A Delicate Friend: Reading, Politics and Culture

... a book is a delicate friend, a white bird, an exquisite being, afraid of water. Darling things! Afraid of water, of fire, they shiver in the wind. Clumsy, crude human fingers leave bruises on them that'll never fade! Never! Some people touch books without washing their hands! Some underline things in ink! Some even tear pages out!

Tatiana Tolstaya, Slynx

Talk by visiting Russian writer

Tatyana Tolstaya

Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m., 3100 Torgersen

Tatiana Tolstaya is a Russian novelist, essayist, television host, and publicist. Born in 1951, she belongs to a literary family that includes writers Alexei and Leo Tolstoy. After completing a degree in Classics from Leningrad State University, Tolstaya worked for several years at a Moscow publishing house. In the mid-1980s, she began publishing short stories in literary magazines. Her first story collection established her as one of the foremost writers of the Gorbachev era. During the 1990s, she lived in the US and taught creative writing in American universities. Known for her acerbic essays on contemporary Russian life, she also co-hosted the cultural television program School for Scandal. In July 2014, the Russian government canceled the show, which was devoted to interviews with Russian writers and politicians.

The event is sponsored by the Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Initiative, The Russian Club, Deans Advisory Committee for International Initiative, Project GO, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department of History, Department of Philosophy, Department of Religion and Culture, and the Department of English