

Erich Hackl
As If an Angel

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Als ob ein Engel
Erzählung nach dem Leben

Diogenes

Mendoza – a peaceful provincial town in Argentina at the foot of the Andes. The 8 April 1977 – the last day that Gisela Tenenbaum was seen alive. What happened to her after that date remains a mystery. How does a family continue to come to terms with the fact that their daughter – Gisi – disappeared so many years ago? Was she kidnapped, tortured, murdered? Gisi is gone and yet still present – a situation more painful than if she had died as a child. Erich Hackl has written the story of her family – Austrians of Jewish origin who fled to Argentina in 1939 –, of Gisi's committed struggle against injustice, and her desperate, underground work for a cause that would ultimately be lost.

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
October 2007

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

As If an Angel

»Erich Hackl fights against injustice with a writer's tools. A man of the enlightenment, in the truest sense of the word.« – Wiener Zeitung, Vienna

Erich Hackl








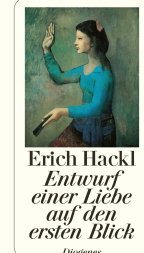
»A masterful and authoritative chronicler.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandradio Berlin

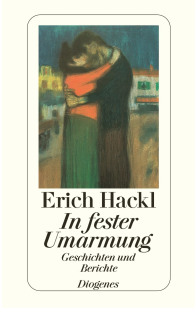
»The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.« – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

»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 Rothchild / Die Presse, Vienna

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

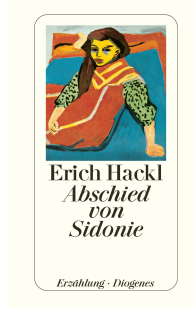
 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Im Leben mehr Glück</i> Reden und Schriften Diogenes</p>	 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Am Seil</i> Eine Heldengeschichte Diogenes</p>	 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Drei tränenlose Geschichten</i> Diogenes</p>	 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Dieses Buch gehört meiner Mutter</i> Diogenes</p>
<p><i>More Happiness in Life</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>This Book Belongs to My Mother</i> 128 pages 2013</p>
 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Familie Salzmann</i> Erzählung aus unserer Mitte Diogenes</p>	 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Anprobieren eines Vaters</i> Geschichten und Erwägungen Diogenes</p>	 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz</i> Eine Begebenheit Diogenes</p>	 <p>Erich Hackl <i>Entwurf einer Liebe auf den ersten Blick</i> Diogenes</p>
<p><i>The Salzmann Family</i> 192 pages 2010</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>



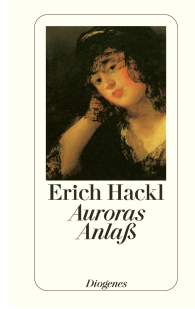
In a Firm Embrace
336 pages
1996
🏆 **Award winner**



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**