

**Erich Hackl**  
***If the Father Fits***

Published by Diogenes as *Anprobieren eines Vaters*  
Original title: *Anprobieren eines Vaters; zugleich etwas über Kindheit*



**Erich Hackl**  
***Anprobieren***  
***eines Vaters***  
*Geschichten und Erwägungen*

*Diogenes*

Haunting stories: The life of a child whose parents have forgotten to love him. A woman reluctant to speak about herself, on the verge of disappearing behind the veil of amnesia. A man guarding an extraordinary secret for the sake of love. A grandfather, knowing that his own children were forced to give up their lives for him, who is searching for his kidnapped grandchild. A revolutionary who continues to rise from the dead. Accounts of the ten commandments of a storyteller, of a land with two scales of justice, of a visit to an extraordinary museum, of how to divide a cube of sugar between ten people. And portraits of authors whose work is too important to be noticed by the literary scene.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
304 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
April 2004

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#### **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 Ecuveuil‹ anlässlich der 5. Buchmesse in Bordeaux für *Abschied von Sidonie*
- 1991 ›Evangelischer Buchpreis‹ des Deutschen Verbandes Evangelischer Büchereien 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

#### *If the Father Fits*

A phenomenon of European literature: the most unassuming of celebrities. – News, Vienna

The way in which Hackl finds his material can only be admired. He must be, simultaneously, a good listener, a gentle questioner, a reliable and trustworthy follower of trails and collector of information. From this material he creates texts both laconic and discreet – the silent, forgotten epics of contemporary history. – Siegrid Löffler

Erich Hackl









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

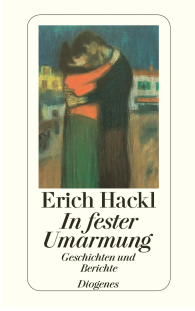
»The name Erich Hackl has become a trademark for wonderfully sensitive real-life stories unique in contemporary German literature.« – Tobias Becker / KulturSpiegel, Hamburg

»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

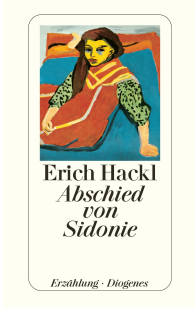
 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Im Leben mehr Glück</i> Reden und Schriften Diogenes</p> <p><b>More Happiness in Life</b> 432 pages 2019</p>	 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Am Seil</i> Eine Heldengeschichte Diogenes</p> <p><b>Roped Together</b> 128 pages 2018 🏆 <b>Bestseller</b></p>	 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Drei tränenlose Geschichten</i> Diogenes</p> <p><b>Three Tearless Stories</b> 160 pages 2014</p>	 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Dieses Buch gehört meiner Mutter</i> Diogenes</p> <p><b>This Book Belongs to My Mother</b> 128 pages 2013</p>
 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Familie Salzmann</i> Erzählung aus unserer Mitte Diogenes</p> <p><b>The Salzmann Family</b> 192 pages 2010</p>	 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Als ob ein Engel</i> Erzählung nach dem Leben Diogenes</p> <p><b>As If an Angel</b> 176 pages 2007</p>	 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Die Hochzeit von Auschwitz</i> Eine Begebenheit Diogenes</p> <p><b>Wedding at Auschwitz</b> 192 pages 2002 🏆 <b>Award winner</b></p>	 <p><b>Erich Hackl</b> <i>Entwurf einer Liebe auf den ersten Blick</i> Diogenes</p> <p><b>Love at First Sight</b> 80 pages 1999</p>



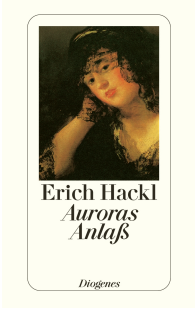
**In a Firm Embrace**  
336 pages  
1996  
🏆 **Award winner**



**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**