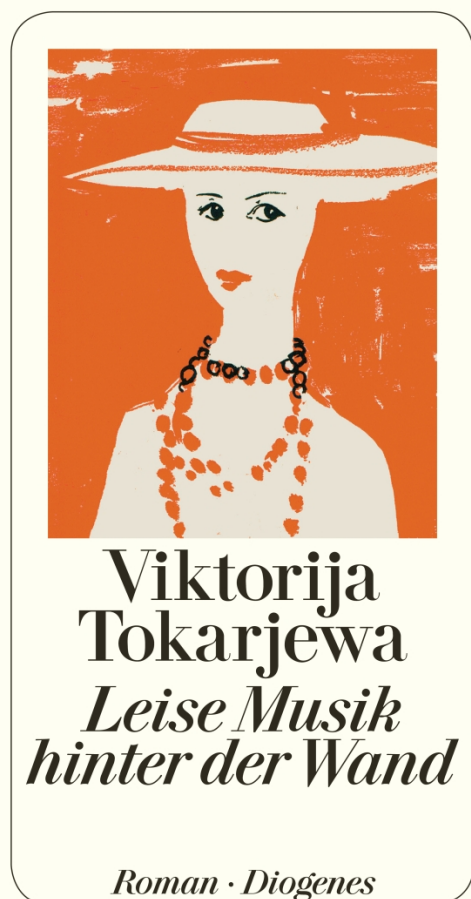


**Viktorija Tokarjewa**  
***Soft Music Behind the Wall***

Published by Diogenes as *Leise Musik hinter der Wand*  
Original title: *Tichaja muzika za stenoj*



Who says that true love only comes once in a lifetime? Someone must have. But they were wrong.

Ada's grandparents had to keep their aristocratic origins a secret in the Soviet Union, but still managed to hold onto their principles, along with some of the family jewels. Ada's mother is a gifted singer at the Bolshoi Theatre. And Ada herself?

Ada had no clearly defined talents, apart from the talent of pleasing people. Everyone liked her, without exception: young and old, clever and stupid, cats and dogs, military and bureaucrats. And Ada herself didn't discriminate; she just wanted to love and be loved, nothing more.

The times change: Perestroika makes its entrance; the Soviet Union disintegrates, the era of Mafia-like capitalism dawns. But Ada is still Ada – even though the objects of her affection change.

Whether a man is a kgb agent or a dissident, Ada always loves him for who he is beneath that. This is the story of a woman who never stops believing in happiness.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
176 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
April 2013

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suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

### Movie adaptations

#### 1999: *Schwiegermutter*

Director: Dagmar Hirtz  
Cast: Christiane Hörbiger

#### 1993: *Ich bin. Du bist. Er ist.*

Director: Stephan Polonski  
Cast: Rosemarie Fendel, Mathias Hermann

### Awards

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| ka   | 1. Preis beim 10. Internationalen Moskauer Filmfestival für den Film ›Mimino‹.  |
| ka   | 1. Preis beim 11. Internationalen Moskauer Filmfestival für den Jugendfilm ›Es ging ein Hund übers Klavier‹ (›Sla sobaka po rojale‹). |
| 1981 | 1. Preis beim Internationalen Dokumentarfilmfestival für den Film ›Reden wir mal in meiner Sprache‹ (›Pogovorim na moem jazyke‹).     |

### Praise

Viktorija Tokarjewa

»As focused as Chekhov. Great art painted with a light hand, superb.« – Harald Ries / Westfalenpost, Hagen

»Viktorija Tokarjewa's short stories are X-rays of the soul.« – Literaturnaja Gaseta, Moscow

»Viktorija Tokarjewa writes like the Trans-Siberian Railway on ecstasy – full steam ahead to total catastrophe!« – Doris Dörrie



Photo: © Isolda Ohlbaum

Viktorija Tokarjewa, born in St. Petersburg in 1937, worked as a music teacher before studying scriptwriting at the Institute of Cinematography in Moscow. 15 films have been made from her scripts. She published her first story in 1964 and since then has devoted herself entirely to writing. Today she is one of Russia's most popular and bestselling authors. She now lives near Moscow.



**My Men**  
176 pages  
2017



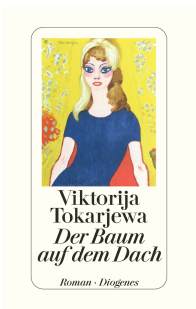
**Even Bitches Deserve Pity**  
304 pages  
2016



**One of Many**  
208 pages  
2014



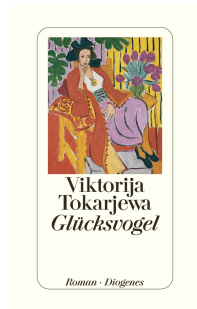
**All my Enemies**  
256 pages  
2011



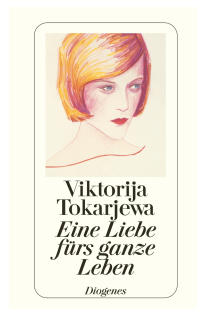
**The Tree on the Roof**  
208 pages  
2010



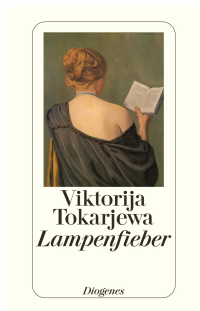
**Love's Terror**  
224 pages  
2008



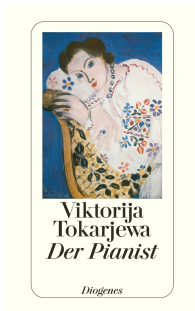
**Under a Lucky Star**  
304 pages  
2005



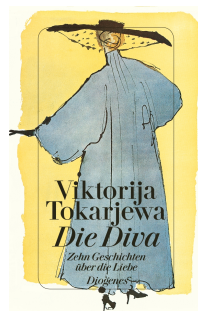
**A Lifelong Love**  
160 pages  
2003



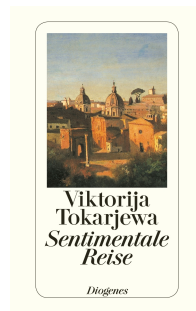
**Stage Fright**  
272 pages  
1999



**The Pianist**  
176 pages  
1997




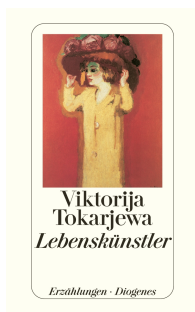
**Diva**  
352 pages  
1995



**Sentimental Journey**  
192 pages  
1994



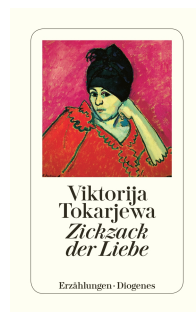
**Should I or Shouldn't I?**  
304 pages  
1993  
 **Movie Adaptation**



**The Hedonist**  
224 pages  
1992



**Mara**  
120 pages  
1991



**The Zigzag of Love**  
352 pages  
1990