

# Diogenes

Slawomir Mrozek & Chaval (III.)  
*Life for Beginners*

Published by Diogenes as *Das Leben für Anfänger*



We are all alive and yet we are all dilettantes, finding it hard to cope in a world where yesterday everyone was dancing to techno music and now the tango is all the rage, where one is either unemployed or working oneself to death, where footballers suddenly start to look like women and Germany's women's team performs better at the Football World Cup than the ›stronger sex‹. In times such as these, we need help. With humour and a refined turn of phrase, Mrozek tackles the absurdity of our existence. The more grotesque and absurd his tips are, the more they are tangible and concrete – and the more amusing for the reader!

## Book factsheet

General Fiction, Humour  
192 pages  
9.5 x 15.5 cm  
October 2004

World rights are handled by Diogenes

**Rights currently sold:**  
French (Noir sur Blanc)  
Greek (Grammata)  
Italian (Giunti)  
Spanish/world (Quaderns)

### 🎬 Movie adaptations

- 1978: Amor**  
Director: Jerzy Lipman  
Cast: Andy Pap, Martin Lüttge, Ingeborg Lapsien, Dieter Prochnow
- 1966: The Enchanted Night**  
Director: George R. Foa  
Cast: Bernard Finch, Dudley Foster, Margaret Nolan, Richard Pearson
- 1966: En förtrollad natt**  
Director: Yngve Nordwall  
Cast: John Harryson, Nils Nygren, Kerstin Tidelius
- 1964: Das Martyrium des Peter O'Hey**  
Director: Peter Lilenthal  
Cast: Angelika Hurwicz, Joachim Wichmann
- 1963: Striptease**  
Director: Peter Lilenthal  
Cast: Max Haufler, Joachim Wichmann

### 🏅 Awards

- 2012 Ehrendoktor der polnischen Universität Śląski
- 2006 Deutsch-Polnischer Literaturpreis  
›Samuel-Bogumil-Linde-Preis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2000 Am siebten Internationalen Budapest Buchfestival erhält Mrozek den Budapest Grand Prix
- 1994 Erster Preis für ›Liebe auf der Krim‹ (Milosc na Krymie) beim Wettbewerb um das beste Theaterstück in Paris
- 1993 Hitar-Petar-Preis des Hauses für Satire und Humor in Gabrowo, Bulgarien
- 1987 Franz-Kafka-Literaturpreis, Klosterneuburg, Österreich
- 1984 Jahrespreis des ›Polnischen Schriftsterverbandes in der Fremde‹, London
- 1972 Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur
- 1964 Prix de l'Humour Noir für ›Der Elefant‹ (Slon)
- 1954 ›Julian-Brun-Preis‹ für journalistische Arbeiten

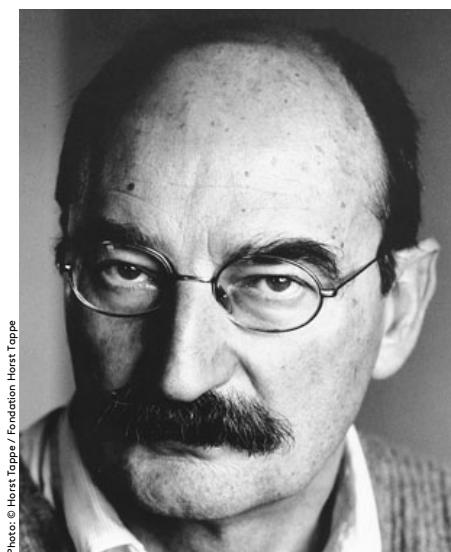


Photo © Horst Toppe / Fondation Horst Toppe

Sławomir Mrożek was born in Borzecin, Poland, in 1930. He was first known as a caricaturist and author of satirical short stories. His plays (*Tango*, *The Emigrants*, *Striptease*, and many others) made him world famous. In 1968 he went into exile. After living many years in Paris and later in Mexico, he returned to Poland in 1996 and spent the final years of his life in southern France. He died on August 15, 2013 in Nice.

## Praise

### *Life for Beginners*

»Mrożek's literature is addictive.« – El País, Madrid

»Mrożek is a masterly storyteller and a sharpshooter with a harpoon.« – Chicago Tribune

### Sławomir Mrożek

»Mrożek's literature is addictive.« – El País, Barcelona

»The author, known primarily as a playwright, reveals himself as a writer of incisive prose who captures the absurdity of reality and its interaction with unreality in polished, witty formulations.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

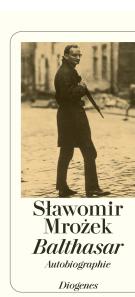
»Brilliant [...] the writer is an Aesop for our times.« – Publishers' Weekly, New York



*Journal 1962 - 1969*  
544 pages  
2014



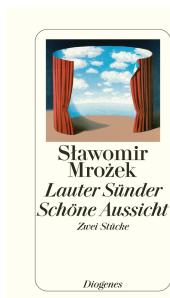
*Carnival or The First Wife of Adam*  
80 pages  
2014



*Baltazar*  
384 pages  
2007



*Life for the Advanced*  
240 pages  
2006



*All Sinners and A Lovely View*  
208 pages  
2002



*Lolo*  
304 pages  
2000



*The Doppelgänger*  
272 pages  
2000



*My Unknown Friend*  
192 pages  
1999



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Amor*  
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Amor  
544 pages  
1998

Movie Adaptation



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Emigranten*  
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Emigrants  
400 pages  
1997



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Der Perverse*  
und andere  
Geschichten

Diogenes

The Pervert  
272 pages  
1995



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Watzlaff*  
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Vatzlav  
272 pages  
1994

Movie Adaptation



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Liebe auf  
der Krim*  
Eine tragische Komödie  
in drei Akten  
Diogenes



Sławomir Mrożek  
*Auf hoher See*  
*Striptease*  
Zwei Einakter  
Diogenes



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Die  
Geheimnisse  
des Jenseits*  
Diogenes



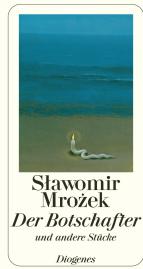
Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Tango*  
Schauspiel  
in drei Akten  
Diogenes

Love on Crimea  
208 pages  
1994

Out at Sea  
80 pages  
1994

Secrets of the Beyond  
256 pages  
1993

Tango  
368 pages  
1993



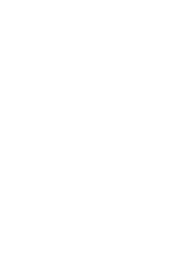
Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Der Botschafter*  
und andere Stücke  
Diogenes



Sławomir Mrożek  
*Striptease*  
und andere Stücke  
Diogenes



Sławomir  
Mrożek  
*Die Giraffe*  
und andere  
Erzählungen  
Diogenes



The Ambassador  
544 pages  
1993

Striptease  
304 pages  
1992

The Giraffe  
320 pages  
1992

Movie Adaptation