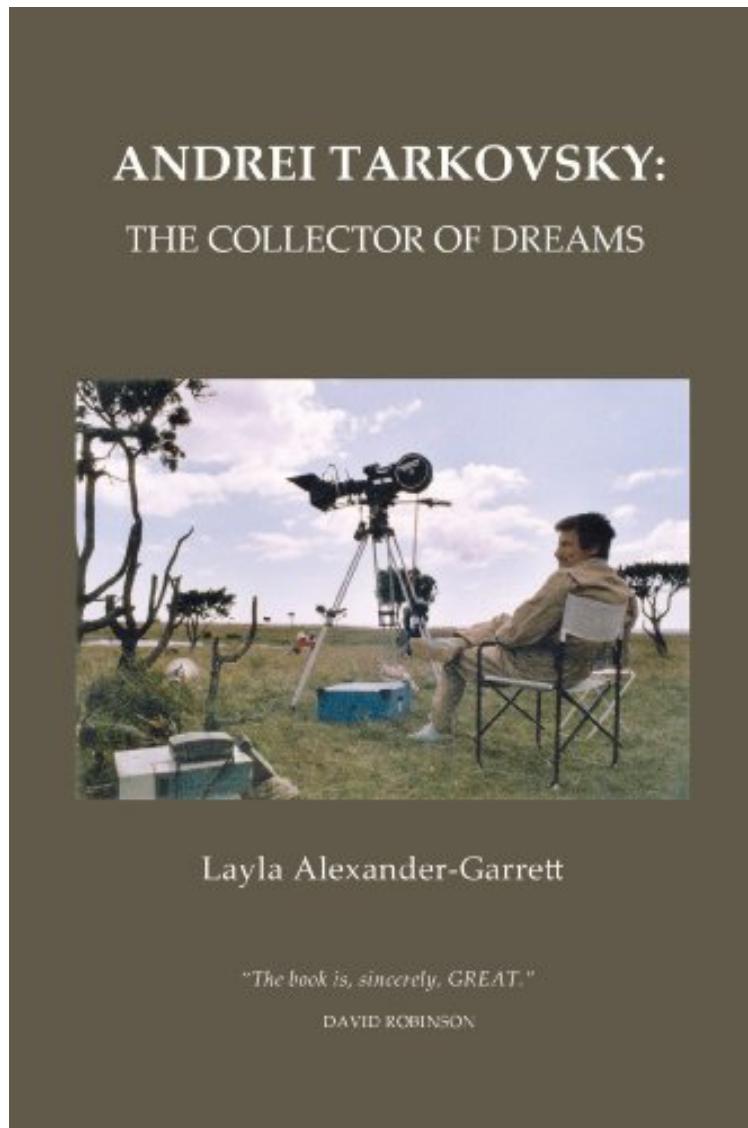


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Andrei Tarkovsky: The Collector of Dreams

Layla Alexander-Garrett
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Layla Alexander-Garrett : Andrei Tarkovsky: The Collector of Dreams before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Andrei Tarkovsky: The Collector of Dreams:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting book for all Tarkovsky's fans
By Anna Bugaj
If you want to know more about how kind of person Tarkovsky was - this book is great for you.
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An enthusiastic memoir with a personal touch
By Slavic Lit Fan
Although I'll begin this review by admitting I'm by no means a film expert, I do remember the first time I saw Andrei Tarkovsky's *Mirror* (?????????) some years ago. I had just begun learning Russian and thought I should familiarise myself with some of the

big names in cinema, as well as improving my grasp of the language. Well, I have to say that although that particular film doesn't offer a great deal in terms of dialogue, I was absolutely stunned by the level of artistry and originality and went on to enjoy many of Tarkovsky's other films, including *The Sacrifice*, the making of which this book is centred. It's always interesting to find out about the personality behind the art, and we rarely get a chance to get as close to a film director as we do with Tarkovsky's interpreter Layla Alexander-Garrett. In *The Collector of Dreams*, the author's pacing and breathless, sensual prose convey her closeness to a man that seems to have been, in many ways, her mentor and spiritual guide. Alexander-Garrett is comfortable expressing her emotional impressions of Tarkovsky and the people around him during a period that sadly turned out to be near the end of his life, and it is clear to see why some critics have suspected their relationship as being not quite as platonic as she insists. This is especially true given her less than flattering portrait of his wife! The enthusiasm and reverence that infuse the writing in this book are something that you rarely find in American or British work; the cynicism and surplus self-awareness often a feature of our own literature is (thankfully) missing from this inherently Russian book. However, I would recommend that you take the time to get acquainted with Alexander-Garrett's prose style; in no time, you'll soon be drawn into her at times slightly mystical world with its discussions of the tarot, horoscopes and human spirituality, subjects which Tarkovsky himself often discussed with his interpreter and which play themselves out in his films. Aside from reflections on Tarkovsky's artistic processes, the author's connection to numerous other members of the beau monde make for fascinating asides: amongst others, she paints intriguing portraits of everyone from Ingmar Bergman to astronauts and famous Russian writers such as Ludmila Petrushevskaya. Overall, Alexander-Garrett's part-memoir, part-biography is a captivating book that, as other reviewers have also noted, I was sad to put down.

The Sacrifice is Andrei Tarkovsky's final masterpiece. The film was shot in Sweden, in summer 1985 while Tarkovsky was in exile; it turned out to be his final testament, urging each individual to take personal responsibility for everything that happens in the world. Day after day, while the film was being made, Layla Alexander-Garrett — Tarkovsky's on-site interpreter — kept a diary which forms the basis of her book *Andrei Tarkovsky: The Collector Of Dreams*. In this book the great director is portrayed as a real, living person: tormented, happy, inexhaustibly kind but at times harsh, unrelenting, conscience-stricken and artistically unfulfilled. "Write only what it is that you feel." Awards: Prize of the Guild of Russian Film Critics 2010 "Elephant" *** This title has been realised by a team of the following dedicated professionals: Translated from the Russian by Maria Amadei Ashot, Edited by David Holohan and Layla Alexander-Garrett, Front cover photo by Layla Alexander-Garrett, Back cover photo by Nastya Sakhar, Maxim Hodak - ?????? ?????? (Publisher), Max Mendor - ?????? ?????? (Director), Yana Kovalskaya and Camilla Stein.