

Slawomir Mrozek
My Unknown Friend

Published by Diogenes as *Mein unbekannter Freund*
Original title: *Moj przyjaciel nieznamy*



**Slawomir
Mrozek**
***Mein unbekannter
Freund***
und andere Geschichten
Diogenes

Not every present given with the best of intentions arouses unmitigated pleasure in the recipient. A live monkey, for example, can cause enormous problems, particularly when it is a diplomatic gift and cannot simply be passed on to the zoo...

Chat about the ›Latest Story‹ is one of thirty-seven witty short stories about the element of the absurd in everyday life. A fox and a cockerel appear as figures in a fable, a clergyman makes a deal with the devil, fairy-tale characters are transported into brutal reality. And the richness of the writer's imagination and cryptic humour makes amusing, thought-provoking reading.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
192 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
October 1999

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Translation rights currently sold:

Catalan (Quaderns)
Chinese/CN (Guangdong Flower City
Publishing)
French (Albin Michel)
Polish (Noir sur Blanc)
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 Lilienthal
Cast: Angelika Hurwicz, Joachim Wichmann

1963: Striptease

Director: Peter Lilienthal
Cast: Max Haufler, Joachim Wichmann

🏆 Awards

- 2012 Ehrendoktor der polnischen Universität Slaski
- 2006 Deutsch-Polnischer Literaturpreis ›Samuel-Bogumil-Linde-Preis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2000 Am siebten Internationalen Budapester 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 Schriftstellerverbandes in der Fremde‹, London
- 1972 Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur
- 1964 Prix de l'Humour Noir für ›Der Elefant‹ (Slon)



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.

Awards (cont'd)

1954 ›Julian-Brun-Preis‹ für journalistische Arbeiten

Praise

My Unknown Friend

›Mrożek is a humorist – and his intentions are especially serious. He is a satirist – and he mocks the world in order to improve it. He is a man of the absurd – and he focuses on the nonsensical in order to evoke reason.« – Marcel Reich-Ranicki

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

Sławomir Mrozek

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›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

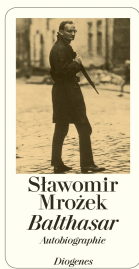
›Brilliant [...] the writer is an Aesop for our times.« – Publishers' Weekly, New York



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



Life for Beginners
192 pages
2004



All Sinners and A Lovely View
208 pages
2002



Lolo
304 pages
2000



The Doppelgänger
272 pages
2000



Slawomir
Mrozek
Amor
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Amor
544 pages
1998

Movie Adaptation



Slawomir
Mrozek
Emigranten
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Emigrants
400 pages
1997



Slawomir
Mrozek
Der Perverse
und andere
Geschichten

Diogenes

The Pervert
272 pages
1995



Slawomir
Mrozek
Watzlaff
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Vatzlav
272 pages
1994



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Liebe auf
der Krim*
Eine tragische Komödie
in drei Akten

Diogenes

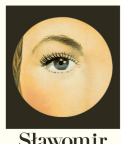
Love on Crimea
208 pages
1994



Slawomir Mrozek
Auf hoher See
Striptease
Zwei Einakter

Diogenes

Out at Sea
80 pages
1994



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Die
Geheimnisse
des Jenseits*

Diogenes

Secrets of the Beyond
256 pages
1993



Slawomir
Mrozek
Tango
Schauspiel
in drei Akten

Diogenes

Tango
368 pages
1993



Slawomir
Mrozek
Der Botschafter
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

The Ambassador
544 pages
1993



Slawomir
Mrozek
Striptease
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Striptease
304 pages
1992

Movie Adaptation



Slawomir
Mrozek
Die Giraffe
und andere
Erzählungen

Diogenes

The Giraffe
320 pages
1992