

Hartmut Lange
The Courtyard

Published by Diogenes as *Der Lichthof*
Original title: *Der Lichthof*



Hartmut Lange *Der Lichthof*

Diogenes

On existential states of mind, in uniquely condensed form. One of the last great masters of the novella writes about the magical power of gathering shadows. With an autobiographical text on deeply formative childhood experiences.

»Love is not an opportunity for freedom; it happens out of necessity,« thinks a woman who realizes her husband has left her. Darkly luminous yet crystal clear sentences like this one have made Hartmut Lange's prose famous.

Four novellas, complemented by an autobiographical piece, with which Hartmut Lange tells us about the formative experiences for his life and his writing: Christmas 1944 in Naßwerder, the horrors of forced evacuation, the death of his father and later his brother.

»It was an inkling of how our lives would lack presuppositions, once we could no longer cite the protective hand above us.«

Hartmut Lange

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
96 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 1.2 cm
March 2020

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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-Ehrengabe« 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

The Courtyard

»From the seeming innocence of the narrative style, this calm, almost scrupulously unspectacular tone, something unfathomable suddenly emerges.« – Ulrich Rüdener / WDR 3, Cologne

»Lange's calm, precise language is easily recognised.« – Jochen Overbeck / Tagesspiegel, Berlin

»Hartmut Lange continues to write his timeless novellas.« – Jürgen Verdofsky / Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt

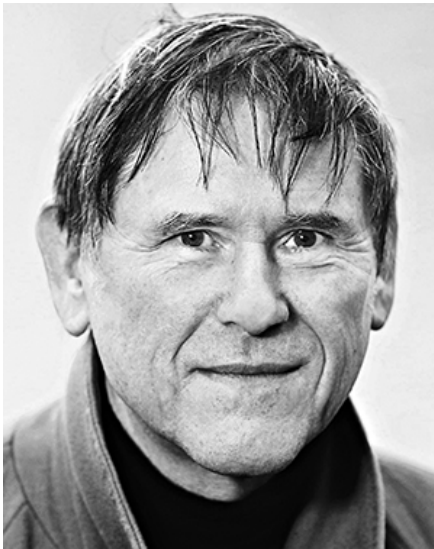
»The inoffensiveness of the narrative, that serene, almost scrupulously unsensational tone, suddenly gives way to something unfathomable« – Ulrich Rüdener / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»The reader is gripped by each and every word, and really feels the author's immense capacity for love.« – Christoph Dieckmann / Die Zeit, Hamburg

»His novellas are a literary meditation on evil and mystery.« – Michael Opitz / Deutschlandfunk, Cologne

Hartmut Lange

»His novellas are master narratives about the magical force of shadows creeping up unnoticed.« – Hans-Dieter Schütt / (German journalist)



Praise (cont'd)

»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

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.

<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der etwa vierzigjährige Mann</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>The Roughly Forty-Year-Old Man</i> 128 pages 2025</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Am Osloer Fjord oder der Fremde</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>At the Oslo Fjord or The Stranger</i> 112 pages 2022</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>An der Prorer Wiek und anderswo</i> Novellen-Diogenes</p> <p><i>On the Prorer Wiek and Elsewhere</i> 128 pages 2018</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der Blick aus dem Fenster</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>The View from the Window</i> 112 pages 2015</p>
<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Das Haus in der Dorotheenstraße</i> Novellen-Diogenes</p> <p><i>The House on Dorothea Street</i> 128 pages 2013</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Im Museum</i> Diogenes</p> <p><i>In the Museum</i> 128 pages 2011</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der Abgrund des Endlichen</i> Drei Novellen-Diogenes</p> <p><i>The Abyss of the Finite</i> 144 pages 2009</p>	<p>Hartmut Lange <i>Der Therapeut</i> Drei Novellen-Diogenes</p> <p><i>The Therapist</i> 160 pages 2007</p>



Hartmut Lange
Der Wanderer

Novelle · Diogenes

The Wanderer
128 pages
2005

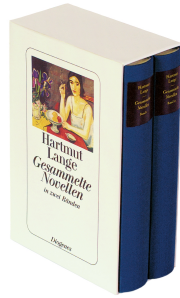


Hartmut Lange
Leptis Magna
Zwei Novellen

Diogenes

Leptis Magna
176 pages
2003

🏆 **Award winner**



Collected Novellas
1152 pages
2002



Hartmut Lange
Irrtum als Erkenntnis
Meine Bestandsaufnahme
als Schriftsteller

Diogenes

Knowledge from Error
208 pages
2002



Hartmut Lange
Das Streichquartett

Novelle · Diogenes

The String Quartet
144 pages
2001



Hartmut Lange
Die Bildungsreise

Novelle · Diogenes

The Educational Trip
128 pages
2000



Hartmut Lange
*Eine andere Form
des Glücks*

Novelle · Diogenes

**A Different Kind of
Happiness**
144 pages
1999



Hartmut Lange
Die Waldsteinsonate
Fünf Novellen

Diogenes

The ›Waldstein‹ Sonata
112 pages
1984

🏆 **Award winner**