

# Diogenes

## Viktorija Tokarjewa *Should I or Shouldn't I?*

Published by Diogenes as *Sag ich's oder sag ich's nicht?*  
Original title: *Skazat' - ne skazat'*



## Viktorija Tokarjewa *Sag ich's oder sag ich's nicht?*

*Erzählungen · Diogenes*

»Shall I say it or not?« is the fraught question which accompanies the life of a young woman like a leitmotif. Now a mature woman, she looks back on the many opportunities she lost through her indecision - and when a last opportunity arises she finally takes the plunge. »I am, you are, he is« is the story of an unmarried mother whose whole life revolves around her son. One day, he brings a girl home. His mother does not take to the young woman and waits impatiently for the visitor to leave. Then her son tells her that she is here to stay - if she leaves, he will leave too since he married her a few days previously... »Kirka and the officer« would, in the normal course of events, hardly have got to know each other since Kirka the painter would have been unlikely to have anything to do with such an ideologically minded old fossil who still believes in the uprightness of the communist party. But a postcard that went to the wrong address brings about a collision between two people with diametrically opposed philosophies.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature  
304 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 1993

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### 🎬 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

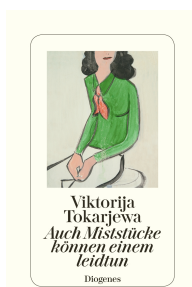
»Viktorija Tokarjewa's short stories are X-rays of the soul.« – Literaturnaja Gaseta, Moscow



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.



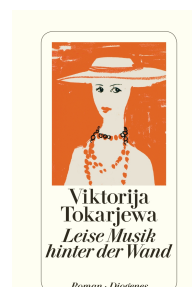
**My Men**  
176 pages  
2017



**Even Bitches Deserve Pity**  
304 pages  
2016



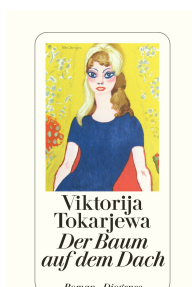
**One of Many**  
208 pages  
2014



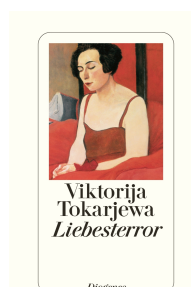
**Soft Music Behind the Wall**  
176 pages  
2013



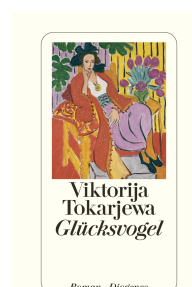
**All my Enemies**  
256 pages  
2011



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



**Love's Terror**  
224 pages  
2008



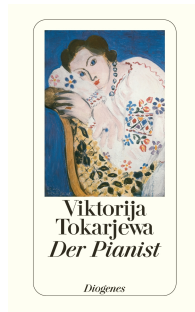
**Under a Lucky Star**  
304 pages  
2005



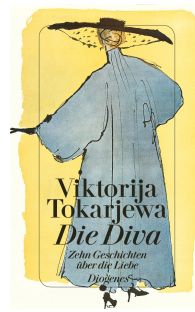
**A Lifelong Love**  
160 pages  
2003



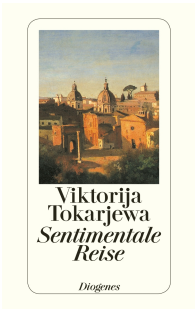
**Stage Fright**  
272 pages  
1999



**The Pianist**  
176 pages  
1997



**Diva**  
352 pages  
1995



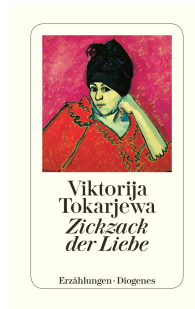
**Sentimental Journey**  
192 pages  
1994



**The Hedonist**  
224 pages  
1992



**Mara**  
120 pages  
1991



**The Zigzag of Love**  
352 pages  
1990