

# ukrainian rights list

authors list

## LITERARY FICTION

Belyanski, Pavel

Kissina, Julia

\*Nikitin, Aleksei

## NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

Gerasimov, Sergei

## NON-FICTION

Rudenko, Sergii

## THRILLER | CRIME | MYSTERY

\*Loiko, Serhii

## FANTASY | SCIFI | HORROR

Oldie, H.L.

\*Valetov, Jan

## BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

Kurlov, Grigori

## live pitch

short clips\*

## news & updates

youtube channel  
news  
awards  
topseller

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# authors

literary  
fiction

Ukrainian literary fiction

# Grandma did not love to die

**Novel.** Ukraine. 2021. 180 pages

A cruel, beautiful, open, truthful and relevant saga about three generations of a family who all their lives strive for personal happiness in their home, but in which there has never been love and therefore each of them remains lonely until the end of his life Days, even surrounded by numerous relatives. Each chapter here is a work of its own, a piece of life, an ironic, sad and powerful story. Nestled together, they weave into a magnificent canvas of the story of the residents of a mining village in eastern Ukraine.

All of the stories are not pure fictitious. They were created thanks to the author's power of observation, who as a result of his various professional activities has met many people in the most dramatic situations.



THE AUTHOR

"In addition to the surrealism of morbid images, it is the precise, often mercilessly mocking ... language that makes "Spring on the Moon" an event... With Julia Kissina's novel, Kyiv has become a place that from now on has its place on the mytho-poetic map of Eastern Europe."

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

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Pavel Belyanski was born in 1977 in a family of military servants in the village of Shakhta No. 9, Perevalsky district, Lugansk region, Ukraine. From 1994 to 1999 he studied at the Chemical-Technological University of Dnepropetrovsk. Since 1996 he has worked as a freelance correspondent for the regional newspaper "Torgovy Dom" in Dnepropetrovsk and for VLD-Press. After graduating from university, he worked as a car dealer, advertiser, wholesale manager, sales department manager and commercial manager. In 2014 he opened his own company manufacturing and installing monuments. Belyanski is married and has two children.

Under the pseudonym „Pashtet“ he actively wrote in samizdat and became the winner of various competitions. Later, on the advice of friends, he opened a facebook account. The first entries are from September 2015, and by June 2016 he already had more than 20,000 followers. His works appeared on one of the most visited websites in Ukraine site.ua.

# Pavel Belyanski

## From the content

Violent grandfather Petro suffers a heart attack before he can drag his unruly grandson out from under the bed.

Great-aunt Dora introduces the narrator to dealing with women and always gives him cotton plugs before she starts cursing.

Grandmother Anyuta always says: don't worry, I'm not going to die, God doesn't want me. She feels sinful because she has denied her firstborn all her life. In the end she dies without seeing him again.

For Cousin Katja, the sea only exists on the map on the kitchen wall. She sees the sea for the first time in the cinema and for the second time on television. In the end she sells the house and yard, including the television, and drives to the sea in Odessa.

At the feast after the grandfather's funeral, Valera and Vitja cut down the fruit trees to fit the long tables in Tanja's garden, adding a new one to the legendary sibling dispute between Pavel and Katja.

Although or because she was brought up in a monastery when the Red Army came, grandma Anja does not believe in God. Nevertheless, at Easter she brings the priest into the house and lets him say prayers for hours before she gives him something to eat. When he knocks on her door again next Easter and says: Christ is risen, she only says: As if we didn't know it ourselves, and slams the garden gate in his face.

When grandma is on her deathbed once again, her husband Petro admits that he never loved her. Whereupon she jumps up alive and leaves the house angrily.

After his divorce from Katja, Valera only comes back twice to visit his kids. The first time, a dashing blonde is waiting in the car while he has to leave a crate of tangerines in front of the gate for his two children because his ex-wife won't let him in. The second and last time he comes as a war invalid with a prosthetic leg and crutches.

Grandma's village, where the narrator always spends his summer holidays, is a village without men. As if they went to the coal mines for the next shift and simply forgot to come home again. But even without men, everything stays the same.

Aunt Anja chose Vitya as a husband to have children. But when he finally wants to sleep with her on the third day after the wedding, she hits him with a prepared iron wrapped in a towel. On the second hit, she feels her own power, loses her fear of him, drops the iron, and hugs him. Ten months later their daughter Aleksandra is born.

The five children or grandchildren who remain, laugh together into the camera, as always on command, because they always did everything on command and have long since stopped doing things together and have long since left their old eastern Ukrainian homeland.

Aunt Tanya dies under the thunder of artillery fire in February 2015, when fighting for Debaltsevo and Mariupol broke out again in Donbass.

# Pavel Belyanski

literary fiction

# Springtime on the Moon

**Novel.** Azbooka. St. Petersburg 2012/ Fabula. Ukraine 2017. 245 pages

A rebellious and visionary girl grows up in the milieu of the bourgeois Jewish intelligentsia in a high-rise building on the outskirts of Kiev's old town. Demolition excavators lay entire streets in rubble and ash, decay and dissolution prevail all around. While her father, who lives in constant fear of being denounced, writes lyrics for a circus show, the twelve-year-old finds salvation in letters she writes to herself in the near and distant future. And she discovers Lunatism: a heightened self-awareness in the moonlight, with which she can escape the demands of an oppressive reality - her school friend, who emulates the poet Marina Zvetajeva, initiated her into the art of necromancy. And so she talks at night with the leaders of the world proletariat.

Sad, angry, gifted with visionary language, Julia Kissina describes her Soviet childhood against the background of the physical and ideal decay of the city of Kyiv and its inhabitants. The museums and park benches, the winding alleys and backyards of the old town with their dying evening light in the dirty puddles remain unforgettable for the reader.

See Julia Kissina's [homepage HERE](#).



THE AUTHOR

sample translation  
English

"In addition to the surrealism of morbid images, it is the precise, often mercilessly mocking ... language that makes "Spring on the Moon" an event... With Julia Kissina's novel, Kyiv has become a place that from now on has its place on the mythopoetic map of Eastern Europe."

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

"Springtime on the Moon» is often studiously amusing, but the attempt to take more than light fiction from her own memories lends Kissina's book a Nabokovian dimension... As funny as Kaminer and as serious as Nabokov."

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"She oscillates between the harshness of everyday Soviet life and ... fragile beauty. That's why her episodic novel, her first, is so exciting."

ZEIT ONLINE

"An absurd, wonderfully wound-up and comical novel... Intense, eloquent, fantastic and amusing, but sometimes also malicious and merciless – this is what Julia Kissina's novel proves to be."

DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR

Julia Kissina is an artist and writer. Born in Kiev, she studied dramatic writing in Moscow, then moved to Germany, graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and taught as a Professor of New Media and Art Photography. A member of the Moscow Conceptualist movement and Russian literary underground avant-garde (Samizdat), Kissina is the author of several novels and story collections translated throughout Europe. In 2018 she created Urban Dictionary, a literary festival in Berlin, that brought together writers from New York and Berlin. Kissina lives in Berlin and New York City.

# Julia Kissina

Ukrainian literary fiction

# The Orderly from Institutska Street

**Novel.** Druzhba Narodov 2016. 150 pages

**Awards:** longlist Big Book 2016

The Orderly from Institutska Street is the story of two friends from Kyiv, the poet Yurka Nezgoda and the artist Nikolai Umanets. They belong to the generation formed in the first years of Independent Ukraine. In the 1990's Nezgoda and Umanets were prominent members of the bohemian Kyiv art scene. Later, Umanets became a commercially successful artist and Nezgoda – the editor-in-chief of a glossy magazine. Their lives rarely touch politics; each in his own way tries to cope with the problems of contemporary life that always plague Ukrainians. Nezgoda's brilliance, his depression, his morbid obsession with a mythical historical progenitor, is chronicled through the point of view of his detached and ironic friend Umanets. But in the end the heroes meet again on Kyiv's Maidan Square. Umanets is with the protesters, while Nezgoda tries to stay neutral. But it is Nezgoda who gets pulled into the swirl of events in the novel. He dies as an orderly, trying to move the wounded to safety under fire. Umanets watches his friend die on live television.

The author considers the Ukrainian events of the beginning of the 21st century as another link in the historical chain of episodes of Ukraine's struggle for independence, which has been going on, now fading, now escalating, for several centuries.

Nikitin about the novel:

*«Ukraine has always been situated in the center of a cruelly-mounted historical framework and it is continually looking to the past. But its past history is not exactly a story of triumphs. This is a cyclical focus on bad history, on bad experiences that need to be overcome. The success of Ukraine's protest movement was due to its refusal to cling to the past, its ability to find something new, to reject the burden of its negative experience.»*

In 2019, five years after Maidan, the novel was the only Russian-language novel to be included in the list of "best texts about Maidan."

*"The culminating events of the novel – the protests and violence on Maidan Square in 2014 – makes the novel a vivid evocation of modern Ukraine."* CATHERINE O'NEIL

*"Nezgoda, just a collective image of the Ukrainian nineties with their grandiose scandals, literary scholarships, the first collections that have become rarities, treatment in fools and constant longing for either imperfect or not perfect. I don't even remember if, after Andrukhovych's "Recreations", one created such a voluminous image..."* NOVY NARNIA

*"Maidan, as a lived experience, when the feeling of history being created, is perceived deeply and directly. This made The Orderly a deeper and wiser text than a mere projection of a series of lost generation."* LITCENTR

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. Nikitin lives in Kiev.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
4 languages

**awards**  
National Bestseller 2014  
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

**sample translation available**  
english

**other works**  
Bat Ami  
Victory Park

# Aleksei Nikitin

Ukrainian literary fiction

# Bat-Ami

From the Face of Fire

**Novel.** Ukraine 2020. Approx. 400 pages**Foreign rights:** Ukraine - Phoenix

Ukrainian Jewish boxing champion Ilya Goldinov has just come second place in the Soviet All-Union championships when World War II breaks out. After the German invasion of Ukraine, he joins the partisan fighters in the forests behind the front line. Only by lucky coincidence does he survive and he joins the regular army as a soldier before being sent by the Ukrainian secret service on a life-threatening mission to occupied Kiev. There a former sports comrade recognizes him by chance on the street and denounces him to the Germans as a Jew. Meanwhile Ilya's wife Felixa is leaving with the evacuation. On the way she falls ill and is abandoned by her Jewish mother-in-law, together with her daughter Bat-Ami. The hope of seeing Ilya alive again keeps mother and daughter alive. They make it back to Kiev. There Felixa's friend Ira is the last to see Ilya alive. But Ira is in a concentration camp. It's only in the summer of 1945, after miraculously surviving the concentration camp that Ira can deliver the bitter truth.

This family saga, full of unforeseeable twists and turns, is told in such a thrilling, detailed and touching way that it casts its spell after only a few pages. Unique is the perspective – the attack of the Germans seen through the eyes of a boxer and assimilated Jew. Even the Ukrainian farmers, Nazis, secret service agents, partisans, and sports comrades rarely conform to the usual schemata of good and evil, friend and foe. They are interwoven in fine shades into the main plot of Ilya's family during the chaos of war. An emotional and a stylistic highlight of the novel is Ilya's march to Kiev carrying the small Kiev rabbi in his rucksack: for the elderly rabbi a rescuing march into life, for the young Ilya a walk to certain death.

BAT-AMI is not a documentary novel, but its story – inspired in part by the author's family history – is based on files relating to 1941-42 secret service operations from the archives of the Ukrainian Secret Service, not released until 2011, as well as from other Ukrainian archives, the museum of the Dynamo Kiev sports club and Yad Vashem. Most were not published until very recently. These sources enabled the author to tell the true story of the famous boxer Goldinov. Because the widespread theories about what happened to him – the rumours that were still circulating in Kiev after the war – have largely proven to be false, as has old Yad Vashem version of events. The descriptions of Ukraine's complex conflicts involving an overpowering Russian brother state, the Soviet secret service, German occupation, partisans and patriotic nationalist freedom fighters cast their shadows even onto the Ukraine of today.

All the NKVD officers who were involved in this operation and are mentioned in the novel are real people whose background in the pre- and post-war period has been researched and made known thanks to the work of the Russian Memorial Society and Ukrainian historians.

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# Aleksei Nikitin



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
4 languages

**awards**  
National Bestseller 2014  
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

**sample translation available**  
english

**other works**  
Victory Park  
Mayong  
Istemi - Your Turn



Ukrainian literary fiction

# Victory Park

**Novel.** Ad Marginem. Russia 2011. 208 pages

**Publishers:** France, Italy, Ukraine

Apocalyptic sense of doom in Kiev towards the end of the 1980s. The chest-nut 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.

“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.” *National Bestseller Award Jury*

“A novel in which the driving force above all is love, finely interwoven with the author’s humor.” *Kultprosvet*



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
4 languages

**awards**  
National Bestseller 2014  
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

**samples available**  
full english (Istemi)

**other works**  
Mayong  
Istemi - Your Turn

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. Nikitin lives in Kiev.

# Aleksei Nikitin



Ukrainian literary fiction

## Your Turn (Y.T.)

**Novel.** Ad Marginem. Russia 2011. 208 pages

**Publishers:** Italy - Voland, UK - Peter Owen

Ukraine, 1984. The Soviet Union is creaking toward collapse, and a group of bored radiophysics students devise a strategy game to keep themselves entertained. But war games are no joke, and no sooner does their game get underway than the KGB pulls the students in for questioning. Eventually they're released, but they remain marked men.

The second time line of the novel starts twenty years later, capitalism is in full swing when one member of the group, Davidov, receives an e-mail with a familiar ultimatum attached. Someone has revived the game, but it's not any of his friends from the university . . . and the consequences now feel more real than ever.

ISTEMI follows an innocent-seeming game to its darkest places, and the result is a disturbing vision of war and tyranny. ISTEMI is a wildly inventive novel exploring the banality deep in the heart of a paranoid totalitarian state.



### THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
4 languages

**awards**  
National Bestseller 2014  
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

**other works**  
Mayong  
Victory Park

**samples available**  
full english

"The mystery plot...comes to a sublime anticlimax...a gritty, jaded depiction of post-1989 Ukraine." *Wall Street Journal*

"The story — at times hauntingly evocative... is held together by the narrator's nuanced character." *The New Yorker*

"Y.T. is gripping, sardonic and elegantly written." *BBC*

"Encapsulates a multitude of Ukraines... Y.T. questions how much change a few decades, or even centuries, of war and revolution can ever really bring... Nikitin's Kiev is a city on a hill littered with nostalgia, enjoying a tenuous, tedious peace." *Times Literary Supplement*

"[A] tense and melancholic novel of trust betrayed." *Publishers Weekly*  
„Nikitin is an incisive social critic...Stands as an indictment against corruption and false promises, wherever they occur." *Asymptote*

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. Nikitin lives in Kiev.

# Aleksei Nikitin

narrative  
non-fiction

Ukrainian narrative non-fiction

# Notes from the War

**Diary.** Kharkiv. Ukraine 2022. in progress

parts published in English by [Another Chicago Magazine](#)

published as column in German by [Neue Zuercher Zeitung NZZ](#)

Notes starting Feb 24 2022

Touching, oppressive, comforting in tone, the great catastrophe captured in small everyday observations.

Herasymov and his wife together with several cats live in the centre of Kharkiv in an apartment on the second floor of a high rise building. From there he is sending his „Notes from the War“ as long as internet connections will allow and as long as he will be alive.



THE AUTHOR

sample translation  
full in English

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Sergei Gerasimov was born 1964, in Kharkiv where has lived in Kharkiv all his life. He is a citizen of Ukraine. In the early 1990s he studied psychology. He is a graduate of Kharkiv State University, wrote a psychology textbook for schools and a book on psychology in relationships. Since then he has been concerned with the psychological question of how human interest arises and functions. He is the author of several academic articles on cognitive activity. This also brought him into contact with popular literature as a phenomenon and object of human interest and he became a science fiction writer, poet, and translator of poetry.

His stories and poems written in English have appeared in Adbusters, Clarkesworld Magazine, Strange Horizons, J Journal, The Bitter Oleander, and Acumen, among many others. His last book is "Oasis" published by Gypsy Shadow. The poetry he translated has been nominated for several Pushcart Prizes.

# Gerasimov Sergei

non-fiction

Ukrainian non-fiction

# Zelenskyi without make-up

**Political Biography.** Summit-Book Publishing House. Ukraine 2021. 180 pages

**Foreign rights:** Finnish / Tammi, Spanish/ Editorial Pinolia, Portuguese/ Casa das Letras, Dutch/ Atlas-Contact, Lithuania/ Alma Littera

„Zelenskyi without make-up“ is the first and so far only biography about the Ukrainian president. In 36 chapters, the author tells about the different stages of Volodymyr Zelenskyi's life - starting from his childhood in Kryvyi Rih and ending with the Russian-Ukrainian war of 2022. The last episodes of this work were written by the author in a bomb shelter during the missile strikes of the Russian army on Ukraine.

The book introduces Zelenskyi starting as a president for peace and becoming a president in war. In episodes which spotlight Zelenskyi's rise to power as honestly and openly as possible and without any retouching we read about Zelenskyi's triumph in 2019, but also about his numerous defeats in the political Olympus. The story of a man who, without any political experience or relevant knowledge, promised the Ukrainians to change their state. A man trusted by 13.5 million voters. A person who understood: great trust is also a great responsibility. The man who accepted the challenge of Vladimir Putin, becoming the head of the Ukrainian state in this difficult period. Last but not least we read about the shift not only in public opinion from a president with few success and bad ranking to a president standing up for his people, defending not only Ukraine but the freedom of Europe as it seems.

Contributors to this book have been in addition to Ukrainian politicians such as Roman Bezsmertny, Geo Leros and Ruslan Ryaboshapka, also political scientists and political technologists such as Viktor Bobyrenko, Serhiy Haidai and Kost Bondarenko.

Rudenko does not have any direct connection with Zelenskyi and was never part of Zelenskyi's team or entourage. This book has no connection whatsoever to the president's office and is written from a completely independent point of view. It is neither pro-Zelenskyi nor pro-Poroshenko, it keeps critical distance.

The author will update the book to make it as up-to-date as possible shortly before publication of a translation.



THE AUTHOR

sample translation  
English



Sergii Rudenko was born 1970 in the Sumi region in Ukraine. He is a publicist and television journalist, author of a weekly author column for Deutsche Welle and editor-in-chief of „Espresso.TV“. He worked for the Ukrainian service of Radio Svoboda, was the editor-in-chief of the editions „Now“, „Gazeta 24“, „Glavred“. He is founder of the book portal „Bukvoid“. He wrote dossier books on the entourage of Viktor Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yanukovich, which according to the magazine „Correspondent“ were included in the TOP 20 best books (3rd place in the „Journalism“ nomination).

# Sergii Rudenko

WIEDLING  
LITERARY AGENCY

thriller  
detective



Ukrainian thriller

# Airport

**Thriller.** Bright Star Publishing. Kiev 2015. 403 pages

**Publishers:** China - Citic Press, Czech Republic - Biz Books, Estonia - Rahva, France, Georgia - Artanuj, Latvia - Gramata, Lithuania - Briedis, Poland - Ars Longa, Netherlands - Douane

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution

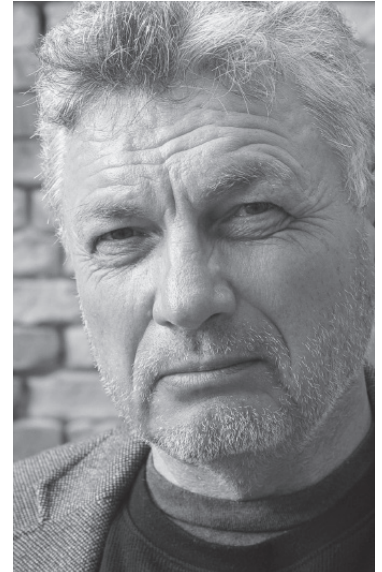
AIRPORT is a docu-thriller, which illustrates the tragedy of the on-going Russian-Ukrainian conflict by means of a fictional story of love in times of war. On the one hand exciting and emotional, on the other hand it endeavours to be as authentic and accurate as possible. The author's spyglass is directed at the airport of Donetsk, which is important both logistically and symbolically for the entire conflict. Had they seized the airport, the separatists, aided by Russia, would have been able to attack other towns, in particular the city of Kharkiv. However, the author's spyglass is in reality a kaleidoscope, drawing on all events, background information and consequences to form a composite picture. And like a kaleidoscope, the novel clearly shows that the composite picture is actually made up of a great many individual shards and splinters, which can never become a healthy whole again, if indeed they ever were.

Alexei, a journalist and war-correspondent from Moscow has been living the „American Dream“ in the USA with a lovely family and a wonderful job. In 2014 he goes to Kiev to report about the revolution at Maidan square. The events develop all too quickly taking a tragic turn and eventually leading him to Donetsk airport, where the Ukraine forces have been besieged by the separatists for more that 200 days. The novel's action and suspense climax during the last five days of the siege. AIRPORT is neither a war chronicle, nor a documentary, nor an investigative novel. It is a work of fiction based on true facts and events. The novel has many characters and intertwining dramatic plot lines. The novel is not only and not so much about a war everyone thought was impossible. It is also about love, betrayal, passion, cheating, hate, rage, tenderness, courage, pain and death.

“The macro story is ‘war is absurd’ – and more terrible than we can possibly imagine. The micro story is ‘love is absurd’ too, yet it is the eternal, fundamental essence of our being. Together they make up the most powerful experiences we will ever have in our lives.” *BEN MOSES (Hollywood producer and writer, “Good morning, Vietnam”)*

“Loiko walked right up to journalism's limit, took a deep breath, and leapt into the novel's whirlwind. All the passion our profession holds, all the love that newsprint tries to squeeze out, all the rage and pain that has to be tucked away in the soul's non-work compartments, has broken free here and, crying out, sings aloud.” *ECHO MOSKVY*

Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. In 1989, Loiko became a translator and reporter for the Associated Press and later a producer for the British television company TV/am; he has also contributed to Novaya Gazeta and Echo of Moscow radio. Loiko has covered armed conflicts, revolutions, and wars in Romania, Tajikistan, Chechnya, Georgia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. For twenty-five years, Loiko had been the Moscow correspondent and photographer for the Los Angeles Times, specializing in wars and armed conflicts. Loiko covered the Ukrainian revolution and the subsequent war virtually nonstop from the first day until 2015. Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Kyiv, Ukraine.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
9 languages

**awards**  
L.A.Times editorial award 2015  
Overseas Press Club's Bob  
Considine Award 2014

**sample translation available**  
full english

**other work**  
The Flight

# Serhii Loiko

Ukrainian thriller

# The Flight

**Thriller.** Bright Star Publishing. Kiev 2017. 430 pages

**Publishers:** Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution  
 Inspired by true events, extensive research and war reporting

Sergei Alyokhin, a former corrupt Russian cop hiding under a false identity in L.A., is anxious to rejoin his beloved wife Lena and two young daughters. He hasn't seen them for three long years since he busted the cargo transport of a most powerful mafia syndicate in Russia and fled. The mafia's angry leader swore to find the fugitive, and not only get the syndicate's money back, but avenge his son's death. Finally Alyokhin believes that he has covered his track sufficiently and invites his wife and daughters to join him for the long awaited family reunion at a luxurious island resort in Thailand. Their flight London-Bangkok perishes with 298 people on board over eastern Ukraine. Alyokhin wants to find the culprits and take his personal revenge not only on the perpetrators but also on those who ordered the heinous crime.

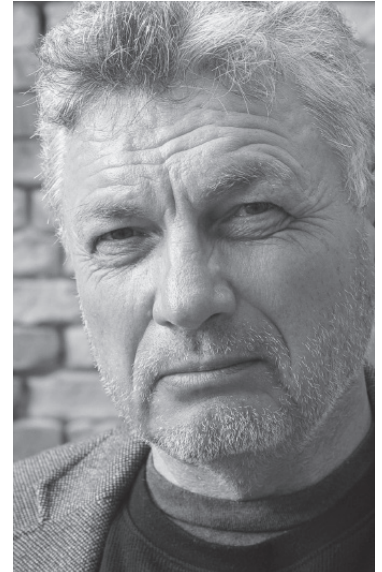
In private investigations he sides up with an ambitious and fearless US journalist Jane Ashley. They help each other to survive and uncover the truth. But their motivations are different: while Alyokhin is not much interested in politics, she wants a Pulitzer Prize which kept evading her, she wants to provide evidence and a live witness for the Hague International Tribunal trial to be. In their deadly quest amid the unfolding armed hostilities between Russia and Ukraine Alyokhin and Jane find themselves doggedly pursued by the military, special service agents, mafia syndicate professional hitmen and ... a manic serial killer, who suddenly emerges from Alyokhin's violent past to settle old scores with the former homicide investigator.

Very soon they come to realize that they are actually on a suicidal mission with no chance to survive. But against all odds they continue to follow the tracks they uncover. The tracks that ultimately lead them to the highest echelons of Russian power.

"The author has so skillfully built up the suspense that you cannot get away from it, not even for a second; you are dragged through every phase of this compact story, from the first chapter and not just to the last chapter, but to the very last line. To the very last line ... The episodes of this novel are not merely snap-shots, they are multi-layered images, like a CAT-scan. Every hero, a character; every character, a story; every story, a destiny."  
 COLTA.RU

"The mainspring and quality of this novel is the human suffering and desire to discover the truth about the circumstances involved in the shooting down flight MH-17. This turns the novel into a genuine political thriller, one that we desperately need in our post-factual world to be able to penetrate the cloud of lies covering the squalid conflict in the Ukraine."  
 SERGEI MEDVEDEV, *Historian*

Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. For the past twenty-five years, Loiko had been the Moscow correspondent and photographer for the Los Angeles Times, specializing in wars and armed conflicts. Loiko covered the Ukrainian revolution and the subsequent war virtually nonstop from the first day until 2015. The rights of his Documentary novel AIRPORT have been sold to 9 countries. Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Kyiv, Ukraine.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
 9 languages

**awards**  
 L.A. Times editorial award 2015  
 Overseas Press Club's Bob  
 Considine Award 2014

**other work**  
 Airport  
 (full english available)

# Serhii Loiko

scifi  
fantasy

space opera

# Oikoumene

**space opera.** Eksmo. Moscow 2006-2009  
4 trilogies

**Foreign rights:** China, Ukraine, US

Vol. 1 Puppeteer - 384 pages

The main character of the novel is Luchano Borgotta. He was born on Borgo, a planet that belongs to Technologists. Luchano is the director of "The Den," a traveling theatre troupe specializing in contact impersonation. He and his artists are neurodrivers – people who can mentally influence and completely take over the vocal and motor functions of others. As a result of a mistake Luchano makes while controlling a powerful client, he is arrested, tried, and convicted of a crime. His punishment is exile on a Pompilian spaceship – the galley of Guy Octavian Tumidus – as a slave. Tumidus controls many slaves who are all „living batteries“ and whose energy drives the galley services. Tumidus's ship raids barbarian planets in order to abduct their inhabitants as slaves. On that planet, Luchano saves Tumidus's life and helps him return to the galley. On their way back to the civilized part of the Galaxy, a group of hydras (continuum fluctuations) attacks the spaceship. During the battle with hydras, a fragment of a continuum fluctuation penetrates Luchano's body and mind. As a result, Luchano is endowed with some unusual gifts. He starts receiving visual and auditory information about past and future events. Because Luchano saved his life, Tumidus changes Luchano's slave status to „semilibertus“ – a half slave and half free-man...

Vol. 2 Pupa - 416 pages

The galley arrives on a civilized planet. Luchano participates in Pompilian TV shows and shares with the viewers the truth about himself and his life. Luchano, as part of his new status, also has to look after an athletic-looking imbecile who is a prisoner in the basement of the house where Luchano lives. The prisoner turns out to be a mutilated Antis who can transform his material body into wavelike form and travel in space and hyper-space without spaceships or spacesuits. Antises have a very powerful energetic potential. Julia, a Pompilian noble woman, is interested in using Luchano's unusual gifts for some secret psycho-research. She offers Luchano a contract and promises to help him become a free man. But a group of Vekhden's terrorists kidnap Luchano, Julia, and two children, known as the twins-Gematers. After fascinating and dangerous adventures, Luchano learns the secret of the twins-Gematers: they were born as result of a genetic experiment and have specific „energetic“ abilities.



the authors

translations  
2 languages

samples available  
english

# H. L. Oldie

## Vol. 3 The Puppet Master - 416 pages

It is discovered that the Antis used to be the Leader of Antises in the Vekhden Empire. The Antis and the twins-Gematers grow close to Luchano due to his extraordinary gifts. Finally, Luchano helps the Antis return to his normal form and regain his abilities; the Gematers-twins find their father, the professor who experimented with interracial sexual liaisons. Then Luchano, Julia, and several of their new friends find a method to create collective Antises from ordinary people of different races. At the end, their discoveries make all of the people in the Galaxy potential Antises with the ability to live and travel as wavelike forms throughout the Universe.

## 3. Trilogy The Savages of Oikoumene

## 4. Trilogy Spurt Flight

**awards**

## 1. Trilogy Space Symphony

2008 "Great Portal" Award

2007 „The Best Russian Science Fiction Novel“ as reported by „Fantastic World“ magazine

2007 „The Best Fantastic Hero of the Year“

## 2. Trilogy Urbi et Orbi

2013 „Great Zilant“ award

2012 „Gold RosCon“ award 2011 „Ursa Major“ Great Prize

2011 „Best Fantastic Hero of the Year“ at the „Silver Arrow Convention“, Moscow, Russia

## 4. Trilogy Spurt Flight

2016 „Best Russian SF Book of 2015“ by the „Fantastic World“ magazine

2016 „The Best Russian SF &amp; Fantasy Book of the Year (2015)“ by readers' voting on „FantLab“ - the biggest and most influential Russian SF &amp; Fantasy website

2016 „Gold RosCon“ award

2016 „Interpresscon“ award

H. L. Oldie

fantasy

# Way of the Sword

**Fantasy.** EKSMO 1999-2018, 8 re-editions, 490 pages

## Part 1 - Kabir

The world described in the novel is unprecedented among the works of the world fantasy. Its history and geography is very like the Earth in Middle Ages, but with an essential difference: here all arms such as swords, spears etc. have a mind of their own. Arms of the same type form something like human families or clans. The living swords etc. call themselves „Brilliants“, and they consider the human beings to be but their „Carriers“, like dogs or horses, and don't even suppose that they are intelligent too. And the people in their turn have not the slightest idea about the way things are. Nevertheless, this society is rather stable: the skill of fencing being raised to the level of high art any duels never result in the blood-spilling or Carriers's death. Thanks to easily understandable reasons the wars have also been forgotten long ago. In one word, this world is a kind of „feudal utopia“.

But we learn that something is going wrong there. Mysterious and bloody murders began to happen in a number of towns. Not only people are killed, but also the intelligent arms happen to be destroyed. Such things have not happened here for almost eight centuries!

The main heroes of the novel are the upright sword Dan Ghien called the Unicorn and its Carrier – a young nobleman Chan Unkor.

The scimitar Sheshez ruling over the Emirate (from the Brilliants' point of view) invites the Unicorn to investigate those crimes. The same task is given by the man-Emir Daud to Chan Unkor.

As the result Chan himself gets into trouble: during a fencing competition his right hand was cut away. Being under the psychic influence (unaware of it) exercised by his sword, the young man feels that he cannot live without fencing and tries the last remedy: following the advice given to him by the Emir's jester Druddle he orders a smith to forge an iron hand for him, although he understood very clearly that this was a nonsense.

But as the result of secret ancient rites the iron hand acquires life of its own! It becomes the intermediary between the man and his sword, a link between the two intelligent races. The heroes understand that in order to oppose the murderers they have now to change their minds; soon they manage to overcome the interdiction to kill inherent to both of them while saving the life of the jester Druddle in a city street at night. The same night the man and his sword together with the jester's blunt dagger Dziuttee which is more widely known as the Kabir Executioner leave the capital following the footsteps of the murderers towards the native country of Chan's ancestors, Maylan (closely reminding the ancient China). Their butlers (the man Kos Antanya and the Estoc sword Zarahid) decide to accompany their masters during the dangerous journey in spite of the orders given to them to stay at home. But the heroes had still to learn that some other companions were going after them. Should they had known that in advance...



the authors

translations

2 languages

samples available

english

# H. L. Oldie



## WAY OF THE SWORD

**Part 2 - Maylan**

The road to Maylan was abundant with adventures; the heroes got better acquainted with one another, now they not only cooperate but from time to time create a new entity, „man-sword“. They meet a smart old woman called Mother Tsi who is searching for some ancient secrets, they learn the details of Kabirean history and inform their companions about the symbiosis they live in, and at last arrive safely to Maylan. Here the heroes enter into possession of their family inheritance and at the same time they find out that the princess of Maylan who had become a widow being still very young is aspiring to marry Chan. Their investigation is likely to be interrupted, but suddenly a number of strange events happens around the heroes, all of them evidently having the goal to destroy the wedding. In the whirl of these around-wedding events the heroes manage to find the trace of the murderers (both men and the Brilliants) leading to an ancient Batinite sect whose members use the mortal duels in their rituals.

The Batinites (men and their swords called „the Tarnished“ consider that the original destination of both human beings and arms was to kill, and they are obliged not to forget it.

But it is found out that the sectarians didn't take part in the crimes committed in Kabir! The real murderers are at last found (and among them the man and the sword who had cut away Chan's hand). The night murderers turned out to be the citizens of Kabir who had been taken prisoners by the nomad tribe in a distant land of Shulma and ran away in order to rescue their native land. The point is that the savage nomads are going to attack Kabir, and the murderers decided to sacrifice themselves: to rouse the inhabitants of Kabir, to remind them of the old warrior skills and in such a way to save the land from perishing. In a secret underground temple many people and their arms meet to fulfill the ritual duel-sacrifice: the Batinites, the runaway Kabireans, a revenger pursuing his foes (who earlier had been shown as an episodic character), Chan Unkor with his Unicorn, the Kabir Executioner and other personages...

When the duel was in its full swing, a woman messenger arrived from a village situated near the border: it has been attacked by the nomads. The invasion began! The ritual was interrupted; the heroes ride as soon as possible to meet the fate awaiting them in the ravaged village...

**Part 3 - Shulma**

The inhabitants of the village have been all slaughtered; their Brilliants are also dead and thrown down into a well. The advanced detachment of the Shulmus attack the company of the heroes, the battle begins; in the last moment the Kabireans are supported by their friends (both men and their Brilliants) who had followed them secretly. During the battle the Kabireans managed to overcome the interdiction to kill and defeat the Shulmus utterly; those who were lucky to stay alive were taken as prisoners. The nomads are overwhelmed by the fighting skills of their enemies, moreover, due to a casual coincidence of words they suppose Chan Unkor to be the incarnation of the Yellow God Mo, the highest war deity of Shulma. During the duel between Chan Unkor and the chief of Shulmus scouts Chan's right hand, made of iron, is uncovered by chance, and this put an end to all doubts of the Shulmus.

The Kabireans go to Shulma; Kush-Tengry, a clairvoyant shaman abiding in the steppe goes to meet them because he forebodes great changes. Having arrived to a holy place where it is forbidden to fight, the Kabireans and the shaman soon found common language. It comes out that some time ago a High Gurkhan (chief governor) had appeared in Shulma and united all tribes in order to lead them to Kabir. This Gurkhan is evidently a native Kabirean. And Cinqueda, a short sword (his Brilliant) in its turn united the intelligent arms of the Shulmus that stayed until then in a savage state. In the holy place a variety of events happen until the Shulmus hords surround it.

There follows a duel between Gurkhan and Chan Unkor. A stone thrown unexpectedly from a sling stunned the Kabirean, but the Unicorn and the iron hand save his life; while Chan is unconscious, the Unicorn, controls the iron hand holding it and continues to fight. When Chan comes to his senses he joins the battle, tears off the armour of the defeated Gurkhan – and finds out that the leader of the Shulmus is a woman!

The ashamed nomads try to kill their former leader, but the Kabireans prevent them from doing this. The body-guards of the impostor Gurkhan take Chan's side believing him to be the god.

Epilogue: Ambassadors from Shulma (the shaman Kush-Tengry and a friend of Chan Unkor's) come to the Kabirean Emirate. They meet the old Emir and the jester Druddle who had survived only by pure chance. There's no peace in the Emirate. The extremist part of the Batinites raised their heads. The peace treaty with Shulma seems to promise a happy end – but already a smith and an alchemist demonstrate in the presence of Emir the first sample of an arquebuse and the action of a powder bomb, proposing to use the new arms for the overcoming of the inner and external enemies. A new epoch stands on the threshold. This world would never again be the same it had been before...

# H. L. Oldie

young adult 13+ fantasy

# The Powerful Ones

**young adult 13+ fantasy.** Eksmo. Moscow 2016.  
2 volumes

**Foreign rights:** Dobrovsky - Czech Republic, Ukraine

Vol. 1 A Prisoner of the Iron Mountain - 416 pages

Your name is Yuryun Yolan, The White Youth. You were born as a hero. Normal thing, you are not the first and not the last. You are ten years old and you hit the raven in the eye, the bear in the ear. You just need to go to Forge to get a knight's armor. Life is wonderful, ahead are fights and victories. But a young athlete Omogoi who envies you, told you about your enigmatic brother. Your family does not want to speak about your brother, but you want to know a truth. In this moment your life is breaking into pieces, and those pieces fall into the Abyss of Death towards the Iron Cradles...

Vol. 2 The Black Heart - 416 pages

Your bride is being kidnapped by a giant from the Underworld, your sister kidnapped by the younger brother of the giant. In exchange you are offered the kidnappers' sister as new bride – she being more a monster than a woman. A family saga, says the seeing blind Saryn-Toyon, is more dangerous and mean than any heroic legends. You will have to experience it on your own skin.



## THE AUTHORS

**translations**  
2 languages

**samples available**  
english

**other series**  
Cyclops  
Oikoumene  
Magiosi

H.L. Oldie is the joint pen-name of Oleg Ladyzhensky and Dmitry Gromov.

Oleg Ladyzhensky was born 1963 in Kharkov, Ukraine. In 1980 he enrolled in the Kharkov Institute of Culture as a student of the Theatre Production Department and was graduated from there in 1984. From 1984 to 1999 Ladyzhensky worked as a stage director. He has a Black Belt of the 2nd Dan in Goju Ryu Karate-do and is the Chief Instructor of Goju Ryu Karate school in Kharkov and a full-contact Karate referee, Ukraine.

Dmitry Gromov was born 1963 in Simferopol, Ukraine. In 1969 his family moved to Sevastopol and in 1974 to Kharkov, Ukraine, where Dmitry lives now. In 1980 Dmitry enrolled the Kharkov Polytechnic Institute as a student of the Inorganic Chemistry Department and graduated from there in 1986. Dmitry worked as a chemist at the Scientific-Research Institute of Main Chemistry in Kharkov. 1991 Dmitry obtained his MS in Sciences. Dmitry has a Black Belt of the 1st Dan in Goju Ryu Karate-do.

# H. L. Oldie

postapocalyptic

# No-Man's Land

**Postapocalyptic dystopia.** Folio. Kharkov 2007-2009. 582 pages

Tetralogy

**Awards:** 2009 Interpresskon, Bronze Caduceus (Starbridge)

**Publishers:** Poland - Fabrika Slov

No-Man's land, former Ukraine. The collapse of the Dnieper dam cascade 12 years ago killed millions. The ecosystem collapsed. Chemical, biological and radioactive contamination have turned the areas into No-Man's land. The Black Sea and coastal areas are practically lifeless. Central and southern Ukraine have been transformed into a common zone of influence for the G7 countries. Gas and oil pipelines are placed under the protection of Russian troops. Ukraine is divided into the Eastern Republic, which is under the protectorate of the Russian Empire (ruled by Emperor Alexander Alexandrovich Krutov, who was appointed to power by the people) and the Confederation, which is under the protectorate of Poland and the EU.

No-Man's land is separated from the rest of the world by barbed wire fences, mine-fields and control paths. The neighboring countries dump criminals and dissidents there like in a swamp. Getting into the Zone of Common Influence means death, and sometimes worse than death. But people still live here. People for whom No-Man's land has become a home.

In further storylines, a picture of modern political life in Ukraine unfolds. There are interests of the political elites of Ukraine, the Russian FSB, Cuban mercenaries and African terrorists. Another line is hero's affair with the press secretary of the President of Ukraine.

No-Man's Land is a mixture of post-apocalyptic action, political crime, spy novel and prophecy.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
3 languages

**awards**  
2009 INTERPRESSKON  
2009 BRONZE CADUCEUS

**sample translation available**  
english

**other works**  
The Damned  
Stay Alive  
Best Age to Die

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Valetov was born in 1963 in the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk (now Dnipro). He finished Technical University as a missile construction engineer, but became a private businessman later. He began to write after the turn of the millennium. Since then he has had seven books published, some as multi-volume series, of which several have achieved bestseller status and been awarded prizes. One of his books has been adapted for Russian television. Valetov lives in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

# Jan Valetov

postapocalyptic

## Best Age to Die

**Postapocalyptic dystopia.** 3 volumes  
Folio. Kharkov 2017. approx. 500 pages each

1 Best Age to Die/ 2 No Time to Die/ 3 Best Age to Live

OPTION FOR MOVIE AND COMPUTER GAME SOLD

**Publishers:** Germany - Piper

A virus has escaped from a military laboratory and has quickly swept through the globalized world before the antiviral drug was available. The virus was developed for use in war to incapacitate all enemy soldiers. Within a few weeks everyone over the age of 18 begins to age rapidly and dies. All adults in the world are wiped out. The inexperienced children and adolescents fight a pointless and bloody battle for brief survival. They quickly learn how to kill, but learning how to love does not seem to be worth the effort any more. In the doomed world, every gang tries to organize its own survival in its own zone by using various strategies: shamanism, cannibalism, recruitment of males and females capable of reproduction, selection, strictly controlled programs for breeding, inbreeding and so on.

Tim, a wimpish bookworm, and his female companion Belka, an aggressively merciless lone-warrior, are an unlikely team. But they are driven by a final mutual hope, because Tim, who is very widely-read, has gathered information about the virus, which is viewed by the ignorant as a MERCILESS god. For their seemingly hopeless odyssey to the source of the evil they need not only each other, but it is also necessary to convince the other gangs. However, in spite of this last chance of saving humanity and the planet in a combined effort, the battling groups are more inclined to join forces to oppose Belka and Tim. Finally, however, Belka and Tim find containers with the antiviral drug in bunkers under the military laboratory. For Belka the discovery comes too late, but Tim sets off back with several boxes of the vaccine to rescue those who are destined to die over the winter. Only a bird circling overhead observes that a pursuer is hard on Tim's heels...

The unusually cinematic and graphic descriptions of locations and events, but also of atrocities and violence keep the level of suspense high. The novel has no monsters or other fantasy-elements and, despite the abundance of detail, focusses on human nature in all its facets. None of the protagonists is only good or only bad. They are first and foremost human beings, reduced to living by their instincts and with the personalities and physical capabilities they had at the time of the catastrophe. The character development is concentrated by the magnifying glass of the desperate circumstances, causing the youthful age of the protagonists to be quickly forgotten after only a short time of reading. The place names have been Americanized, the descriptive names of the characters are in Russian, the story line could take place in the conurbation of either a western or an eastern metropolis.

Valetov was born in 1963 in the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk (now Dnipro). He finished Technical University as a missile construction engineer, but became a private businessman later. He began to write after the turn of the millennium. Since then he has had seven books published, some as multi-volume series, of which several have achieved bestseller status and been awarded prizes. One of his books has been adapted for Russian television. Valetov lives in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro.



### THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
3 languages

**awards**  
2009 INTERPRESSKON  
2009 BRONZE CADUCEUS

**sample translation available**  
english  
full german

**other works**  
The Damned  
Stay Alive

# Jan Valetov

body  
mind  
spirit

# The Way of Fools

Lose your Mind and Gain a Life

**Spiritual self-help.** 2004. 624 pages

**Publishers:** Germany - Random House

Lose your mind and gain a life. With his philosophy of laughter Grigorij Kurlov, a Russian Eckhart Tolle, provides a practical guide to everyday life. Using a few simple techniques it is possible to develop a laughing relationship to oneself and the world. The basis of the „fool’s philosophy“, as taught by Kurlov, is the awareness of the duality of life, in the sense of plus and minus, hot and cold, loud and noisy. Any attempt to achieve monism is futile. Therefore, we must change the emphasis of our existence: from conflict to enjoyment. Instead of fighting against things, we should try to accept the issue: to live and to laugh. Instead of only responding to the demands of our intellect, we should step back from our problems with a smile. That is the quintessence of happiness.this day. A story about the awakening of artistic talent under highly unusual Russian circumstances.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
1 language

**sample available**  
german

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Kurlov is the Russian master of holistic therapy and „fool-ology“ and also the founder and director of the school of holistic consciousness, which is also known as the „Fools School“. On answering questions about himself the author says: age? - depends on the situation; education? - thanks to my own efforts, assiduously dis-educated; favourite occupation? - self-discovery; principal occupation? - fools wisdom; overwhelming feeling? - an unbelievably unending state of amazement.

# Grigori Kurlov