

CATALOGUE

2018

Frankfurt Book Fair

authors list

** *new authors*

* *new titles*

- ** Fantasy & Scifi
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- ** Basinski, Pavel
- ** Beshlei, Olga
- Bochkov, Valery
- Burchuladze, Zaza
- Danilov, Dmitri
- Eidman, Igor
- * Grigorenko, Aleksandr
- ** Grishkovets, Evgeni
- Kanovich, Grigori
- Kochergin, Eduard
- Lesnyanski, Aleksei
- Loiko, Sergej
- Martinovich, Viktor
- Matveeva, Anna
- Nikitin, Aleksei
- Norbekov, Mirzakarim
- Pavlov, Oleg
- Rakitin, Aleksei
- ** Remizov, Viktor
- * Senchin, Roman
- Sharov, Vladimir
- * Slapovski, Aleksei
- * Slavnikova, Olga
- Yuzefovich, Leonid
- Zaionchkovski, Oleg
- ** Zobern, Oleg

news updates

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topseller.wiedling-litag.com

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authors

Russian Fantasy & Science-Fiction

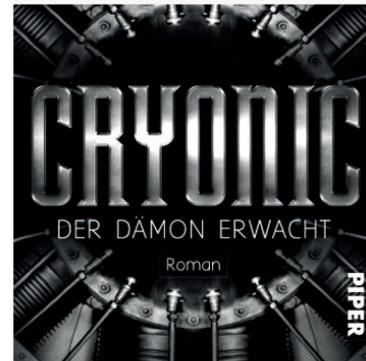
Young Adult 13+



New Adult 17+



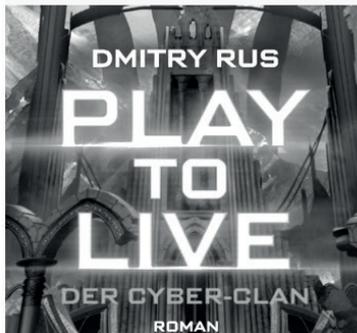
Postapocalypsis



Space Opera



LitRPG / Cyberpunk



Fantasy



Aleksei Bobl & Andrei Levitski | Vasily Mahanenko | H.L. Oldie | Nik Perumov |
Dmitri Rus | Vitali Sertakov | Natalia Sherba** | Jan Valetov** | Elena Zvezdnaya**
(**new authors)

fantasy.wiedling-litag.com

IVAN BUNIN

1. Russian Nobel Prize for Literature

The Wiedling Literary Agency is proud to have been assigned the exclusive representation outside of Russia of Nobel Prize Winner for Literature – Ivan Alekseevich Bunin. Bunin was the first Russian writer to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1933 „for the strict artistry with which he has carried on the classical Russian traditions in prose writing.“

Bunin died in Paris, France in 1953, so his intellectual property is continuously under international copyright protection. Due to historical circumstances during and also after the Cold War, only recently the successors of Bunin’s relatives and rightful heirs could be traced completely and thus The Bunin Estate has now been legally reconstituted.

At the moment book market participants and platforms are being asked by The Bunin Estate to pay careful attention to all editions currently on sale that contain works by Ivan Bunin. These editions must have an underlying license agreement with the rightful owners of copyright. With publishers outside Russia Wiedling Literary Agency is ready to negotiate licenses for Bunin’s works in translation or to reshape valid license contracts to reflect the rightful ownership of copyright.

Hundred years after the Russian Revolution the World again finds itself at a critical and revolutionary turning point from the humanistic age towards a new era of global digitalization and artificial intelligence with yet unknown consequences. Again some are cheerfully looking forward while others are trying to preserve the best values from the past for a better future. Not talking of those whose aim is to simply turn back the wheel to the myths of the past. It is the seismographic sensitivity of Bunin’s works that can help us to understand the inner logic and emotional weight of such fractures in individual lives as well as in society as a whole.

For all questions concerning translations rights for Bunin’s works including provision of respective legal documents we ask to write to bunin.estate@wiedling-litag.

I. Bunin

Pavel Basinski

title

Posmotrite na menya. Tainaya istoria Lizy DyakonovyaLook at me. The secret story of Liza Dyakonova
Documentary novel. AST. Moscow 2017. 435 pages

1902, Austria, the Tyrolean Alps. The young Russian, Liza Dyakonova, a student of law at the Sorbonne University in Paris, interrupted her journey from Paris to Russia to stay with her aunt in Tyrol. During her visit she set off alone for a hike in the mountains and did not return. It is only a month later that the naked body of the young woman is found by a hill farmer on the bank of a mountain stream. Is it murder or suicide? The circumstances of her death remain a mystery. Her diary, found after her death, was published and highly praised by the famous Russian philosopher Vasily Rosanov as „the best literary work written by a woman“, but ultimately it sank into oblivion. Just like Liza herself. Based on the diary and recently discovered archive material, Basinski's „documentary novel“ attempts to find an explanation for her mysterious death.

Liza Dyakonova was one of the first women, if not the very first Russian, indeed European woman, to study law. With great sensitivity, but also with great conviction, Basinski leads us closer to the psyche of this young, brave and spirited intellectual, and to her struggle with the traditionalists in society, her environment and her family. He also shows her own internal struggles. And stepping outside Liza's biography, he presents us with the social circumstances of the time, but only as far as they are relevant to Liza's fate. He describes the different social classes and reform movements, the education system, the bureaucratic administration of the Russian Empire, and the influence of Turgenev on the minds of literarily educated women. By placing her individual tragedy in the context of her time, Dyakonova's importance is not belittled, but rather it is accentuated and the exceptional and exemplary historical aspects of her situation emphasised. On the one hand brave and radically progressive, on the other tragically trapped by her own circumstances, she had the potential to become a guiding figure of European feminism, if her fate had been known or, alternatively, not completely neglected by the Russian intellectuals. The re-discovery of this exceptional woman may well correct this.

press reviews

„Basinski has written a documentary-thriller about the first Russian feminist.“
ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA

„Pavel Basinski is the only Russian non-fiction author who, in an abundance of historical facts, can detect a story in the literary sense of the word and then, without deviating from the credibly documented evidence, is able to weave it into an entertaining tale.“ GALINA YUZEFOVICH

„It is difficult to say whether this book is a biography, a psychological study or a magnificent essay on feminism. What is obvious is that this is no ordinary novel. Nevertheless, this book is more emotionally moving than all others.“
NATIONAL BESTSELLER

biography

Pavel Basinski was born in 1961 in Frolovo town (Volgograd region). He studied at the Saratov University and the Maxim Gorky Literature Institute in Moscow. He has a PhD in Russian Philology. Basinski is one of the most influential and highly acclaimed literary critics in Russia. He publishes in Literaturnaya Gazeta, Novi Mir, Oktyabr, Znamya, Druzhba narodov and others. He was a jury member of several major Russian literary prizes, such as the Russian Booker, the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Prize and the Yasnaya Polyana Prize. He works as culture editor of Rossiyskaya Gazeta. Pavel Basinski lives in Moscow.



foreign rights in general

ARABIC
ARMENIA
BRAZIL
BULGARIA
CHINA
GERMANY
ISRAEL
ITALY
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
MACEDONIA
MONGOLIA
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
SERBIA
SLOVENIA
UK, US

awards

2010 BIG BOOK
2010 BOOK OF THE YEAR
(TOLSTOY: ESCAPE FROM PARADISE)
2008 BIG BOOK SHORTLIST
1998 ANTI-BOOKER PRIZE

P. Basinski

Olga Beshlei

title

Moi diki ukhazher iz FSB
My weird lover from the FSB
 Blog posts and book. AST. Moscow 2017. 220 pages

Sold to: Estonia/ postfactum

Incompetent, vulnerable, cheeky, paranoid, yearning, shy, but also brilliant at self-presentation, and then, embarrassingly open; for everything that happens to the heroine Beshlei has also happened to the author Olga Beshlei. Nothing is really thought out. The sheer joy, needs, worries and dreams of a young Russian woman, whose stories follow the fortune and misfortune of life, the ebb and flow of the city of Moscow. They follow love, ambition, politics, belief and superstition, and above all people – friends and strangers and lovers past, present and maybe never to be. With a good eye for the off-key, a healthy sense of humour and her heart in the right place, Beshlei wonders why it is so difficult these days for a likeable and open-minded young woman simply to be happy.

It is not at all difficult for Beshlei's heroine to find emancipated soulmates in any Western city who have suffered similarly. Except perhaps, that in Moscow the probability is higher to discover that your lover is a gangster or a FSB officer. And the panic about trying to hide a huge pink dildo before a house search by the secret service should to be considerably less outside Russia.

The novel takes the form of a colourful collection of stories, but is basically a coming-of-age novel with the heroine courageously testing the breaking point of the rules that determine the life of her generation. And she tests her own limits as well. The author's prose leads the reader to the edge of his or her comfort zone. The education aspects of Beshlei's novel are not concerned with how hard it is to grow up, but on how hard it is to assert one's right to be accepted as a grown-up. Using her journalistic incorruptibility and literary skill, Beshlei proves herself to be a seismograph of a generation between the generations. She allows the younger readers to trip over their own half-baked principles and leads the older ones into situations where authority and experience no longer help.



foreign rights in general
ESTONIA

press reviews

"Life on the edge, where it hurts and makes one angry. The important things in life that really matter to us."
 – VALERIA PUSTOVAYA

"To blast a metaphysical wind through a simple and normal life is such a skilful move that no-one has thought of before. It would appear that this literary sleight of hand is no artifice but has sprung from the depths of her talent." –
 LITERRATURA

"Everyone in the FSB will read it and roll over laughing."
 – ALEKSANDR LYCHAGIN

"Life in its all-pervading garishness, making us so sentimental that one just wants to burst into tears. It is the way that Olga Beshlei writes about the common or garden things that makes them lose their banality. She has found her own, very strong style of connecting with life that simply takes my breath away."
 – ANNA BERSENEVA

biography

Olga Beshlei was born in Obninsk in 1989, a small research town in the district of Kaluga. After completing her schooling at the technical school for physics of the Institute of Atomic Energy, she went to Moscow to study political journalism. She became a political editor at the oppositional magazine "The New Times". Her first short story was published on "Batenka Transformer" an independent internet portal that observes the transformation process in contemporary society. After the success of her story "The FSB and my big pink Dildo" she was given the monthly column "Beshlei" on Colta.ru. In 2017 all those texts were published in book-form. At present Olga Beshlei is editor-in-chief of Batenka.ru. She lives in Moscow.

O. Beshlei

Valery Bochkov

titles

Charon

Coronation of the Beast

My Brother Cain

Political thriller. Trilogy. Eksmo. Moscow 2016-2017. Ca. 320 pages each

Sold to: Poland (Charon)/ Insignis

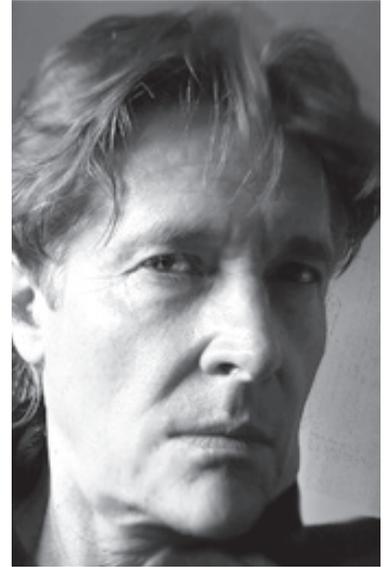
This trilogy is a masterful mix of classical American high-tension political thriller, alive with realistic characters, cinematographic in detail and scope, and of classic Russian intellectual prose, with philosophical and social tension reminiscent of Dostoyevsky's "Demons". A page turner with the plot precisely organized with dynamic pace and action in each individual novel as well as in the trilogy as a whole.

Each novel can be read separately, because in each case the first-person narrator in the centre of the plot is a different hero or heroine. Thanks to this approach three different narrators relate in each novel their perspective of the same event – albeit as perpetrator, intermediary or victim. In addition, the author manages to fictionally connect the remote political participants to the main protagonists in a personal relationship, thereby mirroring the governmental intrigues and power struggles on a personal level. In this way the characters and their motives become easily and emotionally accessible. And the psychologically and intelligently crafted protagonists never become predictable; they are neither only good nor only bad and are easily recognizable to the reader, although to prolong the suspense the author occasionally alters the points of identification.

All three novels deal with the different phases that could occur in a serious upheaval in modern Russia. Within the chronological and atmospheric composition of the trilogy, part 1 (planning and assassination) represents the calm before the storm, part 2 (power vacuum after the murder of the president) presents the unleashing of violence, and part 3 (the new regime) stands for the deceptive peace.

With great insight Bochkov reveals a provocatively straight-forward view of Russia at home in the West – skilfully presents the reader with the external western perspective, but at the same time causes the Westerner to feel directly involved and affected. The great similarity with present-day characters and events is deliberate and strengthens the breath-taking effect of experiencing the historical possibility in a seemingly live transmission.

Whether the future of Russian history is being written in these three books, or whether the reading will write a new future, only time will tell.



foreign rights in general
POLAND

awards
Toronto-based Ernest
Hemingway Award 2016
Russian Award 2013

biography

Valery Bochkov was born in Latvia and grew up in Moscow. He studied graphic design and was creative director of a PR agency based in Moscow and New York between 1995 and 2000. He then emigrated to the USA. With his own Studio for visual communications he worked out the visual concept for popular shows on Discovery Channel or ABC. For the project Greede TV he was given the ADDY Award. As professional artist he had around a dozen personal exhibitions in Europe and the US and had been invited twice to the Edinburgh Art Festival.

His first stories as a literary author were published in 2012. Besides several nominations for Russian shortlists (National bestseller, Big Book, Booker, NOS) he was awarded the Russian Prize 2013, the most prestigious literary award for writers living outside of Russia and writing in Russian. Valery Bochkov speaks Russian, English and German. He lives and works in Washington, USA.

V. Bochkov

Zaza Burchuladze

title

ADIBAS

Novel. Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. Tiflis 2009. 197 pages

Sold to: Albania/Ombra, Czech Republik/Dobrovski, Germany/blumenbar, Italy/Odoya, Macedonia/Antolog, US/Dalkey

War is waging in Georgia. The Russian fighter planes are thundering over Tiflis. Yet the sun worshippers at the open air pool register the tremors as no more than ripples on the surface of the water. The vibrations from the Russian combat helicopters over the Were Park are no more than the rattling of a spoon in a Cappuccino cup. Was the youtube video on the computer turned up too loud? And President Saakashvili's smile on a photo calendar, is that merely a Photoshop effect? There is not a single combat scene in the novel, the war is nowhere and yet everywhere. People are dying in the Russian-Georgian war, atrocities are being committed, yet in Tiflis there is no longer any difference between the real and the fake.

ADIBAS is a drastic satire of urban Bohemia in a globalised world. With what are in fact the two main heroes of the novel, war and sex, Shako – journalist, actor in Georgian Pepsi ads and cynical member of the Georgian "in" set – describes the progressive falsification of his living environment from branded goods through to sex and the medialised war – from "fuck me" to "fake me".

Even though, in concrete terms, the novel is set in Tiflis in August 2008 during the Russian-Georgian conflict, even though it targets the national indifference, a half Soviet, half Georgian legacy, demonstrating the lies and hypocrisy at all levels of society, using short sentences to reveal a kind of cultural anatomy behind the coloured facades of Tiflis, as one critic put it, the book's key message extends well beyond the borders of Georgia.

Burchuladze's publisher Bakur Sulakauri on ADIBAS:

"War is described here in a manner completely different to what we have seen in literature to date. Buchuladze is also one of the best stylists in Georgian literature today. He is a cosmopolitan author and he writes in exceptionally polished Georgian. ADIBAS is a highly tragic novel. It is told with obvious sadness, and although individual passages are full of irony, tremendous tragedy prevails in the background, it is not only about war but, against the background of war, also about the 'Feast in Time of Plague'."

press reviews

"We are not used to 'war prose' looking like this; no literary canon is bestowed with eternal life, however." – LEV DANILKIN

"... the bold undertaking to tell of war in the glamour language of city novels, in the style of Frederique Begbeider and Bret Easton Ellis." – RUSSIAN VEDOMOSTI

biography

Zaza Burchuladze, born 1973 in Tiflis, started writing after graduating from the Tiflis National Academy of Arts and has since published ten books and screenplays. He translates Russian authors, including Dostoevsky, Sorokin and Bitov, into Georgian. Burchuladze is considered one of the most important writers of post-Soviet Georgian literature. As an underground writer he initially provoked outrage within Georgian society with his scandal topics and language experiments and was long ignored by critics. Since the appearance of his novels he has become a leading intellectual and one of the most promising authors. Zaza Burchuladze lives in Tiflis.



foreign rights in general

ALBANIA
CZECH REPUBLIC
ETHIOPIA
FRANCE
GERMANY
ITALY
MACEDONIA
US

awards

Brücke Berlin Preis 2018
Best Georgian Novel 2011
Iliia State University Award 2011
Bakur Sulakauri Award 2008
Tsinandali Literary Award for Best Novel 2003

sample translation available

full english
full german

other works

Instant Kafka
The Inflatable Angel

Z. Burchuladze

Dmitri Danilov

title

Opisanie goroda
Description of a City
Novel. AST. Moscow 2012. 130 pages

Sold to: Macedonia/Prozart, Netherlands/Douane

Twelve repeated visits to a city not too far from Moscow and with good rail connections. Your average industrial city with a slight Soviet patina, very few sightseeing attractions. People go shopping, stay in hotels, travel by bus, taxi, tram. But this description of a city has nothing to do with sightseeing tours with the names, addresses, opening hours of museums, hotels, restaurants and the like. There is seemingly nothing special to see, to experience, to notice or to remark on in this city. It is precisely because Danilov is interested not in what is special but in the usual that this city became his choice. The city is walked, researched, described so that it becomes "flesh and blood" in the end, in the words of Danilov's narrator. And this at two levels: the narrator in the midst and the reader faraway from the city that remains nameless. Both seem to switch roles in a bizarre mimicry. In the end, as the reader you no longer have the feeling of having accompanied the narrator on his walks through the city, it instead feels as though your own stroll through the city has been accompanied by the first person narrator. This description of a city teaches you to explore spaces and to rediscover yourself therein.

It could be any city in the world. Danilov's city, however, has two levels because it is the home city of the author who accorded its cult status amongst Russian literature aficionados with the novel "City N." by Leonid Dobychin. The building where he lived – now disappeared. He himself – disappeared in March 1936, after his novel "City N." was torn apart by Stalinist critics. The theme of absence has three constants in Danilov's city and book: silence, emptiness and greyness – little dialogue, few characters and the lack of action. And the more absence, the more that is missing, the more this city, this book gets under your skin.

On top of that, Danilov's ironically enjoyable, at times hilarious and very down-to-earth attempt to feel at home in a strange place is also a real treat for those who prefer to explore cities on trams. Football fans don't do too badly either.

biography

Dmitri Danilov was born in Moscow in 1969. He has published four books to date, mainly short stories and novels. His texts have been published in magazines in the USA, Holland, Belgium and Italy. He is editor-in-chief of the official blog of a large car manufacturer. Danilov lives in Moscow.



foreign rights in general

ITALY
MACEDONIA
NETHERLANDS

awards

Premio Letterare Internazionale Citta di
Cattolica 2016
Novy Mir Award 2012
Big Book Award shortlist 2011
Andrei Bely Award shortlist 2010

sample translation available

english

other work

Horizontal Position

D. Danilov

Igor Eidman

title

Sistema Putina
The Putin System

Socio-political work of non-fiction. Manuscript 2016. 280 pages
Preface by Garri Kasparov and Zhanna Nemtsova

Sold to: Germany/Heyne

This book is an SOS from a Russian expert. He has lived through the end of democracy in his own country and he sees the need to warn readers outside Russia of the comparable risks facing their own countries. Is the whole world about to experience a long period of instability and social and political regression? Is Europe facing the threat of a major war? From the start Eidman presents the regime in Russia as the pioneer and leader of a new far-right conservative movement. He lists Putin together with politicians such as Trump, Erdogan, Marine le Pen, Urban, Hofer, Frauke Petry, and others. The aggressive regime Putin has created in the east of Europe is contriving to reestablish its power base within the former Soviet sphere of influence. The author describes how Putin tries to influence the public opinion in western countries in order to destabilise the political status quo, how he supports far-right organisations throughout the world and how Moscow has become the command centre for a neo-conservative revolution.

Eidman analyses how Putin came to power and how, using various pretences, he has turned Russia into an autocratic regime. Authoritarian organisations in western countries are now attempting a similar procedure. Eidman's book must be seen, not only as shock-therapy for Russophiles in particular, but also as a warning for all, thereby enabling a necessary and appropriate assessment of the situation and the accompanying danger. The book provides detailed information of the source of the threat, its nature and how it could be countered. It is the author's opinion that tolerating Putin is equivalent to accepting the neo-conservative revolution, by which the liberal West is to be reduced to a model of Putin's design.

The book is easily accessible and reads like an angry political pamphlet intending to shake up a wide base of readers outside Russia. Thanks to his experience in working in elevated Russian political circles Eidman has important insider information, which he shares with the readers of this book.



foreign rights in general

GERMANY

sample translation available

full german

biography

Igor Eidman was born in Gorky (today Nizny Novgorod) in 1968 as the son of a famous physicist. After graduating in history he began his career in the 1990s, working as journalist and editor for different media. He later became political consultant for high-ranking politicians, members of the Russian Duma and leaders of the liberal parties. The publication of his conceptual research work on theoretical sociology and social history entitled "Breakthrough to the Future. The Sociology of the Internet Revolution" brought him overnight fame. He took on the post of Communications Director with the Russian Centre for Public Opinion Research (VCIOM). However, after his support as a witness for the New Times for uncovering an in-house corruption scandal, he lost his job and, seeing himself and his family under increased pressure, he emigrated to Germany. Not many years later his cousin, the opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, was murdered in Moscow.

Eidman's most recent publication is "Das System Putin" (Heyne, Germany, 2016). He writes for wellknown German-language newspapers such as SZ, FAZ, NZZ or magazines such as Focus and has his own column with the Deutsche Welle.

I. Eidman

Aleksandr Grigorenko

title Ilget. Tri imeni sudby.
Ilget. Three names of fate.
Novel. Arsis Publishers. Moscow 2013. 500 pages

awards 2014 Big Book Award shortlist
2013 NOS Award shortlist

In ILGET, as in its companion novel MEBET, the author does not treat the Siberian Taiga in the high north of Russia merely as an exotic background, his interest lies in exploring the rituals of the northern people and their mystical beliefs, asking the old questions about existence, happiness and the loneliness of man. And yet again, this is not a classical saga of inflexible heroes and predictable fates and fortunes; we are presented instead with a modern novel of magical realism with versatile heroes who challenge their destiny. Like on a movie screen we witness gods and demons, pledges and profanity, love and blood bonds, supplications and rituals. And at the end we realize that there is only a small step separating us from those savages – for, after all, we are all human beings.

We follow a small, puny man who begins to take his life into his own hands. Separated from his tribe as a child, despised and tormented for his weakness, Ilget later leads his own tribe and takes them on a path of revenge. Revenge for his lost childhood, the loss of his twin brother and the loss of the love of his life. But Ilget's journey is also one of leniency and mercy for the sick and weak. At a particular juncture Ilget decides to leave the river of his preordained destiny, for on the other side of the Yenisei river there is another life and other countries. The Siberian gets to know Mongols and Arabs. It is not, however, his intention to change his life for another, rather he hopes in foreign lands to find the key to his own existence.

press reviews "In this novel psychology and mythology dance hand in hand ... combined with Homeric-biblical wisdom." – ALEKSANDR CHANTSEV

"Fantastic. And most interesting is the fact that fantasy here leaves the impression of real authenticity, as if it was a documentary-realistic text." – NIKOLAI ALEKSANDROV

"Braving the commercially suicidal subject of 'northern ethnicity' for a second time and even though he uses the same material, Grigorenko successfully manages to produce a completely new novel that in no way resembles MEBET." – GALINA YUZEFVICH

biography Aleksandr Grigorenko was born in Novocherkassk, south of Moscow but has spent practically his whole life in the depths of Siberia. Since completing his studies at the Kemerovo University of Cinema and Photography he has worked as a journalist for the East Siberian bureau of Rosiiskaya Gazeta. Aleksandr Grigorenko lives in the Krasnoyarsk area.

**foreign rights in general**

BULGARIA

CHINA

UK/US

award

Yasnaya Polyana Award 2016,
category XXI. century

other work

Mebet

A. Grigorenko

Evgeni Grishkovets

title

A...a

Novel. Makhaon. Moscow 2010. 254 pages

Have you ever been to America? Even if not – the space „...“ between the „A“ and the „a“ has been filled with innumerable imagined details by each of us since childhood. And even if the answer is yes – our own mental pictures of America often feel more real and intimate than the actual America. Not that the author would think of refusing to go to America. The whole world wants to go to America. Columbus wanted to go there, even before America was discovered. Even extraterrestrials, should they ever travel to earth, would first aim to land in America. One believes the author immediately. One nods, grins, laughs, shakes one’s head, feels understood and caught out, all the while following the author on his unconventional journey to discover America.

Dressing up as a cowboy for the kindergarten carnival. Finding a Colorado beetle in grandmother’s vegetable patch. Proudly wearing the jeans with the stitched-on „Montana“ badge. Superman or Spiderman zooming between the skyscrapers of New York. And Marilyn and Elvis could never have existed anywhere other than America. The expanse of the plains, the torrential rivers and the unending forests, all mastered by the heroes in the novels by James Fenimore Cooper, always searching for gold and a happy life. Russia is bigger, the earth is also hard and there are uncharted regions and torrential rivers. But in Russian films and books, the men are emaciated and bearded, the women unhappy and silent, the children hungry and scared. It is not surprising that the long-distance lorry drivers have pin-up girls from Playboy and Penthouse magazines in their cabs and that they, when they take a break while on the highways in Ural, Siberia, Karelia and the furthest East, stop off at service areas called Ranch, Montana, Sheriff Bar, Café Elvis, Hollywood or Chicago. And it is not only since Donald Trump that everyone in the world, even in the remotest backwoods of Russia, knows the name of the American president as well as that of his or her own head of government.

Written before Trump was elected president, Grishkovets shows us with his humorous, ironic, cheeky tribute to cultural kinship just what is now really at stake. Currently Russia and the USA are once again at odds with each other and yet they are so similar – both had great dreams and are now well on their way to destroying them and also the world as we know it. Grishkovets finishes the novel with the words: „Should I ever, or better, when I travel to the real America and should it attempt to destroy mine, then I will fight and defend mine.“



foreign rights in general

CZECH REPUBLIC
CROATIA
ESTONIA
FRANCE
GERMANY
HUNGARY
ITALY
KOREA
LATVIA
NORWAY
SERBIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN

other works

The Shirt
The Rivers
Asphalt

(full translations available)

press reviews

“There only are two kinds of readers: those who like Grishkovets, and those who have not read him yet.”
ECHO MOSKVY

“Exactly what was needed: Literature for an intelligent, educated reader, which combines a refined sense of irony with a positive view of the world.”
KNIZHNOE OBOZRENIE

biography

Evgeni Grishkovets was born in 1967 in Kemerovo. He became famous in Russia for his plays, which he writes, directs and acts in. He has been awarded two major Russian theatrical prizes for his plays which have also been performed in Germany, France and Poland. His first novel, “The Shirt” (2004), was an event in the literary life of Russia and brought him a prize for the Best Debut, and the Anti-Booker prize. Grishkovets lives in Kaliningrad.

E. Grishkovets

Grigori Kanovich

title

Ocharovanie Satana
Devilspel

Novel. Tekst. Moscow 2008. 231 pages

Sold to: Germany/Corso, Lithuania/Alba, Macedonia/Prozart, UK/Noir Press

The novel is set during the tragic few weeks in June-July 1941, when the German army in a sudden attack defeated the Red Army and within a few days occupied Lithuania. Kanovich limits the spatial horizon of his novel to a small isolated village deep in the Lithuanian heartland. After the outbreak of the war Mishkine seems to be cut off from the surrounding world with all normal connections suspended. The village is too insignificant for the Germans to maintain their presence there, and its residents are left to their own devices. Slowly and painstakingly, Kanovich investigates the spiritual depths of the characters, simple shtetl Jews and Lithuanian peasants, exposing their moral strengths and weaknesses. He lets them speak in their voices and articulate their positions, but as an omniscient narrator he guides the story the final tragic historical juncture where the age-long peaceful Jewish-Lithuanian coexistence explodes and falls apart forever. Kanovich's writing is informed by his deep native knowledge of the Lithuanian countryside where he grew up in the 1930s, but he is no less intimately familiar with the Russian and Jewish cultures. Yet his real interest as a writer is in exploring the fundamental and universal ethical conflict between good and evil, which transcends the limits of concrete space and time.

"I am no Jewish author, since I write in Russian. No Russian author, since I write about Jews. And no Lithuanian author, because it is not the Lithuanian language I engage in."

press review

"*Devilspel* is a remarkable example of a literary work that represents a real historical situation, with all its complexities and nuances, as a philosophical parable of universal significance."
– MIKHAIL KRUTIKOV, PROFESSOR OF SLAVIC AND JUDAIC STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

biography

Kanovich was born into a traditional Jewish family in the Lithuanian town of Jonava in 1929. Together with his parents he fled war-stricken Lithuania and spent years in exile in Kazakhstan and the Ural Mountains. In 1945 the family returned to Vilnius. Here, in 1953, Kanovich graduated from Vilnius State University with a degree in Slavic studies. He has written more than ten novels – a virtual epic saga – dealing with the vicissitudes of the history of Eastern European Jewry from the 19th century to the present day. Kanovich was declared a citizen of honor (2013) of his hometown Jonava. Between 1989 and 1993 Kanovich served as Chairman of the Jewish Community of Lithuania. Since 1993 the writer has lived in Israel. He is a member of the PEN club in both Israel and Russia. Kanovich is married and has two sons. He lives in Israel.



foreign rights in general

GERMANY
LITHUANIA
MACEDONIA
POLAND
UK

award

National Prize in Art & Culture,
Lithuania 2014

sample translation available

full english

other work

Shtetl Romance

G. Kanovich

Eduard Kochergin

title

Kreshchennye krestami

Baptized with Crosses

Novel. Vita Nova Publishers. St. Petersburg 2009. 231 pages
National Bestseller Award 2010

Sold to: Czech Republic/Plus, Estonia/Petrone, Finland/Idiootti, France/Noir sur Blanc, Germany/Aufbau, Norway/Cappelen Damm, Poland/Noir sur Bland, World English/Glagoslav

While the mothers in Siberia wait for their soldier sons to return from the war in the west in 1945, the eight year old Eduard secretly jumps on board the trains heading in the opposite direction, heading west, towards Leningrad. Placed in a Siberian orphanage as a child because his parents were arrested as public enemies there is only one thing he wants: to go back home to Leningrad and to find his mother again. It is not only his desperate courage and his youthful agility that ensure his survival, it is also his artistic talent. With his agile fingers the boy is able to bend wire in the shape of profiles of Lenin and Stalin, as if in silhouette. He uses them to cheer up the invalid war veterans on the train stations returning from the front, who then give him a piece of bread, a bowl of soup and who, in a spirit of comradeship, warn him of the railway police and the secret service henchmen wanting to send the runaway back to the orphanage.

Eduard spends more than six years on the run, experiencing close encounters with post-war Russia where life and fate have become synonyms. He encounters other stowaways, professional beggars, soldiers returning from the war and wartime profiteers, the mothers of soldiers and war invalids, Chinese from the Ural, Cossacks dealing in hashish, Bashkir Estonians, Russian penal colony escapees and, time and again, orphanage directors. In order to survive the winter he often registered himself voluntarily in the next orphanage, each one always a little closer to the West, running away again before the servants of the Stalinist state are able to send him back to Siberia.

The memoirs of an old man who, as a boy, learnt to find his way between extortionate state control and marauding banditry, the two poles that characterise Russia to this day. A story about the awakening of artistic talent under highly unusual Russian circumstances.

press reviews

"The book is so easy and quick to read it gives the reader the impression that it can easily be put aside again afterwards and quickly forgotten. Wrong, for it hits you more solidly than a thriller and every single one of the companions encountered by the little 'runaway' sticks in your mind." – DMITRI BYKOV

"Kochergin's memoirs automatically recall Pasternak's definition of the ideal book – 'a rectangular block just glowing with conscience'... A book just glowing with life's truths and one that leaves even the most unsentimental of readers with a lump in the throat." – MAYA KUCHERSKAYA

biography

Eduard Kochergin, born 1937 at the height of Stalin's repression, was separated from his parents as a small child when they were arrested under false charges of being foreign spies. The boy was sent to Siberia to an orphanage for children of "public enemies" from where he some time later escaped. He had survived the following 6 year journey to St. Petersburg only because he could make tattoos and bend wire in the shape of Soviet leaders' profiles. It was only later, after studying at the academy of arts, that he was able to turn his artistic talent into his profession. Kochergin is an internationally acclaimed stage and set designer and is currently the head of stage design at the Bolshoi Dramaticheskii Teatr (Tovstonogov Theater) in St. Petersburg.



foreign rights in general

CZECH REPUBLIC
ESTONIA
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
NORWAY
POLAND
UK/US

award

National Bestseller Award 2010

sample translation available

full english
full french
full german

E. Kochergin

Aleksei Lesnyanski

title

Otara idet na vetr
The Sheep Vanish in the Wind
Novel. Sever. St. Petersburg 2015. 160 pages

The steppe between Altai and Krasnoyarsk. The Khakas people who live there raise sheep. Agribusiness is done, however, as factory-farming by the immigrant Russians from the town. Because a coal seam is discovered under the grazing area, the regional administration must decide between mining or stock farming. The farm is going through a difficult financial period. Volodya, the son of the Russian farmer, and his Khakas friend Sanya have other jobs to do in addition to looking after the sheep. For example, looking after visitors from the town who come to the lake to have a tenting holiday. When a pregnant tourist goes into premature labour and everyone panics, Sanya relies on his experience with animals and without hesitation assists the mother in the successful birth. Afterwards the two seventeen year old boys have to rescue a couple of deer which have escaped from the zoo. The experience of Sanya, the Khakas boy, once again proves the deciding factor. Overtired they return to their proper work of being shepherds. But the boys fall asleep before sunset and lose their herd. Following a day full of routine work they experience a terrible night, in which both humans and animals are at risk from the dangers of the steppe. The boys search high and low without success. Although they know no prayers, they pray. Although they are not religious, they confess their sins to each other and repent. During a downpour of rain they fall asleep exhausted. In the middle of the night they awake to a starry sky that appears to be very close. They think they are in heaven. But the stars are the sparkling eyes of the sheep which have returned by themselves.

By means of detailed and realistic descriptions of hard daily routines we are shown the current life in the Siberian steppes without any romantic idealism. Also every folkloristic illusion about the indigenous population who have been already been Russified is avoided. But in contrast to the down-to-earth descriptions of the living-conditions and of the unchanging nature, the solid bond between humans and animals reappears bearing the seeds of a successful future. And thus the author manages to create in his short, award-winning novel of a day in the life of two young friends, a contemporary parable of existentialist power.

press review

"After reading this book you will not want to string yourself up on the next lamppost because of the imperfection and degeneracy of the world, but on the contrary you will want to go out immediately and perform some good deeds." – VALENTINA SOSNOVSKAYA

biography

A. Lesnyanski was born in the region of Krasnoyarsk in 1982. After his military service he studied marketing at a school of economics. After four years of working as a furrier, he worked a further four years as farm manager and freelance newspaper correspondent. Since 2011 he has been an internet editor for the state television of the Republic of Khakassia. Lesnyanski lives in Abakan.



awards

Award Sibirskie Ogni 2015
International Annenski Prize 2014
Debut Prize 2013
Astafev Prize shortlist 2009
Raduga Prize competition 2007

sample translation available

english

other work

Servants of the Country

A. Lesnyanski

Sergei Loiko

title

The Flight

Political thriller. Bright Star Publishing. Kiev 2017. 430 pages

Sold to: Czech Republic/Host, Poland/Volumen

awards

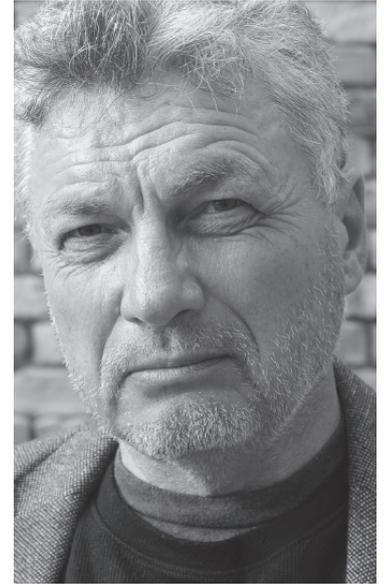
2014 L.A. Times Editorial Award for best beat reporting
 2014 Overseas Press Club Bob Considine Award
 for "guts, credibility, depth and sophistication of interpretation"

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution
 Inspired by true events, extensive research and war reporting of the former prize-winning Moscow Los Angeles Times correspondent

Sergei Alyokhin, a former corrupt Russian cop hiding under a false identity in L.A., is anxious to rejoin his beloved wife Lena and two young daughters. He hasn't seen them for three long years since he busted the cargo transport of a most powerful mafia syndicate in Russia and fled with \$62 million. The mafia's angry leader swore to find the fugitive wherever he might be, and not only get the syndicate's money back, but avenge his son's death. Finally Alyokhin believes that he has covered his track sufficiently and invites his wife and daughters, living under false identities in London, to join him for the desired and long awaited family reunion at a luxurious island resort in Thailand. Their flight London-Bangkok perishes with 298 people on board over eastern Ukraine. Alyokhin wants to find the culprits and take his personal revenge not only on the perpetrators but also on those who ordered the heinous crime.

In private investigations he sides up with an ambitious and fearless US journalist Jane Ashley. They help each other to survive and uncover the truth. But their motivations are different: while Alyokhin is not much interested in politics, she wants a Pulitzer Prize which kept evading her, she wants to provide evidence and a live witness for the Hague International Tribunal trial to be. In their deadly quest amid the unfolding armed hostilities between Russia and Ukraine Alyokhin and Jane find themselves doggedly pursued by the military, special service agents, mafia syndicate professional hitmen and ... a manic serial killer, who suddenly emerges from Alyokhin's violent past to settle old scores with the former homicide investigator.

For a variety of reasons all these forces are poised to thwart Alyokhin's and Jane's investigation before it gets too far and too high – into the corridors of supreme power. Very soon they come to realize that they are actually on a suicidal mission with no chance to survive. But against all odds they continue to follow the tracks they uncover.

**foreign rights in general**

CHINA
 CZECH REPUBLIC
 ESTONIA
 GEORGIA
 LATVIA
 LITHUANIA
 POLAND
 THE NETHERLANDS
 UKRAINE

awards

L.A.Times editorial award 2015
 Overseas Press Club's
 Bob Considine Award 2014

other work

Airport, documentary fiction
 (full english translation available)

press review

"The author has so skillfully built up the suspense that you cannot get away from it, not even for a second; you are dragged through every phase of this compact story, from the first chapter and not just to the last chapter, but to the very last line. To the very last line ... The episodes of this novel are not merely snap-shots, they are multi-layered images like a CAT-scan. Every hero, a character; every character, a story; every story, a destiny."
 – COLTA.RU

biography

Sergei Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. For the past twenty-five years, Loiko had been the Moscow correspondent and photographer for the Los Angeles Times, specializing in wars and armed conflicts. Loiko covered the Ukrainian revolution and the subsequent war virtually nonstop from the first day until 2015. The rights of his Documentary novel AIRPORT have been sold to 9 countries. Sergei Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Moscow, Russia.

S. Loiko

Viktor Martinovich

title

Revolution

Novel. Manuscript 2017. 268 pages

Sold to: Germany/Voland&Quist

He, a professor at a private Moscow university; she, a waitress in a bar; for both it is a case of love at first sight. But one day he leaves their apartment near the Moscow television tower never to be seen again. And now Martinovich's nameless hero begins to explain to his beloved Olya in a long letter why he has not been in touch all this time. He wants to tear down the wall of lies he has erected piece by piece between himself and Olya.

An unknown organization, which knows everything about him, including his financial debts, blackmails him into carrying out small favours. Why is anyone interested in him at all? As a professor at the university he turns free-thinking minds to a perfect fit for industry and government use. Knowledge is power. And his will to power is the only rational means by which the chaos in the nation might be controlled. That is the situation as presented to him by the godfather of the organization. He feels intellectually flattered, and carries on. The favours become more demanding. His doubts are eased by frequent, unexpected privileges, which confirm the influence of the secret organization.

As he is offered promotion within the organization, but only on the condition that he leaves Olya for ever, he decides to quit. But it seems to be too late. His attempt to flee abroad across the border fails, as his friends, who he now sees as his enemies, are always one step ahead. Slowly he realizes that he has to overcome a different sort of boundary. Freedom lies in a flight forward. There has to be a revolution from within. He plans his own revolution down to the finest detail. Anticipating his opponent's every move and ruthlessly applying terror and violence, he manages to overthrow the organization. But on the day of his coming to power, he finally understands that he has now reached the position where the former godfather always wanted him to be.

While Martinovich's debut novel PARANOIA explores subjugation to an autocratic state-service, his recent novel REVOLUTION shows the other side of the coin: subservience to the corruption of power.

biography

V. Martinovich was born in Oshmiany, Belarus in 1977. He is a political scientist, doctor of art history, and professor at the Vilnius University. He is a regular contributor to the German weekly DIE ZEIT. His literary works are published parallel in the Belarusian and Russian languages. Paranoia, published in Russia at the end of 2009, was immediately banned from sale in Belarus (unofficially prohibited). In 2017 he was Writer in Residence at the Literaturhaus Zürich and PWG foundation. Viktor Martinovich lives with his family in Minsk.



foreign rights in general

BELARUS
FINLAND
GERMANY
US

awards

Bogdanovich Literay Award 2012
Best European Fiction anthology 2011
(Dalkey Archive)

other works

Lacus Gaudii
Mova
Paranoia
(full english translation available)

V. Martinovich

Anna Matveeva

title

Pereval Dyatlova
The Dyatlov Pass

Novel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2005. 286 pages

foreign rights

China/ Inner Mongolian University, Czech Republic/ Akropolis,
France/ Belfont

Matveeva's novel is dedicated to the true story of a group of young students who died under mysterious circumstances as ski tourists on the Dyatlov Pass in the northern Ural mountains in 1959. The exact circumstances of the mysterious deaths on Dyatlov Pass remain unexplained to this day. Following on from the series of earlier books on the subject, Matveeva's novel is the first attempt to see the story of Dyatlov Pass, comprising documented facts on the one hand and largely probable, albeit mysterious interpretations on the other, as an overall phenomenon in which the fates of victims and the investigators have become linked in fiction. Accompanying Matveeva's heroine on her quest for the truth, therefore, the reader returns not only to a brutal past but is also drawn into discovering the truth behind his/her own life.

In 2000, a regional Ural TV company produced a documentary film about the mystery of Dyatlov Pass. Cooperating with the film crew, Anna Matveeva published her short novel of the same name, a large part of the book including broad quotations from the official case, diaries of victims, interviews with searchers and other documentaries collected by the film-makers.

A Hollywood feature film has been announced (release 2013) with Renny Harlin as director (Nightmare on Elm Street 1988/ Die Hard 2 1990/ Cliffhanger 1993/ Deep Blue Sea 1999/ Exorzist Beginning 2004/ The Covenant 2006/ 5 Days of War 2011) and Richard Reid (Love, Wedding Marriage 2011/ William&Kate 2011/ Navy CIS/ Hangover) and Matt Stokoe (Hollow 2011/ Misfits 2009) in main roles.

press reviews

"The Dyatlov Pass could signal the start of a new literature just as In Cold Blood by Truman Capote once was for American prose... What I value in Matveeva's novel is... that she displays affection for the nine victims, lives with them and thus forces me to see one of them in the youngster sitting next to me in the cafe or in the underground... What I like most about reading this book, however, is the feeling of living through someone else's tragedy because it is built into and woven into our own lives." DMITRI BYKOV

"Force and brutality are very finely nuanced here against the „feminine“, „contemporary“ part of the novel that forms the „vessel“ containing the opposites „brutal - tender“, „male - female“, „past - present“... a remarkable book!" ALEKSEI IVANOV

biography

Anna Matveeva was born in Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg, in 1972. She comes from a family of linguists and, after completing her studies at the State Ural University, she worked as a journalist for newspapers and magazines. She has since published several books and writes for all of the leading Russian media. Anna Matveeva has three children and lives in Yekaterinburg.



foreign rights in general

CHINA
CZECH REPUBLIC
FRANCE

awards

Bazhov Prize 2017
Big Book Award shortlist 2016
Big Book Award public vote #2 2015
Big Book Award shortlist 2013
Kazakov Prize shortlist 2011
Lo Stellato Prize, Italy 2004

sample translation available

english
full french

other works

Vera Stenina's Envoy
Nine from the Nineties
Wait, I will die and then - come

A. Matveeva

Aleksei Nikitin

title

Park Pobedy
Victory Park
Novel. Ad Marginem. Moscow 2014. 375 pages

Sold to: France/Noir sur Blanc, Italy/Voland, Ukraine/Ranok

Apocalyptic sense of doom in Kiev towards the end of the 1980s. The chestnut trees are flowering in Victory Park, where veterans from Afghanistan deal in hashish while repairing the playground equipment for the children and black-marketeers entertain the corrupt police at the little kiosk. However, business seems no longer to be flourishing, its last hopeful petals have fallen, and even the corrupt militia will have a poor harvest this autumn. And all because a murder is committed which throws the old well-greased system out of balance. Suddenly all the old alliances between the serious toughs from the Victory Park, who as young boys all went to the same school, begin to disintegrate. Can all this be because a simple literature student wanted to buy a pair of Puma shoes for his girlfriend – but from the wrong blackmarket dealer?

In Ukraine a simple thriller would not have a chance to get even close to the truth and so this novel raises its sights to become a literary genre painting. With remarkable accuracy the author brings everything to life: from the smallest day-to-day events right up to the dizzy heights of the political stratosphere, all of the organized chaos and entanglements of Ukrainian society that have not disappeared with the demise of the Soviet-Ukraine. Through the prism of the past the reader is shown all the humanity and human failures of the problems of modern Ukraine. The author has not only a feel for the raw nerves of a fin de siècle, but also the skill to present his hometown of Kiev ironically and season it with original anecdotes and characters. We learn the names of the villages which occupied the left bank of the Dnepr before the prefab housing blocks began their sprawl in the 1970s; why the soviet housing administration disliked pigeon post and in this did not differ from the German invaders during World War II; and how the rumour of a neglected German army bunker can develop into a real hideout for a neo-Leninist combat unit, who at the end of the novel spark off a final Maidan of the Righteous in Victory Park.

press reviews

"The soviet and mystical city Kiev and its inhabitants are very important to this author. He recreates his city, of which he knows every corner and alley, and which he really loves and (not without success) attempts to imbue this love in his readers." – JURY NATIONAL BESTSELLER 2014

"A novel in which the driving force above all is love, finely interwoven with the author's humor." – KULTPROSVET

biography

Aleksei Nikitin was born in Kiev in 1967. After completing his course of physics at the university of Kiev and his period of conscription he established his own company in 1992 and worked on different projects for the Ukrainian oil, chemical and atomic industries. In 2000 he published his first volume of poetry, which was awarded the Korolenko prize by the Ukrainian writers association for the best poetry of the year. In 2002 Nikitin closed his business operations and worked for several years as an IT journalist. Afterwards he dedicated himself completely to his literary activities and has since published several novels. Aleksei Nikitin lives in Kiev.



foreign rights in general

FRANCE

ITALY

UKRAINE

UK/US

awards

National Bestseller 2014

Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

other works

Istemi (english sample translation)

Mayong

A. Nikitin

Mirzakarim Norbekov

title

Opyt duraka

The experience of a Fool. Or how to get rid of your Glasses
Self help. AST. Moscow 2000. 350 pages

Sold to: France/Macro, Germany/Random House, Italy/Macro, Poland/
Astropsychologii, Spain/BIS

In this book about how to train your eyes it is not only concerned with the dioptric scale, but about seeing clearly through all aspects of life. Mirzakarim Norbekov's unusual methods have spread like a wildfire through Russia. His courses result in a huge recovery rate, and a similar success could be waiting for you by the end of this book. But to achieve this you really need to be prepared to take on a mighty adversary – you yourself. And maybe because this is so difficult the message is delivered with a punch in order to keep you going in the right direction. Regardless of the outcome you will be rewarded with an extraordinary reading experience as you get to know this Russian Health Philosophy.

biography

Mirzakarim Norbekov is a Doctor of Psychology, Pedagogics and Medical Philosophy. He is a Professor and an active member of numerous Russian and international Scientific Academies. He founded a health centre in Moscow, that has now grown into a network of centres in Russia, surrounding countries and in the West. His method of healing is concerned with the overall health of a person. He was the Russian vice champion in karate. Mirzakarim Norbekov lives in Moscow and Uzbekistan.

For more information in English please see here:

<http://norbekov.co.uk/index.html>



foreign rights in general

FRANCE
GERMANY
ITALY
POLAND
SPAIN
WORLD ENGLISH

sample translation available

german
italian

M. Norbekov

Oleg Pavlov

title

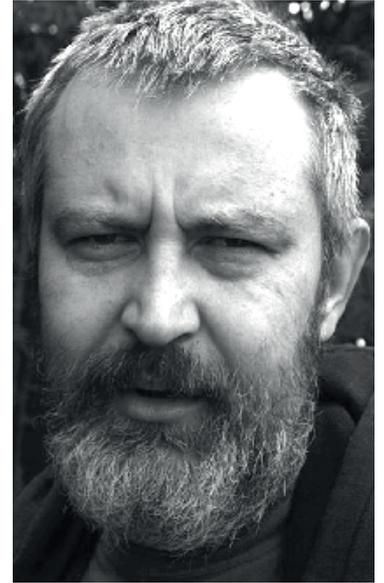
Notes of a Hospital Receptionist

Documentary chronicle. Vremya. Moscow 2001. 145 pages

Sold to: France/Noir sur Blanc, Poland/Noir sur Blanc, Serbia/Stojanovic

Oleg Pavlov's NOTES OF A HOSPITAL RECEPTIONIST is the essence of the writer's personal experiences from the times he has been working as a receptionist in a Moscow hospital, between 1994 and 1997. Published as a book nearly sixteen years later, this diary became a lyrical epic masterpiece, earning recognition and praise of both critics and readers.

The book was awarded the Solzhenitsyn Prize, a non-governmental Russian literary award, for "confessional prose imbued with a poetic power and compassion, for the artistic and philosophical search for meaning of human existence in most difficult circumstances, for works in which troubles of the Russian life are shown with rare moral purity and sense of tragedy, for consecutiveness and steadiness in search of truth."



press reviews

"One of the most exciting and powerful books appeared lately. A must read for anyone interested in modern Russian literature and modern Russian life." – ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA

"The book is less than a hundred and fifty pages, but its metaphysical significance is hard to underestimate. Sharp style, the words often seem to be the only correct ones. It's impossible to recount, one needs to quote all the time." – HOWEVER MAGAZINE

"In short, staccato notes of his rather small diary Pavlov succeeds to create a universe so similar to our real life." – IZVESTIA

"It's like the whole of Russia has passed through this (book)."
– MOSCOW NEWS

"Minimum of literature, maximum of life." – LITERARY GAZETTE

foreign rights in general

CHINA
CROATIA
FRANCE
HUNGARY
ITALY
MACEDONIA
NETHERLANDS
POLAND
SERBIA
UK

awards

Solzhenitsyn Prize 2012
Znamya Award 2009
Russian Booker Prize 2002

sample translation available

full french

other work

Tales from the last Days
(full English translation available)

biography

Oleg Pavlov was born in Moscow in 1970. He served in Karaganda as a prison guard. After leaving the army at the age of twenty, diagnosed for with 'mental instability', he went on to study at the Institute of Literature in Moscow. He published his first novel at the age of twenty-four. Working as a literary critic he continued to publish novels, short stories as well as essays. O. Pavlov lives in Moscow.

O. Pavlov

Aleksei Rakitin

title

The Dyatlov Pass Incident

Non fiction. St. Petersburg 2012. ca. 430 pages including illustrations

Sold to: Czech Republic/Dobrovsky, Germany/btb

With an epilogue by Oleg Kashin
(author and journalist with the newspaper Kommersant and others)

The Dyatlov Pass incident resulted in the deaths of nine ski hikers in the northern Ural mountains on the night of February 2, 1959. The mountain pass where the incident occurred has since been named Dyatlov Pass after the group's leader, Igor Dyatlov. The lack of eyewitnesses has inspired much speculation. Soviet investigators determined only that "a compelling unknown force" had caused the deaths. Access to the area was barred for skiers and other adventurers for three years after the incident. Investigators at the time determined that the hikers tore open their tent from within, departing barefoot into heavy snow and a temperature of -30 °C (-22 °F). Although the corpses showed no signs of struggle, two victims had fractured skulls, two had broken ribs, and one was missing her tongue. Their clothing, when tested, was found to be highly radioactive.

This book makes a new attempt to analyse all of the information available up until today about the mysterious deaths of the group of Sverdlovsk tourists on the Dyatlov Pass in the winter of 1959 and to evaluate them for the first time without any of the mystic suppositions that have dogged this unexplained event. In doing so, the author draws on two witnesses still living as well as on archives and on secret files held in Yekaterinburg and elsewhere, files that have been withheld from the public up to now. The book goes as far as naming those responsible in the end. Why their names cannot be revealed, however, becomes clear during the course of the book. Despite, or perhaps precisely because of the rational, strictly documentary portrayal, this book leaves the reader with the impression of experiencing a true nightmare.

The Hollywood feature film "Devil's Pass" has been released 2013 with Renny Harlin as director (Nightmare on Elm Street 1988 / Die Hard 2 1990 / Cliffhanger 1993 / Deep Blue Sea 1999 / Exorzist Beginning 2004 / The Covenant 2006 / 5 Days of War 2011).

foreign rights in general

CZECH REPUBLIC

GERMANY

sample translation available

german

biography

Aleksei Rakitin was born in 1964. He has lived in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) since 1979, went to school there, completed his training as a mechanic at the city's military academy and worked in a "secret" engineering department within the Ministry of Mechanical Engineering up until Perestroika. Following 1989 his sound physical constitution enabled a move to a private security company. Up until the mid-2000s he was bodyguard to Russian and international VIPs visiting St. Petersburg, during the course of which he was injured several times. During one of his convalescence periods he started the "Unsolved Crimes of the Past" internet project together with a group of like-minded individuals. On the side, Rakitin began writing thrillers based on true crimes from the 19th century. Rakitin has no passport, gives no interviews and does not appear in public. He lives in St. Petersburg.

Oleg Kashin was born in Kaliningrad in 1980. He is Russia's best known investigative journalist. As a journalist with the newspaper Kommersant and others he is repeated critic of democracy deficits in Russia.

A. Rakitin

Viktor Remizov

title

Volya Volnaya

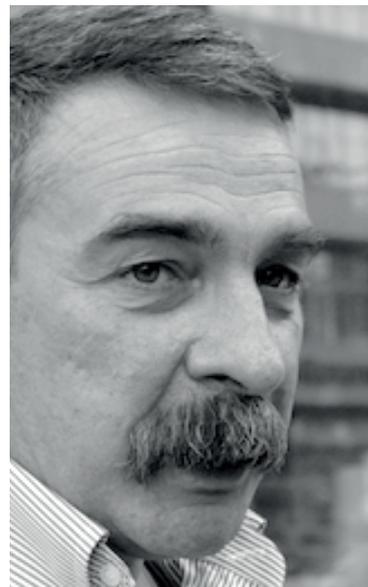
Free and Wild

Novel. AST. Moscow 2014. 412 pages

Foreign rights: Estonia/Kunst, France/Belfont, Germany/dtv, Lebanon/Scientific, Macedonia/Ars Lamina, Romania/Polirrom

A village in the boundless hunting and fishing grounds of Siberia. In this wilderness, so far off from Moscow, everyone depends on each other and everyone depends on mother nature. Live and let live is a firm byword. And because the fishermen can barely make a living keeping to the fixed fishing quotas dictated by Moscow, the militia looks the other way when caviar is sold under the table – especially as they receive their share of the profit. The social stability begins to crumble, when an ambitious militiaman sees an opportunity to advance his career. Freedom-loving Stepan Kobayakov on attempting to evade a control-point, shoots his way out of the situation and disappears into the vastness of the taiga. This rekindles the old conflict in the village between those who would rather leave things as they are and muddle on through and those in whom the desire for freedom sits deeper. A group of hunting friends set off to search for Stepan in order to sort things out before Moscow sends a search-helicopter and reinforcements for the militia. But it is too late. And as the ambitious militiaman begins to teach the villagers a lesson, the situation gets completely out of hand - a dramatic conflict escalates in the snow-covered forests. The hunters become the hunted, humans become fair prey.

Taciturn men, harsh living conditions, breath-taking landscapes, gripping scenes of hunting and social conflict – authentically and thrillingly Viktor Remizov tells of life in the Siberian taiga and of the precarious value of freedom in an unfree society. It is a mercilessly human novel.

**foreign rights**

ARABIC
ESTONIA
FRANCE
GERMANY
MACEDONIA
ROMANIA

awards

Big Book Award shortlist 2014
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2014
NOS Award shortlist 2014

other works

Temptation
(full french translation available)

press reviews

„Victor Remizov is not just a traditional prose writer, he is a traditional writer par excellence: intelligent, calculating, comprehensive, slow-paced as a taiga fisherman... Remizov's novel is social and analytical. Victor Remizov did not show us a full-fledged Russian revolt, but he showed us a very Russian clamour and outcry. And the coercive justice that always follows the clamour. This already suffices.“ SVOBODNAYA PRESSA

„This first novel by Viktor Remizov crackles with suspense fit for a movie, complemented by solid characters, spectacular descriptions of nature and perceptive observations on the state of modern Russia.“ WDR

„A raw book about a raw Russian region.“ FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU

„A excellently written novel, completely in the tradition of classic Russian literature with descriptions of nature and exceptional characters just waiting to be turned into a movie.“ BUCHPROFILE

biography

Viktor Remizov was born in Saratov in 1958, where he studied geological prospecting at college. After serving in the army Remizov studied languages at Moscow State University. He worked as a surveyor in the taiga, a school teacher of Russian literature and – for the longest time of his professional career – as a journalist. Viktor Remizov lives with his family near Moscow.

V. Remizov

Roman Senchin

title

What do you Want

Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2014. 170 pages

Sold to: France/Noir sur Blanc

Dasha is fourteen years old. Through her and with this book Senchin more or less grants us access to his own home by presenting his daughter, himself, his family and friends as typical representatives of a place and a time. With Dasha's documentary-like inner perspective Senchin brings us directly into the midst: we hear the conversations, observe the everyday life of a normal family who had moved from Siberia to Moscow, had been able to get more or less settled and is now able to keep their heads above water without acknowledging that their social situation is in fact a dead end. There are millions of such families in Moscow, and all of them would of course prefer to live in peace and prosperity.

At first glance Senchin seems to be describing two parallel realities: here the parents, there the youth. Yet the author does in fact leave everything to fourteen year old Dasha, through whose eyes and ears we experience the winter of 2011-2012 when civil protests were staged outside her home on the streets of Moscow. And inside the adults getting all worked up. What do they want there on Bolotnaya Square with their white armbands? Who are they, American agents or normal Russian people baring their souls? In this book it is not the pubescent teenagers who are the problem, it is the adults. Dasha finds more questions than answers when she tries to understand her parents' world. When, in the end, Dasha understands that parents can also have doubts, make mistakes, torture themselves helplessly, that her parents are also in the same state of incomprehension as the rest of the country, that is when she takes her first major steps towards adulthood.

„Senchin's prose is always about one thing for me: instinct. In its effect on me, on the reader. There are books that make you think. There are books that make you feel. Senchin's books arouse the survival instinct.“
– IRINA BOGATYREVA

„Following the frighteningly hopeless ELTYSHEVS, which also focusses on a family, Senchin has come up with a book full of light and hope... Perhaps even the best of all the books Senchin has written.“ – ALEKSEI VARLAMOV

biography

Roman Senchin was born in Siberia in 1971 where he subsequently grew up. Having completed his engineering studies he then went on to study at a Moscow literature institute where he still lectures today. His prose has made him one of the most prominent exponents of "New Realism". His works have so far been translated into German, French and a number of other languages. Roman Senchin lives in Ekaterinburg.

**foreign rights in general**

CHINA
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
HUNGARY
INDIA
ITALY
NETHERLANDS
POLAND
SERBIA
SWEDEN

awards

Big Book Awards 2nd Prize 2015
National Bestseller shortlist 2010
Big Book Award shortlist 2010
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2009

sample translation available

full french

other works

The Eltyshevs
(full english available)
Flood Plains
(full french available)

R. Senchin

Vladimir Sharov

title

Before and During

Novel. Novy Mir. St. Petersburg 1993/ Arsis. Moscow 2009. 426 pages

Sold to: Italy/Voland, France/Phebus, UK/Dedalus

This novel remains Sharov's best and definitely his most scandalous book. It contains many themes and motifs that recur throughout his oeuvre, making this novel a comprehensive introduction to the strange world of his fiction.

Madame de Staël (1766-1817), a famous opponent of Napoleon who visited Russia in 1812 during her exile, appears as a central character of modern Russian history. The novel tells the story of the three lives of de Staël, who is able to give birth to herself thanks to an ancient Hebrew recipe. Over the course of her lives, she inspires Nikolai Fedorov's philosophy of the resurrection of all dead; becomes the mother and later the mistress of Stalin (the very name 'Stalin' derives from de Staël); and takes a number of lovers, Fedorov, Skriabin, and Trotsky to name a few, who get their powers as future statesmen, thinkers and revolutionaries directly through and from sexual contact with her. Especially, revolutionaries.

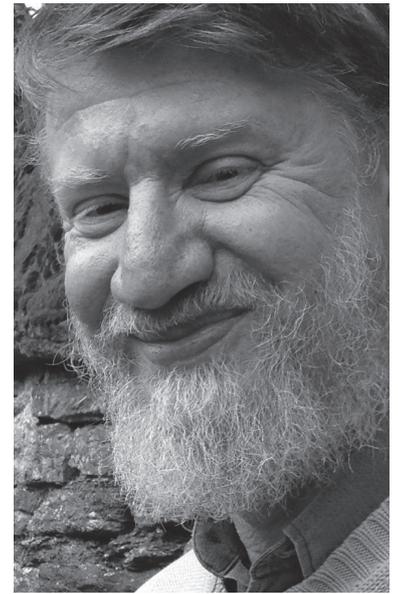
However, Sharov's heroes interpret the revolution in a particular way: as an eschatological event that serves to bring Russia, along with all humanity, to the Last Judgment and the Second Coming. Fedorov remains the central figure in this construction, as in his philosophy Sharov locates a quasi-rationalized justification of the revolutionary Apocalypse by the following resurrection of all the dead. However, Sharov is not mocking these theories, although his novels are full of intellectual humor, and his reworkings of well-known facts and ideas are frequently hilarious. Tellingly, *Before & During* ends with an epic snowfall, which is interpreted as a Biblical flood (this explains the novel's title: before and during the Flood). The Alzheimer ward of the Psychiatric Institute, where the action of the novel takes place, is refashioned as a new Ark. Needless to say, de Staël and Fedorov are there among the patients.

In *Before & During*, it is de Staël's passionate sexuality that drives the plot and emerges as the engine of history. In Sharov's representation, there is nothing repressed about this sexuality: it gloriously breaks all taboos and consumes young and old with equal power and pleasure. In this respect, *Before & During* is probably the most feminist version of Russian history in the entire twentieth-century fictional cannon.

(from the review by Lipovetsky)

biography

Vladimir Sharov was born in Moscow in 1952. After graduating from Voronezh University he obtained his PhD in history with a thesis on the 17th century in Russia. His novel „Before and During“ published in 1993 evoked heavy polemic responses due to the provoking discussion of the entanglement of communism and religion. In addition to writing Sharov gives guest lectures on Russian history, literature and culture at international universities such as Harvard, Lexington, Cologne, Rome, Zurich, Basle as well as Oxford and Cambridge. He is a member of PEN International. Vladimir Sharov has passed away in summer 2018.

**foreign rights in general**

BULGARIA
CHINA
EGYPT
FRANCE
GREECE
IRAC
ITALY
MACEDONIA
SERBIA
UK

awards

Read Russia translation award 2015
Big Book Award 2014
Russian Booker Prize 2014
Proze of the Year 2008
Znamya Prize 2002

sample translation available

full english

other works

Rehearsals (English sample translation available)
and more

V. Sharov

Aleksei Slapovski

title

The Unknown

Novel. AST. Moscow 2017. 500 pages
Big Book shortlist 2017

The subtitle of Slapovski's most recent book is: "Novel of a Century 1917 to 2017". And indeed, the story begins with Nikolai Smirnov's entry into his diary on the 17th December 1917 and ends with a letter from Gleb Smirnov to his father Victor in 2017. Thus the novel is also a family saga spanning five generations, but not in the usual way as there is neither a clear picture of the family Smirnov nor of 20th century Russia. The family-tree is shown in the appendix and only a few of the members of family are given a chance to speak. Two separate branches of the family are presented, whose narratives either overlap or leave gaps in time.

What may appear to be a design error in the novel, is intentionally so composed with style and content consistently applied. Noteworthy are the gaps in the family mosaic which automatically bring the fissures of the previous Russian century to the fore. Slapovski holds the family together over a century merely by story-telling, which in hindsight, does not yield any final truths. Every character is influenced by their own epoch and narrates in their own particular style – diaries, letters, interviews, short stories, emails – thereby mirroring the time in which they live. It is only in a judicial report that we learn of Anton Smirnov's career as an unwitting crook, for which he was sentenced to death in 1962. The only common thread in all these different lives is the presence and influence of the Russian secret service.

In THE UNKNOWN Slapovski's well-known ability of remaining authentic over the whole stylistic bandwidth as well as his much-vaunted empathy with each of his insignificant and bungling protagonists, which were recently reviled as "too soft" by patriotically disposed critics, come together creating a magnificent multi-faceted novel. There is no single style that smooths the image of the century. No hubristic judgment of the individual fate. Many members of the family recognize that they are on their way into the unknown. Significantly, the succession stops for those who react with a closed life-plan because they fear the unknown future too much. THE UNKNOWN is thus a courageous response to new and old political reflexives in Russia: the rising self-emancipating and self-opening society being harassed from above and isolated from the world.

**foreign rights in general**

CANADA
DENMARK
FRANCE
GERMANY
ITALY
NORWAY
SERBIA

award

Big Book shortlist 2017
Penne Award (Italy) 2009

other work

Genii

biography

Aleksei Slapovski was born in 1957 in Saratov. He holds a degree in philology from the university of Saratov. He worked as a school teacher, truck driver and journalist. His writing debut was a theater piece in 1985. He won several awards (Eugin O'Neill Drama Festival/USA, European Theater Festival/D-Kassel, Moscow Theater Competition). He has successfully written several novels and TV-series and has been nominated four times for the Russian Booker and two times for Big Book Award. His works are translated into many languages. Aleksei Slapovski lives in Moscow.

A. Slapovski

Olga Slavnikova

title

The Jump

Novel. AST. Moscow 2017. Shortened version approx. 320 pages

Young Vedernikov is a natural talent. He hops, skips and jumps and nothing can keep him on the ground. Defying gravity is his thing. He wins all competitions in the long-jump and is the next great hope for the European championships. One day on his way to his training session he notices how a young boy inattentively wanders in front of a car. Vedernikov sprints and jumps. He saves the child. His life-saving jump is a new record. But in the process he is run over by the car and loses both his legs.

Contrary to expectations, the novel is neither empathic nor critical about the difficulty of being disabled in Russian society. Vedernikov spurns the attempts of his trainer who wants him to enter in the Paralympics. He spurns his affluent and pragmatic mother who, instead of really looking after him, provides him with money and the latest artificial limbs. He lacks nothing except a meaning of life. And what follows is a merciless parable about good and evil based on a twist of fate that has evidently spared the wrong person.

His carer Lida looks after all of Vedernikov needs. And she eagerly takes on the role of a surrogate mother for Zhenya, the boy Vedernikov saved, whose parents neglect him and who Vedernikov has taken under his wing. By bringing Zhenya up, Vedernikov wants at least to give this young life a reason for living, a reason he cannot give himself. But as Zhenya grows up it becomes more and more apparent that the young ward is a good-for-nothing and a monster. And Vedernikov's evil shadow. And even Vedernikov was never really thoroughly decent. To give life some meaning, he plans to murder his ward. But it all ends with another long-jump of destiny and a completely unexpected twist of fate.

Slavnikova's cutting analysis does not miss an opportunity to expose, with irony and detachment, but without illusion, her protagonists' intersecting motives and relationships whether they be between Vedernikov, his mother, the carer Lida, her husband Aslan who does not want to have a child with her, the ward Zhenya and his parents or Vedernikov's trainer. THE JUMP is neither idyllic nor tragic, it has no contradicting truth and lies, but instead illustrates the clash of many different truths meeting on the solid ground of harsh reality.

press reviews

"An angry Nabokov." – LITERATURNAYA GAZETA

"Probably the best novel of the year." – LITERRATURA

"... no naive babbling about Russia. From the passings of time and fates Slavnikova weaves such a dense tapestry of characters that the reader feels drawn into a powerfully dramatic space, which is immediately recognizable as common or garden, consisting only of the too well-known."
– TATIANA MOSKVINA

biography

Olga Slavnikova was born in 1957 near Ekaterinburg. She writes reviews and essays for *Novy mir*, *Znamya*, *Oktyabr*. She was a member of the Russian Booker prize jury in 1999. In 2000 she was part of the board for the *Novy mir* Prize for short stories and now organizes the Debut Prize of the *Pokolenie* fund. Her novel "Strekoza, uvelichennaya do razmerov sobaki" was shortlisted for the Booker prize in 1997. "Odin v zerkale" won the Bazgov Prize and was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2000. Olga Slavnikova lives in Moscow.

**foreign rights in general**

CHINA
CROATIA
EGYPT
ESTONIA
FRANCE
GERMANY
HUNGARY
ITALY
JAPAN
LITHUANIA
MACEDONIA
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
SERBIA
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
SLOVENIA
SWEDEN
US

awards

National Bestseller shortlist 2018
Gorky Award Italy 2012
Gjenima Prize (US) 2006-2007
Russian Booker Prize 2006

other works

2017
Lighthouse
The Immortal

O. Slavnikova

Leonid Yuzefovich

title Zimnyaya doroga
Winter's Road
Documentary prose. AST. Moscow 2016. 426 pages

awards 2016 National Bestseller Award
2016 Big Book Award
2016 Booker Prize Translation Grant

Sold to: Bulgaria/Ednorog, France/Noir sur Blanc, Poland/Noir sur Blanc, Serbia/Russika

In St. Petersburg the Bolsheviks have already won the Civil War. But in the far east of Siberia, the Yakuts have dared to launch the final uprising against the Red Army. The scattered remains of the White Army have also withdrawn to far off Siberia. Among them is General Anatoly Pepelyaev who in 1922 hastens to the aid of the Yakuts in Vladivostok with a force of volunteers. Pepelyaev – a poet and seeker of truth, a fighter for self-determination and the freedom of men – sees in supporting the Yakuts a last chance to defend his own political ideals.

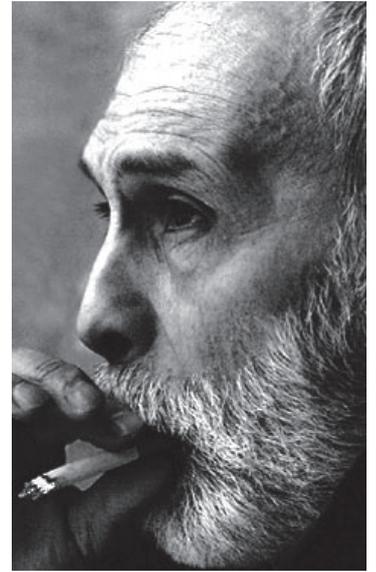
His opponent on the other side is the commander of the Red Army: the anarchist and author-to-be Ivan Strod. He, too, is an exceptionally enigmatic character of the Revolution years. We are thus introduced to two men, who purely by coincidence have become ideological enemies, despite being driven by similar principles.

By using this hardly known episode of the Russian Revolution in his twice award-winning non-fictional novel, Yuzefovich is able to portray deeper human motives: the love, passion and individual suffering that are buried in the ideology are revealed and the characters shown to be both oppressor and victim. In the end each individual is responsible for the Russian tragedy.

Thanks to his literary creativity, Yuzefovich is able to turn the strictly formalised reports of the time into realistic stories reflecting the deeply human aspects of those events.

press review "Leonid Yuzefovich's 'Winter's Road', one of the most enjoyable works of nonfiction I've read in a long time, with Civil War figures and wonderful details about people, places, and politics."
– LIZA HAYDEN ESPENSHADE

biography Leonid Yuzefovich was born in Moscow in 1947 but spent his childhood and youth in the Urals. He has a Doctorate in History and has written books on diplomatic etiquette in old Russia. He is known to a wide audience of readers through his historical thrillers about Ivan Putilin, the Tsar's Chief of Police in St. Petersburg, a living legend during his service (1866 – 1892). Yuzefovich is capable of interweaving detailed knowledge of historical fact with masterly literary style into the plot of a thriller.
L. Yuzefovich lives in Moscow and St. Petersburg.



foreign rights in general

BULGARIA
FRANCE
GERMANY
ITALY
POLAND
SERBIA
SPAIN
UK/US

awards

National Bestseller 2016
Big Book Award 2016
Booker Prize Translation Grant 2016
Russian Booker shortlist 2009
Big Book Award 2009

sample translation available

english

other works

Cranes and Pygmies
Horsemen of the Desert

L. Yuzefovich

Oleg Zaionchkovski

title

Schaste vozmozhno
Happiness is PossibleNovel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2009. 189 pages
Big Book Award shortlist 2010**Sold to:** Italy/Atmosphere, Spain/meettok, UK/Andotherstories

A writer, living in Moscow with a small dacha on the outskirts of the city, is hard up and so hires himself out to a large publishing company. He is required to deliver a positive novel on time but he has been unable to come up with anything positive since his wife Tamara ran off. She continues to visit the dacha, however, complete with new lover, to whom he is also required to show the best fishing spots. All that the writer is able to produce is notes about the happiness of others. The country boy (a caricature of himself) who comes to Moscow to land a rich woman, for instance. Yet the writer not only observes happiness, he initiates it, too, by bringing two lonely neighbours together, by giving a new chance to a teacher and her former pupil, whose love was once mercilessly suppressed. Or is he inventing all of this just to console himself? But then happiness does seem to catch up with him, too. Instead of punching the neighbour disturbing his work with the noise of his building work in the nose, in the end he lends him a helping hand with the renovations. And Tamara suddenly starts spending the night in the Moscow flat now and again, ultimately with the news of what had not happened during all the years of marriage: she is pregnant – by him.

HAPPINESS IS POSSIBLE is not only an enjoyable and precisely detailed book about the new type of human beings to be found in the city of Moscow, it is also a mini philosophical guide to happiness. Deadened by the density of the residential tower blocks, the anonymous masses, Zaionchkovski nevertheless teaches his characters to also smell the roses growing through the city asphalt. He teaches them and us about everyday happiness.

press reviews

"As if coming out of nowhere, an absolute harmony of style and drama."
– TIME OUT

"Zaionchkovski has written an astute book but one that comes from the heart..." – ANDREI NEMZER

"Zaionchkovski is one of those narrators with a natural charm, so at ease with themselves and so self-sufficient that they have no need of an energizing topic or a genre as a crutch, no superfluous dramatics – he simply has enough talent by himself to create something." – LEV DANILKIN

"The new novel from Oleg Zaionchkovski is a successful combination of everyday stories and a philosophy of patience and empathy – precisely what once characterised Russian literature." – NATALIA KURCHATOVA

biography

Oleg Zaionchkovski was born in Kuibyshev, now Samara, in 1959. After leaving high school he worked as an inspector in an aircraft factory. He has been writing prose since his youth but it is only recently that his work has been published. His second novel "Sergeev and The Town" reached the shortlist for The Booker – Open Russia Literary Prize in 2004. Oleg Zaionchkovski lives in a small town near Moscow.

**foreign rights in general**ITALY
SPAIN
UK**awards**Big Book Award longlist 2011
Big Book Award shortlist 2010
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2004**sample translation available**

english

other worksPetrovich
Sergeev and the Town
The Wedding Anniversary
Walks in the Park (short stories)

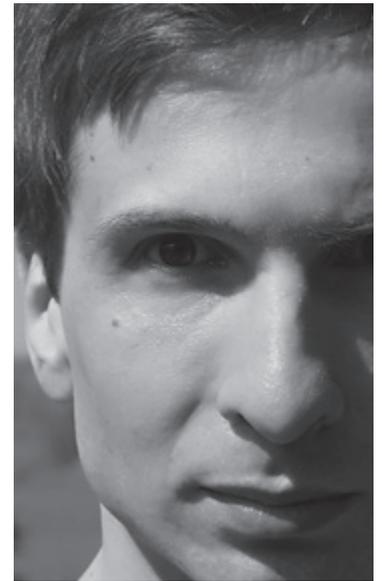
O. Zaionchkovski

title

The Autobiography of Iesus Christ
Novel. AST. Moscow 2018. 500 pages

The autobiography of Iesus Christ in the guise of a fictional novel. The language is simple and clear, the depiction nothing but scandalous, the message far more than provocative. Zobern's Christ does not intend to contest or refute Christian teachings, but he presents completely different backgrounds and motives. Even though this Iesus has no objection to homosexuality, abortion or suicide, it is not the intention of the author to convert the reader to a "more liberal" Christian doctrine. We are given virtual, first-hand reality combined with a flood of details so deeply rooted in the epoch concerned, that the story can only be seen to be authentic. As authentic as it is fanciful. From today's perspective, one would certainly not be ill-advised to consider it a significant omen when Neil Armstrong, wearing his white space-suit on the moon, appears to this Iesus in a dream.

A highly intelligent, likeable philanthropist, stumbling through life as best he can. In times neither better nor worse than ours, where wheeling and dealing defines every-day life, where it is not only the poor soil and the raw climate that cause the frequent migratory movements, fanatical guardians of public morals and occupying forces make life difficult as well. This Iesus also wants to enjoy himself. Sex and drugs, albeit without rock 'n' roll. Nevertheless, this Iesus does acknowledge his own shortcomings: he does not want to hurt anyone, just heal and be benevolent. And talk and write about it. Always with sound common sense. Simply down to earth.



awards

National Bestseller shortlist 2018
NOS Award (for other works) 2017
Debut Prize 2004

press reviews

"Devastating! It looks as if we have our own Salman Rushdie."
– ALEKSANDR MIKHAILOV (Lecturer at the Gorky Literature Institute)

"If we immerse ourselves too much in the text, we may identify ourselves too much with the hero, and run the risk that whenever the real Christ knocks on the door of the soul of humanity no-one will open up because His place has already been taken by this double."
– ANNA SKVORTSOVA in AKHILLA

"The Iesus in Zobern's 'Autobiography' is an icon of the antichrist."
– ARCHPRIEST CHAPLIN (Former adviser to the Russian Patriarch Kirill)

biography

Oleg Zobern was born in Moscow in 1980. After finishing the school of the Patriarch of Moscow, Oleg Zobern joined a forest monastery for a year. In 2004 he won the Russian Debut Prize with a volume of short stories and then went to the Gorky Literature Institute. He then studied at Saint Tikhon's Orthodox University. His first novel "Russian Demons" immediately won the NOS prize. His novel "Autobiography of Iesus Christ" sparked off a fierce discussion in the social networks. Orthodox Christians demanded that the book be banned and that the author be prosecuted. Members of the extreme-orthodox organization "Sorok Sorokov" (responsible, amongst other actions, for threats to the members of Pussy Riot and for campaigns against the movie "Mathilda") bought many copies of the books in order to burn them. As a result Zobern was provided with a private bodyguard by his publishers and, as the orthodox extremists obtained his address and set up pickets in front of his home, he felt obliged to change his place of residence in Russia.

O. Zobern