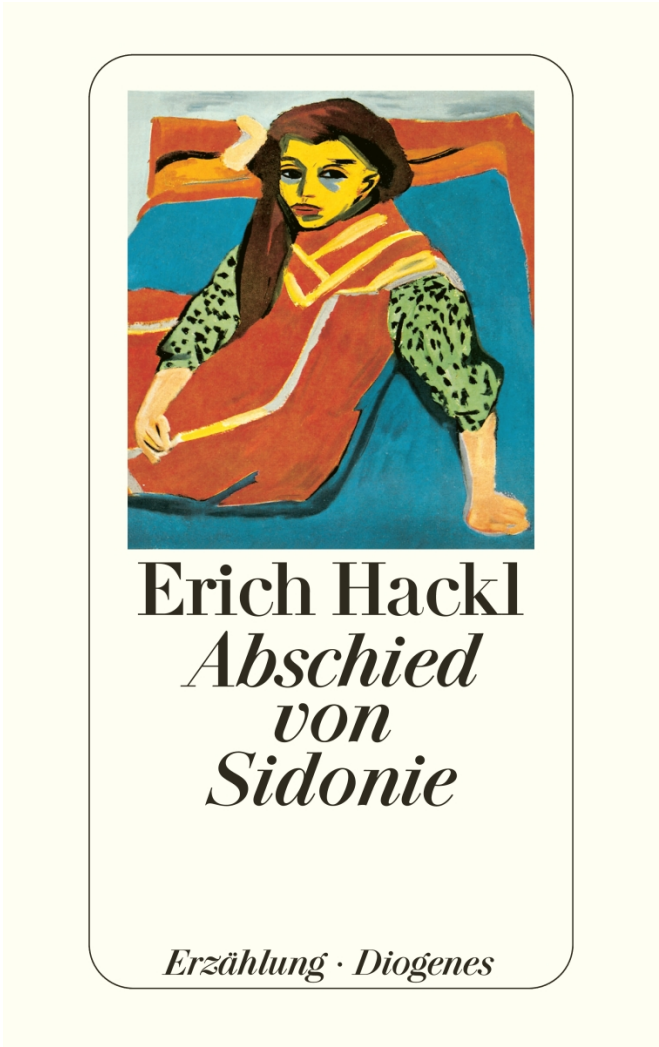
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Erich Hackl
Farewell Sidonia

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



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 suppresssed. 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.

Contemporary Literature, Compulsory Reading
128 pages
11.6 × 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*

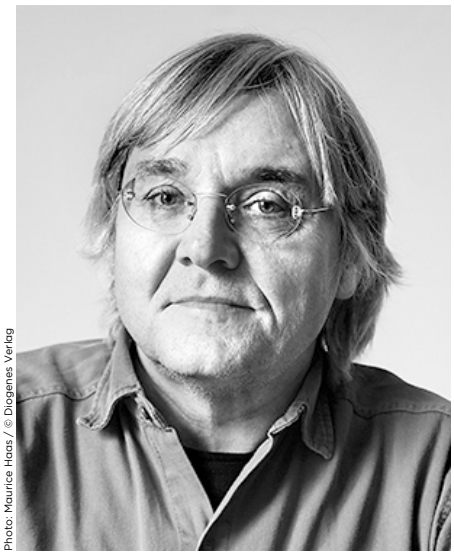
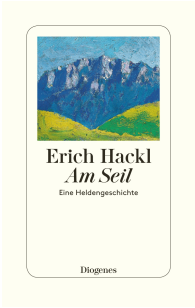


Photo: Maurice Haas / © Diogenes Verlag

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



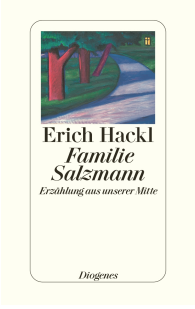
Roped Together
128 pages
2018
Bestseller



Three Tearless Stories
160 pages
2014



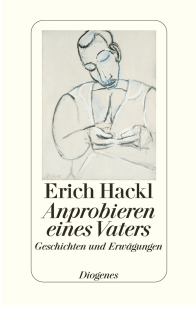
This Book Belongs to My Mother
128 pages
2013



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 Sidonie*
1991 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Büchereien für *Abschied von Sidonie*
1988 ›1. Grand-Prix Genève – Europe‹ der Union europäischer Fernsehanstalten (EBU) für das Filmdrehbuch *Sidonie 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

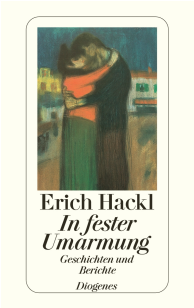
»Erich Hackl's concise and hauntingly dense works of prose have gained him a huge audience and great success. At the bottom of his efforts are usually some forgotten beings, victims of our century's cruel history, with their authentic albeit not exactly remembered biography. Here Hackl, the Austrian 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

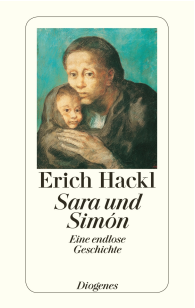
»Erich Hackl's narrative is masterful and compelling.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin



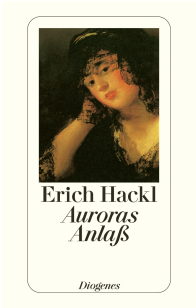
Love at First Sight
80 pages
1999



In a Firm Embrace
336 pages
1996
Award winner



Sara And Simón
208 pages
1995



Aurora's Motive
144 pages
1987
Award winner
Bestseller