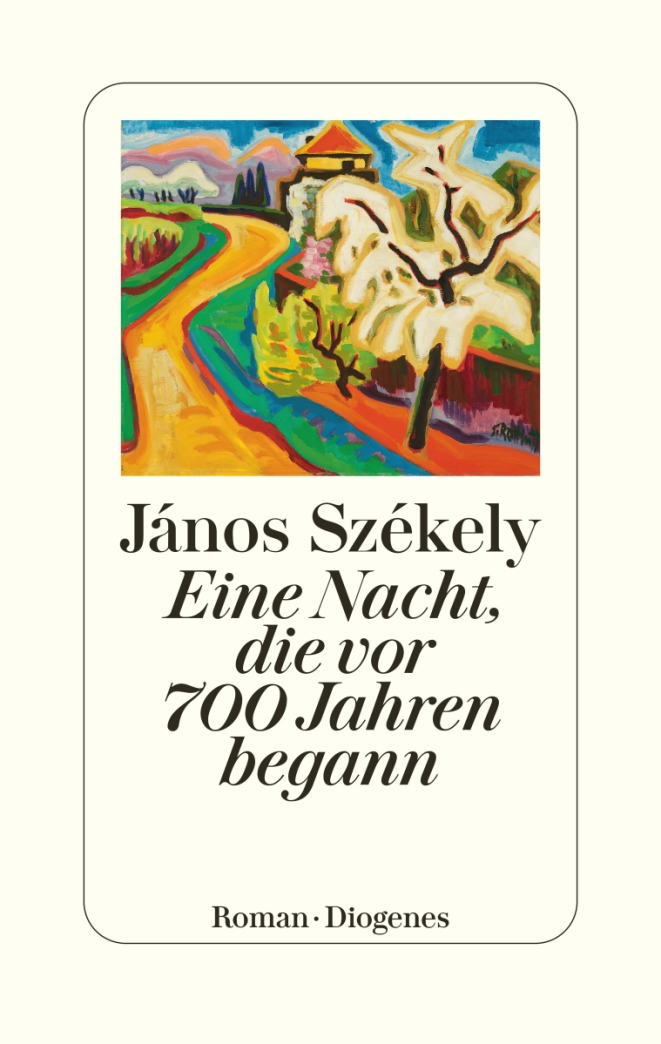
Diogenes

Book factsheet

János Székely
A Night That Began 700 Years Ago

Published by Diogenes as *Eine Nacht, die vor 700 Jahren begann*
Original title: *A Night That Began 700 Years Ago*



Edited by Silvia Zanovello. With an afterword by Sacha Batthyany.
In the summer of 1944, while starving German soldiers plunder starving Hungarian villages, in Kákásd the villagers working the land are asking themselves the same question they've been wondering for seven hundred years: how are they supposed to live on the pittance they receive from the local nobility? A strike could change everything. Yet in an age when human life is cheap and wheat is expensive, they have only a slim chance of success. Still, a young couple on the run and a local farmer start stirring up resistance – and village life begins to unravel.

Contemporary Literature
704 pages
11.6 × 18.4 × 3.6 cm
May 2023

World rights are handled by Diogenes

Film rights are handled by Diogenes

Rights currently sold:
Italian (Adelphi)
Turkish (Yapi Kredi)

Praise

A Night That Began 700 Years Ago

»An opus of great narratory power, a tableau of original, most contradictory and compassionately drawn characters. A panorama of the time when the entire insanity of violence arose.« – Cicero, Berlin

»He left the narrative conventions of the village novel untouched but imbued it with the dramaturgical experience and dialogic-scenic sensibility of a screenwriter.« – Lothar Müller / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

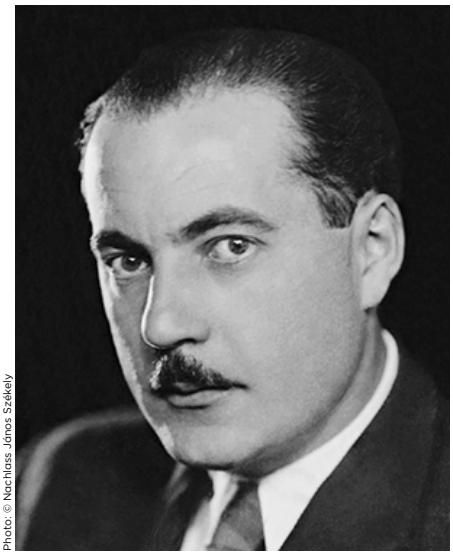
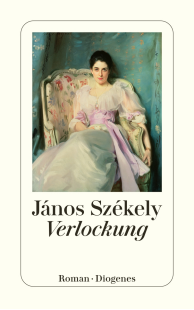


Photo: © Nachlass János Székely

János Székely (1901 - 1958) was born in Budapest and moved to Berlin at the age of eighteen to escape the Horthy regime. He wrote numerous screenplays for silent movie stars such as Brigitte Helm, Willy Fritsch and Marlene Dietrich. In 1934 Ernst Lubitsch invited him to work in Hollywood and Székely finally emigrated in 1938. Under the pen name John S. Toldy he was awarded the 1940 ›Academy Award for Best Story‹ for *Arise, My Love*.
Persecuted again during the McCarthy era, he lived in Mexico with his wife and daughter for several years, before accepting an offer from DEFA in East Berlin in 1957, where he died a year later.



Temptation
992 pages
2016
Bestseller