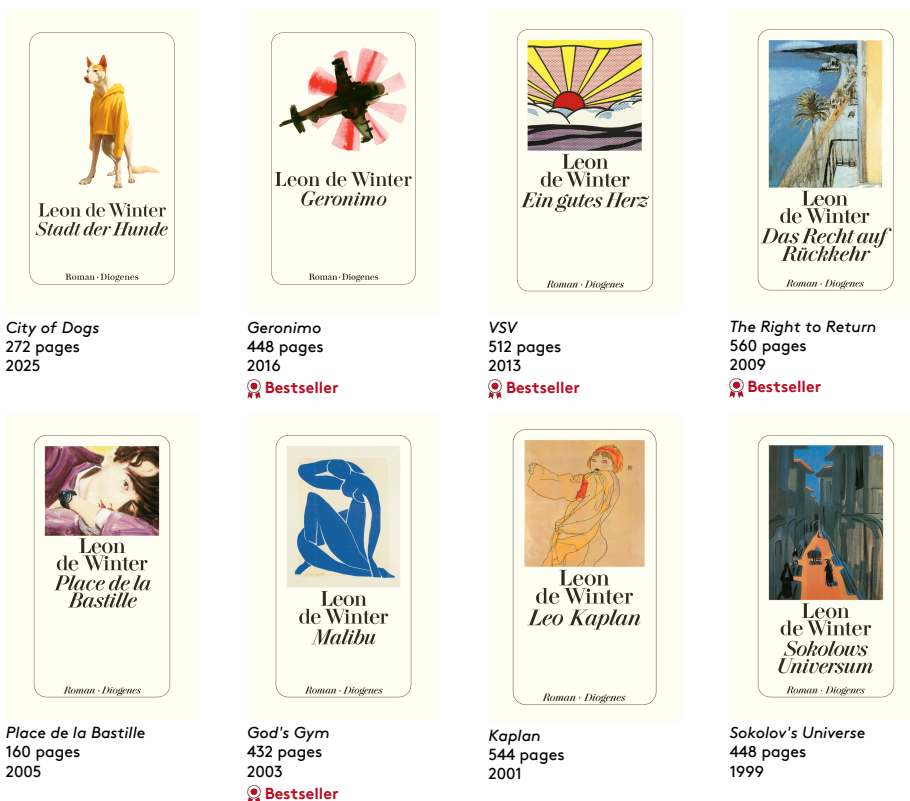
›Ingenious, entertaining, funny – always to the surprise and delight of the reader.« – Volker Hage / Der Spiegel, Hamburg

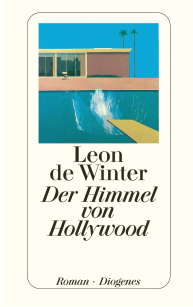


### Praise (cont'd)

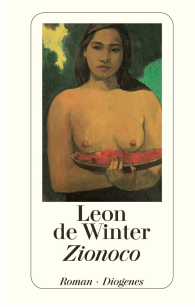
»Leon de Winter stokes the fires of imagination until the pages are ablaze. It's an approach that makes him unique.« – De Volkskrant, Amsterdam

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*.





The Sky of Hollywood  
368 pages  
1998  
 **Movie Adaptation**



Zionoco  
416 pages  
1997



SuperTex  
272 pages  
1994  
 **Movie Adaptation**



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