

Diogenes

Erich Hackl
Farewell Sidonia

Published by Diogenes as *Abschied von Sidonie*
Original title: *Abschied von Sidonie*



Erich Hackl
*Abschied
von
Sidonie*

Erzählung · Diogenes

The gripping story of a young gypsy girl born in the year the Nazis came to power in Germany. Adopted by a loving working-class family, Sidonia grows up as a nurtured and protected child in a small, impoverished Austrian town. The times are turbulent and saturated with fear and violence. Everything foreign is perceived as dangerous, and general insecurity turns into hatred. Sidonia looks different than the other children in town, she cannot hide her heritage. As the Nazis gain influence and power, danger mounts for her and her socialist foster parents. They are exposed to increasing pressure until ultimately their very lives are threatened and Sidonia's fate lies in the hands of the townspeople.

As a mercilessly sober chronicler of facts, Hackl presents us with historical events that were long suppressed. Yet beyond the actual individual case the clear intensity of his language evokes the fate of all those who are persecuted for their ethnic origin, political beliefs, or religious background. In the end, no reader can escape the haunting question who has to bear responsibility for injustice that was committed and that still is committed today.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Compulsory Reading
128 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
July 1989

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:

Greek (Filntisi)
Spanish/world (Pre-Textos)

📖 Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

🎬 Movie adaptations

2011: Der Heimwehträger. Neunzig Minuten mit Fritz Kalmar. Eine Freundesgabe
Director: Erich Hackl
Cast: Dokumentation

1990: Abschied von Sidonie

Director: Karin Brandauer
Screenplay: Erich Hackl
Cast: Arghavan Sadeghi-Seragi, Kitty Speiser, Georg Marin

🏆 Awards

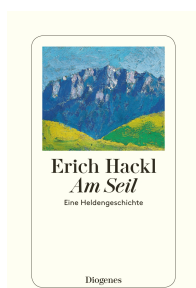
- 2020 ›Theodor Kramer Preis‹ für Schreiben im Widerstand und Exil
- 2017 ›Menschenrechtspreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 2015 ›Willy und Helga Verkauf-Verlon-Preis‹ für österreichische antifaschistische Publizistik an Erich Hackl
- 2015 ›Ehrenring‹ seiner Geburtsstadt Steyr
- 2015 Vom österreichischen Bundeskanzleramt vergebener Übersetzerpreis ›Translatio‹ an Erich Hackl für sein Lebenswerk als Übersetzer von spanischer und insbesondere lateinamerikanischer Literatur
- 2015 ›Literaturpreis der Österreichischen Industrie – Anton Wildgans‹ an Erich Hackl
- 2013 ›Adalbert-Stifter-Preis Oberösterreich. Großer Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich
- 2011 Ehrendoktor der Universität Salzburg
- 2006 ›Donauland-Sachbuchpreis‹, Wien
- 2004 ›Ehrenpreis des Österreichischen Buchhandels für Toleranz in Denken und Handeln‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Solothurner Literaturpreis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2002 ›Preis der Stadt Wien für Literatur‹ für *Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz*
- 1998 ›Premio Hidalgo‹ der spanischen Romavereinigung Presencia Gitana für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1996 ›Bruno Kreisky-Preis für das politische Buch‹ für *In fester Umarmung*



Erich Hackl, born in Steyr, Austria in 1954, studied German and Spanish and worked as a teacher and editor for a number of years. Madrid and Vienna, where he works as a writer and translator, have been home to him for a long time now. His stories are based on authentic cases. *Aurora's Motive* and *Farewell Sidonia* are on school reading lists. Erich Hackl has received numerous awards, including the 2017 ›Human Rights Award‹ of the state of Upper Austria, the ›Anton Wildgans Prize 2015‹ by the Federation of Austrian Industry and the ›Award for Literature‹ from the city of Vienna in 2002.



More Happiness in Life
432 pages
2019



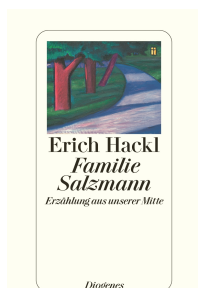
Roped Together
128 pages
2018
Bestseller



Three Tearless Stories
160 pages
2014



This Book Belongs to My Mother
128 pages
2013



The Salzmann Family
192 pages
2010



As If an Angel
176 pages
2007



If the Father Fits
304 pages
2004



Wedding at Auschwitz
192 pages
2002
Award winner

Awards (cont'd)

- 1995 ›Gerrit-Engelke-Literaturpreis‹ der Landeshauptstadt Hannover für sein Gesamtwerk
- 1994 ›Kulturpreis des Landes Oberösterreich‹
- 1991 ›Österreichischer Förderungspreis für Literatur‹
- 1991 ›Prix de littérature étrangère Ecureuil‹ anlässlich der 5. Buchmesse in Bordeaux für *Abschied von Sidonia*
- 1991 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Buchereien für *Abschied von Sidonia*
- 1988 ›1. Grand-Prix Genève – Europe‹ der Union europäischer Fernsehanstalten (EBU) für das Filmdrehbuch *Sidonia Adlersburg*
- 1987 ›Aspekte-Literaturpreis‹ für die Erzählung *Auroras Anlaß*

Praise

Erich Hackl

›A masterful and authoritative chronicler.‹ – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandradio Berlin

›The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.‹ – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

›Erich Hackl's concise and hauntingly dense works of prose have gained him a huge audience and great success. At the bottom of his efforts are usually some forgotten beings, victims of our century's cruel history, with their authentic albeit not exactly remembered biography. Here Hackl, the Austrian author, overly sensitized perhaps because of his own country's extreme insensitivities, steps in and tries to bring about an act of belated justice and redemption. This obviates the question whether Hackl is a fiction writer or a historian, a lawyer of the ›small people‹ or a missionary voice of human dignity: he is all of these, and ideally they all add up to make a writer.‹ – Erich Wolfgang Skwara / World Literature Today, New York

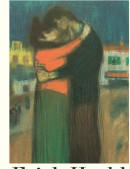
›One of Austria's virtuoso masters of language [. . .] who has done more to correct our image of history than a dozen historians put together.‹ – Thomas Rothschild / Die Presse, Vienna

›Erich Hackl's narrative is masterful and compelling.‹ – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin



Erich Hackl
*Entwurf
einer Liebe
auf den
ersten Blick*
Diogenes

Love at First Sight
80 pages
1999



Erich Hackl
*In fester
Umarmung*
Geschichten und
Berichte
Diogenes

In a Firm Embrace
336 pages
1996
🏆 Award winner



Erich Hackl
*Sara und
Simón*
Eine endlose
Geschichte
Diogenes

Sara And Simón
208 pages
1995



Erich Hackl
*Auroras
Anlaß*
Diogenes

Aurora's Motive
144 pages
1987
🏆 Award winner
📈 Bestseller