

Hartmut Lange  
*The Abyss of the Finite*

Published by Diogenes as *Der Abgrund des Endlichen*  
Original title: *Der Abgrund des Endlichen*



Hartmut Lange  
*Der Abgrund  
des Endlichen*  
*Drei Novellen*  
Diogenes

Three novellas which have one thing in common: They describe the quest for happiness above the abyss of the finite. In the year of 1948, a young man was murdered near a summer house settlement in Berlin; the culprit was never caught. The brother of the murder victim, by now sixty years older, has all but forgotten him – until one day a man turns up who persistently claims to be the murderer. He says he must atone for his deed and wants the victim's brother to help him in his mission. A historian is fascinated by mystic Hildegard von Bingen, especially her antiphons. When he becomes seriously ill, he must decide where he belongs: in the realm of the past or with his partner, a cardiologist who is used to extending life at all costs. The divorced assistant master with a predilection for his own sex seems as forlorn as the beautiful Mathilde from the Belle Epoque who, unnoticed and walled up, has been left on her pedestal above a car repair shop. His deep yearning revolves around this female figure made of plaster.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
144 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
October 2009

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## Awards

- 2016 2016/2017 mit dem ›Rom-Preis‹ verbundenes Stipendiat in der Deutschen Akademie Rom Villa Massimo
- 2005 Drei Monate lang Stipendiat der Hermann-Hesse-Stiftung in Calw
- 2004 ›Literatur-Nord-Preis‹ für *Leptis Magna*
- 2003 ›Italo-Svevo-Preis‹
- 2000 ›Kester-Häusler-Ehregabe‹ der Deutschen Schillerstiftung von 1859 für das Lebenswerk
- 1998 ›Literaturpreis‹ der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- 1995 *Schnitzlers Würgeengel* ›Buch des Monats‹ Mai der Darmstädter Jury
- 1989 ›Prix de la littérature traduite‹ für *Die Waldsteinsonate*
- 1968 ›Gerhart-Hauptmann-Preis‹
- 1966 ›Förderpreis‹ der Niedersächsischen Landesregierung

## Praise

Hartmut Lange

›His novellas are master narratives about the magical force of shadows creeping up unnoticed.« – Hans-Dieter Schütt / (German journalist)

›The master of linguistic stringency.« – Kristina Maidt-Zinke / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

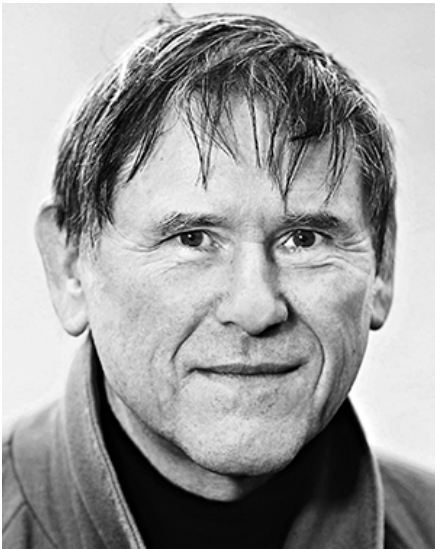
›A minimalist with far-reaching effect.« – Hans-Christian Kosler / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

›Hartmut Lange deserves being read with particular attention because he clearly differs from loud drummers, such as Grass or Boll, on the other side of the Rhine. One feels reminded of the plays by Maeterlinck and Wedekind.« – Alain Bosquet / Le Figaro, Paris

›The fragile elegance of his style is unmatched in contemporary literature.« – Werner Fuld / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

›The master among the fantastical rationalists.« – Edelgard Abenstein / Deutschlandradio Kultur, Berlin

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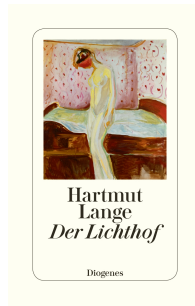
Hartmut Lange, born in Berlin in 1937, studied theatrical production. He has been honoured with several awards for his plays, essays and prose. His most recent publication is the volume of novellas *At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger*. He is now a freelance writer and lives in Berlin.



*The Roughly Forty-Year-Old Man*  
128 pages  
2025



*At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger*  
112 pages  
2022



*The Courtyard*  
96 pages  
2020



*On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere*  
128 pages  
2018



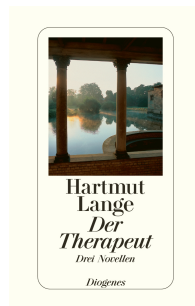
*The View from the Window*  
112 pages  
2015



*The House on Dorothea Street*  
128 pages  
2013



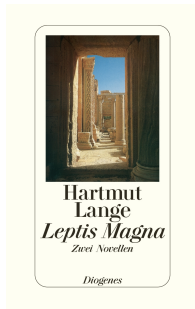
*In the Museum*  
128 pages  
2011



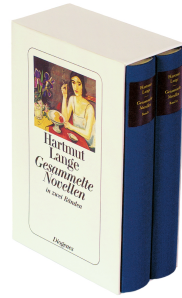
*The Therapist*  
160 pages  
2007



**The Wanderer**  
128 pages  
2005



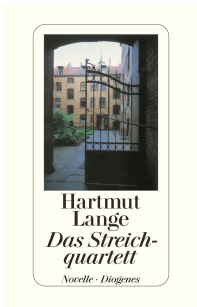
**Leptis Magna**  
176 pages  
2003  
🏆 **Award winner**



**Collected Novellas**  
1152 pages  
2002



**Knowledge from Error**  
208 pages  
2002



**The String Quartet**  
144 pages  
2001



**The Educational Trip**  
128 pages  
2000



**A Different Kind of Happiness**  
144 pages  
1999



**The ›Waldstein‹ Sonata**  
112 pages  
1984  
🏆 **Award winner**