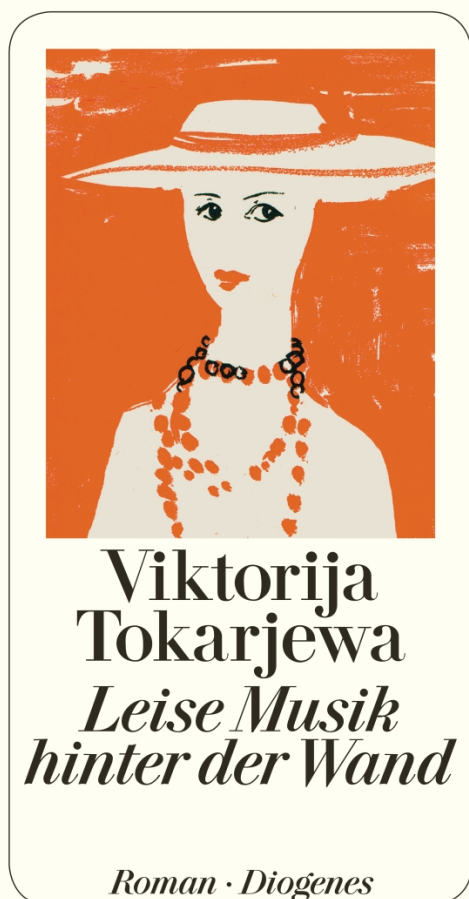


Viktorija Tokarjewa
Soft Music Behind the Wall

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

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
April 2013

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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 11. Internationalen Moskauer Filmfestival für den Jugendfilm »Es ging ein Hund übers Klavier« (»Sla sobaka po rojale«). |
| ka | 1. Preis beim 10. Internationalen Moskauer Filmfestival für den Film »Mimino«. |
| 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



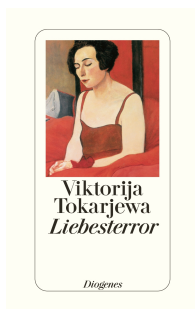
One of Many
208 pages
2014



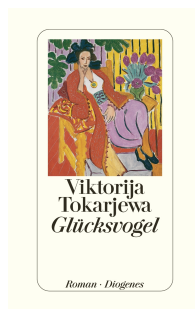
All my Enemies
256 pages
2011



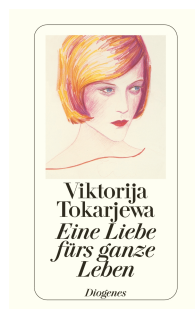
The Tree on the Roof
208 pages
2010



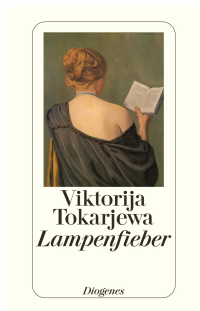
Love's Terror
224 pages
2008



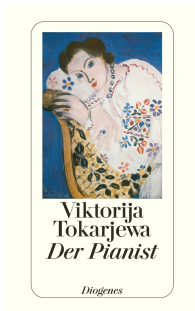
Under a Lucky Star
304 pages
2005



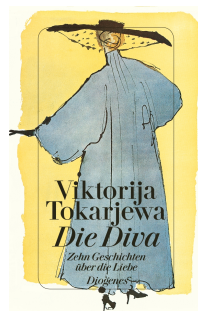
A Lifelong Love
160 pages
2003



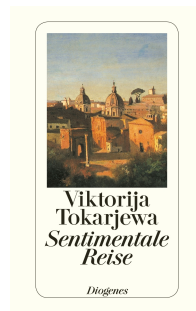
Stage Fright
272 pages
1999



The Pianist
176 pages
1997




Diva
352 pages
1995



Sentimental Journey
192 pages
1994



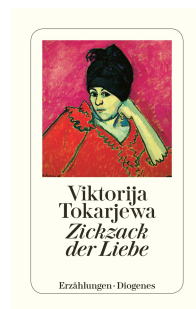
Should I or Shouldn't I?
304 pages
1993
 **Movie Adaptation**



The Hedonist
224 pages
1992



Mara
120 pages
1991



The Zigzag of Love
352 pages
1990