

Diogenes

Andrzej Szczypiorski *The Beautiful Mrs Seidenman*

Published by Diogenes as *Die schöne Frau Seidenman*
Original title: *Początek*



Andrzej
Szczypiorski
*Die schöne
Frau
Seidenman*
Roman · Diogenes

A European contemporary classic full of poetry and subtle humour, and at the same time a sociopolitical work. More than half a million Diogenes copies have been sold so far.

The winner of the »Wiadomości Literackie« Award 1988, now complemented with an introduction by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The year is 1943. In German-occupied Warsaw, what was once the largest Jewish community in Europe has been almost entirely deported. A few individuals manage to flee the ghetto, including the beautiful Irma Seidenman, because she possesses three advantages: a forged passport, blonde hair and blue eyes. When she is recognised one day by a Nazi informant, the drama really begins. Will Irma Seidenman be saved?

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
272 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
February 1988

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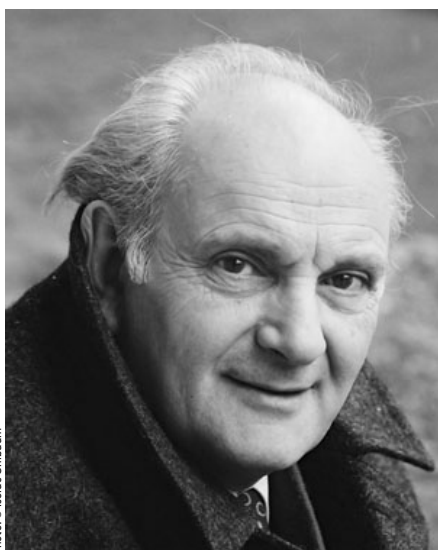
Awards

- 1998 Goldene Feder (Publizistischer Preis der Verlagsgruppe Bauer).
- 1997 Die Unicef wählt ihn zum »Botschafter des guten Willens«.
- 1997 Verleihung des Ordens »Polonia Restituta« durch den Präsidenten der Republik für seine Verdienste um Polen.
- 1995 Zum Mitglied im deutschen Orden »Pour le mérite« ernannt.
- 1995 Andreas-Gryphius-Preis der Künstlergilde e.V.
- 1995 Bundesverdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Anerkennung für seine Verdienste um die deutsch-polnischen Beziehungen.
- 1994 Dortmunder Initial der Arbeitsgemeinschaft 1. Dortmunder Buchmesse.
- 1994 Herder-Preis der Stiftung F.V.S. zu Hamburg.
- 1991 Preis der Warschauer Buchhändler für »Nacht, Tag und Nacht«.
- 1990 Kunst- und Kulturpreis der deutschen Katholiken, Berlin.
- 1989 Nelly-Sachs-Preis, Kulturpreis der Stadt Dortmund.
- 1988 Wichtigster polnischer Literaturpreis, Wiadomosci Literackie, für »Die schöne Frau Seidenman«.
- 1988 Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur.
- 1972 Preis des polnischen PEN-Clubs für »Eine Messe für die Stadt Arras«.
- 1965 Zaïks-Preis für Hörspiele.
- 1964 Kavalierskreuz des Ordens Polonia Restituta.

Praise

The Beautiful Mrs Seidenman

»An exceptional storyteller, Szczypiorski passionately recreates the tumultuous war years for us...A rare find.« – Publishers Weekly



Andrzej Szczypiorski (1928 – 2000) was born in Warsaw, took part in the city's uprising against German occupation in 1944 and was subsequently sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. After the war, he worked as an author and publisher and became a member of the executive board of the Polish PEN Club and the Writer's Association. In December 1981, he was interned in a camp and remained a prisoner there until spring 1982. In 1989, he was chosen as a candidate by Solidarnosc and elected to the Polish Senate by the people. He received the Austrian ›State Award for European Literature‹ and the ›Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany‹.

Praise (cont'd)

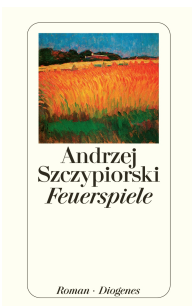
- »The authorial voice here – now gentle, now sardonic, but always piercingly omniscient – takes unique advantage of its eighties' perspective to create an unforgettable group portrait.« – Kirkus Reviews, New York
- »There are accidental heroes and inadvertent villains, surprising and unexpected switches that lend the book its extraordinary originality.« – Los Angeles Times Book Review
- »His novel is a masterful accomplishment, written with the kind of suspense that makes it impossible to put down. All this is achieved with what seems like effortless elegance, poetry and the muted echo of an almost Romantic irony.« – Neue Zürcher Zeitung
- »A masterpiece of modern prose which grips the reader with the power of a high-class thriller.« – Frankfurter Rundschau
- »Szczypiorski recounts the eternal calvary of a Poland drunk with independence, but always enslaved and always crushed, in a sparse language as classical as that of Thomas Mann. Superb and staggering!« – Le Figaro Magazine, Paris
- »Magnificent. Complex, wise, unsentimental and very moving« – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- »His narrative style is calm and leisurely, yet pacy; his writing is composed, but always with wit and vigour.« – Marcel Reich-Ranicki / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»Dense, lyrical and deeply unsettling.« – Michiko Kakutani / The New York Times

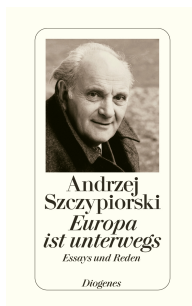
»A fine balance between poetic tenderness and an unflinching account of the brutal realities of the day.« – The Guardian, London

Andrzej Szczypiorski

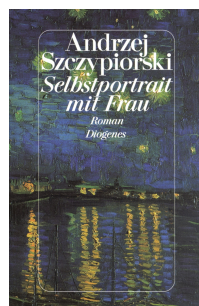
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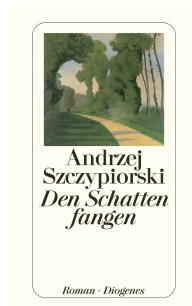
Pyrotechnics
368 pages
2000



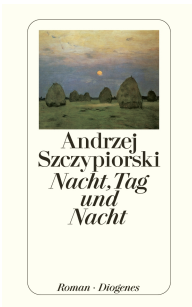
Europe on the Road
368 pages
1996



Self-Portrait With Woman
256 pages
1994



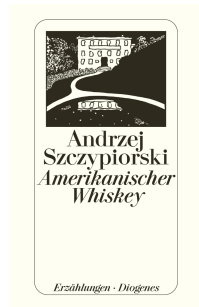
The Shadow Catcher
176 pages
1993



Night, Day and Night
304 pages
1991



Notes on the State of Things
256 pages
1990
🏆 Award winner



American Whiskey
264 pages
1989
🏆 Award winner



A Mass for Arras
200 pages
1988
🏆 Award winner