Diogenes

Book factsheet

Andrzej Szczypiorski
The Shadow Catcher

Published by Diogenes as *Den Schatten fangen*
Original title: *Zlowic cie*



Poland in the summer of 1939: the threat of war hangs in the air like a storm cloud over the picturesque countryside. Fifteen-year-old Krzys, having his first love affair, bids a wistful farewell to his childhood memories of the country summers: Sunday afternoons in his grandmother's sun-soaked living room, pony riding with the story-telling stableboy, summer outings in the country. He has a vague premonition that the Poland of his childhood will soon be a thing of the past. Thus the end of Krzys' childhood and the end of a Polish era approach, and Krzys just manages to catch their shadow. This novel, which was published in Poland for the first time in 1976, is full of delicate poetry and wistful, nostalgic pictures reminiscent of scenarios by Thomas Mann.

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
December 1993

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Translation rights currently sold:
English/USA (Grove /Atlantic)

Awards

1998	Goldene Feder (Publizistischer Preis der Verlagsgruppe Bauer).
1997	Die Unicef wählt ihn zum ›Botschafter des guten Willens‹.
1997	Verleihung des Ordens ›Polonia Restituta‹ durch den Präsidenten der Republik für seine Verdienste um Polen.
1995	Zum Mitglied im deutschen Orden ›Pour le mérite‹ ernannt.
1995	Andreas-Gryphius-Preis der Künstlergilde e.V.
1995	Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Anerkennung für seine Verdienste um die deutsch-polnischen Beziehungen.
1994	Dortmunder Initial der Arbeitsgemeinschaft 1. Dortmunder Buchmesse.
1994	Herder-Preis der Stiftung F.V.S. zu Hamburg.
1991	Preis der Warschauer Buchhändler für ›Nacht, Tag und Nacht‹.
1990	Kunst- und Kulturpreis der deutschen Katholiken, Berlin.
1989	Nelly-Sachs-Preis, Kulturpreis der Stadt Dortmund.
1988	Wichtigster polnischer Literaturpreis, Wiadnomosci Literackie, für ›Die schöne Frau Seidenman‹.
1988	Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur.
1972	Preis des polnischen PEN-Clubs für ›Eine Messe für die Stadt Arras‹.
1965	Zaiks-Preis für Hörspiele.
1964	Kavalierskreuz des Ordens Polonia Restituta.

Praise

The Shadow Catcher

»Delicately drawn ... subtly artful ... Mr. Szczypiorski eloquently evokes the purity and intensity of this young mind as well as its finely wrought complexity.« – The Wall Street Journal, New York

»Szczypiorski's spare evocative prose ... takes us inside the heart of his young protagonist and makes the aches of that heart all too real.« – The Washington Post

Andrzej Szczypiorski

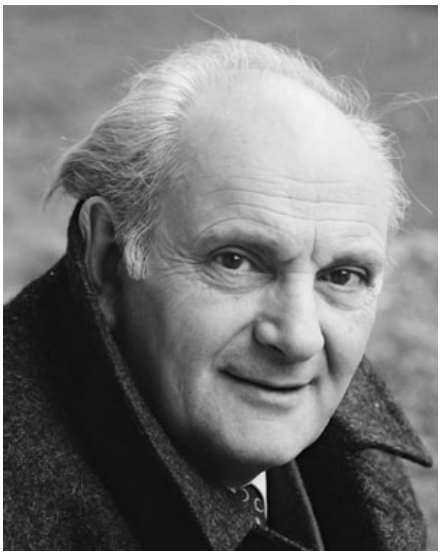
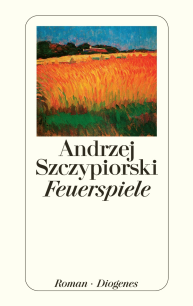
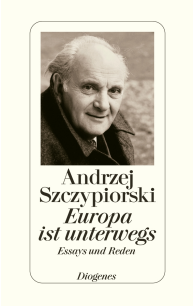


Photo: © Isolde Ohlbaum

Andrzej Szczypiorski (1928 – 2000) was born in Warsaw, took part in the city's uprising against German occupation in 1944 and was subsequently sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. After the war, he worked as an author and publisher and became a member of the executive board of the Polish PEN Club and the Writer's Association. In December 1981, he was interned in a camp and remained a prisoner there until spring 1982. In 1989, he was chosen as a candidate by Solidarnosc and elected to the Polish Senate by the people. He received the Austrian ›State Award for European Literature‹ and the ›Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany‹.



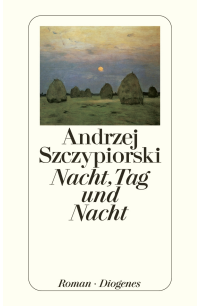
Pyrotechnics
368 pages
2000



Europe on the Road
368 pages
1996



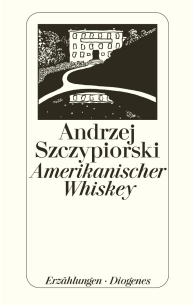
Self-Portrait With Woman
256 pages
1994



Night, Day and Night
304 pages
1991



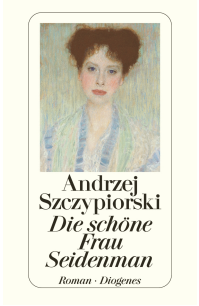
Notes on the State of Things
256 pages
1990
Award winner



American Whiskey
264 pages
1989
Award winner



A Mass for Arras
200 pages
1988
Award winner



The Beautiful Mrs Seidenman
272 pages
1988

Praise (cont'd)

»His narrative style is calm and leisurely, yet pacey; his writing is composed, but always with wit and vigour.« – Marcel Reich-Ranicki / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung