

Diogenes

Erich Hackl

This Book Belongs to My Mother

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Original title: *Dieses Buch gehört meiner Mutter*



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*Dieses Buch
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In this book, Erich Hackl lends his voice to a woman who grew up as a farmer's daughter in the Upper Austrian Mühlviertel: his mother. Written in artfully simple language, this is a story of hardship and humility in the countryside, but also of cunning, longing and exuberance. A cherry tree on a freezing cold night and a man who lights a fire beneath it. The first bicycle and the last Zeppelin. The joy of half a bread roll. Sins that accumulate and sins that are paid for. A farmer staring into paradise. Fanatic priests and wise teachers. Talking cows. Errors in judgement before, during and after the war. Unheroic heroes. Waiting for the right one. The number three and its significance for the village.

»As far back as I can remember, my mother used to tell me stories about the world of her childhood and youth«, writes Erich Hackl in the afterword to this poetic, profoundly intimate biography. »Now, after her death, I have decided to capture this world for myself, to see it through her eyes and in her words, and that's why this book belongs to my mother.«

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
128 pages
13.3 x 21 cm
November 2013

World rights are handled by Diogenes

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*
- 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 Buchereien für *Abschied von Sidonie*



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.

Awards (cont'd)

- 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

This Book Belongs to My Mother

»... a luminous prose that reads like poetry. [...] Written in clear, spare language which is ideally suited to the mother's uncomplicated view of the world, the book's brevity belies the extraordinary richness of its subject matter.« – New Books in German, London

»Hackl's prose sounds like poetry.« – Tobias Becker / Spiegel online, Hamburg

Erich Hackl

»A masterful and authoritative chronicler.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandradio Berlin

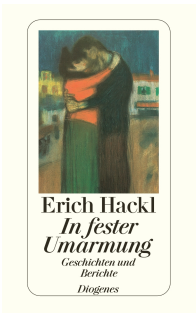
»The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.« – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

»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

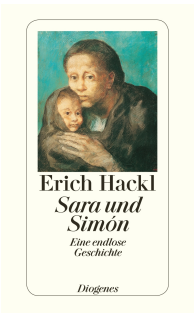
»Erich Hackl's narrative is masterful and compelling.« – Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

 Erich Hackl <i>Im Leben mehr Glück</i> <small>Reden und Schriften</small> <small>Diogenes</small>	 Erich Hackl <i>Am Seil</i> <small>Eine Heldengeschichte</small> <small>Diogenes</small>	 Erich Hackl <i>Drei tränenlose Geschichten</i> <small>Diogenes</small>	 Erich Hackl <i>Familie Salzmännchen</i> <small>Erzählung aus unserer Mitte</small> <small>Diogenes</small>
<p><i>More Happiness in Life</i> 432 pages 2019</p>	<p><i>Roped Together</i> 128 pages 2018 Bestseller</p>	<p><i>Three Tearless Stories</i> 160 pages 2014</p>	<p><i>The Salzmännchen Family</i> 192 pages 2010</p>
 Erich Hackl <i>Als ob ein Engel</i> <small>Erzählung nach dem Leben</small> <small>Diogenes</small>	 Erich Hackl <i>Anprobieren eines Vaters</i> <small>Geschichten und Erwägungen</small> <small>Diogenes</small>	 Erich Hackl <i>Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz</i> <small>Eine Begebenheit</small> <small>Diogenes</small>	 Erich Hackl <i>Entwurf einer Liebe auf den ersten Blick</i> <small>Diogenes</small>
<p><i>As If an Angel</i> 176 pages 2007</p>	<p><i>If the Father Fits</i> 304 pages 2004</p>	<p><i>Wedding at Auschwitz</i> 192 pages 2002 Award winner</p>	<p><i>Love at First Sight</i> 80 pages 1999</p>

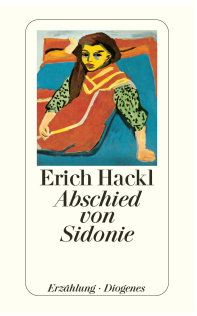


In a Firm Embrace
336 pages
1996

 **Award winner**

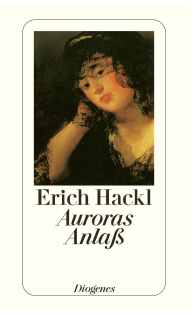


Sara And Simón
208 pages
1995




Farewell Sidonia
128 pages
1989

 **Award winner**
 **Movie Adaptation**
 **Bestseller**



Aurora's Motive
144 pages
1987

 **Award winner**
 **Bestseller**