

Diogenes

Viktorija Tokarjewa
Under a Lucky Star

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Original title: *Ptica Scastija*



Viktorija
Tokarjewa
Glücksvogel

Roman · Diogenes

At age fourteen, when someone hides her shoes, she runs barefoot out of the house; at sixteen, she is determined to marry a millionaire from the West; at eighteen, she lands herself the first tourist she can find and travels with him to Germany. But life in the golden West is completely different than the glossy magazines, which Nadka secretly read in Moscow, had led her to believe. Her first husband throws her out after a fight, while the second turns out to be a hopeless alcoholic. Nadka – now with a baby on her arm – searches in vain for a job. Eventually she becomes the mistress of a wealthy Frenchman with whom she moves to Paris. He lavishes her with comforts, but keeps her well out of his friends' way. And Nadka has soon had quite enough of being the clandestine lover. Following the collapse of Communism, it is now possible to make one's fortune in Russia as well, as long as one is clever and unscrupulous – which has never been a problem for Nadka. She returns to Moscow and enters the real estate business. For Nadka, difficulties are only tough nuts that have to be cracked. There is no conflict from which Nadka does not emerge victorious. But even Nadka has a weakness: she falls in love with a married man, and a desperate tug-of-war begins. It is the first battle that threatens to get the better of her.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
304 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
March 2005

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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



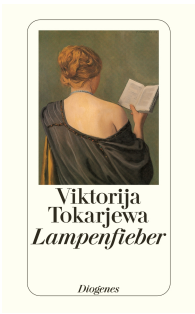
The Tree on the Roof
208 pages
2010



Love's Terror
224 pages
2008



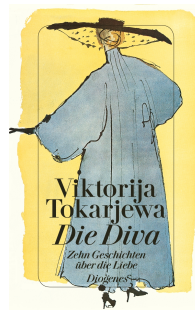
A Lifelong Love
160 pages
2003



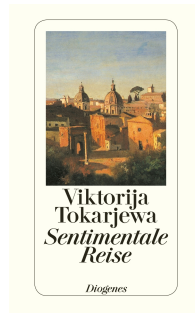
Stage Fright
272 pages
1999



The Pianist
176 pages
1997



Diva
352 pages
1995



Sentimental Journey
192 pages
1994



Should I or Shouldn't I?
304 pages
1993

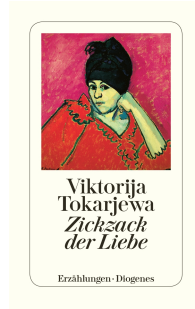
 **Movie Adaptation**



The Hedonist
224 pages
1992



Mara
120 pages
1991



The Zigzag of Love
352 pages
1990