

Viktorija Tokarjewa
The Pianist

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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

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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‹ (›Pogovorim 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

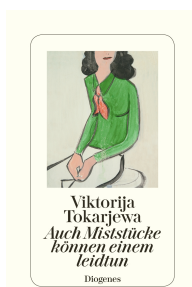
›Viktorija Tokarjewa's short stories are X-rays of the soul.‹ – Literaturnaja Gaseta, Moscow



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.



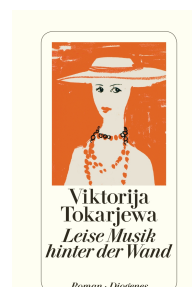
My Men
176 pages
2017



Even Bitches Deserve Pity
304 pages
2016



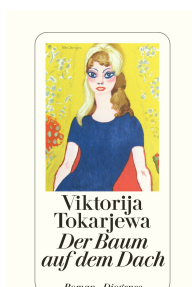
One of Many
208 pages
2014



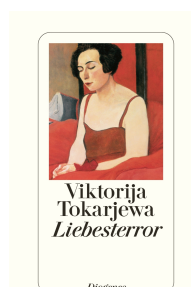
Soft Music Behind the Wall
176 pages
2013



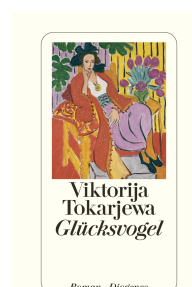
All my Enemies
256 pages
2011



The Tree on the Roof
208 pages
2010



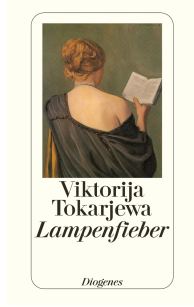
Love's Terror
224 pages
2008



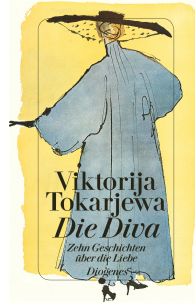
Under a Lucky Star
304 pages
2005



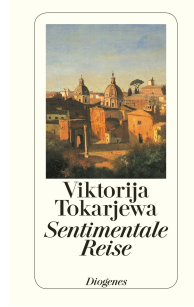
A Lifelong Love
160 pages
2003



Stage Fright
272 pages
1999



Diva
352 pages
1995

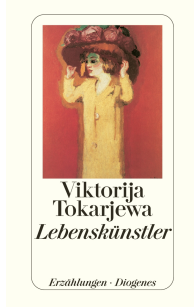


Sentimental Journey
192 pages
1994



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