Diogenes

Book factsheet

Slawomir Mrozek
Love on Crimea

Published by Diogenes as *Liebe auf der Krim*
Original title: *Milosc na Kryme*

In a luxury hotel on the Crimea, around 1910, superfluous people kill time with tea parties. Characters from Checkov plays are among those present. The actress Liliana Karlovna, married to a German railway engineer, is unhappily in love with Colonel Sejkin; Zachedrynskij, a distinguished gentleman loves the young teacher Tatjana, who, however, wants not to marry but to dedicate her life to the education of the people. Young Vladimir Iljitsch Lenin arrives on the scene, thinking he had heard a shot from the Aurora. The company reassures him: it is not yet time for that – and anyway, when it does happen, it will be in St. Petersburg. This, then, is the opening scene of the first act of the three-act play which casts a satirical light on a hundred years of Russian history. Many of the characters introduced in the Act 1 reappear in the second act, which is set in the period immediately after the Revolution. In the third act, after Perestroika, the hotel is the meeting place of the new Russian businessmen. But here, we encounter the Uncle Vanjas and the Lopatkins, even if they have changed on the surface, and the romantic attachment between the new Tatjanas and Zachedrynskijs, the Lilianas and the Sejkins, are just as complicated in 1993 as they were in 1910. Everything has changed, but the structures remain the same. Or do they?

Contemporary Literature
208 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
May 1994

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Rights currently sold:
Czech
Estonian (Hendrik Lindepuu)
Polish (Noir sur Blanc)

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

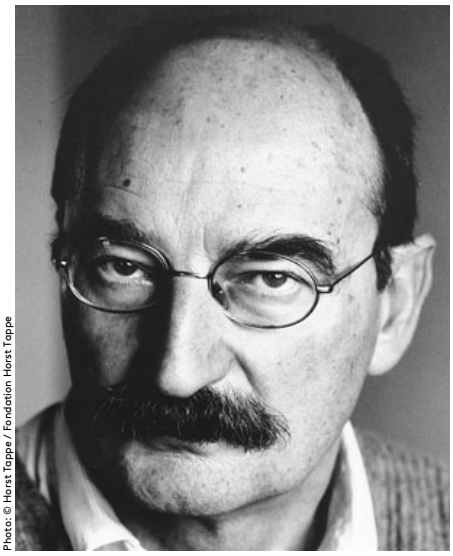
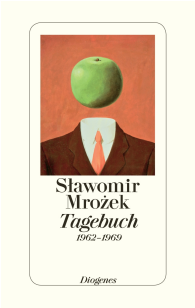


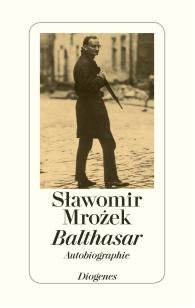
Photo: © Horst Tappe / Fondation Horst Tappe

Sławomir Mrożek was born in Borzecin, 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.



Journal 1962 - 1969
544 pages
2014

Carnival or The First Wife of Adam
80 pages
2014

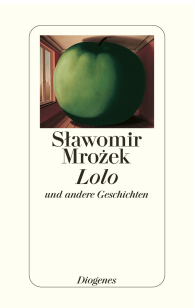


Baltazar
384 pages
2007

Life for the Advanced
240 pages
2006

Life for Beginners
192 pages
2004

All Sinners and A Lovely View
208 pages
2002



Lolo
304 pages
2000

The Doppelgänger
272 pages
2000

Praise

Love on Crimea

»Mrożek is a humorist – and this makes him all the more serious. And although he enjoys working with imaginative themes, he is a champion of reason and common sense.« – Marcel Reich-Ranicki

Slawomir Mrozek

»Mrozek'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

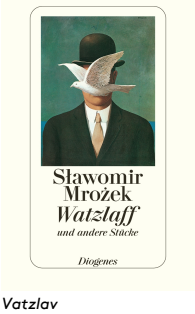
»Brilliant [...] the writer is an Aesop for our times.« – Publishers' Weekly, New York

My Unknown Friend
192 pages
1999

Amor
544 pages
1998
Movie Adaptation

Emigrants
400 pages
1997

The Pervert
272 pages
1995

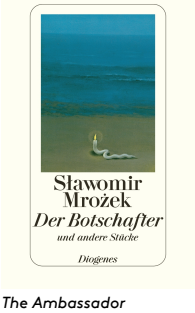


Vatzlav
272 pages
1994

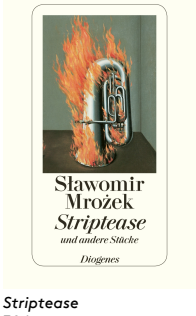
Out at Sea
80 pages
1994

Secrets of the Beyond
256 pages
1993

Tango
368 pages
1993



The Ambassador
544 pages
1993



Striptease
304 pages
1992
Movie Adaptation

The Giraffe
320 pages
1992