

## **Piotr Tarczynski interview**

### **Where did you grow up?**

In Krakow. I moved to Warsaw only when I was 22 years old. I'm still very much connected to Krakow, emotionally and socially, in a pre-Covid times I used to travel between Warsaw and Krakow quite often. Now I live in Berlin, though.

### **Studies?**

In Krakow and Warsaw. Two masters degree, in history and Latin American studies, and then Ph.D. in American studies.

### **Professional experience?**

I have been translating books since 2011, first non-fiction, then also novels. I translated books by Michael Chabon, Paul Beatty, David Sedaris and others. Apart from translating I write about U.S. politics for Polish media, and I co-host a podcast on American politics and society.

### **Languages spoken for potential interviews? Language you would like to speak or be translated from in round tables, if you cannot do it in English?**

I speak Spanish, but it is not as good as my English.

### **Any special diet?**

Not really.

### **Particular relationships with France (any trips? favorite places?, etc.)**

Unfortunately I don't really know France. I've to Paris (twice, but years ago), since then I visited Toulouse and spent one day in Metz. But I'd love to see more.

### **Any interesting information about parents or family?**

Who can tell what other people may find „interesting”. My family is a matriarchal structure, strong female characters, my late grandmother was the most important person for me, and the first book about Zofia Szczupaczyńska is dedicated to her memory. Her great-grandmother (and my great-great-great-grandmother) actually appears in the „Tajemnica Domu Helclów” as the cousin of the protagonist.

### **Any particular relationships with a given country ( eg trips etc)**

In pre-pandemic times I used to travel a lot, with my husband or with friends, so the list of trips would be quite long. But I'd like to visit Iceland again, for instance. Or the Pacific North West. Or Iran.

### **Personal interests?**

I really like my job, so my personal interests are often related to my line of work – American literature, U.S politics and popular culture, for instance. I also like sport (biking, gym,

badminton), but I'm not obsessed with it, I play video games too. Oh, and I like classic calligraphy.

### **When and why did you start writing?**

For very long time I considered myself a translator who sometimes write, not a proper writer, but I guess after four books I should probably accepted the fact that I'm also a writer. It all started when I came up with the idea for a protagonist – Zofia Szczupaczyńska – and shared it with a friend who is a publisher. She liked it so much that asked me to write about her, and when I refused, she suggested I write it with my husband. And here we are now, four books later, and more will come.

### Bibliography:

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**Rozdarta zasłona**, Znak, 2016 (with Jacek Dehnel, as: Maryla Szymiczkowa), translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones as *Karolina, or the Torn Curtain*, Oneworld 2021 (UK), and as *Karolina, and the Torn Curtain*, Mariner Books 2021 (USA)

**Seans w Domu Egipskim**, Znak, 2018 (with Jacek Dehnel, as: Maryla Szymiczkowa)

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