

# CATALOGUE 2017

Aflatuni, Sukhbat  
Burchuladze, Zaza  
Danilov, Dmitri  
Eidman, Igor  
Grigorenko, Aleksandr  
Ilichevski, Aleksandr  
Kanovich, Grigori  
Kochergin, Eduard  
Lesnyanski, Aleksei  
Matveeva, Anna  
Nikitin, Aleksei  
Norbekov, Mirzakarim  
Odnobibl, Mikhail  
Rakitin, Aleksei  
Sekisov, Anton  
Senchin, Roman  
Slapovski, Aleksei  
Slavnikova, Olga  
Yuzefovich, Leonid  
Zaionchkovski, Oleg

## contact

Thomas Wiedling  
t | +49-89-62242844  
m | +49-174-2759072  
fax | +49-8152-78548  
thomas@wiedling-litag.com

Wiedling Literary Agency  
Pappenheimstrasse 3  
80335 Munich, Germany

# authors

# Russian Fantasy & Science-Fiction

Fantasy, LitRPG / Cyberpunk, Postapocalypse, Space Opera, Steam Punk, Young Adult & All Age



Michael Atamanov | Aleksei Bobl | Pavel Kornev | Andrei Levitski | Andrei Livadny  
Vasily Mahanenko | H.L. Oldie | Aleksei Osadchuk | Nik Perumov | Dmitri Rus | Vitali Sertakov

[fantasy.wiedling-litag.com](http://fantasy.wiedling-litag.com)

Sukhbat Aflatuni

title

**Poklonenie volkhvov**  
**The Adoration of the Magi**  
Novel. Ripol. Moscow 2015. 776 pages

The saga of the Triyarski family covers Russian history from the tsars in the middle of the 19th century through the revolution and the red terror to beyond the soviet era. The patriarch of the family, Nikolai, is a progressive architect who associates with enlightened secret societies in St. Petersburg. These are betrayed as being agitators and sentenced to death. On the 22nd December 1849, they are taken to the scaffold and about to be executed together with Dostoevski, but are surprisingly reprieved at the last second by the Tsar himself. Nikolai is unaware that he has his sister Varvara to thank for the reprieve. She has yielded to the Tsar and become his mistress in order to rescue her brother. When Varvara becomes pregnant she retires to a convent where she gives birth to a son. The storyline now moves to Kirghizia, where not only Nikolai has been exiled, but also where Varvara has been abducted by slave traders. Just before he dies the Tsar has his offspring brought to the palace and exchanges this illegitimate but healthy son for his sick nephew Nikolai; the two being so alike, they could be mistaken for twins.

Beginning with the star stolen from the church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 1847, which was the cause of the Crimean war, to the doppelgänger of the Russian crown-prince and further to the first space station Salyut 1, whose crew could not be brought back to Earth alive – Aflatuni uses facts supported by documentary evidence or incompletely resolved mysteries to weave a fantastic illusionary family history of the highest literary standard. Even with the dramatic changes of historically exciting settings from St. Petersburg via Tashkent to Harbin, Tokyo and New York, the geographic and historical hub of the novel remains Central Asia. Here is the melting-pot of the world religions, here was the soviet space-flight base, here the Grand Duke Nikolai Romanov really lived and was entombed in the local cathedral, and here the characters of the novel go in a procession at Christmas as the story ends in 1990.

An extraordinary book that equals Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose" and Carlos R. Zafon's "The Shadow of the Wind".

biography

Sukhbat Aflatuni (Evgeni Abdulaev) was born in 1971 in Namangan (Uzbekistan). He studied philosophy at the University of Tashkent and was awarded a PhD for his research on Zoroastrianism. In 1999 he was a co-founder of the "Tashkent School". He can be distinguished from the poet and namesake Sergei Abdulaev by his pseudonym Aflatuni (Arabic for Plato). Aflatuni writes in Russian and publishes poetry, prose, criticisms, essays and is a translator. Aflatuni lives in Tashkent.



awards

Yasnaya Polyana shortlist 2016  
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2016  
National Bestseller longlist 2016  
Big Book Award longlist 2010  
Kazakov Award shortlist 2008  
Russian Award 2005  
Prize Literary Journal Oktyabr 2004/06

S. Aflatuni

Zaza Burchuladze

title

**ADIBAS**

Novel. Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. Tiflis 2009. 197 pages

**Sold to:** Albania, Czech Republik, Ethiopia, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, US

War is waging in Georgia. The Russian fighter planes are thundering over Tiflis. Yet the sun worshippers at the open air pool register the tremors as no more than ripples on the surface of the water. The vibrations from the Russian combat helicopters over the Were Park are no more than the rattling of a spoon in a Cappuccino cup. Was the youtube video on the computer turned up too loud? And President Saakashvili's smile on a photo calendar, is that merely a Photoshop effect? There is not a single combat scene in the novel, the war is nowhere and yet everywhere. People are dying in the Russian-Georgian war, atrocities are being committed, yet in Tiflis there is no longer any difference between the real and the fake.

ADIBAS is a drastic satire of urban Bohemia in a globalised world. With what are in fact the two main heroes of the novel, war and sex, Shako – journalist, actor in Georgian Pepsi ads and cynical member of the Georgian "in" set – describes the progressive falsification of his living environment from branded goods through to sex and the medialised war – from "fuck me" to "fake me".

Even though, in concrete terms, the novel is set in Tiflis in August 2008 during the Russian-Georgian conflict, even though it targets the national indifference, a half Soviet, half Georgian legacy, demonstrating the lies and hypocrisy at all levels of society, using short sentences to reveal a kind of cultural anatomy behind the coloured facades of Tiflis, as one critic put it, the book's key message extends well beyond the borders of Georgia.

Burchuladze's publisher Bakur Sulakauri on ADIBAS:

"War is described here in a manner completely different to what we have seen in literature to date. Burchuladze is also one of the best stylists in Georgian literature today. He is a cosmopolitan author and he writes in exceptionally polished Georgian. ADIBAS is a highly tragic novel. It is told with obvious sadness, and although individual passages are full of irony, tremendous tragedy prevails in the background, it is not only about war but, against the background of war, also about the 'Feast in Time of Plague'."

press reviews

"We are not used to 'war prose' looking like this; no literary canon is bestowed with eternal life, however." – LEV DANILKIN

"... the bold undertaking to tell of war in the glamour language of city novels, in the style of Frederique Begbeider and Bret Easton Ellis."

– RUSSIAN VEDOMOSTI

biography

Zaza Burchuladze, born 1973 in Tiflis, started writing after graduating from the Tiflis National Academy of Arts and has since published ten books and screenplays. 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. Zaza Burchuladze lives in Tiflis.



**foreign rights in general**

ALBANIA  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
ETHIOPIA  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
ITALY  
MACEDONIA  
US

**awards**

Best Georgian Novel 2011  
Iliia State University Award 2011  
Bakur Sulakauri Award 2008  
Tsinandali Literary Award for Best Novel 2003

**sample translation available**

english  
german

**other works**

Instant Kafka  
The Inflatable Angel

Z. Burchuladze

Dmitri Danilov

title

Opisanie goroda  
Description of a City  
Novel. AST. Moscow 2012. 130 pages

**Sold to:** Macedonia, Netherlands

Twelve repeated visits to a city not too far from Moscow and with good rail connections. Your average industrial city with a slight Soviet patina, very few sightseeing attractions. People go shopping, stay in hotels, travel by bus, taxi, tram. But this description of a city has nothing to do with sightseeing tours with the names, addresses, opening hours of museums, hotels, restaurants and the like. There is seemingly nothing special to see, to experience, to notice or to remark on in this city. It is precisely because Danilov is interested not in what is special but in the usual that this city became his choice. The city is walked, researched, described so that it becomes "flesh and blood" in the end, in the words of Danilov's narrator. And this at two levels: the narrator in the midst and the reader faraway from the city that remains nameless. Both seem to switch roles in a bizarre mimicry. In the end, as the reader you no longer have the feeling of having accompanied the narrator on his walks through the city, it instead feels as though your own stroll through the city has been accompanied by the first person narrator. This description of a city teaches you to explore spaces and to rediscover yourself therein.

It could be any city in the world. Danilov's city, however, has two levels because it is the home city of the author who accorded its cult status amongst Russian literature aficionados with the novel "City N." by Leonid Dobychin. The building where he lived – now disappeared. He himself – disappeared in March 1936, after his novel "City N." was torn apart by Stalinist critics. The theme of absence has three constants in Danilov's city and book: silence, emptiness and greyness – little dialogue, few characters and the lack of action. And the more absence, the more that is missing, the more this city, this book gets under your skin.

On top of that, Danilov's ironically enjoyable, at times hilarious and very down-to-earth attempt to feel at home in a strange place is also a real treat for those who prefer to explore cities on trams. Football fans don't do too badly either.

biography

Dmitri Danilov was born in Moscow in 1969. He has published four books to date, mainly short stories and novels. His texts have been published in magazines in the USA, Holland, Belgium and Italy. He is editor-in-chief of the official blog of a large car manufacturer. Danilov lives in Moscow.



**foreign rights in general**

ITALY  
MACEDONIA  
NETHERLANDS

**awards**

Premio Letterare Internazionale Citta di Cattolica 2016  
Novy Mir Award 2012  
Big Book Award shortlist 2011  
Andrei Bely Award shortlist 2010

**sample translation available**

english

**other work**

Horizontal Position

D. Danilov



Igor Eidman

title

**Sistema Putina**  
**The Putin System**Socio-political work of non-fiction. Manuscript 2016. 280 pages  
Preface by Garri Kasparov and Zhanna Nemtsova**Sold to:** Germany

This book is an SOS from a Russian expert. He has lived through the end of democracy in his own country and he sees the need to warn readers outside Russia of the comparable risks facing their own countries. Is the whole world about to experience a long period of instability and social and political regression? Is Europe facing the threat of a major war?

From the start Eidman presents the regime in Russia as the pioneer and leader of a new far-right conservative movement. He lists Putin together with politicians such as Trump, Erdogan, Marine le Pen, Urban, Hofer, Frauke Petry, and others. The aggressive regime Putin has created in the east of Europe is contriving to reestablish its power base within the former Soviet sphere of influence. The author describes how Putin tries to influence the public opinion in western countries in order to destabilise the political status quo, how he supports far-right organisations throughout the world and how Moscow has become the command centre for a neo-conservative revolution.

Eidman analyses how Putin came to power and how, using various pretences, he has turned Russia into an autocratic regime. Authoritarian organisations in western countries are now attempting a similar procedure. Eidman's book must be seen, not only as shock-therapy for Russophiles in particular, but also as a warning for all, thereby enabling a necessary and appropriate assessment of the situation and the accompanying danger. The book provides detailed information of the source of the threat, its nature and how it could be countered. It is the author's opinion that tolerating Putin is equivalent to accepting the neo-conservative revolution, by which the liberal West is to be reduced to a model of Putin's design.

The book is easily accessible and reads like an angry political pamphlet intending to shake up a wide base of readers outside Russia. Thanks to his experience in working in elevated Russian political circles Eidman has important insider information, which he shares with the readers of this book.

biography

Igor Eidman was born in Gorky (today Nizny Novgorod) in 1968 as the son of a famous physicist. After graduating in history he began his career in the 1990s, working as journalist and editor for different media. He later became political consultant for high-ranking politicians, members of the Russian Duma and leaders of the liberal parties. The publication of his conceptual research work on theoretical sociology and social history entitled "Breakthrough to the Future. The Sociology of the Internet Revolution" brought him overnight fame. He took on the post of Communications Director with the Russian Centre for Public Opinion Research (VCIOM). However, after his support as a witness for the New Times for uncovering an in-house corruption scandal, he lost his job and, seeing himself and his family under increased pressure, he emigrated to Germany. Not many years later his cousin, the opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, was murdered in Moscow.

Eidman's most recent publication is "Das System Putin" (Heyne, Germany, 2016). He writes for wellknown German-language newspapers such as SZ, FAZ, NZZ or magazines such as Focus and has his own column with the Deutsche Welle.



foreign rights in general

GERMANY

sample translation available

german

I. Eidman

Aleksandr Grigorenko

title

**Mebet**

Novel. Arsis Publishers. Moscow 2011. 229 pages

**Sold to:** Bulgaria, China, Romania

Mebet, of the Nentsy people in North Western Siberia, is known to his fellow tribesmen as "God's Favourite". Like the midnight sun, his luck never seems to sink below the horizon. He knows nothing of discomfort, illness or aging, and the same applies to weakness or emotion. It is only when he becomes a grandfather that the tough warrior softens. And when his own son dies, Mebet begs the gods for a few extra years in order to be able to bring up his orphaned grandson. That is when the messenger of death pays him, too, a visit and takes him to the limit between the realm of the living and of the dead. It is at this point that God's Favourite learns that it has not been his own life that he has lived and that his never fading luck was merely a whim of the gods. In order to return to the realm of humans and to reconcile himself with his true self, Mebet has to set off on a shamanic journey into the beyond and endure the scourge of the Taiga for each year begged. The tale of Mebet's destiny becomes a message of salvation for mankind.

The first part seems to take the reader off into an ethnic epic about a great hunter and warrior with all the myths of the Taiga: witches, talking dogs, huge bears, hoards of spirits. Yet the second part reveals itself as a grandiose literary reflection of the first and we realise that this no folklore novel, but a timeless novel about destiny and humanity, culminating in a powerful, universal catharsis.

press reviews

"One of the best books of the year ... Basically a 'Lord of the Rings' about the Nentsy ... it is not about the Taiga, stylisation or ethnography at all. This book is about human destiny and the fact that every one of us has to look death in the face one day." – SERGEI KUZNETSOV

"The Nentsy can indeed talk of luck. They now have the own real epic – profound, touching and illuminating." – GALINA YUZEFOVICH

biography

Aleksandr Grigorenko was born in Novocherkassk, south of Moscow but has spent practically his whole life in the depths of Siberia. Since completing his studies at the Kemerovo University of Cinema and Photography he has worked as a journalist for the East Siberian bureau of Rosiiskaya Gazeta. Aleksandr Grigorenko lives in the Krasnoyarsk area.



**foreign rights in general**

BULGARIA

CHINA

ROMANIA

**award**

Yasnaya Polyana Award 2016,  
category XXI. century

**sample translation available**

german

**other work**

Ilget

# A. Grigorenko

Aleksandr Ilichevski

title

Pers

The Persian

Novel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2010. 481 pages  
Big Book Award 2010

**Sold to:** France, Germany

Ilia Dubnov's personal life is in crisis. Having married Teresa, a Slavic languages student from Germany who has come to the US in search of a Green card, he is not deceived but madly in love. His wife soon abandons him for an oil trader and takes their young son with her. Devastated Ilia stalks his ex family and traces them to Moscow, Russia. There he receives a message from a friend and former colleague who shares his research passion for the predecessor of all DNAs, Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA) code, and suspects that LUCA can be found in oil rich fields of Caspian region. Baku is Ilia's home town and he embarks on the travel back to his roots.

Back in Ashperon semi island Ilia meets his school friend Hashem of Iranian origin whose family fled Persia during the horrors of religious extremism of 1970s. Hashem is now a keeper at a wild nature reserve, Shirvan, where he forms a sort of a phalanstery and names it after an avant-garde poet Velimir Khlebnikov. His following grows and takes a form of a mystic cult. Ilia enlists in the troop and starts working in the reserve watching his friend both brilliant and increasingly mad. Ilia's ex wife reappears in the midst of the troop; she is as enticed with Hashem as Ilia is.

In Shirvan Hashem manages to breed a rare bird, houbara. The bird is a fetish for Arab aristocracy as reputedly it is a remedy for male potency and eternal youth. Hashem also trains and sells hunting falcons and uncovers to Ilia a mystery of his acquaintance with the world's most dangerous terrorist. The rumour of the houbara population brings a high ranking hunting party in the region; Hashem manages to protect his flock at a price of a military conflict. The wild nature reserve is shut down, Hashem loses his troop. Lonely and half mad he is looked after by Ilia and Teresa. Hashem maintains that houbara is a unique bate that can lure Bin Laden from hiding; he turns out to be right but pays a horrible price.

press reviews

"Ilichevskiy's work represents a breakthrough in contemporary Russian prose, in terms of both content and form." – RUSSKY ZHURNAL

"His style is inventive and opulent, saturated almost to the point of transgressing into another dimension. Synonyms, exacting metaphors, quick changes between a variety of perspectives – all so compact that it takes your breath away. As if you were a child standing on a springboard, it gets to you to such an extent that you feel like you have already jumped and are flying with all the fear and fascination of flight, yet every new sentence is like another spiralling jump."

– KNIZHNOE OBOZRENIE

biography

A. Ilichevski was born 1970 in Sumgait, Azerbaidzhan. The last two years of school he spends at a special-school for physics and mathematics associated to the Moscow State University. After university degrees 1993 from Moscow Physics and Technology Institute he spends 7 years abroad for research studies in Israel and California. 1998 he returns to Moscow. Besides his profession as a physician he publishes literary works since end of the 90ies. In 2014 Ilichevski emigrated with his family to Israel.



© Eugenia Durer

**foreign rights in general**

CHINA  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
MACEDONIA  
SERBIA  
US

**awards**

Internationaler Literaturpreis Berlin  
shortlist 2016  
Big Book Award shortlist 2016  
Big Book Award 2010  
Russian Booker Prize 2007  
Voloshin Int. Literary Contest 2006  
Novy Mir Award 2005  
Kazakov Award best short story  
2005

**sample translation available**

english  
french  
german

**other works**

Ai-Petri  
Matisse  
The Anarchists

A. Ilichevski



Grigori Kanovich

title

Mestechkovi romans

Shtetl Romance

Novel. Moscow 2013. 420 pages

**Sold to:** Germany, Lithuania, UK/US

A marvellous family novel, wise and pittoresque on the last 20 years of life in the Eastern European Shtetl. A moving piece of literature of a loss of the Jewish communities.

Schlojmke, a young taylor, has to serve in the Lithuanian army for two years leaving his sweetheart Chanke behind. Their love will endure and he will marry her against his strict mother's wish. It is their son nick-named „Hirschele“ which turns out to be the author himself. Grigori Kanovich tells us the story of this own life here, of his family during the 20s and 30s. A nostalgic and touching account despite of major threats and shifts full of sympathy and of course a bit melancholic.

“I am no Jewish author, since I write in Russian. No Russian author, since I write about Jews. And no Lithuanian author, because it is not the Lithuanian language I engage in.”

press reviews

“Kanovich makes us feel and see a world, that has long disappeared.”  
– FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

“There is very few people who can portray life of the Eastern European Jewish communities like Grigori Kanovich.” – BRIGITTE

biography

Kanovich was born into a traditional Jewish family in the Lithuanian town of Jonava in 1929. Together with his parents he fled war-stricken Lithuania and spent years in exile in Kazakhstan and the Ural Mountains. In 1945 the family returned to Vilnius. Here, in 1953, Kanovich graduated from Vilnius State University with a degree in Slavic studies. He has written more than ten novels – a virtual epic saga – dealing with the vicissitudes of the history of Eastern European Jewry from the 19th century to the present day. Kanovich was declared a citizen of honor (2013) of his hometown Jonava. Between 1989 and 1993 Kanovich served as Chairman of the Jewish Community of Lithuania. Since 1993 the writer has lived in Israel. He is a member of the PEN club in both Israel and Russia. Kanovich is married and has two sons. He lives in Israel.



**foreign rights in general**

GERMANY

LITHUANIA

UK/US

**award**

National Prize in Art & Culture,  
Lithuania 2014

**sample translation available**

english

**other work**

Devilspel

G. Kanovich

Eduard Kochergin

title

Kreshchennye krestami

Baptized with Crosses

Novel. Vita Nova Publishers. St. Petersburg 2009. 231 pages  
National Bestseller Award 2010

**Sold to:** Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, UK/US

While the mothers in Siberia wait for their soldier sons to return from the war in the west in 1945, the eight year old Eduard secretly jumps on board the trains heading in the opposite direction, heading west, towards Leningrad. Placed in a Siberian orphanage as a child because his parents were arrested as public enemies there is only one thing he wants: to go back home to Leningrad and to find his mother again. It is not only his desperate courage and his youthful agility that ensure his survival, it is also his artistic talent. With his agile fingers the boy is able to bend wire in the shape of profiles of Lenin and Stalin, as if in silhouette. He uses them to cheer up the invalid war veterans on the train stations returning from the front, who then give him a piece of bread, a bowl of soup and who, in a spirit of comradeship, warn him of the railway police and the secret service henchmen wanting to send the runaway back to the orphanage.

Eduard spends more than six years on the run, experiencing close encounters with post-war Russia where life and fate have become synonyms. He encounters other stowaways, professional beggars, soldiers returning from the war and wartime profiteers, the mothers of soldiers and war invalids, Chinese from the Ural, Cossacks dealing in hashish, Bashkir Estonians, Russian penal colony escapees and, time and again, orphanage directors. In order to survive the winter he often registered himself voluntarily in the next orphanage, each one always a little closer to the West, running away again before the servants of the Stalinist state are able to send him back to Siberia.

The memoirs of an old man who, as a boy, learnt to find his way between extortionate state control and marauding banditry, the two poles that characterise Russia to this day. A story about the awakening of artistic talent under highly unusual Russian circumstances.



**foreign rights in general**

ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
NORWAY  
POLAND  
UK/US

**award**

National Bestseller Award 2010

press reviews

"The book is so easy and quick to read it gives the reader the impression that it can easily be put aside again afterwards and quickly forgotten. Wrong, for it hits you more solidly than a thriller and every single one of the companions encountered by the little 'runaway' sticks in your mind." – DMITRI BYKOV

"Kochergin's memoirs automatically recall Pasternak's definition of the ideal book – 'a rectangular block just glowing with conscience'... A book just glowing with life's truths and one that leaves even the most unsentimental of readers with a lump in the throat." – MAYA KUCHERSKAYA

biography

Eduard Kochergin, born 1937 at the height of Stalin's repression, was separated from his parents as a small child when they were arrested under false charges of being foreign spies. The boy was sent to Siberia to an orphanage for children of "public enemies" from where he some time later escaped. He had survived the following 6 year journey to St. Petersburg only because he could make tattoos and bend wire in the shape of Soviet leaders' profiles. It was only later, after studying at the academy of arts, that he was able to turn his artistic talent into his profession. Kochergin is an internationally acclaimed stage and set designer and is currently the head of stage design at the Bolshoi Dramaticheskii Teatr (Tovstonogov Theater) in St. Petersburg.

**sample translation available**

english

E. Kochergin

Aleksei Lesnyanski

title

Otara idet na vetr  
The Sheep Vanish in the Wind  
Novel. Sever. St. Petersburg 2015. 160 pages

The steppe between Altai and Krasnoyarsk. The Khakas people who live there raise sheep. Agribusiness is done, however, as factory-farming by the immigrant Russians from the town. Because a coal seam is discovered under the grazing area, the regional administration must decide between mining or stock farming. The farm is going through a difficult financial period. Volodya, the son of the Russian farmer, and his Khakas friend Sanya have other jobs to do in addition to looking after the sheep. For example, looking after visitors from the town who come to the lake to have a tenting holiday. When a pregnant tourist goes into premature labour and everyone panics, Sanya relies on his experience with animals and without hesitation assists the mother in the successful birth. Afterwards the two seventeen year old boys have to rescue a couple of deer which have escaped from the zoo. The experience of Sanya, the Khakas boy, once again proves the deciding factor. Overtired they return to their proper work of being shepherds. But the boys fall asleep before sunset and lose their herd. Following a day full of routine work they experience a terrible night, in which both humans and animals are at risk from the dangers of the steppe. The boys search high and low without success. Although they know no prayers, they pray. Although they are not religious, they confess their sins to each other and repent. During a downpour of rain they fall asleep exhausted. In the middle of the night they awake to a starry sky that appears to be very close. They think they are in heaven. But the stars are the sparkling eyes of the sheep which have returned by themselves.

By means of detailed and realistic descriptions of hard daily routines we are shown the current life in the Siberian steppes without any romantic idealism. Also every folkloristic illusion about the indigenous population who have been already been Russified is avoided. But in contrast to the down-to-earth descriptions of the living-conditions and of the unchanging nature, the solid bond between humans and animals reappears bearing the seeds of a successful future. And thus the author manages to create in his short, award-winning novel of a day in the life of two young friends, a contemporary parable of existentialist power.

press review

"After reading this book you will not want to string yourself up on the next lamppost because of the imperfection and degeneracy of the world, but on the contrary you will want to go out immediately and perform some good deeds." – VALENTINA SOSNOVSKAYA

biography

A. Lesnyanski was born in the region of Krasnoyarsk in 1982. After his military service he studied marketing at a school of economics. After four years of working as a furrier, he worked a further four years as farm manager and freelance newspaper correspondent. Since 2011 he has been an internet editor for the state television of the Republic of Khakassia. Lesnyanski lives in Abakan.



**awards**

Award Sibirskie Ogni 2015  
International Annenski Prize 2014  
Debut Prize 2013  
Astafev Prize shortlist 2009  
Raduga Prize competition 2007

**sample translation available**

english

**other work**

Servants of the Country

A. Lesnyanski

Anna Matveeva

title

Zavidnoe chuvstvo Very Steninoi  
Vera Stenina's Envy

Novel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2015. 255 pages

In late January 2016 the run on the famous Russian impressionist Valentin Serov's works at the ART EXPO MOSCOW resulted in a broken glass door in the entrance area. Russia has rediscovered its passion for art and it seems to be stronger than ever, commented Anna Matveeva.

In her new novel, the art historian engages with a highly explosive emotion: envy. Black-marked as one of the seven original sins, envy remains a powerful tool which accompanies our deepest wound. The way we painfully scrutinize what we seem to lack is described as a fascinating ingredient of our psyche, which bridges our ever so contradictory (inner) worlds.

Two women, Julia and Vera, will be friends for decades. They meet in high school, both give birth to one single daughter, and share a lifetime in the Soviet city of Sverdlovsk, which will eventually turn into today's Ekaterinburg. Matveeva elegantly weaves an account of everyday life in this more peripheral area into the heroines' daily routine, loves and losses, a provincial society in times of major change. In order to highlight the personal changes that occur throughout their respective lives, she juxtaposes two particular days in every chapter – one taking place in the present and the other 20 years ago.

The core of the work remains the description of a relationship between two women who could not be more different: Julia, beautiful but somewhat ordinary, and Vera, who carries a unique talent inside of her but who is by no means attractive. It is Vera who secretly envies Julia, telling us about it with a fresh sense of self-irony and distance. Little does she know that her closest friend experiences the same pain, not having any particular gift to offer to the world.

A gift, because Vera is able to feel a painting. The perfume of the hair of a woman depicted. The inner melody of a piece of art. If it is fake, there will be no sound. She will use this talent successfully in the art industry. Eventually, she will be able to speak out to herself and reconcile her inner battles by confronting a painting called Portrait of Vera.

biography

Anna Matveeva was born in Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg, in 1972. She comes from a family of linguists and, after completing her studies at the State Ural University, she worked as a journalist for newspapers and magazines. She has since published several books and writes for all of the leading Russian media. Anna Matveeva has three children and lives in Yekaterinburg.



**foreign rights in general**

BULGARIA  
CHINA  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
FRANCE

**awards**

Bazhov Prize 2017  
Big Book Award shortlist 2016  
Big Book Award public vote #2 2015  
Big Book Award shortlist 2013  
Kazakov Prize shortlist 2011  
Lo Stellato Prize, Italy 2004

**sample translation available**

english

**other works**

Dyatlov Pass  
Nine from the Nineties  
Wait, I will die and then - come

A. Matveeva

Aleksei Nikitin

title

Park Pobedy  
Victory Park  
Novel. Ad Marginem. Moscow 2014. 375 pages

Sold to: France, Ukraine

Apocalyptic sense of doom in Kiev towards the end of the 1980s. The chestnut trees are flowering in Victory Park, where veterans from Afghanistan deal in hashish while repairing the playground equipment for the children and black-marketeers entertain the corrupt police at the little kiosk. However, business seems no longer to be flourishing, its last hopeful petals have fallen, and even the corrupt militia will have a poor harvest this autumn. And all because a murder is committed which throws the old well-greased system out of balance. Suddenly all the old alliances between the serious toughs from the Victory Park, who as young boys all went to the same school, begin to disintegrate. Can all this be because a simple literature student wanted to buy a pair of Puma shoes for his girlfriend – but from the wrong blackmarket dealer?

In Ukraine a simple thriller would not have a chance to get even close to the truth and so this novel raises its sights to become a literary genre painting. With remarkable accuracy the author brings everything to life: from the smallest day-to-day events right up to the dizzy heights of the political stratosphere, all of the organized chaos and entanglements of Ukrainian society that have not disappeared with the demise of the Soviet-Ukraine. Through the prism of the past the reader is shown all the humanity and human failures of the problems of modern Ukraine. The author has not only a feel for the raw nerves of a fin de siècle, but also the skill to present his hometown of Kiev ironically and season it with original anecdotes and characters. We learn the names of the villages which occupied the left bank of the Dnepr before the prefab housing blocks began their sprawl in the 1970s; why the soviet housing administration disliked pigeon post and in this did not differ from the German invaders during World War II; and how the rumour of a neglected German army bunker can develop into a real hideout for a neo-Leninist combat unit, who at the end of the novel spark off a final Maidan of the Righteous in Victory Park.



#### foreign rights in general

FRANCE

ITALY

UKRAINE

UK/US

#### awards

National Bestseller 2014

Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

#### other works

Istemi (english sample translation)

Mayong

press reviews

"The soviet and mystical city Kiev and its inhabitants are very important to this author. He recreates his city, of which he knows every corner and alley, and which he really loves and (not without success) attempts to imbue this love in his readers." – JURY NATIONAL BESTSELLER 2014

"A novel in which the driving force above all is love, finely interwoven with the author's humor." – KULTPROSVET

biography

Aleksei Nikitin was born in Kiev in 1967. After completing his course of physics at the university of Kiev and his period of conscription he established his own company in 1992 and worked on different projects for the Ukrainian oil, chemical and atomic industries. In 2000 he published his first volume of poetry, which was awarded the Korolenko prize by the Ukrainian writers association for the best poetry of the year. In 2002 Nikitin closed his business operations and worked for several years as an IT journalist. Afterwards he dedicated himself completely to his literary activities and has since published several novels. Aleksei Nikitin lives in Kiev.

# A. Nikitin



Mirzakarim Norbekov

title

Opyt duraka

The experience of a Fool. Or how to get rid of your Glasses  
Self help. AST. Moscow 2000. 350 pages

**Sold to:** France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain

In this book about how to train your eyes it is not only concerned with the dioptric scale, but about seeing clearly through all aspects of life. Mirzakarim Norbekov's unusual methods have spread like a wildfire through Russia. His courses result in a huge recovery rate, and a similar success could be waiting for you by the end of this book. But to achieve this you really need to be prepared to take on a mighty adversary – you yourself. And maybe because this is so difficult the message is delivered with a punch in order to keep you going in the right direction. Regardless of the outcome you will be rewarded with an extraordinary reading experience as you get to know this Russian Health Philosophy.

biography

Mirzakarim Norbekov is a Doctor of Psychology, Pedagogics and Medical Philosophy. He is a Professor and an active member of numerous Russian and international Scientific Academies. He founded a health centre in Moscow, that has now grown into a network of centres in Russia, surrounding countries and in the West. His method of healing is concerned with the overall health of a person. He was the Russian vice champion in karate. Mirzakarim Norbekov lives in Moscow and Uzbekistan.

For more information in English please see here:

<http://norbekov.co.uk/index.html>



**foreign rights in general**

FRANCE  
GERMANY  
ITALY  
POLAND  
SPAIN

**sample translation available**

german  
italian

M. Norbekov

Mikhail Odnobibl

title

**Ochered  
The Queue**

Novel. Vremya. Moscow 2017. 478 pages

A nameless itinerant worker is travelling through the countryside. Having previously worked as a foreman for a workers' brigade, he is known only as the Foreman. He loses his way during a late spring snowstorm and ends up in a nameless town. The town in the novel is based on Kozelsk, located to the southeast of Kaluga, and famed for its pseudonym Skotoprigonevsk in *The Brothers Karamazov* by Dostoyevsky. There seems to be no way out of this town. The harder the Foreman tries to resist its influence, the deeper he is drawn into the peculiar topology of the town; drawn into the necessity of queueing for work, where everyone fights for his or her/their number in the queue, although no one knows if it is worthwhile. But losing one's place in the queue also seems to be the equivalent of losing one's life. The world seems to be divided between powerful officials and powerless jobseekers. Without asking for it, the banksman is given a high number, which immediately rouses the jealousy of the others in the queue. At the same time he is soon seen as an agitator, trying to wake the enthusiasm of the haplessly queueing jobseekers for the readily available work in the countryside. Whenever he tries to help the people, they turn against him. He is captured while trying to escape over the still half frozen river and dragged in front of unapproachable bureaucratic administrators in the basement of a nondescript tower block. The Foreman escapes from the cellar and attempts to hide in different parts of the town, in a school, a museum, a country cottage. He only manages to leave the town after being recaptured, punished and, together with a gang of prisoners, being banished from the town.

THE QUEUE is a multi-layered, emblematical novel, which allows any number of interpretations. It is like reading and decoding a religious icon. After a while the structure of the queue and also the architecture of the town with bi-directional movements, upwards and downwards, reminds one of paintings of *The Last Judgment* with the protagonist wandering through the circles of hell from which there is no escape. Also the style and language of the book are simple, almost as if the words were pointillistically dabbed on with a light touch, without glaring or pretentious colours, giving on the whole a tranquil effect – like an icon. It is a small closed world on its own and opens up many different spheres and realms of analysis.

A Kafkaesque novel in the language of Platonov.

press review

"Have you read *The Castle* by Kafka? Well, this is like *The Castle*, but much bigger!" – SERGEI NOSOV

biography

Mikhail Odnobibl was born in 1959 in Leipzig as the son of a soviet soldier based in the then East Germany. As a three year-old he returned with his parents to the USSR and grew up near Kazan. He served as a soldier in Afghanistan. After graduating from the Moscow Literary Institute he worked on a book about paradoxes, from which only three brief extracts were published in a magazine: the manuscript was burnt together with his home. For a long time he earned his livelihood working at a mountain station of the nature reserve "Western Caucasus", a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At present Odnobibl works as a gardener in a subtropical park.



sample translation available  
english

# M. Odnobibl

Aleksei Rakitin

title

**The Dyatlov Pass Incident**

Non fiction. St. Petersburg 2012. ca. 430 pages including illustrations

foreign rights in general

GERMANY

**Sold to:** Germany

sample translation available

With an epilogue by Oleg Kashin

german

(author and journalist with the newspaper Kommersant and others)

The Dyatlov Pass incident resulted in the deaths of nine ski hikers in the northern Ural mountains on the night of February 2, 1959. The mountain pass where the incident occurred has since been named Dyatlov Pass after the group's leader, Igor Dyatlov. The lack of eyewitnesses has inspired much speculation. Soviet investigators determined only that "a compelling unknown force" had caused the deaths. Access to the area was barred for skiers and other adventurers for three years after the incident. Investigators at the time determined that the hikers tore open their tent from within, departing barefoot into heavy snow and a temperature of -30 °C (-22 °F). Although the corpses showed no signs of struggle, two victims had fractured skulls, two had broken ribs, and one was missing her tongue. Their clothing, when tested, was found to be highly radioactive.

This book makes a new attempt to analyse all of the information available up until today about the mysterious deaths of the group of Sverdlovsk tourists on the Dyatlov Pass in the winter of 1959 and to evaluate them for the first time without any of the mystic suppositions that have dogged this unexplained event. In doing so, the author draws on two witnesses still living as well as on archives and on secret files held in Yekaterinburg and elsewhere, files that have been withheld from the public up to now. The book goes as far as naming those responsible in the end. Why their names cannot be revealed, however, becomes clear during the course of the book. Despite, or perhaps precisely because of the rational, strictly documentary portrayal, this book leaves the reader with the impression of experiencing a true nightmare.

The Hollywood feature film "Devil's Pass" has been released 2013 with Renny Harlin as director (Nightmare on Elm Street 1988 / Die Hard 2 1990 / Cliffhanger 1993 / Deep Blue Sea 1999 / Exorzist Beginning 2004 / The Covenant 2006 / 5 Days of War 2011).

biography

Aleksei Rakitin was born in 1964. He has lived in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) since 1979, went to school there, completed his training as a mechanic at the city's military academy and worked in a "secret" engineering department within the Ministry of Mechanical Engineering up until Perestroika. Following 1989 his sound physical constitution enabled a move to a private security company. Up until the mid-2000s he was bodyguard to Russian and international VIPs visiting St. Petersburg, during the course of which he was injured several times. During one of his convalescence periods he started the "Unsolved Crimes of the Past" internet project together with a group of like-minded individuals. On the side, Rakitin began writing thrillers based on true crimes from the 19th century. Rakitin has no passport, gives no interviews and does not appear in public. He lives in St. Petersburg.

Oleg Kashin was born in Kaliningrad in 1980. He is Russia's best known investigative journalist. As a journalist with the newspaper Kommersant and others he is repeated critic of democracy deficits in Russia.

A. Rakitin

Anton Sekisov

title

Krov i pochva  
In Blood and Soil

Novel. Il-Music. Moscow 2015. 172 pages

Young Gortov is devastated. Cheated and dumped by his girlfriend, no job, no money, no future. Driven by his crisis he runs away to the country, but by sending a text message a student friend entices him to return to Moscow. Back home he ends up in a (fictional) sloboda, a sort of free settlement behind a high fence where the "Russki Mir", the Russian World, is established. The leader is an Archimandrite, the people live in monastic cells, there are statues of Russian heroes everywhere, the organization is based on orthodox Christianity. Men in black shirts practice close-combat with knives, served by lower lackeys who wear dirty smocks. Because of his education, Gortov is put to work in the journalism collective which is to print a newspaper for "Russki Mir". Despite the fact that he is both repelled and fascinated by the coarse moral conduct of the strayed sinners and converted workers in his collective as well as by the apparent willingness to sacrifice herself shown by a girl in the cell next door with whom he falls in love, the sloboda slowly develops into Gortov's new home. The emptiness in his life seems to be filling. Suddenly, though, the project sloboda disintegrates and the supposedly sworn society is scattered by the winds. Gortov stays behind alone desperately trying to keep the newspaper going to give his life some meaning.

The Russian "Jakob von Gunten" (Robert Walser).

The book is based on experiences of the author. Sekisov worked as a journalist for the website "12", amongst others. "12" was published by the abbot of the Sretensky monastery who is the spiritual adviser of Putin and the federal security service, FSB. The website "12" was intended to be the main media organ of the "Russki Mir" and denounce "jews, liberals, sodomites" and others who make the life of Russian patriots difficult. The website existed for a month and then vanished without a trace.

The Russian press have compared Sekisov with Esenin, Marienhof and Ilf-Petrov.

press reviews

"A book about those who have thought up and propagate the myth of the Russian World, and that in the most evil of ways, which we have had to get used to in recent years. Sekisov has written an eyewitness report about the beginning of the 'Russian spring'. A novel on impure energies in the tradition of the critical realism of Bulgakov, Dostoevsky, Gogol."  
– OLEG KASHIN

"As if on an acid trip, Sekisov shows up the 'patriotic' project with irony and sarcasm ... Energetic style of writing, accurate and original metaphors. And above all an excellent and graphically fresh language. The ending is dramatic. And meaningful. I suspect it is even prophetic."  
– JURY NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"The vision of the author is fiendish, merciless and very observant, his humour – stunning." – PROCHTENIE

biography

A. Sekisov was born in 1987 in Moscow. After completing a 5 year degree course in journalism at the Moscow State University in 2011 he has worked as an editor and freelance journalist for different newspapers and internet publications. A. Sekisov lives in Moscow.



sample translation available

english

A. Sekisov

Roman Senchin

title

Zona zatopenia  
Flood plain

Novel. AST. Moscow 2015. 280 pages  
Big Book Award 2nd Prize 2015

**Sold to:** France, Serbia

A private investor completes the construction of a half-finished, forgotten hydroelectric power station. It is a matter of electric power for China. The money for the construction comes from Russian public-sector loans, from offshore accounts. A huge area will have to be flooded. Individual profit versus public welfare. It is a simple story that can be found everywhere in the world. And one that is often told: Naomi Klein tells the story in her non-fictional analysis "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate". Andrey Zvyagintsev in his Oscar-nominee cinematic drama "Leviathan". And Roman Senchin tells it in a novel.

No pent-up anger. No scandals. Senchin, who for good reasons is ranked among the "new realists", does not need a fictitious plot to transport facts with fabricated emotions. His story almost tells itself. Coolly and calmly. And possibly because of this it affects the reader all the more deeply. The undercurrent of the novel is like the Siberian river that once flowed freely: crystal-clear, fast and full of fish. Now a dam has been erected. Infection spreads. Occasionally the rowing boats of the locals get tangled in the tree-tops of the drowned forests, as if the trees wanted to drag all remaining life down into the depths. But below the foul surface that positive current reappears again and again. With the emotional forcefulness of an irrevocable farewell Senchin describes the life in the doomed villages in the centre of the fertile and nourishing countryside while the water inexorably rises. The resettled villagers had loved their river, their life-blood. At the end there is only remembrance, a fond memory.

The morass of bureaucracy, nepotism and corruption has become impenetrable. Even for the journalist Olga who, following the entries in the social networks, observes the complaints about injustices, illegal practices and even of forced relocations and as a consequence begins researching the situation of the helpless victims. Olga's requests for information from the authorities are ignored. Relocated villagers who regularly discuss their situation are separated and dispersed by the militia. Old Ignati manages to gain the attention of his grandson Nikita. Despite the distractions of his smartphone, Nikita listens to Ignati's descriptions of the former life and of the old customs. At Easter they visit the new cemetery where the villagers' dead have been reinterred and Nikita suddenly notices the water rising higher than planned. Even the new cemetery will soon be flooded. Nikita has listened and now he begins to see and to understand.

biography

Roman Senchin was born in Siberia in 1971 where he subsequently grew up. Having completed his engineering studies he then went on to study at a Moscow literature institute where he still lectures today. His prose has made him one of the most prominent exponents of "New Realism". His works have so far been translated into German, French and a number of other languages. Roman Senchin lives in Moscow.



**foreign rights in general**

CHINA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
HUNGARY  
INDIA  
ITALY  
NETHERLANDS  
POLAND  
SERBIA  
SWEDEN

**awards**

Big Book Awards 2nd Prize 2015  
National Bestseller shortlist 2010  
Big Book Award shortlist 2010  
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2009

**sample translation available**

english  
french

**other works**

The Eltyshyevs  
What do you want?

R. Senchin



Aleksei Slapovski

title

**Genii**

Novel. Ripol. Moscow 2016. 434 pages

The new border between Ukraine and the area controlled by the separatists does not merely go through Grezhin, the village where Arkadi lives, but directly through the middle of his house. Arkadi lives in one half, in the other, because of Arkadi's alleged infidelity, his wife Nina, jealous and sulking, has barricaded herself in. There is enough stress bringing up their son in this situation, but on top of that the divided village is threatened by a visit from Russia, from the MAN HIMSELF.

However, the next visitor from Russia is Arkadi's half-brother (Ev-)Genii, a strange fellow who is constantly speaking into an audio recorder about himself in a third person narrative. But Genii seems to have a wonderful ability of observation and be able to look inside people and appeal to their real and hidden longings. When an unidentified rocket, set off by a boys prank, hits a lorry, killing the son of the village oligarch, the village falls into more than just a mental state of war. For now both the Ukrainian and the Russian forces advance on Grezhin, as always set on taking action against the guilty "third party", against a village that just did not want to be drawn into the conflict.

Slapovski has an unerring sense of the ridiculous inherent in every great tragedy. Although he knows the healing power of humour, he does not invent a whimsical Utopia, and allows the novel to collide hard with reality. In the end, it is not only many Ukrainian and Russian combatants who die, but also the two boys. And Genii is killed by a stray bullet, without having fired a shot himself.

This is the first novel that deals directly with the Ukraine conflict by a well-known Russian author, who lives in Russia and who does not belong to the patriots camp. With GENII Slapovski has produced a study of common sense and humanity that, in this time of crisis, is heartily recommended to several of the political actors both in the East and in the West.

biography

Aleksei Slapovski was born in 1957 in Saratov. He holds a degree in philology from the university of Saratov. He worked as a school teacher, truck driver and journalist. His writing debut was a theater piece in 1985. He won several awards (Eugin O'Neill Drama Festival/USA, European Theater Festival/D-Kassel, Moscow Theater Competition). He has successfully written several novels and TV-series and has been nominated four times for the Russian Booker and two times for Big Book Award. His works are translated into many languages. Aleksei Slapovski lives in Moscow.

**foreign rights in general**

CANADA  
DENMARK  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
ITALY  
NORWAY  
SERBIA

**award**

Penne Award (Italy) 2009

**sample translation available**

english

# A. Slapovski

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, heartrending 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, Znamya, 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.



**foreign rights in general**

CHINA  
CROATIA  
ESTONIA  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
HUNGARY  
ITALY  
JAPAN  
LITHUANIA  
MACEDONIA  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
ROMANIA  
SERBIA  
SLOVAK REPUBLIK  
SLOVENIA  
SWEDEN  
US

**awards**

Gorky Award Italy 2012  
Gjenima Prize (US) 2006-2007  
Russian Booker Prize 2006

**sample translation available**

english  
french  
german

**other works**

Lighthouse  
The Immortal

O. Slavnikova

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, 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.

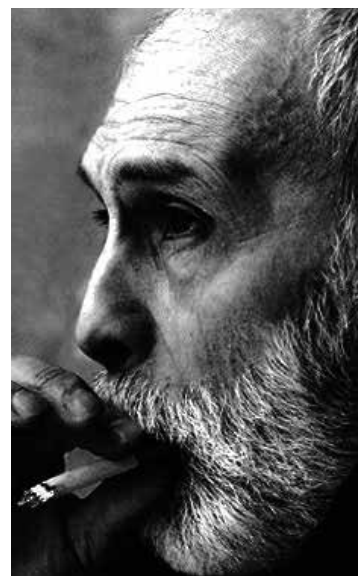
press review

"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.



**foreign rights in general**

BULGARIA  
FRANCE  
GERMANY  
ITALY  
POLAND  
SERBIA  
SPAIN  
UK/US

**awards**

National Bestseller 2016  
Big Book Award 2016  
Booker Prize Translation Grant 2016  
Russian Booker shortlist 2009  
Big Book Award 2009

**sample translation available**

english

**other works**

Cranes and Pygmies  
Horsemen of the Desert

L. Yuzefovich

Oleg Zaionchkovski

title

Schaste vozmozhno  
Happiness is Possible

Novel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2009. 189 pages  
Big Book Award shortlist 2010

Sold to: Italy, UK

A writer, living in Moscow with a small dacha on the outskirts of the city, is hard up and so hires himself out to a large publishing company. He is required to deliver a positive novel on time but he has been unable to come up with anything positive since his wife Tamara ran off. She continues to visit the dacha, however, complete with new lover, to whom he is also required to show the best fishing spots. All that the writer is able to produce is notes about the happiness of others. The country boy (a caricature of himself) who comes to Moscow to land a rich woman, for instance. Yet the writer not only observes happiness, he initiates it, too, by bringing two lonely neighbours together, by giving a new chance to a teacher and her former pupil, whose love was once mercilessly suppressed. Or is he inventing all of this just to console himself? But then happiness does seem to catch up with him, too. Instead of punching the neighbour disturbing his work with the noise of his building work in the nose, in the end he lends him a helping hand with the renovations. And Tamara suddenly starts spending the night in the Moscow flat now and again, ultimately with the news of what had not happened during all the years of marriage: she is pregnant – by him.

HAPPINESS IS POSSIBLE is not only an enjoyable and precisely detailed book about the new type of human beings to be found in the city of Moscow, it is also a mini philosophical guide to happiness. Deadened by the density of the residential tower blocks, the anonymous masses, Zaionchkovski nevertheless teaches his characters to also smell the roses growing through the city asphalt. He teaches them and us about everyday happiness.

press reviews

"As if coming out of nowhere, an absolute harmony of style and drama."  
– TIME OUT

"Zaionchkovski has written an astute book but one that comes from the heart..." – ANDREI NEMZER

"Zaionchkovski is one of those narrators with a natural charm, so at ease with themselves and so self-sufficient that they have no need of an energizing topic or a genre as a crutch, no superfluous dramatics – he simply has enough talent by himself to create something." – LEV DANILKIN

"The new novel from Oleg Zaionchkovski is a successful combination of everyday stories and a philosophy of patience and empathy – precisely what once characterised Russian literature." – NATALIA KURCHATOVA

biography

Oleg Zaionchkovski was born in Kuibyshev, now Samara, in 1959. After leaving high school he worked as an inspector in an aircraft factory. He has been writing prose since his youth but it is only recently that his work has been published. His second novel "Sergeev and The Town" reached the shortlist for The Booker – Open Russia Literary Prize in 2004. Oleg Zaionchkovski lives in a small town near Moscow.



foreign rights in general

ITALY  
UK

awards

Big Book Award longlist 2011  
Big Book Award shortlist 2010  
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2004

sample translation available

english

other works

Petrovich  
Sergeev and the Town  
The Wedding Anniversary  
Walks in the Park (short stories)

O. Zaionchkovski