

Russian historical detective

Kazaroza

Historical Detective Novel. AST. Moscow 2002. 400 pages

Shortlist Booker Prize 2003

Publishers: China - Radio Film & TV Press

Set in 1920, civil war is still raging in Russia. The famous St Petersburg singer Zinaida Kazaroza arrives in a city in the Ural. The members of the local Esperanto Club invite her to sing. Then she is shot under mysterious circumstances during the concert. The journalist and revolutionary Svechnikov, a secret admirer of Kazaroza, together with the poet Vagin, undertake to trace her murderer.

A beautiful woman: one might suspect a classic motive for murder. But during the course of the novel, the investigations into the death of Kazaroza become entwined with the story of the Esperanto movement which was very active at the beginning of the 20th century. Slowly but surely, the members of rival factions amongst these revolutionary language utopians come under suspicion of murder. In the end, however, murderer and motive are quite different to what the two "investigators" and the reader are led to expect.

Kazaroza is both an historical and a philosophical detective novel in which Yuzefovich again proves the highly stylised mastery with which he weaves his factually accurate historical material into an unusually exotic and thrilling detective story. That affectionate, ironic wink that always accompanies his heroes is also there throughout.

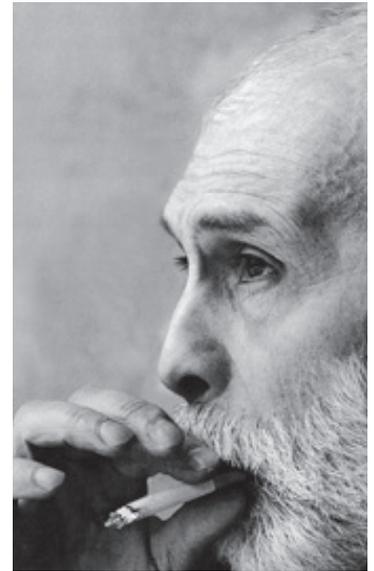
"Yuzefovich writes with subtle irony, detailed historical knowledge and a great feeling for language – a literary phenomenon!" Kniznoe Obozrenie

"One cannot praise enough the simple and elegant manner in which Yuzefovich engineers his intrigues. And in the end, all of the riddles are solved so magnificently." Booker Prize Jury

"One often hears the question: we know Pelevin, Sorokin, and Akunin. Are there not any other good writers? Yes there are. Leonid Yuzefovich." Konservator

"Since the heroine of the novel is a singer there is quite a lot about records. And when one pays attention to the passages dedicated to music, one can literally hear Kazaroza singing." Vasily Varvarin

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.



THE AUTHOR

translations
15 languages

awards

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

other works

Philhellenes
Winter Road
Horsemen of the Desert
The Putilin Series
Kazaroza

Leonid Yuzefovich