

Georgian literary fiction

The Inflatable Angel

Novel. Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. Tiflis 2010. 206 pages

Best Georgian Novel of the Year 2011
Ilia State University Award 2011

Publishers: France - L'Age d'Homme, Germany - Blumenbar

At exactly the same time as the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano filled Europe's skies with ash causing airlines to cancel flights, a young married couple, Niko and his wife Nino, are holding a spiritualist session in a small apartment in Tiflis. Their aim is to call up the spirit of George Gurdjieff.

Gurdjieff was a famous esoteric, writer, choreographer and composer in the early 20th century of importance not only for Georgia, which the Turks and Persians also used to refer to as "Gurdzistan". During the October Revolution, Gurdjieff and his followers left Russia and withdrew to the Caucasus, and then to Tiflis in the autumn of 1919, where he opened his first Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man. When the political situation in Georgia, too, began to destabilise, he set off on a lecture tour to London, Berlin, Paris, and then later to North America, too. Gurdzhiev died in France in 1949.

Now, however, in 21st-century Tiflis, Gurdjieff appears as a result of the Gorosia's invocation not only in spirit, but in flesh and blood. And because he simply will not go away again, Niko and Nino ask their Gurdjieff to help them in procuring funds. And so Gurdjieff uses all the means available to a resurrected esoteric: kidnapping, blackmail, hypnosis, metamorphosis, miracle cures.

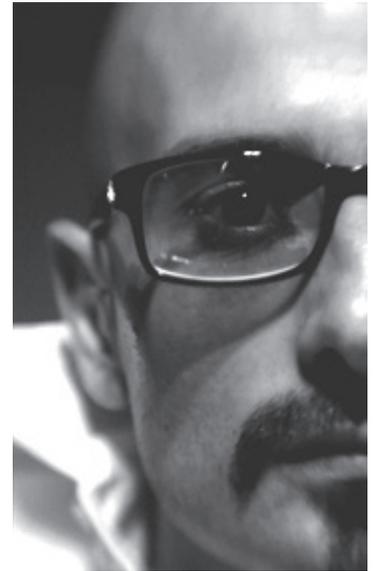
Thanks to their miraculous godsend, the Gorosias move into their newly acquired apartment and open a bakery with a café, while all around them fantastic occurrences are taking place.

"Zaza Burchuladze has written a touching, amusing as well as a rather sad book."
Vladimir Sorokin

"Anyone who is a fan of rather fantastic yet down-to-earth and astoundingly vivid characters will thoroughly enjoy reading this novel."
Evgeni Grishkovets

"Burchuladze, contrary and absurdist, writes in the imaginary tradition of Eugene Ionesco and Venedikt Erofeev."
Kirill Reshetnikov

Burchuladze, born 1973 in Tiflis, started writing after graduating from the Tiflis National Academy of Arts. 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, and is beginning to achieve fame beyond the borders of Georgia. After aggressive press, a severe insult on the radio by former president Saakashvili, physical attacks on the street of Tiflis and ultraorthodox publicly burning his books, he emigrated to Germany. Since 2014 Burchuladze lives in Berlin.



THE AUTHOR

translations
8 languages

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Adibas
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Mineral Jazz

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