

Olga Slavnikova

title

2017

Novel. Vagrius. Moscow 2006. 450 pages
Russian Booker Prize 2006

Sold to: China, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Slovak Republik, Slovenia, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, USA

Why do a man and woman always arrange the place and time of their next rendezvous after their assignation? If they miss each other they will never see one another again. Why does a respectable professor secretly set off on a perilous journey to the mountains every year? Why does he then disappear without a trace? What spirits does Krylov, the main hero and an underground polisher of precious stones, encounter during his quest for the absolute clarity of the stones? What game is his mistress, the professor's wife, playing? Is it purely human jealousy or is the mother of the copper mountains involved, she who is the stuff of myth and legend in the Urals?

Slavnikova's latest novel is set in a large town in the Ural Mountains, against the background of the illegal precious stones business. For those who dare to venture into the mountains to go digging, the world of the legendary mountain spirits becomes reality. But they are used to the risks and know that they cannot trust anyone – not even their nearest and dearest.

In the meantime the year 2017 is approaching and the town square is being set up to mark the 100 year anniversary of the October revolution. The fancy dress show descends into severe chaos, however.

press reviews

"Olga Slavnikova's novel '2017' is a happening. She has the temperament of a fighter and a covert empathy for the downtrodden. She has a psychologist's experience and the fervour of an ingenious storyteller, she has a talent for invention and a contemplative interest in every day occurrences; she knows how to capture the signs of the times and to filter out their symbolic content. Her writing comes close to that of Nabokov, she is hungry to be heard; she venerates tradition and inclines towards innovation. All of this is to be found in her novel '2017'." – VREMYA NOVOSTEI

"Anti-Utopia, enriched with the folklore of the Urals and refined with a deeply profound psychology. The romanticism of mountaineering expeditions and the gruesome conventions of the precious stone business; an urban love story and a mythology of the near future; realism and romance. Olga Slavnikova's new novel is an accomplished blend of all of these."
– DIRIGEABLE

"This enigmatic, frenetic, interesting, naive, enchanting, determined, heart-trending book is one you have to read and allow it to move you."
– ANDREI NEMZER

biography

Olga Slavnikova was born in 1957 near Ekaterinburg. She writes reviews and essays for Novy mir, Znanya, 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.



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awards

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

sample translation available

english
french
german

other works

Lighthouse, The Immortal, The Jump

O. Slavnikova