

Diogenes

Slawomir Mrozek & Chaval (Ill.)
Life for Beginners

Published by Diogenes as *Das Leben für Anfänger*



We are all alive and yet we are all dilettantes, finding it hard to cope in a world where yesterday everyone was dancing to techno music and now the tango is all the rage, where one is either unemployed or working oneself to death, where footballers suddenly start to look like women and Germany's women's team performs better at the Football World Cup than the ›stronger sex‹. In times such as these, we need help. With humour and a refined turn of phrase, Mrozek tackles the absurdity of our existence. The more grotesque and absurd his tips are, the more they are tangible and concrete – and the more amusing for the reader!

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Humour
192 pages
9.5 × 15.5 cm
October 2004

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:

Greek (Grammata)
Italian (Giunti)
Spanish/world (Quaderns)

📺 Movie adaptations

1978: Amor

Director: Jerzy Lipman
Cast: Andy Pap, Martin Lüttge, Ingeborg Lapsien, Dieter Prochnow

1966: The Enchanted Night

Director: George R. Foa
Cast: Bernard Finch, Dudley Foster, Margaret Nolan, Richard Pearson

1966: En förtrollad natt

Director: Yngve Nordwall
Cast: John Harryson, Nils Nygren, Kerstin Tidelius

1964: Das Martyrium des Peter O'Hey

Director: Peter Lilienthal
Cast: Angelika Hurwicz, Joachim Wichmann

1963: Striptease

Director: Peter Lilienthal
Cast: Max Haufler, Joachim Wichmann

🏆 Awards

- 2012 Ehrendoktor der polnischen Universität Slaski
- 2006 Deutsch-Polnischer Literaturpreis ›Samuel-Bogumil-Linde-Preis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2000 Am siebten Internationalen Budapester Buchfestival erhält Mrozek den Budapest Grand Prix
- 1994 Erster Preis für ›Liebe auf der Krim‹ (Milosc na Krymie) beim Wettbewerb um das beste Theaterstück in Paris
- 1993 Hitar-Petar-Preis des Hauses für Satire und Humor in Gabrowo, Bulgarien
- 1987 Franz-Kafka-Literaturpreis, Klosterneuburg, Österreich
- 1984 Jahrespreis des ›Polnischen Schriftstellerverbandes in der Fremde‹, London
- 1972 Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur
- 1964 Prix de l'Humour Noir für ›Der Elephant‹ (Slon)
- 1954 ›Julian-Brun-Preis‹ für journalistische Arbeiten



Sławomir Mrożek was born in Borzeczyn, Poland, in 1930. He was first known as a caricaturist and author of satirical short stories. His plays (*Tango*, *The Emigrants*, *Striptease*, and many others) made him world famous. In 1968 he went into exile. After living many years in Paris and later in Mexico, he returned to Poland in 1996 and spent the final years of his life in southern France. He died on August 15, 2013 in Nice.

Praise

Life for Beginners

»Mrożek's literature is addictive.« – El País, Madrid

»Mrożek is a masterly storyteller and a sharpshooter with a harpoon.« – Chicago Tribune

Sławomir Mrozek

»Mrożek's literature is addictive.« – El País, Barcelona

»The author, known primarily as a playwright, reveals himself as a writer of incisive prose who captures the absurdity of reality and its interaction with unreality in polished, witty formulations.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung

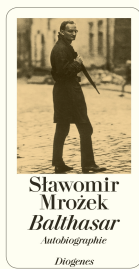
»Brilliant [...] the writer is an Aesop for our times.« – Publishers' Weekly, New York



Journal 1962 - 1969
544 pages
2014



Carnival or The First Wife of Adam
80 pages
2014



Baltazar
384 pages
2007



Life for the Advanced
240 pages
2006



All Sinners and A Lovely View
208 pages
2002



Lolo
304 pages
2000



The Doppelgänger
272 pages
2000



My Unknown Friend
192 pages
1999



Slawomir
Mrozek
Amor
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Amor
544 pages
1998

Movie Adaptation



Slawomir
Mrozek
Emigranten
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Emigrants
400 pages
1997



Slawomir
Mrozek
Der Perverse
und andere
Geschichten

Diogenes

The Pervert
272 pages
1995



Slawomir
Mrozek
Watzlaff
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Vatzlav
272 pages
1994



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Liebe auf
der Krim*
Eine tragische Komödie
in drei Akten

Diogenes

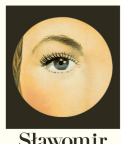
Love on Crimea
208 pages
1994



Slawomir Mrozek
Auf hoher See
S striptease

Diogenes

Out at Sea
80 pages
1994



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Die
Geheimnisse
des Jenseits*

Diogenes

Secrets of the Beyond
256 pages
1993



Slawomir
Mrozek
Tango
Schauspiel
in drei Akten

Diogenes

Tango
368 pages
1993



Slawomir
Mrozek
Der Botschafter
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

The Ambassador
544 pages
1993



Slawomir
Mrozek
Striptease
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Striptease
304 pages
1992

Movie Adaptation



Slawomir
Mrozek
Die Giraffe
und andere
Erzählungen

Diogenes

The Giraffe
320 pages
1992