

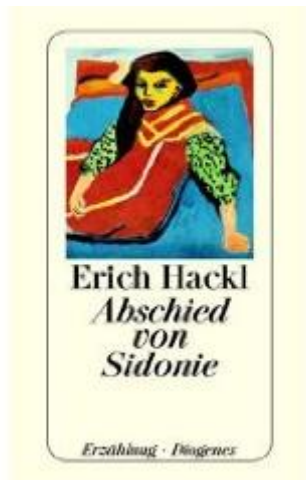
Erich Hackl



Biography: Born on the 26th of May 1954 in Steyr, Upper Austria. There he completed secondary school, followed by studies of German and Spanish at the universities of Salzburg, Salamanca and Malaga. From 1977 he was a lecturer for German language and Austrian literature at the University of Madrid, from 1981 until 1990 at the institute of Romance studies at the University of Vienna. Since 1983 he has been an independent author. Numerous journeys have taken him to various countries in South America. Erich Hackl is a member of the German academy for language and poetry in Darmstadt.

Text source: Wikipedia

Photo: fantasticfiction.co.uk



Summary:

Prototype for this book is “Die Fragenden” by Peter Haertling. This case study is based on factual events. In 1933 in Steyr a dark skinned girl was found in front of the hospital with the name “Sidonie Adlersburg”. The family Breirather takes on the child as foster parents, and the child lives there in loving care with them. In March 1943 the family is asked to return Sidonie to her biological mother. Neither the mayor, nor the guardian, nor the school director intervene. Sidonie dies a few weeks after deportation in the concentration camp Auschwitz.

Photo: Buchumschlag Diogenes

Recension:

The sense of integrity and sincerity which fascinated me as well as the others, as well as the precise research of the documents and facts and their rendition are the reasons as to why we have chosen this book. It is not only from an Austrian point of view an important theme which should not be confined merely to the past, because coming to terms with our recent history was and is still suppressed. This search for evidence and recording of valuable thoughts are a source of help for the weaker members of our society.

Written: “Full of empathy which means with urgency against the mute mourning...” says Erich Hackl himself at one of his readings for school children. This book is part of the canon of reading material in the Austrian schools.

By Elisabeth Marek