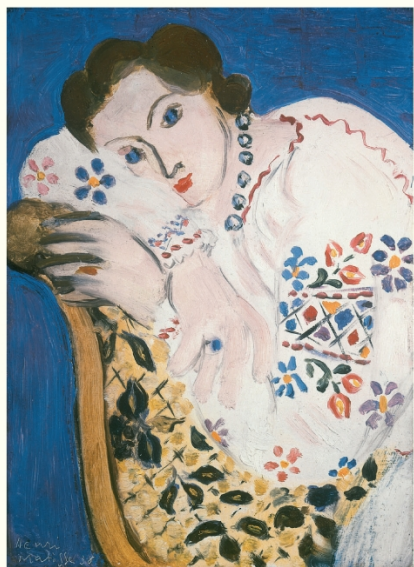


# Diogenes

Viktorija Tokarjewa  
*The Pianist*

Published by Diogenes as *Der Pianist*



Viktorija  
Tokarjewa  
*Der Pianist*

*Diogenes*

Igor Mesjazew, in his mid-forties, used to have but one passion: music. His career as a pianist was the most important thing in his life, and second place was taken by his family: his self-sacrificing wife, his pretty daughter who is shortly to be married, and his difficult but dearly beloved son. But then a vamp by the name of Ljulja disturbs the idyll and starts a ball rolling which escalates into an avalanche. Lena's husband dies after a long illness. Desperately, the grieving Lena tries to find consolation in her work as a make-up artist, and she travels with a film team to the wide expanses of Central Russia to make a film on location. The whole crew is busy and cheerful, but to Lena everything seems pointless because she is chained to her memories. Then the photographer Jelissejew enters her life and promises her Cosmic Love. The thirty-five year old English actor Nick is out of a job and is forced to earn his living as best he can. He discovers an advertisement in the paper by a Russian emigrant who is looking for a companion to accompany him to his old homeland. The money is unusually good, and Nick takes the job on. But one evening at a dinner consisting of Caviar by the Spoonful, Nick realises that the aged millionaire is interested not only in his work. Three passionate stories about love and death, power and money.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
176 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 1997

### Contact:

Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,  
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne  
Hégelé, Film Rights Manager,  
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

### 📺 Movie adaptations

#### 1999: *Schwiegermutter*

Director: Dagmar Hirtz  
Cast: Christiane Hörbiger

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

Director: Stephan Polomski  
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« (»Pagovorim na moem jazyke«).

### Praise

Viktorija Tokarjewa

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

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

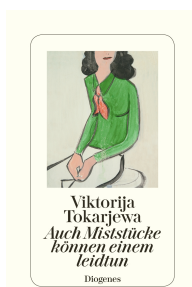
»Viktorija Tokarjewa's short stories are X-rays of the soul.« – Literaturnaja Gaseta, Moscow



Viktorija Tokarjewa, 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.



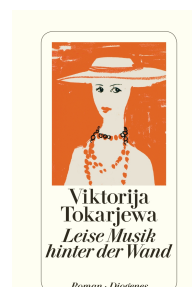
**My Men**  
176 pages  
2017



**Even Bitches Deserve Pity**  
304 pages  
2016



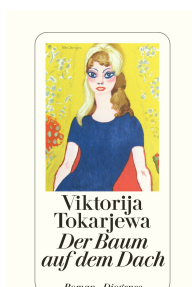
**One of Many**  
208 pages  
2014



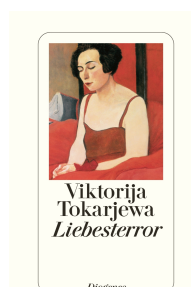
**Soft Music Behind the Wall**  
176 pages  
2013



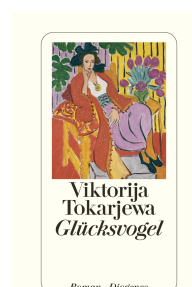
**All my Enemies**  
256 pages  
2011



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



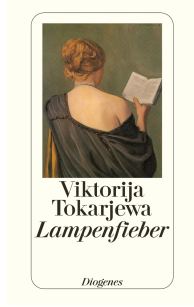
**Love's Terror**  
224 pages  
2008



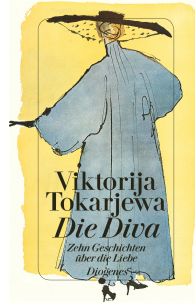
**Under a Lucky Star**  
304 pages  
2005



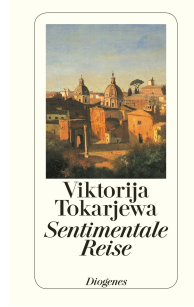
**A Lifelong Love**  
160 pages  
2003



**Stage Fright**  
272 pages  
1999



**Diva**  
352 pages  
1995



**Sentimental Journey**  
192 pages  
1994



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

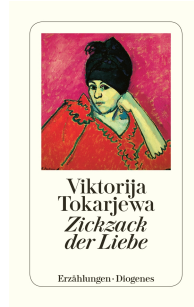
 **Movie Adaptation**



**The Hedonist**  
224 pages  
1992



**Mara**  
120 pages  
1991



**The Zigzag of Love**  
352 pages  
1990