

## Viktorija Tokarjewa *The Hedonist*

Published by Diogenes as *Lebenskünstler*  
Original title: *Pjat' figur na postamente / Centr pamjati / Centrovka / Echal greka*



## Viktorija Tokarjewa *Lebenskünstler*

*Erzählungen · Diogenes*

### Book factsheet

General Fiction  
224 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
February 1992

Contact:  
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,  
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne  
Héglé, 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 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 Gazeta, Moscow

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

›Artist of Life‹ is the story of Tamara whose husband, a famous sculptor, starts drinking again after ten years of abstinence. During a business trip to the Ukraine Tamara meets a young man called Jura who is totally different from her husband. Should she start a new life with him?

›Centre of Memory‹ tells the story of Warwara Timofejewa. One day, the cups in the cupboard jump out at her. Since even the militiaman whom she has summoned is unable to explain why there should be an earthquake in Warwara's apartment of all places, Warwara starts thinking back over the past and comes to the conclusion that it must be a divine punishment for a youthful sin...

›Balance‹ tells the story of a young woman who decides to commit suicide. She wraps herself up in a wet sheet and goes out on to the balcony in the icy cold. But something she observes on her neighbour's balcony revives in her interest in life.

›A Greek went out...‹ is the beginning of a nursery rhyme which little Pashka cannot forget. Patiently, a young man explains the rhyme to him. The young man also plays the role of ›uncle‹ to his own son from whom he lives apart, coming and going as he pleases and enjoying his freedom. After living with his girlfriend Mika for some years he feels that ties must be avoided at all costs. This, however, is not good enough for Mika, and when the musician flies off on holiday to southern climes alone, Mika takes steps of which he would not believed her to be capable.

---



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.

---



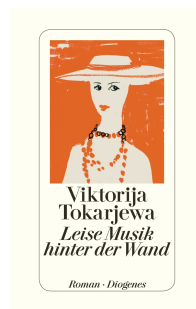
**My Men**  
176 pages  
2017



**Even Bitches Deserve Pity**  
304 pages  
2016



**One of Many**  
208 pages  
2014



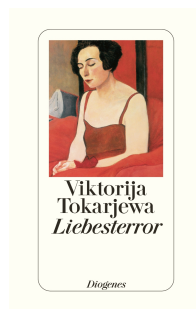
**Soft Music Behind the Wall**  
176 pages  
2013



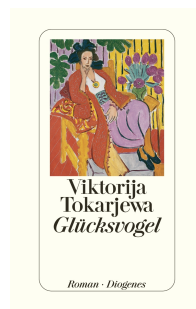
**All my Enemies**  
256 pages  
2011



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



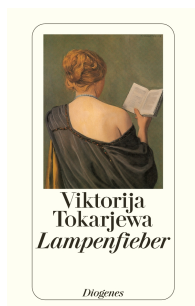
**Love's Terror**  
224 pages  
2008



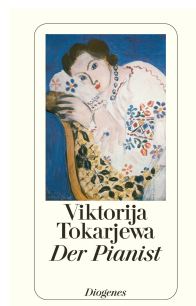
**Under a Lucky Star**  
304 pages  
2005



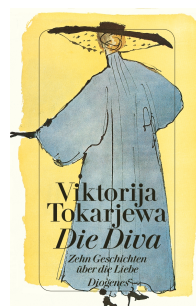
**A Lifelong Love**  
160 pages  
2003



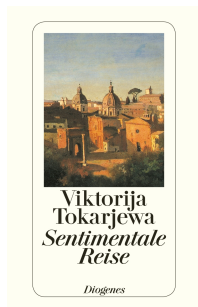
**Stage Fright**  
272 pages  
1999



**The Pianist**  
176 pages  
1997



**Diva**  
352 pages  
1995



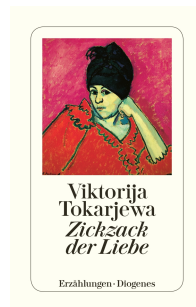
**Sentimental Journey**  
192 pages  
1994



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



**Mara**  
120 pages  
1991



**The Zigzag of Love**  
352 pages  
1990