

Leonid Yuzefovich

title

Zimnyaya doroga

Winter's Road

Documentary prose. AST. Moscow 2016. 426 pages

2016 National Bestseller Award

2016 Big Book Award

2016 Booker Prize Translation Grant

Sold to: Bulgaria, France, Poland, Serbia

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 The scattered remains of the White Army have also withdrawn to far off Siberia.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.

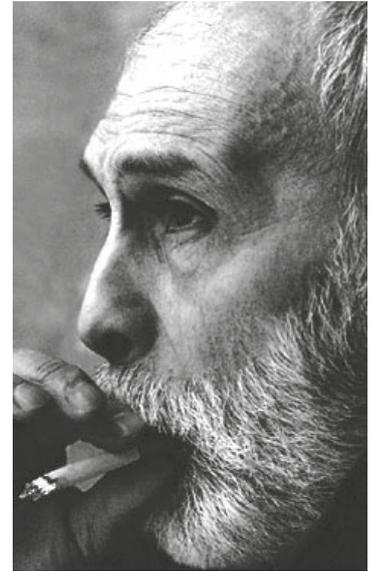
press review

"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.

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awards

National Bestseller 2016

Big Book Award 2016

Booker Prize Translation Grant 2016

Russian Booker shortlist 2009

Big Book Award 2009

other works

Cranes and Pygmies

Horsemen of the Desert

Kazaroza

The Putilin Series

sample translation available

english

L. Yuzefovich