

# Diogenes

Moritz Heger

*From the Depth of the Lake*

Published by Diogenes as *Aus der Mitte des Sees*

Original title: *Aus der Mitte des Sees*



Moritz Heger  
*Aus der Mitte  
des Sees*

Roman · Diogenes

A Benedictine monastery, idyllically located by a lake. Their guest wing is well-frequented, but most of the monks are approaching biblical age. One of the younger monks has just left the monastery and started a family. Ever since, Lukas, who is in his late 30s, has also begun to question his path in life. Then Sarah appears - mindful, caring and corporeal. Lukas' fellows are urging him to take over the leadership of the monastery, but life is pulling at him, too. In order to make a decision, Lukas surrenders himself to the lake: the act of swimming allows our bodies and minds to open up.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature

256 pages

11.6 × 18.4 × 2.1 cm

March 2021

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### Award

2007 ›MDR-Literaturpreis‹ mitsamt  
Publikumspreis

### Praise

*From the Depth of the Lake*

»Moritz Heger has penned an intelligent, laconic novel about faith and the search for the right path in life.« – Sabine Willkop / SWR 2, Stuttgart

»This book is still, like a lake, and you can immerse yourself in it and lose yourself. And then the water carries you. Wonderful.« – Matthias Zehnder / Basel

»The lovely thing about this novel: it makes a plea for opening oneself up to things, both the new and the old.« – Claudia Inghoven / MDR Kultur, Halle

»*From the Depth of the Lake* is a quiet novel. Thoughtful, melancholic, densely woven and yet full of open development threads.« – Silke Arning / SWR 2, Stuttgart

»Reading this novel is like having a short holiday, the benefits of which stay with you for a long time.« – Gina Arzdorf / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»The questions this text raises are so fundamental that it could rival many thrillers in the tension stakes.« – Gina Arzdorf / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»A quiet, calmly powerful story.« – Jan Draeger / Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, Heidelberg

»A fate is unfurled carefully and with a gentle narrative rhythm.« – Münchner Merkur, Munich

»Wonderful; in its thinking, its language, its emotion.« – Ulla Müller / Bayern 1, Munich

»An incredibly poetic book; like a long, beautiful poem, one without rhyme, yet interlaced with delicate humour.« – Ulla Müller / Bayern 1, Munich

Moritz Heger

»Linguistic craft is in every detail and Moritz Heger proves himself to be a sensitive, precise observer.« – Silke Arning / SWR 2, Stuttgart



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### Praise (cont'd)

»If there's such a thing as devout prose, then Moritz Heger is a master of the genre – an author who celebrates slowness, whose profundity unfurls bit by bit, page by page.« – Peter Mohr / Landshuter Zeitung

Moritz Heger, born in Stuttgart in 1971, studied German, Protestant Theology and Theatre Studies in Mainz. He received the ›MDR Literature Prize‹ and its associated ›Audience Prize‹ in 2007. Alongside being an author, he is also a teacher at a Stuttgart high school. *From the Depth of the Lake* (2021) is his debut with Diogenes, and his second novel following *In the Snow* (2008).



*The Time of the Cicadas*  
304 pages  
2024