

authors list

LITERARY FICTION

Berseneva, Anna

Burchuladze, Zaza

Danilov, Dmitri

Davydov, Ivan

Galina, Maria

Ivanov, Aleksei

Martinovich, Viktor

Mikhalevska, Hanna

Morozova, Anna

Starobinets, Anna

Zakharov, Dmitri

NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

Aleshkovski, Petr

Basinski, Pavel

Gerasimov, Sergei

Kurilov, Slava

Starobinets, Anna

Yuzefovich, Leonid

NON-FICTION

Ivanov, Aleksei

Khodorkovsky, Mikhail

Lough, John

Navalny, Oleg

Puzyrev, Denis

Rudenko, Serhii

CHILDREN'S

Aromshtam, Marina

Starobinets, Anna

authors

rights list

highlights
2023

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LITERARY
FICTION

Coincidences

Trilogy. 3 Novels. AST. Moscow 2023. approx. 350 pages each

The main setting of the contemporary (2019-2021) portion of the two already finished books is Russia (Moscow) and Belarus (Minsk, Polesie). The historical part of the action begins in 1924 in Belarus, continues in 1926 in Algier, Paris, Moscow. The historical part (1930s-1950s) of the action of the third book (the author is working on it) takes place in Russia (Moscow, the Far East), Belarus (Minsk, Polesie) and Germany. The modern part of the action of the third book – 2022, Russia.

All plot lines are intertwined, forming important cross-links for the ideological and thematic complex of the novel.

Vol. 1 Veronica's Nets

Ancestors who have long since disappeared into the darkness of time affect us much more than we think. However, thirty-year-old Alesya does not have time to think about such abstract things. Working as a nurse in a Moscow hospital, she barely has enough strength to support her family back home in Polesia. But the past is becoming more and more evident in Alesya's character. Her career choice is no coincidence either – her great-grandmother Veronica became a nurse during the First World War and had to make the big decisions in life amidst many dangers. When the son of a deceased nursing patient proposes to Alesya, she asks for time to think it over.

Vol. 2 The Sand Rose

A silver necklace with a sand rose goes to Sonia Artynova as a legacy. And it seems that this coincidence changes everything ... But Sonia does not know that such sudden turns in fate are a family legacy. Her great-grandmother once had to trade Germany for Russia, Crimea for Bizerte, an archaeological expedition for Tuareg captivity, Algeria for Paris... And it's not about wanderlust, it's about responding to evil in an effort to protect the most important values in life. From the 20s of the 20th century the heroes are thrown into the 20s of the twenty-first century, which only at first glance have nothing in common. In fact, then as now, a person must defy fate in order not only to save himself and his loved ones, but also not to lose respect for himself.

Vol. 3 N.N.

"What Anna Berseneva writes is rare in Russian literature - it is upscale entertainment literature that does not require kitsch and has believable characters. The family saga „Veronica's nets" is nowhere near as dark as a book dedicated to history could be - and yet it is honest and presents the past in three dimensions using the example of a family saga."

ALEXANDRA BERLINA



THE AUTHOR

sample available
English

Anna Berseneva was born in 1963. She graduated from the Journalism Department of the Belarusian State University, and later from the Gorky Literature Institute Moscow. She then was associate professor at the Literature Institute. Before she started writing her own novels she published critical and literary articles in literary periodicals. To date, she published more than 40 books in the genre of psychological novels. Total circulation in Russia - about 5 million copies. Fifteen novels have been filmed in Russia. Anna Berseneva is also the author of screenplays for the adaptation of her books and author of original scripts. Berseneva lives in Germany.

Anna Berseneva

LONG SYNOPSISES

Vol. 1 Veronica's Nets

The modern plot line relates to Alesia: Returning from friend's hospitable dacha, Alesia sees a man who is buying a blackberry from a wino. Noticing the girl's gaze, he excuses himself: „To the beggar, give!“ An introduction occurs. Igor, who learns that Alesia is a nurse, invites her to visit his mother, who is in need of medical care. She agrees. The benefits are obvious – she is offered a place to live along with her job. A friendly relationship develops between her and one day Igor proposes to Alesia to live with him. The girl takes a pause to think. And with this she leaves for Pinsk, to her parents and her son from an affair with a married man who had seduced young Alesia. When Alesia rushes to find her son lost in the marshes of Polesie, she navigates the terrain as if she inherited her great-grandmother's topographical memory. She finds him with a fishing rod on a hard spot, not daring to take a step because the swamps are all around. When they return home together, Alesia realizes that she will not marry Igor.

The historical plot line relates to her great-grandmother Veronika: In Bagnici, a farmstead located in Polesie, where the sea of Herodotus once was, near Pinsk, in the family of a Polish nobleman lived a girl Veronika, who was raised by two elements: the cultural – the father's, associated with Latin, philosophy, poetry, and the natural – associated with oral folk art of Polesie. Meanwhile, during World War I, Veronika leaves her college studies in Minsk and goes to work in a hospital as a nurse. There she meets a young Polish man, who proposes marriage to her. She accepts him, but leaves the connection for the time when her work at the hospital is over. And that time comes during the civil war. The groom, through her aunt, gives Veronika money for an escort to take her across the border. The escort man, Sergei, is wounded during the crossing. Veronika does not leave him. She saves him at the expense of her marriage. She takes him to the house where she rented a room trying to rescue him. When Sergei proposes to Veronika to leave for Moscow she is dissolved in love but also understands that Sergei holds some kind of great position in secret service. Soon it becomes clear to Veronika will not link her life with a man whose hands are splattered with the blood of innocent people. Sergei tries to explain, but has no right to give away the secret that he is a spy, working in intelligence.

Just like her great-grandmother, Alesia does. Once being among a crowd of protesters against the arbitrariness of the Russian authorities, she gives first aid to a man who has had an attack of epilepsy. She is helped in this by a man, Zhenia, who turns out to be an employee of an international company „Doctors Without Borders“. Alesia suggests to hide for a while and to go with her to Bagnici. A harmonious relationship develops between them, in which there is also a place for her son. In Bagnici they find the statue „Veronichka“ carved out of wood. The fact that the figure was preserved in the attic of the Bagnici house, turns out to be related to the great-grandmother, who is so similar to Alesia, reminding of the abyss of life, of the darkness of its impenetrable. Returning to Moscow, Alesia realizes that Evgeny, with whom she was bound by passion, does not consider her and her son as a future family. And she puts a period to their relationship. She rents an apartment outside Moscow. She is saved from a rapist by Evgeni, who only upon returning home suddenly realizes that he can't live without Alesia. But she has already moved out of her dangerous rented apartment. Evgeni picks up all the connections and in the end finds his beloved.

Anna Berseneva

Russian diaspora

Vol. 2 The Sand Rose

The modern line is connected with Sonia: her life is like anabiosis: she is not deeply touched or affected by the kitten handed to her by the neighbor boy; nor by Maxim, the man with whom Sonia spends her free time; nor by her work in a business literature publishing house; nor by social and political events. And even the meanness of her partner, who was frightened and did not protect Sonia from the thief who threatened her life, does not cause her strong feelings. Sonia wasn't like that before. But for eight years now, she has been like a blindfolded and ear-blinded person. The reason is the burn of her first love. Her chosen one was Boris Shakhovsky, a gloomy, handsome man and director of the Shakhovsky Publishing House holding company. A rich man of intelligence, brilliantly educated, he, unable to counteract the system, was forced to cover the false elections positively. Unable to forgive himself for this, he lashes out at Sonia and literally crushes her. During the pandemic, the parents of Sonia die. By taking a job as a nurse at a covid hospital where her brother and his wife Alesia are working, Sonia regains the meaning of her life. While working, she meets Roman, who is literally dragged out of the afterlife by doctors. And she decides to help her brother and his wife by bringing their son from Minsk. In Belarus, Sonia discovers that evil has tipped the scales. The regime's massacres of peaceful citizens who prefer freedom and democracy are tantamount to a slaughter of orcs. But all is not well in Russia either: the police think they can arrest Alesia, who is eight months pregnant, just because she does not have a passport: it was stolen. In the midst of the fear that the old life will no longer be, that one is helpless in the face of mass evil, Sonia becomes ill. She is helped by Roman who rescues her and Alesia during a police brutality. He turns out to be the man in whose presence Sonia feels safe and secure. Love flares up between them.

The historical line is connected with Sonia's great-grandparents Ksenia and Sergei: Xenia buries her mother, who died of consumption at a resort in Europe. Her father takes her to Crimea. But from there they are forced to flee with the Red Army commissars. The father is an archaeologist. He gets the French Society of Archaeologists to sponsor excavations in western Sahara. When he suddenly dies there Xenia is left alone in the Sahara. Alone with the eternal sand. When she is rescued from the hands of Tuareg brigands, she realizes that she has fallen from one captivity to another. The Tuareg want to sell her as to a port brothel. A Russian wanderer, Sergei, intercedes for her, and they sail off to El Jezair. Sergei buys her documents. A spark flares up between Ksenia and Sergei. But, as the girl later realizes, Sergei's passion is more a release of tension than love. He shuns the girl, while at the same time caring for her. They arrive in Paris together where they enjoy some weeks. Before Sergei tells her that he has finally solved all his problems and tomorrow they will leave for England, where Sergei spent his childhood, Xenia is approached by the Russian secret service who want her to return to Russia. The option of not taking his „wife“ with him is impossible for Sergei – the NKVD knows what and who can be manipulated. First they unload in Minsk where they meet friends and where Xenia finds out that she is pregnant. Back in Moscow they are lodged in a service apartment, where the janitor and the driver are watching them. Sergei gives Xenia some information that she may one day use to possibly save themselves. While Xenia gives birth to a son, Sergei disappears for ten years. Coming back he confesses to her that he is, in fact, a murderer, that she should give up on him completely. But Xenia confirms her love, saying that she is ready to follow him even to hell. Sergei disappears again trying to help his friend in Belarus who is tortured by the NKVD. At the end Xenia blackmails the NKVD with the special information she has got about the activities of the NKVD organs in Europe. They tell her that Sergei is in Ussuriysk. The necklace with a sandy rose that Sonia inherits from Ksenia, had once been chosen by Sergei as a gift to Ksenia.

Anna Berseneva

Zoorama

Novel. Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. Tiflis 2022. 421 pages

Publishers: Tropen - Germany

There is an animal in each of us, they say. But is there also a human being in each of us?

Everything gets out of joint. Especially when you live in isolation with your family. A father whose sex is constantly changing like that of a clown fish. A young woman who always keeps calm. A child who constantly plays with words. A young family, digital nomads in the middle of a faceless metropolis, in addition isolated by lockdown for some time. When they leave for a child's birthday party on the other side of town, they encounter strange doppelgangers and a nightmarish story. They are locked in a house surrounded by electric fences. It's gigantic, features a café, health club, bomb shelter, anti-aircraft defenses, a crematorium. Fugitive generals, armed civilians and escaped animals from a flooded zoo populate the hallways. Human and animal, inside and outside, man and woman, civilian and military - the boundaries blur, and it becomes increasingly uncertain who is who and what is what.

Zoorama is the venomous mixture of an insane world.

"I liked this story so much. It has great depth and immediately captivated me. A direct language without beating around the bush."
NINO HARATISHVILI

"Many Eastern Europeans today have to flee to the West again out of fear, into exile. One of these refugees is Zaza Burchuladze... The country that you bring with you into exile is only as big as the soles of your feet and the sadness in your head. And only the homesickness we brought with us is as big as the country on the map."
HERTA MÜLLER

"Zaza Burchuladze is a striking, original writer who cannot be compared to anyone else. There is something unpredictable about his prose - the most important quality for a contemporary author."
VLADIMIR SOROKIN



THE AUTHOR

translations
8 languages

awards

Bruecke Berlin Preis 2018
Best Georgian Novel 2011
Ilia State University Award 2011
Bakur Sulakauri Award 2008

samples available
english, full german

other works

Adibas
Mineral Jazz
The Inflatable Angel

Zaza Burchuladze was born in Tiflis in 1973. He started writing after graduating from the National Academy of Arts in Tiflis and has since published novels, short prose and screenplays. He translates Russian authors, including Dostoevsky, Khams, Sorokin and Bitov, into Georgian. He played the leading role in the film version of one of Dzjavakhishvili's novels, a Georgian literature classic.

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, and is beginning to achieve fame beyond the borders of Georgia. After aggressive press, a severe insult on the radio by former president Saakashvili, physical attacks on the street of Tiflis and ultraorthodox publicly burning his books, he had to flee to Germany with his family. Today he lives and works in Berlin. He has received several awards for his novels, including the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Prize. Recently published »Tourist Breakfast«. Zaza Burchuladze lives in Berlin.

Zaza Burchuladze

Russian literary fiction

Hello Sasha

Novel. AST. Moscow 2022. 180 pages

Awards: Book of the Year 2022, Yasnaya Polyana Award 2022 (sponsored by Samsung)

Foreign rights: Bulgaria/ Panorama, Serbia/ Shubenik Glasnik, Spain/ Entorno Grafico

Sergei, mid-30s, impeccable personal and professional criminal records, had consensual, prearranged sex with a 20-year-old woman. Lately, however, you are not an adult until you are 21. She swears in court that she believes he is innocent. However, the death penalty was recently introduced as part of a project to humanize the penal system for crimes where society has no real sense of wrongdoing. Consensual sex with minors is included. Rapists and murderers do not need to fear such punishment since they have already died a moral death.

However, the execution of the death penalty was humanized to the maximum. The prison is now called Combinat, you live like in a luxury hotel. So that no one becomes a murderer, executions are no longer carried out by executioners. Instead, a warden has recently taken you out for a walk every day through the same hallway, where one fine day you will be torn to pieces by a salvo of an automatic machine gun. This can happen in three days or in thirty years. As luck would have it. Even the guard has no idea. All humane, because you actually don't notice anything and can go on living your life as before. Sergei can also continue to practice his job as a university lecturer – online. Attempts to escape are not punished, because the law recognizes the desire for freedom as the highest human good, but Sergei's attempts to escape all end up back in the Combinat, where he soon longs to return – by remote control.

The absurdity of a life dependent on random algorithms is literally reflected in the absurdity of the dialogues with judges, law enforcement officials, ministers of various denominations or with Sergei's wife. To her he is a living corpse. He ruined her life, which is why she doesn't want to have anything to do with him anymore, as she makes him understand with increasing absurdity in his repeated calls from the Combinat. The absurdity of Sergei's own mental state is shown by the fact that after a short while he gives the machine gun a name and greets it every day on his walks with „Hello Sasha“. The absurdity of this little novel culminates in a surreal happy ending when Sergei disappears into the distance with his favorite prison officer on a last walk to the applause of all the protagonists mentioned in the book standing in a row, like during credits in the cinema. While Sasha, the machine gun, blasts the floor tiles to pieces in the deserted Combinat hallway.

The main character of the book, Sergei, is reminiscent of all the key figures of the most famous anti-utopias at once, from D-503 to Josef K., but the conditions in which he is placed have never been told in such a way. With the exception of the small fantastic basic premise, this dystopia moves right on the edge of the real. With his own style of writing, his laconic language working with repetitive structures, Danilov has already exposed our everyday routines in several novels in an ironic, philosophical and frighteningly beguiling way. But his style combined with this shocking plot made this new novel become a masterpiece.



THE AUTHOR

translations
6 languages

awards
Yasnaya Polyana Award 2022
Book of the Year 2022
Moscow Art Prize 2021
Golden Mask Award 2018
Premio Letterare Internazionale
Citta di Cattolica 2016
Novy Mir Award 2012

samples available
english

other work
Description of a City
Horizontal Position
The Man from Podolsk
Serezha very stupid

Danilov was born in Moscow in 1969. Writer, playwright, poet. Author of eight books of prose, five books of poetry and six plays. „The Man from Podolsk“ was shown in more than 50 theatres worldwide. Danilov lives in Moscow.

Dmitri Danilov

literary fiction

"Dmitry Danilov's book seems to be about the future, but the world of ultimate comfort and utter bondage in which the novel's hero finds himself looks suspiciously familiar. This is a forecast for tomorrow that is already coming true today."

YURI SAPRYKIN

"You're alive, but you're dead. People are indifferent and selfish, but kind and unselfish. Nobody cares about you, but you are not alone. Each time we choose one of the two. And only Dmitry Danilov chooses both at once."

MARIA GALINA

"Excellent read by Dmitry Danilov. I heard it in early April 2022 while walking the streets of Moscow and when it came time to say goodbye to my beloved city."

LITRES (Anna about the audiobook)

"Everybody's forgiven Sergei but the state."

LIZA HAYDEN

Dmitri Danilov

Russian literary fiction

The Hell of Paradies

Novel. Moscow 2022. 150 pages

Russia's imperator has started a future digitalization project. With the ultimate goal of saving his own brain, his memory, so to speak himself, in order to be able to upload himself into his own completely renewed body after his physical death. Or into a sane double body with all previous information purged from its head. Like cleaning a computer before filling it with new content and uploading a new identity.

But when the Emperor wakes up one morning, he has doubts about his mental state. Didn't his scientists inform him correctly? Is he the victim of a conspiracy? Because maybe what he sees and feels is just the world that appears to his digitized consciousness and no longer to himself? Maybe now he's just a brain in a bottle with wires attached? So it just seems to him that everything is there, but actually there is nothing? Perhaps digitization is still being worked on and he is currently in an intermediate state before returning to real life? Or is he already dead and transformed into the head and body of one of his several doubles?

Is this perhaps already his paradise? Or hell? Or hellish paradise? Or heavenly hell?

The suspiciously anxious Emperor is trying to keep his head cool to find out if he's really alive or just a resurrected consciousness?

THE AUTHOR
incognito**translations**
8 languages**awards**
Penne Award (Italy)

Davydov is the pen name of a renown Russian author who has publicly spoken out against the war in Ukraine. But due to new law enforcement he decided to publish under a pen name. Davydov lives in Moscow.

Ivan Davydov

Ukrainian fiction

Autochthones

Novel. Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2015. 272 pages

Foreign rights: French/ Agullo, US/ Columbia University Press

Galina set a triptych of novels in Ukraine: Little Boondock takes place in Odesa; Mole Cricets is set in the Odesa region, near Snake Island, where legend says Achilles was buried; and Lviv is the stage for Autochthones, an unusual detective novel. The three books play on fantasy, myth, geography, and history, creating characters and situations that nimbly combine coziness with unease.

In the 2010s a mysterious art critic comes from St. Petersburg to a certain European city with a complex history (Lvov is implied). He is interested in the one and only performance of the opera "Death of Petronius" by an avangarde theatre group. The premiere took place in the city in the 1920ies and became the fate of directors and performers. A single performance, as it turned out, launched a chain of strange events that the protagonist has to unravel. The protagonist is especially interested in the mysterious figure of the director - a certain Vertigo and the person hiding under this pseudonym (the prototype of Vertigo is the famous Ukrainian writer and literary critic Domontovich). Gradually, under the tourist gloss, the true face of the city is revealed to the protagonist, and completely different features appear under the mask of the art critic himself. The art critic, whose aims are anything but scientific, as it turns out in the end, finds himself at odds with the interests of the local tourism industry, who have not selflessly invented the city's fake simulacra. But these simulacra suddenly begin to take on a life of their own.

A novel about the search for one's own identity and „historical truth“, and whether both exist. A novel not only in the style of magic realism. Werewolves and ghoulish bikers are taken here as if from Gothic prose, and the "eternal Jews", undines and languid opera primas with a fatal secret in their chests are borrowed from the romantics.

"The novel „Autochthones“ immediately after the release became the subject of a local cult ... Maria Galina's book reminded me of David Lynch's „Twin Peaks“, which once opened up the abysses of everyday provincial life."
NOVAYA GAZETA (Dmitri Bavilski)

"The author has managed in recent years to walk the fine line between entertaining genre fiction, astute chronicle of modernity and Borgesian metafiction... Galina creates a world of elusive certainties in which the diligent reader is no more certain of his own existence than that of aliens and sylphs."
AFISHA (Aleksandr Gavrilov)

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter "Russian Writers support Ukraine". Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving masking nets for Ukrainian military forces.



THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Big Book finalist
2016 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2016 National Bestseller shortlist
2016 New Horizons Award
2016 Novy Mir Award
2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Little Boondock
Mole Cricets

Maria Galina

Ukrainian fiction

Little Boondock

Novel. Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2009. 354 pages

Foreign rights: French/ Agullo

Awards: 2009 Big Book finalist
2009 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2010 Portal Award Ukraine

Galina set a triptych of novels in Ukraine: Little Boondock takes place in Odesa; Mole Cricets is set in the Odesa region, near Snake Island, where legend says Achilles was buried; and Lviv is the stage for Autochthons, an unusual detective novel. The three books play on fantasy, myth, geography, and history, creating characters and situations that nimbly combine coziness with unease.

The novel consists of two parts connected to each other „at a tangent“; so different in style, in mood, as if they were written by two different authors.

The first part of the novel, „SES-2“, is about an adventurous story with a mystical twist. The scene of action is a southern coastal city (behind which Odesa is guessed). The time of action is 1979, a kind of peak of Soviet stagnation. The main character, 17-year-old Rozka, who failed the entrance exams to the institute, for the sake of „work experience“ gets a job at the port SES (sanitary and epidemiological station), The new SES employee has nothing to do with herself and she spends her time reading books about Angelica's adventures. „SES-2“ is a cross-section of the era of late Soviet stagnation with shortages, queues, commercial rudeness, petty corruption, sweet dreams of „transfer to the ministry“ and moving to Moscow. Such a well-established and understandable reality is invaded by some occult-mystical forces, „parasites of the second level“, who arrived at the Soviet coast on board an ocean freighter.

The second part – Malaya Glusha, actually „Little Wilderness“ - is a story about the journey of the living to the land of the dead, there, beyond the „twilight threshold“, in search of the dead closest, dearest people. viscous, almost frozen time; smells of decay and decay, a feeling of inexplicable anxiety does not let go even in the midst of sun-drenched Ukrainian fields. In the air of „The Wilderness“ there seems to be a premonition of an inevitable catastrophe, a world break (the duration of the second part is 1987). Wilderness is an amazing quest in which the heroes not only try to get to the land of the dead, but travel deep into themselves, into their own souls. „The Wilderness“ is a truly tragic text, in which the hope of saving loved ones turns into an absurd nightmare.

“Here the past becomes the scene of the action - just like the world of the dead in Little Wilderness or the coastal town in SES-2. Mind you, not by time, but by place, and it is this place that many of Galina's readers still remember, a place inhabited by demons.” KSENIA ROZHDESTVENSKAYA

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter “Russian Writers support Ukraine”. Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving masking nets for Ukrainian military forces.



THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Big Book finalist
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2016 National Bestseller shortlist
2016 New Horizons Award
2016 Novy Mir Award
2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Autochthones
Mole Cricets

Maria Galina

Ukrainian fiction

Mole Cricets

Novel. Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2011. 230 pages

Foreign rights: Arabic/ Arab Scientific Publishers

Awards: 2011 Best Book World of Fantastika

2012 Big Book finalist

2012 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner

2012 Strannik Award

2012 Filigran Award

2012 Marble Faun Award

Galina set a triptych of novels in Ukraine: Little Boondock takes place in Odesa; Mole Cricets is set in the Odesa region, near Snake Island, where legend says Achilles was buried; and Lviv is the stage for Autochthons, an unusual detective novel. The three books play on fantasy, myth, geography, and history, creating characters and situations that nimbly combine coziness with unease.

An autistic loser in Odesa in the mid-90s lives in someone else's dacha and earns a living by inserting the adventures of customers into well-known books at their request, thereby revealing their secret aspirations and helping to realize hidden dreams. At the same time, he is in conflict with an unloved and unloving father, who accuses him of not living up to his father's expectations. One day, a strange client comes to him - Smetankin, a former orphanage resident, and asks him to come up with a "good" family story. The hero, who is fond of searching for cheap antiques ('things of the dead') at flea markets and online auctions, takes an order, selects old photographs of „ancestors“ and invents appropriate biographies for them. As expected, invented biographies are intertwined with real ones, and it turns out that the hero himself and his family history begin to intertwine with the fictitious history of the customer, and the hero's father begins to experience those feelings for the newly-minted relative that he denied his own son. And when Smetankin gathers together all the newly acquired relatives at a gala dinner, the celebration is expectedly resolved by a scandal and reveals a tragic secret hiding behind it.

At the same time, some events convince the hero that Achilles, the son of Hecate, is about to rise from the Serpent's Island, where the sanctuary of Achilles the Cannibal, the ancient chthonic god, is about to rise or has already risen in the terrible guise of a monster ...

"Her novel is like a Rorschach test, everyone sees something different in it. One - loneliness and madness, another - chthonic forces gradually dominating the world, yet another - secret meanings of blood ties."

GALINA YUZEFOVICH

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter "Russian Writers support Ukraine". Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving masking nets for Ukrainian military forces.



THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Big Book finalist

2016 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner

2016 National Bestseller shortlist

2016 New Horizons Award

2016 Novy Mir Award

2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Autochthones

Little Boondock

Maria Galina

historical novel

Fighting Rivers

Historical novel. Ripol Classic. Moscow 2023. 684 pages

Russia at the beginning of the 20th century is a rapidly developing country with a huge advanced river fleet, almost entirely in private hands. This entire complex economic mass was practically blown up by the tragedy of 1917. Not only smaller armored personnel carriers and armored trains fight in the civil war, but also armed ships: tugboats that have been converted into gunboats; ships of the line used as transport ships; barges converted into floating battle batteries. Then in 1918 these river fleets were confiscated by the „constituents“ in Samara, by Trotsky in Nizhny Novgorod, by the rebels in Izhevsk, by the Chekists in Perm.

A technical revolution is also raging in the world as steam engines begin to compete with diesel engines. The Russian confrontation between the Reds and Whites is permeated by a fierce struggle between the leaders of oil production - the British concern Shell and the Russian company of the Nobel brothers. War is being waged by people, technology and capital. In the bloody and burning storm, the river boatmen are sometimes on the side of the Reds, sometimes on the side of the Whites, and are forced to shoot at those who are actually comrades in the real main occupation of their lives. They must sink steamers - glory and pride of river navigation. How does one maintain a moral conscience in the midst of such a catastrophe? How do you save those you love, who have confided in you? How to protect progress indifferent to social struggles? There, on the decks of the river steamers, the captains search for an honest path to the future. There the so-called little man shows greater strength than his huge and mighty ship.

The main plot happens within one and a half years only, during the odyssey of the smuggler „Levshino“, who in the battles on the Kama River in 1918-1919 has enough time to fight for the Reds, the Whites, the Greens and for himself. Everything begins in Perm, everything will end in Perm. On the one hand brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor. On the other hand, society is extremely atomized, guild and friendship ties make every effort, but there is no longer any class or regional solidarity between people. And in fact nobody has any ideology. Those who went to war voluntarily fight either because war can bring glory and career prospects, or because there can be looting and killing. The rest, including many military leaders, fight simply because of the circumstances: they were mobilized, ordered to command the fleet, and sent to the front with their ship. The population is not completely mute, they scold, but are weak-willed.

A novel about a seemingly distant war. But under the magnifying glass of Ivanov's prose we see a truth hidden deep within that extends to contemporary Russia.

“What amazes is the ease with which these almost seven hundred pages fly by. This novel is one of those when readers say: I opened it, did not have time to blink an eye, and immediately found myself on page three hundred. And then immediately on seven hundred.” FONTANKA

Aleksei Ivanov was born in 1969 in Gorky (today Nizhny Novgorod). He grew up in Perm in the Urals. In 1996 he graduated from the University of Ekaterinburg with a degree in art history. He then worked as a caretaker, laboratory assistant, tourist guide, teacher, journalist and lecturer. His first publication in a magazine in 1990 was a fantasy novel. His first book publication was the mystical-historical novel „Heart of Parma“ 2003. 11 novels and 7 non-fiction books by him are now available with a total circulation of over 1.5 million. 5 books have been filmed, 5 more are currently being filmed. Aleksei Ivanov lives in Perm.



THE AUTHOR

languages

8 languages

awards

2021 audiobook of the Year
2006 Yasnaya Polyana Award
2006 Big Book Award
2006 Strannik Prize
2004 Book of the Year
2004 Bazhov Award
2003 Mamin-Sibiriyak Award

Aleksei Ivanov

Synopsis

Despite the outwardly cruelty of the novel, it is full of emotions and human experiences. Partly because of this, but also because of the volume, the number of characters, the appeal of historical figures from Admiral Kolchak to Larisa Reisner, the novel inevitably begs to be compared to „War and Peace“ and „The Quiet Don“. Surely there will be readers who will flip through „Peace and Love“ and readers who will rush to get through „War and Battles“ as quickly as possible. Only neither Tolstoy nor Sholokhov had such fabulous descriptions of steel colossuses, their engines, their movement through the water. There was no admiration for the entrepreneurs of that time. Progress is not technology, progress is a state of mind. It doesn't work without people - without entrepreneurs, engineers and inventors and also not without those who work with the machines - like Ivan Nerechtnin, and those who care about the safety of technology - like Khamzat Mammadov. And not without those who are willing to give their lives so that the world can go on and their loved ones can go on. Because progress, as Ivanov writes, is belief in the future.

First, the Bolsheviks take Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich from the Perm Hotel, where he is serving his exile, and have him shot. But the execution is carried out in a very bungling manner, the emperor survives and now has to leave Perm urgently.

Second, proto-frontwoman Larisa Reisner dreams of making history as the Valkyrie of the Revolution, throwing herself into the spectacle of military operations for fame and adventure.

Third, Muslim superman Mamedov, the Nobel family's personal goon, tries to save the Swedish oil tycoons' business in Russia.

Fourth, young Alyosha dreams of technological advances and becoming the new Shukhov.

Fifth, the most experienced, but endowed with a bad character, river captain Ivan Nerechtnin, has no ambitions of his own, but only does his duty and tries to save people close to him.

Sixth, the veteran of Tsushima and Moonsund, Admiral Stark, does not want to fight a general battle, for the war on the river is not a battle at sea where ship is against ship. In the war on the rivers everything gets mixed up: chases, skirmishes, battles on land and sea and even a little in the air.

Seventh, Dmitry Yakutov, a great steamer owner nicknamed „Lord of Kama“, immediately grasps what is to come and shoots himself to the heart from the very beginning of the war and the book. He'll miss all the fun. The way the author presents us with this no less carefully described character to have him shot almost immediately evokes a sense of startled excitement in the reader.

Eighth, however, his daughter becomes the female protagonist of the novel.

Ninth, Goretsky dreams of a warm place in some branch of an international oil company and is ready for any meanness.

Tenth, the Rothschilds decide to expel the Nobels from Russia.

“Ivanov is an engineer of literature, a mechanic of historical science. The heroes of his prose are always part of a great historical machine. Ivanov opens the outer shell, shows readers how this mechanism works, which gear rotates faster and which fails, which screw is more important, which handle allows the machine to move in the other direction and why it stalls.” GORKY MEDIA

Aleksei Ivanov

Belarusian literary fiction

Night

Novel. AST. Russia 2019. 411 pages

Publishers: Germany - Europa

Blackout in Central Europe. Earth's rotation has stopped. No more electricity, water is only available by the hour, due to a change in the atmosphere, oil and coal do not burn anymore, even compasses do not work. Minsk has disintegrated into clans that are in part fighting. About what happens outside the city limits, circulate only terrible rumors. The end of a suicidal world in which technology has overtaken ethics. Knizhnik is the owner of the only not yet burnt library and the last not yet eaten dog in Grushevka. Since he lends his books to dear book lovers who pay for it, he has accumulated great savings, not in the form of money that has become worthless, but in the form of zinc batteries. One day, with a flashlight and an old map, he sets off for his lover, who was in Nepal at the time of the blackout. There, according to Knizhnik's calculations, should be eternal sunrise.

The novel puts Belarus in a classic post-apocalyptic setting of deserted landscapes, deserted houses, mutant pig-nose, goat's feet, androphagas, werewolves, oracles, undead. But Martinovich's dystopian travelogue goes beyond a mere parable on the social-political conditions of this last dictatorship in the heart of Europe. For on his journey through the desert land, the intrepid Knizhnik can see the world step by step differently than before, when he, like all others, closed his eyes out of fear, stupidity and habit and believed in propaganda and rumors: the czar of garbage dumps, the people's brigade, the hypocritical priest, the miners' foreman, the lonely radio operator - through his unexpected acquaintances, his encounters with good and evil, Knizhnik begins to see and hear with his heart. And as the reader follows the hero through the horrors of darkness, he discovers with him that there is no greater enemy than the own self-centering thoughts. Thoughts create reality, and in the dark as in the light the strongest power is the word. Fake news and troll factory - believing them can cost you your life.

„In fact, Martinovich is trying to do for Belarus what Gabrielle Garcia Marquez has done before. He brought the village of Makondo into world literature. And in it, as if in a nutshell, all Colombia, and even all of Latin America, with its mystical thinking, the belief in God and at the same time the dead, and endless military coups.“
BELARUSSKI ZHURNAL

„In many ways, „night“ is like „paranoia“ - a novel about fear. But in „Paranoia“ the fear instinct wins, while „Night“ is a book about overcoming fear.“
DARYA KOSTENKO

„In the end, the mystical darkness clears, and the enchanted reader finds himself unexpectedly in a philosophical vessel full of paradoxical technical wonders.“
LIVELIB



THE AUTHOR

translations
4 languages

awards
Bogdanovich Literay Award
2012
Best European Fiction anthology
2011 (Dalkey Archive)

sample translation available
english

other works
Mova
Paranoia
Revolution
Lake of Joy

Martinovich was born in Oshmiany, Belarus in 1977. He is a political scientist, doctor of art history, and professor at the Vilnius University. He is a regular contributor to the German weekly DIE ZEIT. His literary works are published parallel in the Belarusian and Russian languages. Paranoia, published in Russia at the end of 2009, was immediately banned from sale in Belarus (unofficially prohibited). In 2017 he was Writer in Residence at the Literaturhaus Zürich and PWG foundation. Martinovich lives with his family in Minsk.

Viktor Martinovich

Ukrainian fiction

Win can't lose

Familienstellen in Odessa (Family constellation in Odessa)

Novel. Raduga Publishers. Odessa 2021. 284 pages

Awards: 2021 Diploma winner Green Wave international book festival

The novel is set in Odessa and covers a hundred-year period of Rita's family life. The storylines unfold in the 1990s and 1940s (World War 2 period). The title „Family constellation in Odessa“ refers to Bernd Hellinger's therapeutic method of so called Familienstellen.

Rita is sixteen, she has no friends and she is too attached to her family. Rita's grandmother lives in the apartment resembling a train station. Numerous relatives are constantly coming and going. All of them experienced tragic losses that WW2 brought to their lives. Accidentally grandmother finds the girl dress of Rita's mom – absolutely new, though it has been worn out and thrown away a long time ago. At the same time, the touristic cruise liner with Rita's parents on board is meeting a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. Grandmother is in despair, she believes that now, when the girl dress of her daughter came back from past, all the family can get into big trouble. Meanwhile, Rita finds other things lost a long time ago – a rug, a notepad, a revolver. In her hands they come to life and retell the stories of their owners.

Rita and grandmother realize, that impregnated with bad memories, things drag the family into a trap of failures, illnesses, losses. The only way out is to find new owners for those things, to give them a chance for a second birth. To do this, Rita will have to learn to act independently, step over her fear and pride, lose and find friends and finally believe that the world is not as hostile as it seemed. After all, it was the War, one of the novel's characters, that pushed her into loneliness. Relatives who died and suffered during the war are passing before her eyes. They don't want her to repeat their unhappy lives. On the contrary, they died to give her a chance to be happy. The storm subsides and the parents return home. The family reunites to start a new page of life. But the War is not gone, wandering around, looking for loopholes to get closer to the people again.



THE AUTHOR

awards

2020 finalist Paustovsky Award
2020 choice of the Odessa City of Literature UNESCO
2020 finalist Cyberiad held by Huxleý magazine

other works

In the Cocoon

Hanna Mikhalevska was born in Odessa. She got a master's degree in Economics from the Odessa National Economic University – because of money, and master's degree in Social Psychology from Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University – because of love. Hanna writes in the genres of magic realism – everything that allows going beyond the boundaries of ordinary, but keeps the characters and their feelings real. Hanna loves experiments such as writing collaborative fiction, performing and writing script for literary audio theater „Theater of Ears“, presenting her books on various events, stage reading. Since the beginning of the war, she has remained in Ukraine doing what she can best: writing. Hanna organized a charity event, where her works and Ukrainian songs were performed to support families affected by the war.

Hanna Mikhalevska

Ukrainian fiction

The Fourth Helper of Saint Christopher

Novel. Summit Books. Kyiv 2021. 700 pages

Awards: 2022 Long List BBC Book of the Year
2022 Pervaya Lastochka, Writers Union Ukraine
2021 Yukhomovich Award

Set in the aftermath of the USSR's collapse, the crew of the ship „Bela Kun“ is stranded in Buenos Aires with dwindling resources and no help in sight. The sailors are on the brink of starvation, and the ship is detained at the port as a result of unpaid debts. In a desperate attempt to draw attention to their plight, the first officer Ivan Lubnin sets himself on fire in front of the Soviet embassy. But the strike brings no results.

Amidst this chaos, the young mate Rozov makes a difficult decision. He wants to return to Odessa, no matter what it takes. He doesn't tell anyone why he's willing to risk his life to get home: he wants to see Diana again, the girl he loved and once lost. Captain Samoilov gives Rozov a family heirloom, the cross of Saint Christopher, and asks him to return it to his sister. The cross is said to be the patron saint of all travelers and has helped the captain out of trouble many times.

Rozov starts his gripping journey through South America, as he hitchhikes his way through Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, encountering diverse cultures and fascinating people along the way, encountering unexpected allies and enemies. Despite facing moments of hope and despair, Rozov never loses sight of his ultimate goal - to return home to Odessa and reunite with the love of his life.



THE AUTHOR

"A book that I dragged with me everywhere. 700 pages, hardcover, weighs around 1 kg, so „dragged“ is definitely the right word. And „everywhere“ means to bed, to the toilet, to the beach, to work. I brushed my teeth with it, went jogging with it, drank coffee with it in the morning and wine in the evening. If there was a way to read while driving to the office, I would have. I regretted having to waste time working, eating, sleeping instead of reading on."

"It's about travel, adventure, friendship, emotions, people and - this wonderful world."

"When describing the landscapes - they arise right before your eyes, bright and real. The events - the heart jumps out of the chest with compassion. The heroes of the novel - it seems that you have known them all your life. I was hot in Mexico, cold in Alaska. Very detailed, accurate, interesting."
GOODREADS

Anna Morozova, born in 1989 in Sumy, Ukraine, is a metal scientist and volcanologist who also pursued a career in travel journalism. She earned her master's degree from Kyiv Politechnic Institute before embarking on a career that would take her to 70 countries around the world. Morozova's writing has been featured in a variety of publications, including Inspired, FurFur, The Village, and Bird in Flight. She is a sought-after speaker, having delivered talks at events like TEDx, Philip Morris training camps, Greencubator, and Tesla Camp. One of Morozova's most notable achievements was her circumnavigation of the world by hitchhiking while wearing a blue and yellow overall, the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Her journey garnered widespread media attention and cemented her reputation as a fearless adventurer. Morozova now resides in the United States, where she is raising her family and running a charity fund within an American corporation. She continues to write about her travels and adventures, inspiring others to explore the world and embrace new experiences.

Anna Morozova

Russian diaspora horror thriller

Vixen Hill

Novel. Moscow. 2022. 716 pages

The action of this horror thriller in the genre of mystic realism takes place in the Far East, on the border of the Soviet Union and Manchuria (China) in 1945, right after the end of World War II and the Japanese occupation of the region. The novel combines the history of the USSR, Chinese mythology, Japanese genetic engineering and Siberian shamanism.

After his adventurous escape from the GULAG, prisoner Max Kronin journeys to Vixen Hills: a village in the middle of a no man's land on the Manchurian border, in the hope of finding his long-lost wife. Vixen Hills is a place of strange miracles and supernatural phenomena – an appropriate hunting ground for Max who, before the war, was trained by mentalist extraordinaire and KGB officer Gleb Aristov to manipulate his own dreams, trance-walk, predict the future, and bring lost people back to reality. But just like all the others who once found themselves in this cursed place, Max does not find what he is looking for. And he does not realise that he is still being manipulated by his former trainer Aristov, whose ultimate goal is to find and deploy the mythical Terracotta Army. To conquer the world, Aristov wants to resurrect this Army with the Waters of Death and Life, a mighty biological weapon developed by Japanese scientists in Vixen Hills, where they conduct inhuman experiments in their laboratory for breeding the perfect soldier. But so does a German count, with his own links to Max Kronin. Here Soviet soldiers fall in love with Chinese were-foxes. Here KGB agents face a taoist master who knows the secret of immortality. Here those from fascist Ahnenerbe and those from the Soviet Secret Department represent one and the same ruthless totalitarian monster. Here the war never ends.

This is a spectacular and frightful trip to the heart of darkness, where the protagonists not only find themselves contending with shamans, Old Believers, the KGB and the Red Army, a hypnotists and a Tao Master, but everyone finds exactly what he or she has deserved. Some find love, others find death, but everyone finds the only appropriate fate predestined either by God or by the devil.

"Starobinets doesn't let the reader relax for a minute as she manages to keep up the hellish pace over seven hundred and something pages."
MEDUZA (Galina Yuzefovich)



THE AUTHOR

translations
over 20 languages

awards
2021 Spanish Celsius-232

2018 ESFS award
«Best European Sci-fi author»

2017 Winner Imaginales
festival in Epinal/ France

2016 Grand Prix of Utopiales
Sci-Fi book festival/ France

2014 National Bestseller Russia

2014 Prix Masterton

2014 Winner «The Portal»
Scifi Assembly Ukraine

sample translation available
full english

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israely citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is the widow of Alexander Garros, a critically acclaimed Latvian author. Her anti-government views have forced Starobinets to escape from Russia with her two children and dog in spring 2022.

Anna Starobinets

Russian literary fiction

The Bridge Protection Committee

Novel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2023. 416 pages

They were playing Minecraft, but the court believed they intended to blow up the new bridge over the Yenisei. They worked as mechanics, doctors, businessmen - but life forced them to set up a committee to save their own children. They were journalists and came across a bloody history of provocation and a Siberian cult.

This is a book about anger - fueling heroes whose children are in danger. This is a book about Siberia - the events of the novel take place in Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk and Tomsk. This is a book of hope - that the heroes might be able to resist the terrible Siberian history and the prosecutor's bloodthirstiness.

In Krasnoyarsk, an extremist organization called „Committee“ is on trial. Its seven members (mostly students from the local and Novosibirsk universities) are accused of wanting to blow up a new bridge over the Yenisei.

Nikita, an investigative journalist for an online portal, also starts researching and comes to the conclusion that the „Committee“ case is an attempt to weaken the oligarch Ruzhinsky, a prominent party official. When the oligarch's daughter suddenly disappears and Nikita is interrogated, he decides to ask the reclusive oligarch Ruzhinsky himself for help. Nikita learns from him that there is no daughter and that someone obviously made up the story on purpose.

The parents are also trying to save their children. But all in vain: they are not released, a middleman is killed in a strange way, their money is gone. There they find a strange helper Zhenya who has been gathering other parents around for some time. Zhenya convinces everyone else that the children were taken by the Winter Prosecutor, a cannibal of a Siberian legend. The only salvation would be a special ceremony - they would have to weave a magic web that alone could capture the enemy who sits in the regional administration.

“About honor in dishonorable times - and about old cliques: old-fashioned, drunk, corrupt and pointless, but which forces the heroes to become the true heart of society, which lives and beats. Until death.”
SHAMIL IDIATULLIN



THE AUTHOR

sample translation
english

other works
Moscow Banksy

Dmitri Zakharov was born in 1979 in a 'closed' city in Siberia near Krasnoyarsk. After training as a journalist, he worked as a correspondent and editor for Kommersant newspaper and headed various marketing departments in the government and the private sectors. Dmitri Zakharov lives in St. Petersburg

Dmitri Zakharov

NARRATIVE
NON-FICTION

Russian non-fiction

A Russian Chronicle of the War

Documentary. Library Grinberg. Jerusalem 2022. 120 pages

Written day by day - from March until mid June 2022 - in direct response to what was happening in Russia in the early months of the war Russia unleashed. The author got into the car, drove to the province, 1000 kilometers from Moscow, and talked to people he met on the trip. Only direct contact could clarify something and convey the reactions to compatriots and the rest of the world. Stories about people, conversations with them, their lively reaction - that was important to the author as direct evidence. Many were against the war from day one. Many, especially those who watched television, were under the influence of Putin's propaganda. The book contains impressions of a journey through a country at war, but on whose territory no hostilities are taking place. But the war is felt by every cell of the body, and surprisingly the author met many who were against the war against the brother people of Ukraine from the very beginning.

The author's position is clear from the first line. The experience and horror of what happened is not hushed up, on the contrary, it is the driving force behind the book. The book was published in Israel because the author would have faced a long prison sentence in Russia. The author is sure that what is described is important for people who do not understand the situation in Russia very well, and he hopes that with him the reader will experience moments of hellish powerlessness and a sense of catastrophe, shame and hopelessness that today very, very many people in his country experience. The text of the book was printed day by day on the author's Facebook page and duplicated in telegram, with more than a thousand subscribers every day. Under the conditions of military censorship, this was the only way to communicate with compatriots who share the author's views.



THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Russian Booker Prize

sample available

English

"This is Aleshkovski's strongest book ... The chronicle of a mad war, which in Russia must not be called a war. A chronicle that is honest, courageous, emotional, sometimes almost to the point of screaming and yet at the same time firm, without any hysteria ... A terrible chronicle from which a strangely stuffy fear and despair blows.."
NIKOLAI ALEKSANDROV

Petr Aleshkovski was born in Moscow in 1957. His parents were archaeologists, the famous singer and author Yuz Aleshkovski was his uncle. After studying archeology himself, Petr Aleshkovski helped for many years on expeditions in northern Russia with the restoration of monasteries such as in Novgorod or the Solovki Archipelago. Since the 2000s he has worked as a radio journalist and directed various programs of his own. Immediately after February 24, 2022, he left his post at Russian Radio, where he had worked for over 20 years, and refuses to cooperate with the regime any further.

Aleshkovski is the author of many books for adults and children, several have been published in translation by Suhrkamp, Fayard, Varrak and others.

Aleshkovski has a Russian and an Israeli passport and continues to live in both countries because as he says: „I cannot leave my readers who know that there is opposition to Putin within the country.“

Petr Aleshkovski

Russian narrative non-fiction

The True Anna Karenina

Narrative non-fiction. AST. Moscow 2022. 384 pages

Why was the fate of Anna and Vronsky decided during a mazurka, what does participating in horse races tell us about Vronsky, what a dinner about Oblonsky? If Anna was a seasoned socialite, why could the daughter she had by Vronsky only be given the one surname - Karenina?

Anna Karenina is probably Tolstoy's most mysterious work. Why is it still controversial? There's a lot we don't know about the harsh laws and paradoxical mores of the golden 19th century. Basinski explores the novel through the eyes of a curious and devoted reader. The facts laid out in the book surprise, discourage and explain many of the oddities of this tragic love story. In doing so, Basinski focuses on the darkest and most ambiguous turns of the novel's plot.

"I am aware that there is no true story of Anna Karenina. There are as many Anna Kareninas as there are readers of this novel. But I do hope that my book will help fanatics like myself, who are addicted to this novel, sort out their personal Annas more clearly. Admittedly without agreeing with me on everything."
Pavel Basinski



THE AUTHOR

translations
18 languages

awards
2010 Big Book
2010 Book of the Year
(Tolstoy: Escape from Paradise)
2008 Big Book shortlist
1998 Anti-Booker Prize

"A true philosophical thriller. The novel is reconstructed from individual words, plot twists and other „evidence“ and its incomprehensible passages are explained."
SOBAKA.RU

"In great detail and at the same time as far away from academic difficulty as possible."
KOMMERSANT

"Like turning the pages of a familiar novel, but still full of mysteries and secrets."
LITERATURNAYA GAZETA

Basinski was born in 1961 in Frolovo town (Volgograd region). He studied at the Saratov University and the Maxim Gorky Literature Institute in Moscow. Basinski is one of the most influential and highly acclaimed literary critics in Russia. He publishes in Literaturnaya Gazeta, Novi Mir, Oktyabr, Znamya, Druzhba narodov and others. He was a jury member of several major Russian literary prizes, such as the Russian Booker, the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Prize and the Yasnaya Polyana Prize. His fascinating documentary books about the life and work of Leo Tolstoy aroused a new wave of interest in the phenomenon of the "Apostle of Yasnaya Polyana". Basinski lives in Moscow.

Pavel Basinski

Ukrainian narrative non-fiction

Notes from the War

Diary. Kharkiv. Ukraine 2022-2023. 3 parts, full year, 620 pages

Publishers: Germany/ dtv, Hungary/ Helikon

parts published in English by [Another Chicago Magazine](#)
published as column in German by [Neue Zürcher Zeitung NZZ](#)

Part I Feb 24 2022 until end of April 2022

Part II April-July 2022

Part III August-February 2023 (to be continued)

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The city of Kharkiv, which is located close to the border, quickly comes under heavy fire. Hundreds of thousands of people flee. The Ukrainian writer Sergey Gerasimov 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, however, remain in the embattled frontline town. Soon there will be a lack of clean water, food and medical infrastructure. The thermometers show high sub-zero temperatures, people are freezing. Gerasimov begins to write about the absurdity of everyday life in war. The result is a stirring testimony, an appeal for peace and understanding.

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



THE AUTHOR

sample translation
full in English

"Sergej Gerasimov's „Fire Panorama“ becomes a disturbing testimony, because the form of the diary does not want to overlook the big picture, but tries to formulate a general appeal for understanding from the description of immediate everyday wartime life." FAZ

"The texts are written quickly, concisely, concretely and in detail. They start abruptly and draw into the moment with their presence. Gerasimov's intelligence is evident in the montage of reports, observations, anecdotes, thoughts, stories told by others, internet research, memories of other times, other Russians." DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR

"A stirring testimony and an appeal for peace and understanding." MUSIX MAGAZINE

"The diary will definitely stand the test of time. A document of terror and a document of Ukrainian courage and resistance." WDR

"A darkly shimmering panorama, a tableau made up of descriptions, reflections and memories." TAGESSPIEGEL

Sergei Gerasimov was born 1964, in Kharkiv where he 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

Russian diaspora narrative non-fiction

Alone in the Ocean

Documentary Novel. Chas Masteriv. Kyiv 2021 (Moscow 2004). 110 pages

An oceanographer by profession, a romantic by nature and a cosmopolitan by vocation. The Soviet Union had imposed an exit ban on Slava Kurilov but this was not something he was able to come to terms with. In December 1974 he jumped overboard from the tourist steamship „Sovetsky Soyuz“ near the Philippines. Without food, drink or diving equipment, just goggles, a snorkel and flippers, he swam some 100 kilometres to the Philippine coast, spending three whole days in the sea. His knowledge of ocean currents and his Yoga experience helped him to survive. At times he swam as if in a trance. His journey to freedom is described in this book written by himself but only published after his death.

It was only in 1993 that the newspaper Ogonyok was able to publish an abbreviated version of his novel „Flucht“ (Escape) in Russia for the first time in. In 1994 Hachet brought out a much shortened adaptation as a children's book. Prior to that, the complete „Flucht“ appeared only once in the magazine „22“ (in Israel in 1986). A book version in Hebrew and in Ukrainian has been published.



THE AUTHOR

sample available
English

“Never, not before and not since, have I read such a tangible and such a thrilling account of the ocean forces. It is how a dolphin would right, if it possessed the art of writing. There he is, swimming through the waves at night and, due to the micro organisms that have stuck to him during his three- day odyssey, his every movement produces a glow in the ocean.”
VASILY AKSENOV

Slava Kurilov was born in Russia in 1936. Following his escape to the Philippines in 1974 he left for Canada. In the years that followed he worked for Canadian and American firms as a diver in both equatorial waters and in the Arctic sea prospecting for minerals. In 1986 he settled in Israel where he worked for the Oceanographic Institute in Haifa. Kurilov died in a diving accident in Israel on 29 January 1998.

Slava Kurilov

Russian diaspora literary fiction

Look at him

Documentary novel. Corpus. Moscow 2017. 190 pages

Publishers: Latvia/ Janis Rose, Spain/ Impedimenta, US/ Three String Press

Awards: among Best Books of the Year 2021 (chosen by LatvEl País, TELVA, ELLE, Esquire, Forbes)

In this groundbreaking memoir, Starobinets chronicles the devastating loss of her unborn son to a fatal birth defect. After her son's death, Starobinets suffers from nightmares and panic attacks; the memoir describes her struggle to find sympathy, community, and psychological support for herself and her family. A finalist for the 2018 National Bestseller Prize, *Look at Him* ignited a firestorm in Russia, prompting both high praise and severe condemnation for the author's willingness to discuss long-taboo issues of women's agency over their own bodies, the aftereffects of abortion and miscarriage on marriage and family life, and the callousness and ignorance displayed by many in Russia in situations like hers. Beautiful, darkly humorous, and deeply moving, *Look at Him* explores moral, ethical – and quintessentially human – issues that resonate for families in the world beyond Russia, as well. This is in some way a survival guide for those who find themselves in the face of a grief that seems unbearable.

"[A] most important statement on a topic that no one has ever spoken aloud here [in Russia]—necessary, traumatic, but also healing reading for any woman, and also for any man living with a woman and contemplating having children with her." MEDUZA (Galina Yuzefovich)

"[W]hat makes the book so compelling and human is that Starobinets puts her fiction-writing background to good use, pacing her book to develop a story arc and suspense. I could only read a little bit at a time because a personal story about late-term abortion is so intensely emotional. Even so, I had a hard time putting the book down at night." LIZA HAYDEN

"As abortion again takes center stage in national and international politics, *Look At Him* underscores the fact that even with birth defects, there are still so many sides to this issue." NANCY NAOMI CARLSON

"Unable to put it down, a memoir of a young woman in Moscow who discovers in the 16th week of her pregnancy that the baby she is carrying has a fatal defect. The book chronicles not only the author's personal anguish as she contemplates abortion but the inflexibility of the Russian medical system and Russian society in general." LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS



THE AUTHOR

translations
over 20 languages

awards
2021 Spanish Celsius-232

2018 ESFS award
«Best European Sci-fi author»

2017 Winner Imaginales
festival in Epinal/ France

2016 Grand Prix of Utopiales
Sci-Fi book festival/ France

2014 National Bestseller Russia

2014 Prix Masterton

2014 Winner «The Portal»
Scifi Assembly Ukraine

sample translation available
full english

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israeli citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is a widow of Alexander Garros, a renown writer from Latvia. Starobinets was in opposition to Russian government for the last years, and after the beginning of war with Ukraine she escaped from Russia with her two children and a dog.

Anna Starobinets

Russian narrative non-fiction

Philhellenes

Narrative non-fiction. AST. Moscow 2021. 426 pages

2021 Big Book Award
2021 Yasnaya Polyana finalist

Foreign rights: Greece/ Kastaniotis (request), Romania/ Editura, Serbia/ Russika (request)

The twenties of the 19th century. In Greece there is a war for independence from the Ottoman Empire. The revolutionaries have many sympathisers throughout Europe who are willing to voluntarily defend the old culture and fight to preserve the old greatness. This is what they are called: Philhellenes - lovers of the Greeks. Although the Russian Tsar Alexander I is not eager to interfere in the war of others, there are such Philhellenes in Russia too. One of them is the retired Ural staff captain Grigory Mostsepanov. He is sure that he has found a way to radically change the course of the war in Greece, and must tell everything to the Emperor himself as soon as possible.

This historical novel, told in the form of letters, diary entries and mental conversations of absent heroes, focuses not only on the Philhellenes of the Urals. Numerous people and representatives of different nations and social classes come to word, which paints a multi-faceted picture of a bygone era.

The plot begins in the factories of Nizhny Tagil, continues in Yekaterinburg, Perm, Tsarskoye Selo and Taganrog, leads from Russia to Nafplio and Alexandria and ends in Athens on the Acropolis. The novel's main characters include Alexander I, the mystical baroness Julia Kriedner, the Egyptian general Ibrahim Pasha and other documentary figures.

"Philhellens" is one of those novels in which characters and destinies that are at first unconnected gradually coalesce into a single ornament; watching this pattern emerge is a particular pleasure for the reader. What connects them here is not simply a whim of the author. It is the war by which they are slowly but inexorably drawn and united.... What seems to begin as a beautiful stylisation turns into a reflection on war, its mysticism and mystery." *Meduza*

Yuzefovich, born 1947 in Moscow, spent his childhood and youth in the Urals. He has a Doctorate in History and is known to a wide audience of readers through his historical thrillers about Ivan Putilin. Yuzefovich is capable of interweaving detailed knowledge of historical fact with masterly literary style into the plot of a thriller. L. Yuzefovich lives in Moscow and St. Petersburg.



THE AUTHOR

translations
15 languages

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

samples available
english
french and others

other works
Philhellenes
Winter Road
Horsemen of the Desert
The Putilin Series
Kazaroza

Leonid Yuzefovich

non-fiction

Russian non-fiction

The Mining Civilization

Non-fiction. Alpina. Moscow 2022. 284 pages with photos

Publishers: China - NeoCogito

The Urals is the most industrialized zone on planet Earth. The full industrialization of the region began with the reforms of Peter I, and under Catherine II, thanks to the Urals, the Russian Empire became a world-leading industrial nation. In Russian history, this happened only once – at the end of the 18th century. By this time, more than two hundred mining facilities were being built in the Urals.

The Russian government achieved such an excellent result using very specific methods. National industry, private and state, was extracted from the laws of the empire and organized as a separate power within the power. A mining state was established in the Urals with its own legislation and court, its own bureaucratic hierarchy and administrative department, and its capital – the „ideal city“ of Yekaterinburg.

The economic potential of mining equipment gave rise to a new and unprecedented cultural phenomenon, dubbed by 20th-century sociologists as the „mining civilization.“ This is a variant of the Russian world, but with a special value system, with a special mythology, with special culture heroes. And the identity of Russian mining and metallurgy, which is also the identity of the Urals, turned out to be the benchmark for its industrialization.

At a time when globalization is reshaping the world into a post-industrial consumer society, it is very important to consider what the industrial creation society looked like, especially in this exemplary Russian version.



THE AUTHOR

languages

8 languages

awards

2006 Yasnaya Polyana Award

2006 Big Book Award

2006 Strannik Prize

2004 Book of the Year

2004 Bazhov Award

2003 Mamin-Sibirskiy Award

The Ridge of Russia

Non-fiction. Alpina. Moscow 2022. 220 pages

Publishers: China - NeoCogito

People live on earth, life takes place in space. So country, territory, space cannot help but influence the destiny and thinking of a society. Only modern megacities are „one-dimensional“, but the world looks very different outside of urban globalization.

With every jolt forward, Russia's mainstay rested on the Urals. Russia has always been aware of this, but without really knowing the Urals. Ivanov's book is a systematic description of the Urals as a sociocultural phenomenon. Not a portrait, but an identification of the region, an explanation of its „inner structure“.

Russians have settled in the Urals for half a millennium, but also the Urals the Urals have been fitting the immigrants for five centuries. The development of the Urals was industrial, and the old industry required a special organization of life: production, social relations and even culture had to correspond to unique local conditions.

Thus arose in the Urals quite an amazing world, unlike the Russian one, with a complex set of local ideas about nature and man. In everyday life it is difficult to understand how the Urals differ from Russia – and yet remain Russia. In any case, the fact is that the world of the Urals is not an alternative to the Russian world, but one of its versions. And the happiness of the Urals is to live by rules that are organic and as fate wills. To be needed and in demand right here on site. To move up without losing the ground. This is only possible in the mountains. Even in low ones.

Aleksei Ivanov was born in 1969 in Gorky (today Nizhny Novgorod). He grew up in Perm in the Urals. In 1996 he graduated from the University of Ekaterinburg with a degree in art history. He then worked as a caretaker, laboratory assistant, tourist guide, teacher, journalist and lecturer. His first publication in a magazine in 1990 was a fantasy novel. His first book publication was the mystical-historical novel „Heart of Parma“ 2003. 11 novels and 7 non-fiction books by him are now available with a total circulation of over 1.5 million. 5 books have been filmed, 5 more are currently being filmed. Aleksei Ivanov lives in Perm.

Aleksei Ivanov

Russian diaspora non-fiction

How to Slay a Dragon

A Manual for Start-up Revolutionaries

Essay. London 2022. Full version 190 pages/ short version 65 pages

Second Chechen war in 1999, followed by „special operations“ throughout the North Caucasus, 2008 Georgia, 2014 annexation of Crimea with subsequent expansion of the conflict into Donbas region, since 2015 Syria with the Russian Wagner Group, which also operates in many African countries. Hybrid war with fake news and hacking worldwide. And finally, in February 2022, Putin's order to invade Ukraine, where he has been waging an increasingly aggressive war of extermination for 10 months now. A peaceful world order WITH Putin is ultimately hardly conceivable.

But how can a totalitarian regime be put to an end? By whom? From the inside or from the outside? With a totalitarian ruler acting aggressively both internally and externally, would there even be a chance of a reasonably peaceful change of power? After that, who would come to power in Russia? And what would that power look like? How should a new Russian state be organized in order to break through the compulsion to repeat imperialism?

These most pressing questions are not only being asked by politicians and decision-makers, but basically by all freedom-loving people around the world. Using the example of Russia, whose history, power structures and mentality Khodorkovsky knows in detail and from inside, the author wrote this „Manual for Start-Up Revolutionaries“.

Far from any know-it-all attitude, the book poses questions, uncomfortable questions that have been avoided in the West up to now, such as non-violence, and derives the resulting options for action. It does not want to provide recipes, but to initiate a discussion long overdue.

In its pamphlet-like gesture, the text is very reminiscent of Stéphane Hessel's „Time for Outrage!“ and is therefore available in a short version with 65 pages.

In order to primarily reach readers in Russia and experts on Russia and other totalitarian regimes, the author has made the unabridged version available online in Russian and English on the website of his Open Russia foundation.



THE AUTHOR

sample available

full english

other works

The Russia Corundrum

My Fellow Prisoners

M. Khodorkovsky is probably the most famous Russian dissident in exile alive. A successful businessman, he was head of YUKOS, one of the world's largest oil producers. Criticising endemic corruption at a televised meeting with President Putin in early 2003 he was arrested later that same year, and jailed on charges of tax evasion and fraud, charges, which he denied and vigorously defended. Khodorkovsky was sentenced to fourteen years in prison. He was declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International; and finally released in December 2013.

As a pioneering philanthropist, he established the Open Russia Foundation in 2001 with the aim of building and strengthening civil society in Russia. As the leader of the Russian opposition in exile, Khodorkovsky advocates for an alternative vision for his country.

Oscar-winning documentarian Alex Gibney covered Mikhail Khodorkovsky's life story in his latest film „Citizen K“ which is currently featured on Amazon Prime.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

non-fiction

Germany's Russia Problem

The Struggle for Balance in Europe

Political non-fiction. Manchester University Press 2021. 304 pages

With a new foreword reflecting the war against Ukraine

The relationship between Germany and Russia is Europe's most important link with the largest country on the continent. But despite Germany's unparalleled knowledge and historical experience, its policymakers struggle to accept that Moscow's efforts to rebalance Europe at the cost of the cohesion of the EU and NATO are an attack on Germany's core interests. This book explains the scale of the challenge facing Germany in managing relations with a changing Russia. It analyses how successive German governments from 1991 to 2014 misread Russian intentions, until Angela Merkel sharply recalibrated German and EU policy towards Moscow. The book also examines what lies behind efforts to revise Merkel's bold policy shift, including attitudes inherited from the GDR and the role of Russian influence channels in Germany.

Germany has the most developed relationship with Russia of any EU country, spanning business, education, politics, culture and sport. But Germany has a Russia problem: its policymakers struggle to accept that Moscow's efforts to rebalance Europe are an attack on Germany's interests. Any conflict with Russia is deeply discomforting, and arouses emotions that impede clear thinking and consistent action.

In this bold and original analysis, John Lough explains the scale of the challenge facing Germany as it strives to design policies for managing its relations with a changing Russia. Beginning with an account of how the countries' attitudes to each other were formed over several centuries, he proceeds to explore how German governments from 1991 to 2014 misread Russian intentions and inadvertently supported the emergence of a Russian system hostile to German interests, until Angela Merkel sharply recalibrated German and EU policy. The book looks at the role of German business interests and Germany's vulnerability to Russian interference, including misinformation and cyber attacks. It concludes by considering how Germany can strengthen its position against Russian influence in the future.



THE AUTHOR

available
full English

"I have found John Lough's Germany's Russia Problem an ideal book as we contemplate the source of energy we will draw on for heat and light in the decades ahead." TLS

"The title of John Lough's book itself makes clear that this is not another academic sand box exercise. He wants to make things better." DIE WELT

"John Lough has written a stimulating book rich in knowledge." FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE

"Provocative and brilliantly written, this book examines the deep relationship between two mutually indispensable nations and explains how Russia triggers reflexes in Germany that distort its policy thinking and produce contradictory results. With courage, honesty and insight, John Lough navigates one of the most sensitive areas of global politics today and sees a crucial role for Germany in creating a transformative environment around Russia that can facilitate its return to Europe."

LILIA SHEVTSOVA, author of „Putin's Russia“

John Lough is an Associate Fellow of the Russia & Eurasia Programme at Chatham House (since 2009) and a regular commentator on Russian and Ukrainian affairs. He spent six years with NATO managing information programmes aimed at Central and Eastern Europe, including a posting to Moscow, where he set up NATO's Information Office in Russia and was the first Alliance official to be permanently based in the country. He runs his own consultancy business, advising clients on political and investment risk in Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union. He studied German and Russian literature at Cambridge University.

John Lough

Russian narrative non-fiction

3 1/2 . With Prisoner's Respect and Fraternal Warmth

Nonfiction memoir. Individuum. Moscow 2018. 416 pages

Foreign rights: Hungary/ Athenaeum

In December 2014, the Navalny brothers, Oleg and Alexei, were convicted in the 'Yves Rocher case'. Alexei got 3 years of probation, while Oleg was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Although the European court of human rights ruled that the convictions were arbitrary and unfair, Oleg served the entire term, 1278 days.

This book, mostly written in prison, gives an account of everything that happened to him during that time. Plus, the narrative is complemented with detailed drawings. If you read this book, you will find out what is the difference between the red and the black zone, what prison sheets and towels are for, where to hide a sim card during a search and more. But most importantly, this book is about remaining resilient even in the most outrageous, horrible and bizarre circumstances.



THE AUTHOR

"All stories about prison are to a certain extent similar to each other, like road movies. Therefore, what is important, who talks about the prison and how. Navalny's book is a book about how not to get lost even in the most wild, terrible and ridiculous circumstances."
AFISHA

"Oleg Navalny's book continues a huge tradition: prison has always been among the places where the history of literary, religious, philosophic, and political thought was created. Some writers began their literary careers in the solitude of the cell. Prison was not only embarrassing, but also inspiring, demanding not only silence, but also words. Oleg Navalny's book is an excellent example of such writing."
KOMMERSANT

"Perhaps the most important Russian work of 2018. The illustrated story of a person who was wrongly convicted and lost 3.5 years of normal life. Without an understanding and awareness of what North Korean wilderness the country is heading towards, it will be difficult to build a beautiful Russia of the future. This should be public task number 1."
LABIRINT

Oleg Navalny is a Russian businessman and social activist, the younger brother of Alexei Navalny. He became famous when, together with his brother, he was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 3.5 years of incarceration. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that his conviction was arbitrary and unfair. Oleg wrote his book while in prison. He was released in June 2018. Navalny has left Russia.

Oleg Navalny

Russian non-fiction

A Recent History of Russia in 14 Bottles of Vodka

How the Number One Russian Drink Draws Together Business, Corruption and Crime

Non-fiction. Individuum. Moscow 2021. 352 pages

Vodka is one of the most iconic symbols of Russia, a drink that's synonymous with its people. A drink that is even hard to understand. It's also an incredibly profitable business. Where there is money, there is blood, power, dizzying ups and downs and, of course, silence. This book speaks up about these super-lucrative assets and universally known brands.

A Recent History of Russia in 14 Bottles of Vodka opens the public's eyes to the events of the past thirty years and shows them from an unexpected and thrilling point of view.



THE AUTHOR

"Puzyryov's book is true Russian non-fiction."
MEDUZA

"It's a real mine of plots for new movies and TV series. It's hard to believe that we witnessed such fantastic events."
MITYA BORISOV

Denis Puzyryov is an alumnus of the SPbU faculty of journalism. He has been in business journalism since 2010: he was the head of consumer market department and then the investigation department of RBC. Denis focused on professional sports, alcohol beverages and the tobacco market. He works as an editor at Sports.ru.

Denis Puzyrev

Ukrainian non-fiction

Battle for Kyiv

Non-fiction. Manuscript. Kyiv October 2022. 180 pages

Foreign rights: Albania/ Shkupi, Finland/ Tammi, Georgia/ Siesta, Macedonia/ Shkupi, Romania/ Editorial Art

This is the new book by Ukrainian journalist Serhii Rudenko, author of "Zelenskyy Without Make-Up: A Political Biography" sold in 2022 in 25 languages.

In February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine: the taking of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, was a declared main goal of the "special operation". Both the seat of government and the base of President Zelenskyy, Putin's number one enemy, are in Kyiv. Whoever controls Kyiv controls Ukraine. The unexpectedly successful defense of the capital and the expulsion of the Russian occupiers from the surrounding settlements in the greater Kyiv area was a crucial turning point in the course of the war.

Chapter by chapter, battle round by round, the author Serhii Rudenko recounts the decisive moments in the defense of Kyiv and the surrounding area. Rudenko himself was in Kyiv when the war broke out, and he witnessed the first rockets hitting the Ukrainian capital. His book is following the individual fates of 12 people, many of whom he knew personally before the war, illustrating how brutally this war changes lives. In brief flashbacks, Rudenko shows these people in their earlier life with all their plans and hopes, and then their fate during the struggle for Kyiv. Its hot first phase is described here from a wide variety of perspectives and eye witnesses. And tragically for many of these people, whose voices that appear in the book have since been silenced by the war.

Of course also the Klitschko brothers, whom the author met for the first time thirty years ago, are among these witnesses in the book. And it turns out that the first round of the Klichkos' personal struggle against Putin took place well before 2022. The two world-famous boxers, who could have made themselves comfortable anywhere in the world after their careers, put themselves at the service of the fight for freedom regardless of the risk to their own lives and thus also personally became symbolic figures for the determination of Ukrainian citizens to defend their country.

This incredible spirit of resistance, which neither Putin's generals nor the Western world had counted on, made it clear that the war in Ukraine and the battle for Kyiv is also a battle for freedom and self-determination in Europe. Only with the liberation of the villages around Kyiv and the gruesome discoveries of Bucha and Irpin would the Western world finally realize that this is also a battle to defend human dignity.

The 12 „heroes“

a photo reporter who died near Kyiv, a politician and a poet who were under occupation near Kyiv, a journalist who spent 10 days under occupation in Bucha, an actor and film director, a major who fought for Gostomel airport, a female lieutenant who burned Russian tanks, a public activist who died, a fighter of the territorial defense who died in Kharkiv Oblast, a Major General who headed the defense of Kiev airport, an editor-in-chief, a pop singer.

Serhii 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 became famous by his quite critical political biography about President Zelenskyi translated into more than 25 languages.



THE AUTHOR

other translations
25 languages

sample translation
English

Serhii Rudenko

Synopsis

Klitschko brothers vs Putin. Foreword

The story of the confrontation between Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko and Vladimir Putin. Three rounds of this struggle - the Orange Revolution, the Revolution of Dignity and the big war of Russia against Ukraine. In each of them, the brothers played a significant role.

In February-March 2022, they became the face of the resistance of the Ukrainian people against the Russian army, which was trying to storm Kyiv. Olympic champions, together with hundreds of thousands of people who took up arms, defended the Ukrainian capital.

Warm-up before the fight. A week before the war. February 16

Six months before a full-scale war, Western intelligence reports about Russia's intentions to attack Ukraine. Most Ukrainians perceive all warnings with distrust. Including the fact that the attack is possible on February 16th.

At this time, the Klitschko brothers go to the recruiting center for reservists. The younger brother Vladimir is enrolled in the territorial defense. The elder is preparing the capital for war.

Round one. Impact on the country. Attack on the capital. February 24

The beginning of a big war in Ukraine. The first strikes on the capital. The author of the book is a witness to the Russian attack on Kyiv. He talks about the first hours of the attack by Putin's army and the reaction to it in the Ukrainian capital.

The first dead, the first destruction, the first decisions of President Zelensky and the mayor of the capital, Vitali Klitschko. Appeal of the Klitschko brothers to the world.

How Putin, with the help of Lenin, "created" Ukraine. 2 months before the war. December 23, 2021

Two months before Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Putin gave a final press conference in which he justified why a country like Ukraine has no right to exist. He stated that the Ukrainians were invented by Count Potocki, and Ukraine was created by Vladimir Lenin.

Why it was important for Putin to level the historical past of Russia and why the capture of Kyiv in February 2022 was fundamental for him.

Triple blow to Belarus. Lukashenka's betrayal. February 2022

The main attack on Kyiv, starting from February 24, was carried out from the territory of Belarus. Until that time, both Lukashenka and the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Belarus argued that there was no threat to Ukrainians.

A story about the betrayal of the Belarusians and how the invasion of the Kyiv region began.

Zelensky vs Klitschko. 3 years before the war. Year 2019

The story of the complicated relationship between President Zelensky and Kyiv Mayor Klitschko during the first two and a half years of Zelensky's presidency.

A story about how Zelensky's team wanted to take control of the capital, and Klitschko fought for his independence from the President's Office. On the eve of the war, the two teams were „on knives“. But the war put the confrontation on pause. Zelensky and Klitschko have only one enemy - Putin.

Sergii Rudenko

Synopsis

Round two. Battle for the Gostomel airfield, February 24-25

The military airfield in Gostomel is located 25 kilometers from Kyiv. It was attacked by Russian troops on the very first day of the war - February 24th. A group of 35 Russian Ka-52 and Mi-8 helicopters with paratroopers on board tried to take control of the airfield in Gostomel, which was supposed to become a springboard for the Russian army to attack Kyiv. However, the Russian attack failed. The enemy has been destroyed. This is the first and important battle of the Ukrainian army for the capital.

Eyewitness accounts of the battles for Gostomel - fighters of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Dmitry Linko and Igor Lapin.

Two airports of Igor Lapin. 8 years before the war. Year 2014

Igor Lapin is one of the participants in the Revolution of Dignity. With the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014, he went to the front as a volunteer. He was the commander of the „West“ company of the 24th battalion of territorial defense „Aidar“ of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Lapin with his unit fought for the Luhansk airport and the village of Shchastya.

The author of the book met Lapin in the fall of 2014. The combat commander became a People's Deputy of Ukraine. Since then, Sergei Rudenko has made many television programs featuring Lapin.

On February 23, 2022, the next broadcast of Sergei Rudenko and Igor Lapin was scheduled, but it did not take place. Lapin again took up arms - and went to fight for Gostomel, Bucha, Lugansk region.

Round three. Terodefense of actor Akhtem Seitablaev, February 25

In 2019, the author of the book Sergei Rudenko made a big interview with the popular theater and film actor Akhtem Seitablaev. In it, the actor spoke about his feelings about the annexation of Crimea and about his directorial debut - about the epic film „Cyborgs“ - about the defenders of the Donetsk airport. Then Akhtem could not even imagine that in three years he would defend Ukraine.

In 2022, in the first days of the great war, he enlisted in the ranks of the territorial defense of Kyiv. About how the defense of the Ukrainian capital was organized - a story from the first person.

An unwanted witness to the annexation of Crimea. 8 years before the war. Year 2014

The story of Akhtem Seitablaev, who in 2014 became an unwanted witness to the annexation of Crimea. The history of the occupation of the Russian army of Ukraine - from the first person. Akhtem Seitablaev tells Sergei Rudenko about how the Kremlin came to Ukrainian soil.

Round four. Russian saboteurs in Kyiv. 25 February

On the second day of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, sabotage groups became more active in Kyiv. The fight against them was carried out on the streets of the capital. They rushed to the center of the capital - to the central offices of the country.

Klitschko urged the people of Kiev to destroy marks for adjusting the fire, which the saboteurs left in the city, and join the defense of Kyiv. 17 thousand Kalashnikov assault rifles ended up in the hands of the people of Kiev, who wanted to protect themselves and their city. The Russians were preparing to destroy Kyiv. Kyiv was preparing to destroy the Russians.

Pink Floyd, Andriy Khlyvnyuk and red viburnum, February 25

The leader of the popular Ukrainian group „Boom Box“ Andriy Khlyvnyuk signed up for the capital's territorial defense from the first days of the great war. On February 25, in the center of Kyiv, he sang the chorus of the old Ukrainian song „Oh, there is a red viburnum in the meadow.“ The video with Khlyvnyuk became viral on the net, and the song became a symbol of the fight against Russian invaders. Pink Floyd made a separate track for this song, which made it popular in the world.

A story about Andriy Khlyvnyuk, a singer and defender of Ukraine.

Sergii Rudenko

Synopsis

Round five. Defense of the Kyiv airport. Battalion „Beetles“. Feb 25-April 5

A fascinating story of the defense of the Kiev airport by the people of Kyiv, on which the Russian troops planned to land. The defense was led by the legendary General Sergei Krivonos, who, on his own initiative, took command. Moreover, he did this on a voluntary basis, since at that moment he was retired.

Brothers Klitschko and Tsybulko. 33 years before the war. Year 1989

The story about the acquaintance of the author of the book, Sergei Rudenko, with the future politician Vladimir Tsybulko, who fell under Russian occupation in February 2022, and about the meeting with the Klitschko brothers long before the war. These two stories are closely intertwined. The history of a peaceful, carefree life and the history of times of war.

This is the story of Vladimir Tsybulko and the Klitschko brothers for 30 years.

Round six. At gunpoint. Blistavica. Feb 25-March 31

The story of Vladimir Tsybulko about being in the occupation in the village of Blistavitsa, which is located 20 kilometers from Kyiv.

Vivid evidence of the Russian occupiers, their behavior and how Tsybulko managed to stay alive.

Round seven. Terror on the streets of Kyiv. February 26

On the third day of the war, Russian saboteurs began to rampage in the Ukrainian capital. On the streets of Kyiv, they shot a whole family - two adults and three children.

Most of the people of Kiev tried to leave the capital. The enemy was getting closer and closer to the capital. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko was forced to declare a three-day curfew in Kyiv and warn that anyone who appeared on the streets at that time would be mistaken for Russian saboteurs.

On the same day, Wladimir Klitschko addressed the world with a demand to stop Russia's war against Ukraine.

The Immortal of Ukrainian politics. 26 years before the war. Year 1996

Roman Bezsmertny (which means "immortal") is a prominent representative of Ukrainian politics. He is one of the creators of the new Ukrainian Constitution. During the presidency of Leonid Kuchma, he was his representative in parliament. In 2019, Roman ran for president, but lost the election.

All this time, the author of the book, Sergei Rudenko, was not only a witness to the rise of the political star Bezsmertny. He was preparing an interview book with him.

Both under Poroshenko and under Zelensky, Bezsmertny worked in the tripartite contact group in Minsk to resolve the Donbass. Ironically, with the outbreak of the war, he ended up under Russian occupation in the village of Motyzhin near Kyiv.

Round eight. Russian invaders in Motyzhin. February 27

On the first day of the war, Roman Bezsmertny went to his mother in the village of Motyzhin near Kyiv. But I didn't manage to get my mother out of there. The Russian army entered there. The immortal was trapped. 35 days in occupation.

This is the story of the survival of Roman and his family at gunpoint by the Russian occupiers.

The suburb of Kyiv took the brunt of the Russian army. In fact, Motyzhin, Bucha, Gostomel, Irpen saved Kyiv and prevented Putin's troops from taking the Ukrainian capital.

Sergii Rudenko

Synopsis

Black square of Ratushny. 11 months before the war. March 20, 2021

Roman Ratushny, 25, was one of Kyiv's prominent activists. He defended the capital from illegal development, took part in the Revolution of Dignity, and in 2020, not being a member of the UDAR party of Vitali Klitschko, he ran for the Kyiv City Council. He didn't get there, though.

11 months before the war, on March 20, 2021, Ratushny was taken into custody for participating in a rally in support of Odessa activist Sergei Sternenko near the President's Office. The town hall was accused of hooliganism and put under house arrest. The author of this book was also at this protest action. About what happened in March 2021 under the Office of the President and about the role of the Town Hall - according to an eyewitness - Sergey Rudenko.

Round nine. Testament of Ratushny. February 28

In the first days of the war, Roman Ratushny, as part of the territorial defense of the capital, caught Russian saboteurs in Kyiv. Until the end of March, he defended the capital. After that, he went to fight the Russians in the east of the country.

June 8th he died in the battles for Izyum, in the Kharkiv region. Before his death, he managed to write a will. The 25-year-old young man clearly understood that he might not return from the war. A story about what Ratushny dreamed about, what he bequeathed and what hopes his parents and associates placed on him. After his death, one of the streets of Kyiv was named after him, and Protasov Yar, which in peacetime was defended by Ratushny, will be turned into a landscape park and will bear the name of Roman Ratushny.

Round ten. Marauders. February 28

In the first days of the war, marauders appeared in Kyiv. Hundreds of thousands of apartments and offices in the Ukrainian capital were left unattended. Their owners left Kyiv. Marauders opened the premises and took out by car everything that was not under supervision.

The authorities were forced to publicly warn: according to the laws of wartime, marauders would be shot on the spot.

The police and self-defense units fought against the marauders. The robbers were tied to pillory along the streets of the Ukrainian capital. The story of how Kyiv managed to defeat the marauders.

Round eleven. Strike on the TV tower. March 1

On March 1, the Russian invaders launched a missile attack on the Kyiv TV tower. The tower, which was the pride of Ukrainian television people, survived, but the people who were nearby died or were injured.

This strike shocked the people of Kiev not only because the Russians openly shot one of the districts of Kyiv, but because the rockets landed near Babin Yar, the site of the mass execution of Jews by the Germans during World War II.

Camouflage wedding at a checkpoint in Kyiv. March 6

On March 6, 2022, when the Russian army was trying to attack Kyiv, two soldiers of the 128th Territorial Defense Battalion, Lesya Ivashchenko and Valery Filimonov, got married under the roar of artillery cannonade in Kyiv. The wedding at the barricades in camouflage was indicative. Ukrainians were not going to give up and die. They wanted to live and enjoy life, despite Putin's desire to destroy everyone and everything in Ukraine.

Round twelve. Buchan massacre. March 2022

At the end of February 2022, the Russian army occupied small towns located 20 kilometers from Kyiv - Bucha, **Gostomel**, **Irpen**, Borodyanka, Makarov. In them, the Russians staged mass executions, rape of local residents, and robberies. When distributing bread, the Russian invaders shot the chairman of the Gostomel community, Yuri Prilipko.

The murder of civilians in Bucha was called the „Bucha Massacre“. More than 1,000 people died from Russian invaders in March 2022 in the suburbs of Kyiv.

Sergii Rudenko

Synopsis

10 days in the life of journalist Lena Chichenina in occupied Bucha. Feb 27-March 9

Testimony of journalist Lena Chichenina about the occupation in Bucha, a city near Kyiv, where massacres, abuse and violence were committed. A story about 10 days spent under Russian occupation.

Photojournalist Max Levin. 15 years before the war. Year 2007

A bright and talented Ukrainian front-line correspondent Maxim Levin began his career at Gazeta 24, which was led by the author of the book, Sergei Rudenko.

These are memories of Levin, who, with the beginning of the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, visited all the troubled spots in Ukraine. In August 2014, he miraculously survived in the Ilovaisk cauldron. With the outbreak of the great war of 2022, he became a photo chronicler of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Round thirteen. Murder of journalist Levin. March 13

On March 13, photojournalist Maxim Levin, who was filming the Russian offensive near Kyiv, disappeared along with his friend. He stopped communicating and there was no news from him. In early April, his body was found in a forest near Kyiv. Levin and his comrade were killed by the Russians.

Round fourteen. Battle for Brovary. March 10

The battles for Brovary, a city located 25 kilometers northeast of Kyiv, began on the first day of the war, February 24. On March 10, tank columns of the Russian Federation approached this satellite town of the Ukrainian capital. It was on this day that the Ukrainian army gave the decisive battle to Russian tankers. One of the heroines of this battle was Tatyana Chornovol, who, as the operator of the Stugna combat installation, burned Russian tanks.

Two wars, two Maidans and the death of Tatyana Chornovol's husband. 25 years before the war

25 years ago Tatyana Chornovol came to Ukrainian journalism. She worked in the Chechen press center, which operated in Ukraine, wrote reports from the second Russian-Chechen war.

The author of the book, Sergei Rudenko, witnessed how Tatyana Chornovol turned from a journalist into a politician. She was a participant and witness to all important political protests in Ukraine - the action „Ukraine without Kuchma“, the Orange Revolution, the Revolution of Dignity. In December 2013, as an active participant in the Euromaidan, they tried to kill her. In August 2014, her husband died in the Russian-Ukrainian war. Tatyana entered politics and became a people's deputy. In February 2022, she herself went to war with Russia.

A story about the dramatic fate of Tatyana Chornovol.

Round fifteen. Russian nuclear blackmail. Chernobyl. Feb 24 - March 30

Most dramatic episode in the history of the Russian offensive on Kyiv - the capture of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

For 40 days, the Russian army de facto blackmailed both Ukraine and the whole world with a nuclear facility. At the station, in a place contaminated with radiation, 500 Russian soldiers dug in. Chernobyl is well known in Ukraine. Therefore, the Ukrainians did their best to ensure that the Russian army left the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Morgue, Pink Freud and Babel by Evgeny Spirin. Feb-April 2022

Evgeny Spirin is from Lugansk. With the beginning of the occupation of Donbass by the Russians, he was forced to flee to Kyiv. There he worked as a journalist for 8 years. On February 24, he decided not to leave the war anymore. He and his team from the Internet publication Babel decided to stay in Kyiv - in the basement of the Pink Freud bar. This is the story of how Spirin survived the period of the siege of the Ukrainian capital.

Sergii Rudenko

Synopsis

Revolution, war and the wedding of Dmitry Linko (Linux). 9 years before the war. Year 2013

The story of Dmitry Linko, who came to the war in 2014. Then he was involved in politics - he was a deputy of the Verkhovna Rada. He met the war in the status of deputy chairman of the Kirovograd Regional Council. But he spent the whole spring of 2022 in battles for Kyiv and the Kyiv region.

Round sixteen. Battle for Lukyanovka. March 24

The story of the commander of the battalion „Stugna” Dmitry Linko about the battles in the Kyiv region with the Russian army. One of the main battles - the battle for the village of Lukyanovka near Kyiv - a battle that did not allow the Russian army to move on the Ukrainian capital.

Eyewitness account.

Two wars and one enemy of Astamur Gumba („Abkhaz”). 33 years before the war. War with Russia. Years 1989-2022

Astamur Gumba was born in 1989 in Abkhazia. In 1992, when the war began in Sukhumi, Astamur's mother took him to Ukraine. Since then, Natalya (mother), a journalist, has been trying to save her son from the war. He studied in Kyiv, then in Chornogory. But in February 2022, Astamur went to the territorial defense of Kyiv, and after that he went to fight in the Kharkiv region. There he died.

The story of the courageous fighter „Abzakh”.

Round seventeen. The retreat of the Russian army from Kyiv. March 25

On March 25, the leadership of the Russian Ministry of Defense announced the encirclement of the Ukrainian capital. At this time there are fierce battles in the Kyiv region. The Ukrainian army drives the Russian army away from Kyiv. Moscow tried to save face and talks about a planned retreat.

On April 2, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine announced the complete retreat of the Russian army from Kyiv.

Unconquered Kyiv. Afterword

From the moment of its foundation Kyiv has been repeatedly tried to capture by the occupiers - sometimes from the East, sometimes from the West. And every time the Ukrainian capital did not allow this.

The last time it was 81 years ago - when the German fascists entered Kyiv. Putin's attempt to conquer Kyiv is the second in the last 100 years. As then, Kyiv will stand, no one has any doubts about that.

The battle for Kyiv is already history. Although it is far from being completed, it gives a complete picture not only of the nature of the battles for the Ukrainian capital, but also of the nature of the millions of people who stood up to defend Kyiv.

The 12 “heroes” in the book:

- Max Levin, a photojournalist who died near Kyiv
- Roman Bezsmertny, a politician and diplomat who was near Kyiv under occupation
- Volodymyr Tsibulko, political scientist, poet, who was under occupation near Kyiv
- Lena Chichenina, a journalist who spent 10 days under occupation in Bucha
- Akhtem Seitablayev, actor, director of the film „Cyborgs”, fighter of Territorial Defense of Kyiv, now fighting in the south
- Ihor Lapin, politician, major of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who fought for Gostomel airport near Kyiv
- Tetyana Chornovol, politician, lieutenant of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who burned Russian tanks near Kyiv
- Roman Ratushny, public activist of Kyiv, fighter for Territorial Defense who fought in Kharkiv region and died
- Atamur Gumba, a fighter of Territorial Defense of Kyiv, born in Abkhazia, died in Kharkiv Oblast
- Serhii Kryvonos, Major General, headed the defense of Kiev airport
- Evgeny Spirin, editor-in-chief of the online publication Babel, fled Luhansk before the war in 2014, and in 2022 he sat and worked in a bar in Kyiv surrounded by Russians - in the Pink Freud Bar.
- Andrii Khlyvniuk, a popular singer and Territorial Defense fighter who sang the song „Oi uv Luzi red viburnum”, which he later recorded together with Pink Floyd. The song became a worldwide hit.

Sergii Rudenko

children's

Russian diaspora children's

The Real Boat

Children's book. Age 4+. Mann Ivanov Ferber. Moscow 2019. 72 pages with illustrations by Viktoria Semykina

Awards: 2019 winner BIBF Ananas Grand Jury Prize Beijing
2018 Klaus Flugge Prize London

The Real Boat, illustrated by Victoria Semykina, is all about a little paper boat who dreams of being real. One day he leaves his little pond to begin a long and sometimes scary journey. He wants to sail to the ocean, which he has heard is so big that the water joins the sky. When a paper boat learns about the ocean, he is determined to go there so that he can be a REAL boat. The little boat is very brave. On his journey he meets all sorts of friends, from the strong little tugboat to the glittering ocean liner. But he also learns that the real ocean is huge and deep and full of dangers.

No one is an island. But there are many wonderful children like brave little boats who won't be afraid to set sail into the future to search for what it means to be REAL. This is the most important thing in life.

Lyrical text and magical illustrations combine to create a modern fable with an important message about striving for what you want and escaping your comfort zone. the life of a real suitcase. What could be nicer?



THE AUTHOR

sample available
English

"A wonderful tale of courage, hope and imagination, The Real Boat is a feast for the eyes with its magnificent illustrations that perfectly complement this magical journey that will capture the hearts of young and old alike."
READING EAGLE

Marina Aromshtam was born 1960 in Moscow. For nearly 20 years she worked as a school teacher. She also devoted twelve years of life to pedagogical journalism. The last ten years she has been engaged into issues around children's reading and support for young readers. She oversees several educational institutions for preschool children and orphans. In 2022 she left Russia. Aromshtam lives in Israel.

Marina Aromshtam about her decision to go into exile:

"The war Russia unleashed on Ukraine forced me and my husband to leave Russia. The spirit of war that drove us out of the country likely wanted to deprive us of more than just our homeland. It threatened to take away our language and ability to write — to reduce us to nothing."

Marina Aromshtam

Russian diaspora children's

Little Suitcase Travel

Children's book. Age 5+. Vremya. Moscow 2019. 128 pages with illustrations by Vera Korotaeva.

Awards: 2020 K. Chukovsky Prize

Once upon a time there was a suitcase family: a suitcase father, a suitcase mother and their son, a small suitcase. But maybe you only know carry-on suitcases? Those who walk hand in hand with the owner everywhere? But there are completely different, stand-alone suitcases. They lead a completely independent life. And the main thing for such suitcases is travel. The little suitcase goes on its first journey. He makes many strange encounters and has to face real dangers. But it makes him feel like he's living the life of a real suitcase. What could be nicer?

When Angels are Resting

Teenager book. Age 12+. KompasGid. Moscow 2016. 208 pages

Awards: Included in the list White Crows of International Munich Child's Library

Foreign Rights: China, Lithuania, Thailand, Ukraine

„If I had had a father, everything could have turned out differently, then my mother could have consulted with him. She would have consulted with him and would not have sent me to Tatyana Vladimirovna's school. And Tatyana Vladimirovna would not have said: „Get up! Hands behind your head!“ Grandfather would not have been shocked and would not have insisted that I be transferred to another school. And I wouldn't have gotten into Marsem's class. It was Marsem who told us about the angels - that they should rest. Many years have passed since then. But if something happens to me, good or bad, I remember it.“

Marina Aromshtam

Russian diaspora children's

Beastly Crime Chronicles

Series of 6 Volumes (so far). Clever. Moscow since 2016. Approx. 100 pages each
For children age 6-13

Publishers: Arabic/ Thaqafa, China/ 21st Century, Czech/ Albatros, Estonia/ Tänapäev, Germany/ Fischer, Georgia/ Academic Press, Hungary/ Europa, Latvia/ Zvaigzne, Mongolia/ Nepko, Netherlands/ Querido, Poland/ Dwie Siostry, Romania/ Frontiera, Serbia/ Kozikas, Slovakia/ Ikar, Spain/ Dolmen, US/ Dover

Awards: 2021 longlist Astrid Lindgren Award
2021 shortlist Kornei Chukovski Award
2020 winner Russian Detective Award

Vol 1 In the Wolf's Lair
Vol 2 A Predator's Rights
Vol 3 Claws of Rage
Vol 4 The Plucker
Vol 5 Gods of Mango – Award Russian Detective 2020
Vol 6 Tail eaters
(Vol 7 planned)

AND: Beastly Ferry Tales

Life in the Far Woods tends to be tranquil because the animal denizens are strictly forbidden to kill (or eat!) one another. An elderly detective, Chief Badger, oversees the community and solves its petty crimes, from stolen pine cones to plucked tail feathers. His restless assistant, Badgercat, longs for some excitement — a desperate crime, a beastly crime!

All the heroes of this book series are animals, but they know how to love and hate, lie and tell the truth to their face, trust and despair, betray and save – no worse and no better than us humanoid readers. Who is friend and who is foe, who is an innocent, fluffy victim, who is a deadly female predator, who is a hostage and who is an intruder, you only find out at the end, because according to the rules of the genre, the perpetrator always remains unknown until the very end.

"A clever whodunit featuring believable animal characters in a convincing, recognizable society... Mystery fans (around the world) should rejoice." KIRKUS

"A children's detective is a rare genre, and a children's psychological detective is an even more unique one. A spectacular literary event." PSYCHOLOGIES

"Perfect for all fans of detective stories." THE STANDARD

"Racy, mischievous, suspiciously good!" CHILDREN'S BOOK FAVORITE



THE AUTHOR

translations
over 20 languages

awards
2021 Spanish Celsius-232

2018 ESFS award
«Best European Sci-fi author»

2017 Winner Imaginales
festival in Epinal/ France

2016 Grand Prix of Utopiales
Sci-Fi book festival/ France

2014 National Bestseller Russia

2014 Prix Masterton

2014 Winner «The Portal»
Sci-fi Assembly Ukraine

sample translation available
full english

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israeli citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is a widow of Alexander Garros, a renown writer from Latvia. Starobinets was in opposition to Russian government for the last years, and after the beginning of war with Ukraine she escaped from Russia with her two children and a dog.

Anna Starobinets

Summary

VOL 1 - The first case for forest police officer Badger - the Columbo among animal detectives.

When Badger - like every Friday evening - eats his back of bark in the tavern and secretly looks forward to the well-deserved hibernation, a terrible crime occurs: A rabbit has died! Some croaking frogs reveal the shocking news. Wolf appears to be the most likely culprit, because — duh — he's a lone wolf without an alibi, but Badger refuses to jump to conclusions. With the help of Vulture the crime scene investigator, Mouse the psychologist, brave witness Beetlebug Buck, and other curious creatures, the woodland detectives set out to discover the truth.

VOL 2 - Flush with success from having solved the case of the murdered Rabbit, crotchety detective Chief Badger and his impetuous young assistant, Badgercat, anticipate the return of peace and quiet to their community. But trouble recurs with a visit from Huntington Farm's bloodthirsty security team, who bring accusations of theft and harsh demands for justice. Guard dog Muxtar and hunting hound Polkan are searching for Chicken Four, a plucky little fowl who's just discovered what happens to her sister chickens when they disappear into Nina Palna's kitchen on Fridays. Now Badger and Badgercat have to persuade Palna to stop making chicken soup and to prevent Muxtar and Polkan from taking matters into their own paws (and jaws) suspecting the Fox. Guard dog Muxtar sets an ultimatum of twenty-four hours. After that he will come back with the other guard dogs from the security team and get the Fox. But is she really the culprit? Badger has his doubts. Will he succeed in convicting the culprit before there is a big row in the thick thicket? One thing is already clear: Badgers can forget his hibernation for the time being.

VOL 3 - The peaceful existence of the animals in the Far Woods is threatened by a crime wave. First, an underground art exhibition is robbed. Soon after, Marquise, a pampered, snow-white Persian, is kidnapped from the cat show. To Chief Badger and his ambitious assistant, Badgercat, all clues point to the snooty Arctic Fox as the culprit — until the emergence of Claws of Rage, a nefarious group of nonpedigreed agitators seeking vengeance against purebred, well-fed, happy-go-lucky animals. Can Chief Badger and Badgercat round up Claws of Rage members before they strike again? Will Badgercat be able to put aside his growing feelings for Marquise and uphold his duty as a Far Woods officer of the law? And what is that strange hairless animal up to?

VOL 4 - Chief Badger faces his most bizarre case yet, in which someone is plucking and burning the feathers of birds in the Far Woods. To make things even worse, the top suspect is his former assistant, young Badgercat. Chief Badger knows that Badgercat can't possibly be the Plucker, so who plucked Lady Cuckoo and attacked the owl twins, Chuck and Huck? Was it Warbler the barber, who's obsessed with hair, fur, and feathers? Or the sly, treacherous Arctic Fox? Was it the compulsive thief, Sneaky Sal the salamander? Or someone else?

VOL 5 - The Badgers of the Deep Forest Police are sent on a mission to the African savannah to investigate the kidnapping of newborn giraffe Rafik. They are constantly in mortal danger. After all, the Far Woodland spares no one: neither strangers nor natives. This is a terrifying and dangerous place where cruelty and lawlessness reign, brutal sacrifices are made and the law of the jungle prevails. But for a brave and honest animal, Woodland can also become a place of power that helps the animal find itself and find true love. Badger Senior, Badgercat, and Vulture Vulture don't shy away from trouble. They conduct their investigation on the fair principles by which residents live back home in Far Forest. But unraveling the complex case does not mean solving it. Because the hard truth from the investigation has yet to be taught to the residents of Woodlands, but those in power there don't need that truth at all.

VOL 6 - An epidemic has broken out in the forest.

VOL 7 (planned) - One of the beasts has disappeared far away in the woods of Sri Lanka

Anna Starobinets

Russian diaspora children's

Beastly Ferry Tales

Children's book. Moscow 2020. 176 pages

Age 3-13

Beastly Tales by Anna Starobinets is a spin-off of the popular "Beastly Detective" series – for all fans and their younger sisters and brothers.

This book contains sagas and fairy tales, poems and songs, ancient legends and modern adventure stories, which animals from different forests of the world tell and sing to their young, mostly at bedtime. The collection also includes stories from the village of Okhotka. In this way, wild bookworms learn about the beliefs and myths, life and customs of little-studied rural animals.

The Big Badger from the Far Forest Police tells the Little Badger Kittens about the Sky Bears. The dog Polkan entertains the Muchtarchik pup with stories about the Great Dane and his sworn enemy Pusi-Don. The Persian cat remembers how the black magician Cat Noir lured her to the Forest of Shadows. The owl brothers Ug and Chuck learn that the location of the nearby forest used to be a field of honey carrots grown by the flying rabbit Wryluh. Badger Melesandra convinces her daughter that her father was the first badger on the moon. The Tail listens to the story of the laughing witch Koya, ancestor of the coyotes. The giraffe Rafik listens to the legend of the mango gods who created the first animals of the desert. The penguin boy listens to the shark penguin's hunting stories. And the Misfit listens to the scary fox story about the frozen demon.

Anna Starobinets

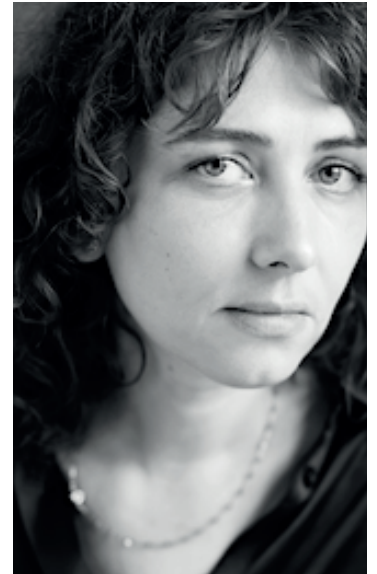
Russian diaspora children's

Land of Good Girls

Children's book. Moscow 2009. 160 pages
Age 7-14

"Oh, if only Polya was a good girl!" – more than once Polina Petrova heard these words from her mother and father, the elder brother, both grandmothers and both grandfathers. Even Baguette the cat seems to think of her in that way. Only the dog Balbes sees things differently, but his opinion doesn't count. And then, on New Year's Eve, a good girl is ringing the door bell and the wish comes true: the bad girl Polya stays in the old year, and instead the Petrovs get a new, well-behaved, neat girl. But a completely different one of course. The real Polya needs to be reeducated in a very clean and scary tidy place where kids only eat healthy food, love to clean and do everything according to a plan.

The „Land of Good Girls“ is a kind of child dystopia. This country cannot be found on any world map and its borders are closed. Only the faithful dog Balbes can sniff out the way. And only the red heroic cat Baguette can cross the border between past and present to save his beloved owner. After all, Baguette is not a simple Moscow cat, but the descendant of powerful old Catlantids.



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2014 Winner «The Portal»
Sci-fi Assembly Ukraine

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Catlantis

Children's book. Moscow 2011. 128 pages (sequel to Land of Good Girls)
Age 7-14

Publishers: Greece/ Octana, Spain/ Dolmen, Turkey/ Baobab, UK/ Pushkin Press

Awards: 2017 Observer and Telegraph Children's Book of the Year

Baguette is just a regular house cat. She likes to sit in the window, watch the birds, and eat three square meals a day. But what's a regular house cat to do if he falls in love with a beautiful street cat who has some very strange - and really rather dangerous - demands? Baguette inherited the ability to travel through time from her great-great-grandfather, who once came to Russia in a van carrying French bread. So now she must travel back through the Ocean of Time to the lost island of Catlantis. She must find a way to save the nine lives of all cats before it is too late. And she must outwit the wicked black cat Noir, who is hot on her tail. Only then can she hope to win the paw of Purriana...

"Madcap and highly original." THE OBSERVER

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israely citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is a widow of Alexander Garros, a renown writer from Latvia. Starobinets was in opposition to Russian government for the last years, and after the beginning of war with Ukraine she escaped from Russia with her two children and a dog.

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