

Diogenes

Hartmut Lange
The String Quartet

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Original title: *Das Streichquartett*



Hartmut
Lange
*Das Streich-
quartett*

Novelle · Diogenes

The disaster begins when Berghoff, the first violin of the quartet of the same name, decides to add Schönberg's String Quartet No. 4, op. 37, to the quartet's repertoire. Schönberg's composition strikes him as being the music of a big-city neurotic – like a mirror in which he slowly starts to recognise himself. He gradually loses his self-confidence, and then his wife tells him that she is taking their daughters away, against his will, on a holiday that seems never-ending.

One day he finds a valuable violin in his deserted Berlin apartment, put there by some unknown person – a delightful windfall which he plays at the rehearsals of the Schönberg Quartet. The rehearsals become more and more intensive and Berghoff's behaviour increasingly neurotic. He refuses to accept the fact that someone has long since taken the bow out of his hand. A disturbing drama of jealousy runs its course.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
144 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
October 2001

World rights are handled by Diogenes

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

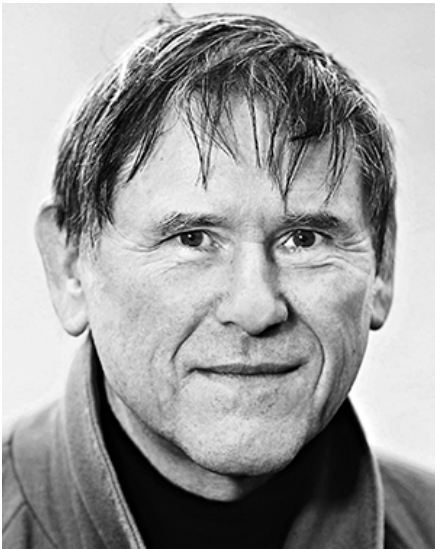
»A minimalist with far-reaching effect.« – Hans-Christian Kosler / Neue Zürcher Zeitung

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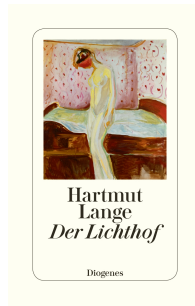
Hartmut Lange, born in Berlin in 1937, studied theatrical production. He has been honoured with several awards for his plays, essays and prose. His most recent publication is the volume of novellas *At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger*. He is now a freelance writer and lives in Berlin.



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



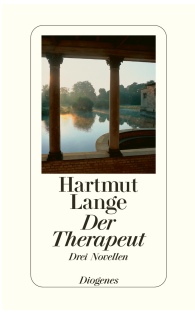
The House on Dorothea Street
128 pages
2013



In the Museum
128 pages
2011



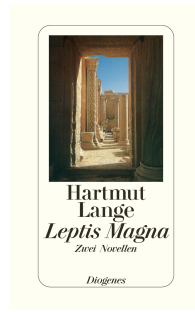
The Abyss of the Finite
144 pages
2009



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 Educational Trip
128 pages
2000



A Different Kind of Happiness
144 pages
1999



The >Waldstein< Sonata
112 pages
1984
🏆 **Award winner**