

Russian historical fiction

Hike to Bar Khoto

Novel. AST. Moscow 2024. 286 pages

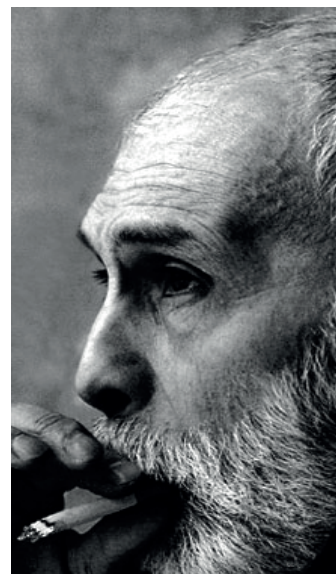
Awards: 2024 Yasnaya Polyana Award winner

Foreign rights: Serbia/ Logos

In Leonid Yuzefovich's latest and again award winning book, he brings history back to life by again empathizing with the mind of a historically authentic figure. These are the fictional but based on real events memoirs of the Russian officer, Captain Solodovnikov, who served as a military adviser in the Mongolian army in 1912–1914, when the Mongols defended their independence from China.

It seems that nobody needs the Bar Khoto fortress. Its future fate, as Solodovnikov's notebooks indicate, is to disappear forever without a trace. So why? Money, power, vanity - the real reasons for the campaign are obvious. He has to write secretly and carefully hide his notes, each time for fear of denunciation and searches. Although his notebooks contain nothing rebellious. However, at that time any private opinion on historical events was viewed with suspicion. Not only at that time.

The book intertwines the siege of the Chinese-occupied fortress of Bar-Khoto with love for the wife of a Russian diplomat in Mongolia, the First World War and Solodovnikov's deportation from Leningrad to Transbaikalia in the mid-1930s. The hero rethinks his own life and, with it, the fate of a person in a critical epoch.



THE AUTHOR

translations
15 languages

awards
Yasnaya Polyana Award 2024
Big Book Award 2021
Yasnaya Polyana finalist 2021
National Bestseller 2016
Big Book Award 2016
Booker Translation Grant 2016
Russian Booker shortlist 2009
Big Book Award 2009

samples available

english
french and others

"With the passion of an all-powerful demiurge, Yuzefovich mixes history and fantasy, interweaves past and present, mixes rumors and facts, and swaps conventional heroes and villains. From different perspectives, the same act can seem like both a crime and a heroic deed: the author does not give up the pleasure of first convincing the reader and then proving him wrong..."

GOD LITERATUREY

"Yuzefovich's prose is like autumn on Lake Baikal: clear, warm, windless, quiet."

EGOR SHUVALOV

other works

Philhellenes
Winter Road
Horsemen of the Desert
The Putilin Series
Kazaroza

Yuzefovich, born 1947 in Moscow, spent his childhood and youth in the Urals. He has a Doctorate in History and is known to a wide audience of readers through his historical thrillers about Ivan Putilin. 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.

Leonid Yuzefovich