

RIGHTS CATALOGUE FALL 2010

**RUSSIAN LITERARY FICTION
QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION & NON-FICTION**

OKNO LITERARY AGENCY

Solid Entertainment

Östra Varvsgatan 3

211 19 Malmö

Sweden

Tel: +46 702 40 50 55

banke@okno-agency.com

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The Babylon (B. Vavilonskaia)

NATIONAL BIG BOOK PRIZE 2006, NATIONAL BESTSELLER PRIZE 2005, BOOKER PRIZE 2000



MIKHAIL SHISHKIN born January 18, 1961 in Moscow, based in Switzerland since 1995, is one of the most prominent names in the modern Russian literature. Before becoming a writer he worked as school teacher and journalist. His writing debut in 1993, **CALLIGRAPHY LESSON**, a short story translated into French and Finnish, has won him the *Prize for the Best Debut of the Year*. Since then his works – both fiction and non-fiction – have been translated into 8 languages and have received a large number of prestigious national and international awards, including **National Bestseller Prize, National Big Book Prize** and many others.

Mikhail Shishkin's prose fuses the best of the Russian and European literary traditions. The richness and sophistication of the language, the unique rhythm and melody of a phrase, the endless play with words and the nuanced psychological undercurrent are reminiscent of Nabokov and Chekhov. The change of narration styles and narrators within a text yield a fragmented, mosaic structure of composition that focuses on the language itself, recalling James Joyce's genius.

Complete list of prizes and awards:

- ❖ Halpérine-Kaminski Prize for the Best Translation 2007 (Laure Troubeckoy), France
- ❖ Shortlist for Giuseppe Berto Prize 2007, Italy
- ❖ Grinzane Cavour Prize 2007, Italy
- ❖ Peoples Literature Publishing, Peking: The Best Foreign Book of the Year of the 21st Century, China
- ❖ Shortlist for Bunin Literary Award 2006, Russia
- ❖ National Big Book Prize 2006, Russia
- ❖ Shortlist for Andrei Belyi Literary Award 2006, Russia
- ❖ National Bestseller Prize 2005, Russia
- ❖ Best Foreign Book of the Year / Le prix du meilleur livre étranger 2005 (essay), France
- ❖ Main Literary Prize of Zürich (Werkjahr) 2002, Switzerland
- ❖ Booker Prize for the Best Russian Novel of the Year 2000, Russia
- ❖ Globus Prize 2000, Russia
- ❖ Literary Prize of Canton Zürich 2000, Switzerland
- ❖ Prize for the Best Debut of the Year 1994, Russia

LETTER-BOOK / PISMOVNIK

- ❖ 412
- ❖ AST, Moscow
- ❖ Fall 2010

Option publishers:

- ❖ USA: Open Letter Books, 2010
- ❖ Denmark: Batzer & Co, 2010

- ❖ Estonia: Varrak, 2010
- ❖ Norway: Forlaget Oktober, 2010
- ❖ Germany: DVA, 2009
- ❖ France: Fayard, Paris, 2007
- ❖ Italy: Volland Edizione, Rome, 2006
- ❖ Serbia: Paideia, Beograd, 2006
- ❖ Bulgaria: Fakel, Sofia, 2007
- ❖ China: People's Literature, Peking, 2006

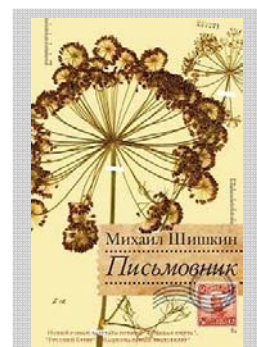
7000 copies-print run sold out within one week, 2nd print run since September 2010

This new novel by Mikhail Shishkin is deceptively simple. A man. A woman. Their love letters. A summer house, the first love. Vladimir – Vovka-carrot-top and Alexandra – Sashka; he goes to war, she stays at home, living an ordinary life. Two people writing each other just about everything – their childhood, families, trifles of life, joys and sorrows – what could be more normal? Until we realise that things are not as simple as they seem.

The deeper we immerse into the writing the more obvious it becomes that the time has been disjuncted, dissected and tossed together as in a children nonsense rhyme. The time is indeed out of joint and only these letters bind it together restoring the world's order. She lives in the 60-s, he goes to the Boxers uprising in China of the turn of the twentieth century. He dies in the very first battle of this half-forgotten war of his own choosing ("What war? Doesn't matter. A war has always been. And will always be. And people get injuries and killed. And death is real") – but his letters keep coming. She gets married, carries and loses a child – and keeps writing to him as if these letters exist in a parallel universe, as if time doesn't matter – and neither does death.

This is a novel about the mysteries of life – and acceptance of death. Once again as in all Shishkin's novels the written word is the key – but so is love. "To exist you have to live not in your own mind that is so unreliable... but in the mind of another person, and not just any person but the one who cares if you exist."

Shishkin's sophisticated language and intricate style has already won him every possible literary prize as well as comparisons to some of the greatest authors of our time – and this novel only confirms that well-deserved reputation.



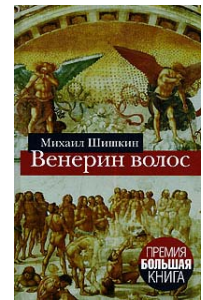
"Each paragraph of this book reminds me of an ivory jewel box where every curl is perfection. Now imagine a palace, where every detail is as intricate as ornament on a jewel box". - Izvestija

"Prose of a real master of style who is free to choose any instrument he wishes to perform his symphonies." – Gazeta

MAIDEN'S HAIR (VENERIN VOLOS)

- ❖ 479 pp
- ❖ Znamya, Moscow, Nr. 4/5/6-2005
- ❖ Vagrius, Moscow, 2005, 2007

French & Italian translations available



Rights sold to:

- ❖ USA: Open Letter Books, 2010
- ❖ Denmark: Batzer & Co, 2010
- ❖ Estonia: Varrak, 2010
- ❖ Norway: Forlaget Oktober, 2010
- ❖ Germany: DVA, 2009
- ❖ France: Fayard, Paris, 2007
- ❖ Italy: Volland Edizione, Rome, 2006
- ❖ Serbia: Paideia, Beograd, 2006
- ❖ Bulgaria: Fakel, Sofia, 2007
- ❖ China: People's Literature, Peking, 2006

Awards:

- Russia:
 - ❖ National Big Book Prize 2006, Russia
 - ❖ National Bestseller Prize 2005, Russia
 - ❖ Nominated and short-listed for Bunin Literary Award 2006, Russia
 - ❖ Nominated and short-listed for Andrei Belyi Literary Award 2006, Russia
- France:
 - ❖ Halpérine-Kaminski Prize for the Best Translation 2007 (Laure Troubeckoy)
- Italy:
 - ❖ Shortlist Giuseppe Berto Prize 2007
 - ❖ Grinzane Cavour Prize 2007
- China:
 - ❖ The Prize of the People's Literature Publishing House, Peking: The Best Foreign Book of the Year of the 21st Century

"Maiden's Hair is a kind of book they give Nobel prize for – among many other prizes. Not surprising then that Shishkin earned the National Bestseller award..." – this quote from Bookshelf Magazine is just a small fraction of praise the book has received in Russia, and rightly so. It is a brilliant novel that unquestionably belongs with the greatest works of Russian literature. It's universal at its core – and not only because the action takes place across countries and historical epochs, virtually destroying boundaries. The whole novel is a metaphor of a resurrection of the soul – through the word. And through love.

The story begins in Switzerland – the narrator works at the local immigration office interpreting interviews with Russian refugees seeking asylum. They all tell stories – some came to Zurich from Chechnya, others from orphanages, some lost their houses in the war, or had parents murdered in front of their eyes, or were raped in prison with a mop handle, tortured, persecuted... They tell these stories for one reason, to stay. One horrid story follows another, in a chain of endless questions and answers,. We don't know what's true and what's not any more but at the end it really doesn't matter whether it's really happened to them or not – it's enough to know that the *stories* are true. Now they have a chance to re-write their lives, to get a new beginning, to find their new true selves. The interpreter becomes the only link between the two worlds, the gatekeeper to the better life. Their lives will lead to their deaths. Unless he redeems them. Once again, with a word.

Between the interviews the interpreter writes letters to his son addressing him as Emperor Navuhodonozaur – letters that will never be sent, describing his life as a servant of the "Swiss Paradise Ministry of Defense." He remembers his past, reviving and reliving the story of his doomed love, which resonates with other great love stories of world literature – Daphnis and Chloe, Tristan and Isolde.

In the meantime he reads Anabasis by Xenophon about the Persian expedition. And since the written word has the power to revivify the past, it is today that the Greek mercenaries retreat to the sea, march through the deserts and towns, cross over rivers – and meet a group of Chechenian refugees who come down from the mountains, having sworn that they'd rather die than surrender to the Russians. Time becomes irrelevant, their meeting seems only natural, and so the Greeks and the Chechenians continue their journey together.

Interviews, letters, memories, love stories, Greeks, Chechenians are linked in a single chain of events and human destinies, interwoven, resonating with one another, outside of time. Another distinctive voice in this chorus of voices is a fictional diary of Bella, or Isabella Yurjeva, a Russian romance singer, notorious beauty and socialite that the main character uses to write her biography – or to bring her back to life as he interprets his task. It's nothing more than a girl's private diary where she describes her childhood, her love affairs, her success, her ups and downs - but somehow it manages to depict a hole era from the pre-Soviet times till this day through the events of her 100-year long life.

In *Maiden's Hair* Shishkin demonstrates utter proficiency in various styles and manners of speech. The main character's line of work is by no means accidental – his interpreting skills are a metaphor for omniscience – and the real meaning of a Word – thus his almost obsessive desire to find the tomb of Saint Cyril, the creator of the Cyrillic alphabet, while in Rome. This is the alphabet of which his universe is made. The world is magic only because its story can be told. It's unpredictable and erratic, but what once existed will exist for ever. In the word.

Maiden's Hair is in many ways an autobiographical novel. Just like his main character, Mikhail Shishkin worked as an interpreter at an immigration agency.

"I work in a federal immigration office dealing with refugees. I translate interrogations – well, the PC term would be interviews – which sometimes makes me feel part of some strange kind of passion play. Some pretend to be political refugees, others make believe that they are willing to grant them political asylum. They all know it's nothing but a game, but nonetheless they take this game seriously. Thanks to my job as an interpreter I all of a sudden end up in the midst of such tension, such incredible human stories here in Switzerland that I would probably never come across in Russia. In Russia it's like the air you breathe, it's more like a background that you try to escape from. And here you really let it sink in. Question – answer, question – answer. At some point you get an impression that you are talking to yourself. And when I got this feeling for the first time I realized – I have my novel."

Norway

500 pages of pure reading pleasure - NRK

A lavish evidence of the author's extraordinary creative power. This book is to be read again and again. - Aftenposten

A kaleidoscope of a novel. A literary feast. One can read this book again and again, every time finding something new. - Adresseavisen

Germany

Shishkin is one of the most gifted writers on the Russian literary scene, even more so because, regardless of the fashion, he has succeeded in developing his own original style and literary conception – Ulrich Schmidt 'Neue Züricher Zeitung'

Russia

"Maiden's Hair is a kind of book they give the Nobel prize for – among many other prizes. Not surprising then that Shishkin earned the National Bestseller award . . . Actually, many people have written exactly the same thing about Shishkin with the following inevitable addition: the novel is majestic, huge and extremely complex. Joyce, Nabokov, Sasha Sokolov – these names are repeated in reviews all the time." - Vladimir Itkin, "Knizhnaya Vitrina"

"A beautiful, powerful and fascinating book which will become a milestone not only in the history of Russian literature but in the development of Russian self-awareness." - Bakhyt Kenzheyev, "Nezavisimaya gazeta"

"Maiden's Hair" is a great novel about a word and a language that becomes soft and obedient in the hands of a Master. It can create any other reality which will be more stunning and credible than the real world. The gap between a word and a fact, between reality and its translation to the human language is a real hotbed of internal tension in the novel" - Maya Kucherskaya, polit.ru

"Mikhail Shishkin won the National Bestseller – 2005 award. . . One could anathematize the jury's decision point-blank if not for the fact that Shishkin is a genius writer. Unquestionably a future classic who already has his place in the history of Russian literature. In case of his triumph a biased reviewer wants to disregard all commercial and social considerations and simply rejoice instead. They made the wrong decision – God bless them!" - Nikolay Sukhanov, "Globalrus.ru"

"Maiden's Hair" by Mikhail Shishkin is a true delight of prose. This novel should not be read but drunk – sometimes in one gulp, sometimes little by little, in tiny burning sips." - Tatiana Yegereva, „InOut“



VLADIMIR MAKANIN was born in 1937 in Orsk near Orenburg. From an early age he excelled both at chess and maths and went on to study mathematics at Moscow State University. After graduation he worked in a military weapons lab, first as an applied mathematician, later as an instructor.

During the time of Khrushchev's 'thaw', Makanin was attracted to literature. His growing popularity as a writer in the 1970's was overshadowed by the end of the relative liberalism of the

Khrushchev years. Only after Brezhnev's death in 1983 were Makanin's stories and novellas granted publication in major literary journals such as Znamia and Novy Mir. In 1985 Makanin was made a member of the Writers' Union of the Russian Federation. In 1987 he became an editorial director of the literary journal Znamia. Vladimir Makanin presently lives outside of Moscow where he continues to write.

Literary Prizes:

- ❖ 2001 Premio Penne (Italy)
- ❖ 1998 Pushkin Prize
- ❖ 1999 State Prize of the Russian Federation
- ❖ 1993 Russian Booker Prize

FOREIGN RIGHTS - NOVELS

ASAN

Bulgaria - Riva (under offer through the Anthea Agency)
 France - Gallimard (unscheduled)
 Germany - Luchterhand (unscheduled)
 Greece - Kastaniotis Editions (under offer)
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers (unscheduled)
 Poland - Rebis (under offer through the Graal Agency)
 Spain - Acantilado (under offer)

ISPUG (FRIGHT)

France - Gallimard, 2008
 Germany - Luchterhand, 2008
 Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2008
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers, 2008
 Israel - Am Oved (unscheduled)
 Romania - Polirom, 2008

ANDERGRAUND ILI GEROI NESHEVO VREMENI (UNDERGROUND OR A HERO OF OUR TIMES)

Denmark - Vandkunsten, 2010
 Norway - Cappelen Damm, 2010
 France - Gallimard, 2002
 Germany - Luchterhand, 2003
 Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2003
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers, 2002
 Romania - Polirom, 2004
 Turkey - Everest, 2009

SHORT STORIES AS PART OF A COLLECTION/NOVELLAS

KAVKAZSKI PLENNYI (PRISONER OF THE CAUCASUS)

Denmark - Vandkunsten, 2010
 France - Gallimard, 2004
 Germany - Luchterhand, 2004
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers, 2005
 Israel - Carmel - unscheduled
 Spain - Acantilado - 2009

BUKVA "A" (THE LETTER "A")

China - Nanhai Publishing, 2005
 France - Gallimard, 2004
 Germany - Luchterhand, 2004
 Spain - Acantilado - 2009

UDAVSHISIA RASSKAZ O LYUBVI (A SUCCESSFUL STORY OF LOVE)

China - Nanhai Publishing, 2005
 France - Gallimard, 2004
 Germany - Luchterhand, 2004
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers, 2005
 Spain - Acantilado, 2009

KLUCHAREV I ALIMUSHKIN (KLUCHAREV AND ALIMUSHKIN)

Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2004

GOLUBOE I KRASNOE (BLUE AND RED)

Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2004

POVEST' O STAROM POSELKE (STORY OF AN OLD SETTLEMENT)

Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2004

STOL POKRYTY SUKNOM I S GRAFINOM POSEREDINE (BAISE-COVERED TABLE WITH DECANTER)

Croatia - SYSPRINT (under offer through Plima Literary Agency)
 Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2004

ANTILIDER (ANTI-LEADER)

China - Nanhai Publishing, 2005
 France - Gallimard, 2004
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers, 2005
 Spain - Acantilado, 2009

GRAZHDANIN UBEGAIUCHSHII (THE ESCAPE HATCH)

France - Gallimard, 2007
 Greece - Kastaniotis Editions, 2007
 Holland - De Arbeiderspers, 2005
 United States - Ardis/Peter Mayer Publishers/The Overlook Press, 2009

“VLADIMIR MAKANIN is recognized today as one of Russia's pre-eminent authors. He is now on the Russian school curriculum. In 1992 his novella LAZ (ESCAPE HATCH) was nominated for the Russian Booker Prize; STOL POKRYTY SUKNOM I S GRAFINOM POSEREDINE (BAIZE-COVERED TABLE WITH DECANTER), again a novella, won the Booker the following year in 1993. Makanin headed the awarding panel of judges for the 2002 Russian Booker Prize. Makanin will appeal to a wide variety of readers. His stories can be dealt with on a number of levels. Even if you're not into speculating about the mysteries of the cosmos they may grab you, because Makanin, in addition to his erudition, is a top-notch storyteller.” Metroactive Books

ASAN

Novel, 339 pages
Publishers: Eksmo, Moscow
2008



Foreign rights:

- ❖ Russia - Eksmo, 2008
 - ❖ Bulgaria - Riva (under offer through the Anthea Agency)
 - ❖ France - Gallimard (unscheduled)
 - ❖ Germany - Luchterhand (unscheduled)
 - ❖ Greece - Kastaniotis Editions (under offer)
 - ❖ Holland - De Arbeiderspers (unscheduled)
 - ❖ Poland - Rebis (under offer through the Graal Agency)
 - ❖ Spain - Acantilado (under offer)
-

Asan is an account of the Chechen war, told from the point of view of Major Alexander Zhilin (or Sashik as the Chechens call him). The majority of the book is told in the first person but there are some passages where a third person narration is used. In fact, Makanin makes interesting use of perspective in this book – the third person is used when Zhilin is either absent from events or in particularly tense scenes where his life is endangered. In the latter case, the text lapses into the third person when Zhilin sort of seems to watch himself in a frightening scene – a sort of detachment that rings true for war-time horror. It seems totally plausible that you'd start dissociating in the face of death. But even in scenes where Zhilin isn't present, a reader still has the sense that Zhilin is narrating – though he is able to get into the minds of other characters and read their thoughts. The tone of this novel is casual and conversational – there's lots of swearing and war jargon throughout.

Asan is a novel about fear and war – even if, in fact, Zhilin is quite a mentally robust fellow. It's a chronicle of war, detailing the relationships between soldiers, and the contorting relationship between the Russians and the Chechens (which at times is strangely intimate). The book is an account of everyday life in the Chechen war and Major Zhilin's war, in which he spends a lot of time dealing in fuel – selling it to both the Russians and the Chechens (and keeping some for himself on the side).

There are two strands running through the novel, however. One strand looks at the participants in the war, their stories, their struggles – and the overall progress of the war. Another is the story of “Asan” and a sort of on-the-ground view of Chechen culture and history. The eponymous “Asan” was a major idol for Chechens before they assumed Christianity and then Islam. They have largely forgotten this idol but it has a legacy of being preserved in some of their sayings. Also, the Chechens call those with the name Alexander, “Asan.” As the book progresses, the Chechens start calling Zhilin by the name “Asan” instead of “Sashik.” It is a sign of deep respect.

As his intimacy grows with the Chechens – a sort of strange pugnacious intimacy – the war heats up for Zhilin. To begin with, Zhilin seems to feel a certain sense of control within the landscape of war – but at a certain moment, things turn for him and fear creeps in. Also, the tense and vicious war account is punctuated by Zhilin's telephone calls to his wife. The calls are made up of few words but very powerfully convey the love and intimacy between them.

WINNER OF THE BOOKER LITERARY PRIZE 2006



OLGA SLAVNIKOVA was born in 1957 near Ekaterinburg. She writes reviews and essays for *Novy mir*, *Znamya*, *Oktyabr*. She was a member of the Russian Booker Prize jury in 1999. In 2000 she was part of the board for the *Novy mir* Prize for short stories and now organizes the Debut Prize of the *Pokolenie* fund. Her novel "Strekoza, uvelichennaya do razmerov sobaki" was shortlisted

for the Booker Prize in 1997. "Odin v zerkale" won the Bazgov Prize and was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2000. 2006 she was awarded the Russian Booker Prize for her novel "2017". She also received the US Gjenima Prize 2006-2007. Olga Slavnikova lives in Moscow.

Back titles:

2006 – 2017

2001 – *The Immortal / L'Immortale*. (Russia, Italy, France)

2000 – *Dragonfly / Strekoza uvelichennaya do razmera sobaki*

2017

- ❖ Novel
- ❖ Vagrus. Moscow 2006
- ❖ 450 pages

Complete English translation is available

Foreign Rights:

- ❖ US (Overlook Press)
- ❖ Sweden (Ersatz)
- ❖ France (Gallimard)
- ❖ Hungary (Noran)
- ❖ China (Yilin)
- ❖ Serbia
- ❖ Portugal

Awards:

- ❖ Russian Booker Prize (2006)
- ❖ Gjenima Prize US (2006-2007)
- ❖ October Prize (2001)
- ❖ Ural Prize (1996)
- ❖ Bazgov Prize (1999)
- ❖ Polonsky Prize
- ❖ Apollon Grigoriev Prize



Why do a man and woman always arrange the place and time of their next rendezvous after their assignation? If they miss each other they will never see one another again. Why does a respectable professor secretly set off on a perilous journey to the mountains every year? Why does he then disappear without a trace? What spirits does Krylov, the main hero and an underground polisher of precious stones, encounter during his quest for the absolute clarity of the stones? What game is his mistress, the professor's wife, playing? Is it purely human jealousy or is the mother of the copper mountains involved, she who is the stuff of myth and legend in the Urals?

Slavnikova's latest novel is set in a large town in the Ural Mountains, against the background of the illegal precious stones business. For those who dare to venture into the mountains to go digging, the world of the legendary mountain spirits becomes reality. But they are used to the risks and know that they cannot trust anyone – not even their nearest and dearest.

In the meantime the year 2017 is approaching and the town square is being set up to mark the 100 year anniversary of the October revolution. The fancy dress show descends into severe chaos, however.

Praise for the novel:

"Olga Slavnikova's novel '2017' is a happening. She has the temperament of a fighter and a covert empathy for the downtrodden. She has a psychologist's experience and the fervour of an ingenious storyteller, she has a talent for invention and a contemplative interest in every day occurrences; she knows how to capture the signs of the times and to filter out their symbolic content. Her writing comes close to that of Nabokov, she is hungry to be heard; she venerates tradition and inclines towards innovation. All of this is to be found in her novel '2017'". VREMYA NOVOSTEI

WINNER OF THE RUSSIAN BOOKER PRIZE 2009



ELENA CHIZHOVA was born in Leningrad in 1957. She studied Business and worked until the end of the 90's. Since then she writes Prose and is the director of the PEN Club. Elena Chizhova lives in St. Petersburg with her husband and two children.

Awards:

- ❖ Severnaya palmira 2001
- ❖ Znamya Award 2001
- ❖ Shortlist Russian Booker Prize 2003, 2005
- ❖ Russian Booker Prize 2009

Vremya zhenshin

Ways of the Women

- ❖ Russia
- ❖ 2009
- ❖ 170 pages.

Awards:

- ❖ Russian Booker Prize 2009

Foreign rights:

- ❖ China
- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Italy
- ❖ Serbia
- ❖ Spain



Susanna may be mute, but not stupid. And although she is still a child she can draw wonderful pictures. But as it was in the Soviet Union behind the iron curtain in those days it was not easy to raise a deaf child that didn't fit into the communist ideal, and the state would whisk her swiftly away into a home if they found her.

Her mother Antonia had a stroke of luck as she, although a lowly worker in a factory, became a room in a communal apartment that she would share with three older women. They were to take care of Susanna. One of them is religious and christens her secretly with the name of Sophia. Another whose roots were firmly planted in the old Russian aristocracy secretly taught her French, although she was well aware of the danger that Susanna could suddenly start talking one day. All the women lived constantly in the fear of knowing all to well what would happen if the state were ever to catch on.

During the long lonely evenings they told Susanna not only stories out of the bible and fairy tales, they also told of "Gulag", the atrocities of the Leningrad blockade and the hardships of everyday life in the Soviet Union.

As Susannas mother fell ill to cancer and was certain to die, the old ladies devised a plan to ensure the safety of the little girl. They persuaded an admirer of Antonia to marry her and adopt the child, in return he became a room in the apartment.

Susanna grew and became a talented painter. But then one day as her lover and fellow artist Grisha decided to leave the country, after nearly being killed by the bulldozers that destroyed a secret open air display of their work, she decide to stay.

Reviews

I don't cry easily, but this book firmly put a big lump in my throat. That's a long forgotten feeling for me. *Sergey Gandlevsky*

As if created out of the dust and ruins of the Russian ghetos and stuck together with the same restrictions thebasis of the text forms a rough and ready canvass. But look closer and the forms will become so clear that the eye doesn't register the background any longer. *Radio Liberty*

RUSSIAN BOOKER PRIZE 2007



ALEKSANDR ILICHEVSKI was born 1970 in Sumgait, Azerbaidzhan.

The last two years of school he spends at a Special-school for physics and

mathematics associated to the Moscow State University. After university degrees 1993 from Moscow Physics and Technology Institute he spends 7 years abroad for research studies in Israel and California. 1998 he returns to Moscow. Besides his profession as a physician he publishes literary works since end of the 90ies in Novy Mir, Oktyabr and other journals. Now he's

working as a web-editor in Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty Corporation. A. Ilichevsky lives with his wife and son in Moscow.

Complete list of awards:

- ❖ Shortlist Mivzak Proze Prize, Isreal 2005
- ❖ Dvarim Poetry Prize, Isreal 2005
- ❖ Novy Mir Award 2005
- ❖ Kazakov Award for the best short story 2005
- ❖ Shortlist Big Book Award 2005
- ❖ Winner Voloshin International Literary Contest 2006
- ❖ Shoartlist Bunin Award 2006
- ❖ Shortlist Big Book Award 2007
- ❖ Russian Booker Prize 2007
- ❖ Shortlist Big Book Award 2008

MATISSE

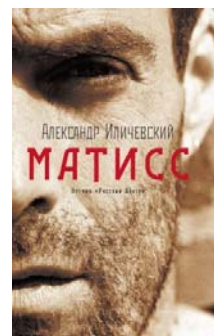
- ❖ Novel
- ❖ Vremya Publishers, Moscow 2007.
- ❖ 439 pp

Awards:

- ❖ Russian Booker Prize 2007

Matisse follows a forlorn young man out into the streets Moscow in the chaos of the early 1990s as he becomes homeless in pursuit of personal freedom. Weary of his job and all too aware of the chaos rippling through Russian society, Mikhail Korolyev, a 37-year-old physicist sets off to live on the mean streets of the capital, searching for his own space in the world. Having befriended a woman with religious mania and a mentally challenged man, Korolyov roams the gutters of Moscow and later the vast expanses of southern Russia in search of something better.

The book is full of less than glamorous features of everyday life -- unscrupulous cops, teenage gangs, a community of Vietnamese laborers, a psychiatric hospital located in a former church. But its meaning goes far beyond reflecting the everyday lives of Russia's poor. The novel grows into a metaphor for Russia as a homeless nation, groping in the dark, unable to find meaning in the new life as the old one ended. The title of the book alludes to the protagonist's wish to possess a painting like a "cube of airy space" by Henri Matisse.



Praise for the author:

"The name of this young writer Aleksandr Ilichevsky has lit up the literary skies like a supernova. With his bizarre, rich, prose which flows like crystal clear water he seems to consciously reflect the entire stylistic diversity of Russian literature from the last century." ZNAMYA

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

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

"His is a voice so vibrant and confident because he poses the so-called 'ultimate' existential questions time and time again, without stubbornness or sarcasm and without doubting his right to do so. He thus counteracts the trendy nonchalance of contemporary fiction and brings it back into the realm of literature." NOVY MIR



NATAN DUBOVITSKI

Russian Vedomosti newspaper claimed the real author is none other than Vladislav Surkov, the Kremlin's chief political strategist, First deputy head of presidential administration. Vedomosti quoted a high-

ranking official and an employee of Russky Pioner's publishing company confirming the claim, which didn't contradict the publisher's preface, as Surkov did write for Russky Pioner. Surkov, who had previously written lyrics for rock-songs, critical essays and lectures on Franz Kafka, neither confirmed nor refuted the accusations of authorship. Vedomosti also noted that the pen name used – Nathan Dubovitsky – is strangely similar to Surkov's wife's name – Natalia Dubovitskaya.

Close to Zero. gangsta fiction.

Okolonolya. gangsta fiction.

- ❖ Journal Russky Pioner
- ❖ Russia
- ❖ 2009
- ❖ 112 pages

Foreign Rights

- ❖ Germany
- ❖ France
- ❖ Italy



Close to Zero is the tale of a Russian publisher operating in a murky political system featuring paid-off media, corrupt officials, dubious politicians and law enforcement agencies on the take.

The main character Yegor Samokhodov orders a poet to write verse in the name of the regional governor to make the official look clever and win an award. Samokhodov, a publisher who does a sideline in political public relations, then tries to bribe a female journalist at an opposition newspaper to "correct" stories about damage to children's health from a toxic chemical factory owned by the governor's relative. Fact or fiction?

The events portrayed are everyday fare in Russia, where local media sometimes take money in return for favourable coverage and those in power believe they can bribe or bully their way to victory in almost any situation.

Reviews:

"A bone-crashing social satire, a bit resembling Viktor Pelevin while staying in the Gogolean tradition, with a pinch of phantasmagoria. Helping him on this mission is his peculiar language, sarcastic as the one Gogol used in "Dead Souls". However, Dubovitsky's storytelling is way more dynamic than Gogol could ever hope to employ. Twisting the novel's plot, he turns it into a barrage of unexpected events, strong epithets and colorful trifles." RUSSIA TODAY

RUSSIAN BOOKER PRIZE 2008



MIKHAIL ELIZAROV was born in 1973 in Ivano-Frankovsk, Ukraine. He studied philology in Kharkov State University and film direction in the Fine Arts Academy. In the

late nineties Mikhail worked as a cameraman.

In 2001 he continued studying in Germany, where he now lives. He contributes to a number of newspapers and magazines, such as Playboy, GQ, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Mikhail is the author of four books of fiction: **The Nails** (published in Germany by dtv), **Pasternak**, **Red Tape**, and **Librarian**. All of them were nominated for major literary prizes.

LIBRARIAN

- ❖ Novel, 448 pp
- ❖ Publishers: Ad Marginem, Moscow, 2007

Rights sold:

- ❖ Italy
- ❖ France
- ❖ Serbia
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Croatia
- ❖ China

Awards:

- ❖ Russian Booker Prize 2008



Nearly 40 000 copies sold to date!

Complete manuscript in French manuscript and reading material in English are available

Borges meets Sorokin in "an atomic bomb of a novel for the progressive reader," from the best-selling author of NAILS and PASTERNAK.

The Socialist realism novels by Gromov, some mediocre Soviet author who died in the eighties totally forgotten, suddenly become a treasure: it is discovered that the books possess magic powers. If read intently, they can change the physical condition, the state of mind, and psyche of a reader, each book in its own way. The boring novels with original titles like "Fly, Happiness!" or "Silver Valley" are actually the Book of Power, Book of Memory, Book of Wrath, Book of Joy, and Book of Strength, and affect a reader correspondingly.

In "Gromov's" reality, where the books – or rather the effects they produce – become the most appreciated value, people who once read a novel of Gromov's are obsessed with getting the other ones. This results in the emergence of half-mystical, half-military sects called "libraries" (sometimes in quite unsuitable places, such as prisons or old people's homes), each run by a "Librarian". In their quest for Gromov's books, the libraries cooperate or fight with each other, with kitchen knives and ladles for armaments and old car tyres for protection, sometimes with devastating outcomes. The ultimate goal of all the libraries is to find the banned Book of Meaning, the entire edition of which was destroyed due to Krushchev's anti-Stalin campaign.

Oblivious of the existence of "Gromov's universe", a young man named Alexei Vyazintsev arrives in a provincial town, coming into possession of a flat inherited from his deceased uncle – but instead finds himself in the possession of another inheritance. His uncle was an influential "librarian", and now Alexei is to take his place. He will fight together with the members of his library for Gromov's books, until he reaches the long-desired one, the Book of Meaning, to discover the greatest, and probably the weirdest, secret of all.

Mikhail Elizarov creates shocking descriptions, picturesque battle scenes, and yearning pathos, entangled in all-enveloping irony, to draw the reader implicitly into a world where reading is the only possible mode of existence for both individual and nation.



SERGEI SAMSONOV was born in 1980 in Podolsk, Moscow region. He studied creative writing in the Moscow Literary Institute. Sergei works as a copywriter in a Moscow publishing house, contributes to the newspaper Ex-Libris, and publishes his short stories

in the literary magazine Topos. In 2005 he was nominated for a Debut literary prize for young authors.

Oxygen Limit is his third novel.

OXYGEN LIMIT

Kislородnyi predel

- ❖ Novel
- ❖ 2010
- ❖ 416 pp
- ❖ Publishers: Eksmo, Moscow

Prizes:

- ❖ Nominated for Russian Booker 2010



A new literary hit from 30-year-old author Sergei Samsonov, a prodigy who has been compared with Leo Tolstoy, Vladimir Nabokov and Thomas Mann.

It all starts with an act of terrorism in a huge, crowded Moscow hotel—a fire caused by an explosion, a true apocalypse of local significance. Among the survivors, there are a few men who met as they were escaping the fire. As soon as they come to their senses—after the initial terror, and then euphoria—they start frantically seeking a girl who vanished in the fire. One of the survivors, the businessman Sergei Sukhozhirov, was near her when the explosion took place. Before falling unconscious, he managed to lay her down in a bath full of water. Was she saved—or did she die of asphyxiation?

Scene by scene we get to know more about the survivors. We learn about red-haired Zoe (the missing girl) and her husband, a well-known plastic surgeon. What actually brought each character to the hotel? And is there something or someone in their lives that they have in common? Secrets of the past and the characters' hidden motives involve the reader in a detective intrigue up to the hilt . . .

The author's strong detective line and dynamic prose create a picture of the life of a modern metropolis, in which businessmen, art dealers, artists, and "elite" medical men passionately try to find the truth—or, rather, life itself (it is no coincidence that the missing girl's name is Zoe, which means "life").

With superb style, an absolute sense of rhythm, oozing energy, and dauntless courage, the author speaks of universal matters with poignant tension and immediacy. All of this has ensured Sergei Samsonov's meteoric rise to the top ranks of modern Russian prose.

Reviews:

«It would be no shame for Literature to come to an end with a novel like Oxygen Limit.» Afisha

«This is neither pure entertainment, nor purely intellectual prose. It is, rather, the essence of prose itself.» Chastny Correspondent

«Such excellent work with language forms is unique in writing today.» Vzglyad



IGOR ZOTOV was born in Moscow in 1955. He graduated from the School of Philology at Moscow State University. He spent five years working as a translator in Africa. For more than ten years he worked as assistant editor for *Nezavisimaya*

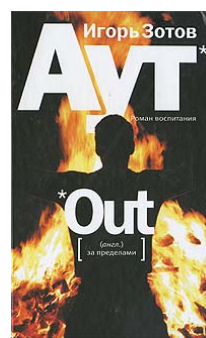
gazeta, where he established, and for five years oversaw, *Ex Libris*, the publication's literary supplement. In 2002, Zebra E. EKSMO Publishers released his book *Derevyakin's Day*. This volume contained work written in the 1970s and '80s (the eponymous novel and five stories). He continues to contribute to various Moscow periodicals. He is the author of several hundred articles and essays published in the Russian, as well as foreign, media. Igor Zotov is finishing his new novel.

OUT

Aut

- ❖ Novel
- ❖ 2009
- ❖ 604 pp
- ❖ Publisher: Astrel, AST, Moscow

A study in morbid psychology OUT follows the great tradition of Dostoevsky's philosophical work, striking anew with its fresh and convincing vision.



Alyosha is the only son of Russian émigrés, now separated. A self-absorbed teenager, Alyosha lives in turn in Denmark, with his mother, or the USA, with his father, and dreams of going to Russia some day. Alyosha is confident: Russia, his home country that he has never seen, can only be saved through him. His agitated, morally disheveled, and logically solid mind provides fertile soil for conventional thoughts that grow into theoretical obsessions. The notion of death and killing becomes Alyosha's mania. As the zealous pupil sets out on his journey, he is prepared to confront each new person with what he considers his life's mission. After being introduced to the troubled boy's philosophy, the characters of the novel are left with no choice: be his champions—or become his victims.

Igor Zotov is a master at capturing the psychology of the fringe experience: there's a missionary in an African rebel camp during a civil war; a dark-haired couple pursued by an adolescent Nazi on a late-night subway train; a girl out on her first date on the Brooklyn Bridge; the notorious Bitzevsky Park serial killer zeroing in on his next victim in Moscow.

Out takes readers on an expansive tour through continents and minds, and draws a horrifying panoramic portrait of death.

Praise for the novel:

«Out is exquisitely constructed, a composite of voices and digressions (lyrical, autobiographical, journalistic), travels and transitions between countries and topoi. . .» Echo of Moscow

«Recommended for lovers of a "raw," challenging read». Rossiiskaya gazeta



SVETLANA VASILENKO was born in 1956 in Kapustin Yar, a soviet space center. In 1977 she moved to Moscow to study at the Gorky Institute. In 1982 "Za saigakami" was voted the best the best novella of the year. A number of screen plays are written together with A. Konchalovsky.

Svetlana Vasilenko is a member of the Russian Society of Authors and the Russina "Pen". She has been awarded scholarships twice in the USA.

She currently lives in Moscow.

Durochka

The Little Fool

- ❖ Vagrus
- ❖ Russia 2000
- ❖ 120 Pages

Foreign Rights:

- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Poland
- ❖ USA
- ❖ Czech Republic

Awards:

- ❖ 1994 Sergei Eisenstein Prize (Dtl.) for screenplays
- ❖ Novy-Mir-Prize for the best novel of 1998 shortlist "Booker Prize 1998
- ❖ 1999 Nabokov-Prize
- ❖ Gorky Prize for Best Prose 2006
- ❖ shortlist Yury Kazakov Award for Best Short Story 2006



Complete English and German translations are available

The story of an orphan girl, kept fed by the inhabitants of a village in the steppes of Astrachan. To avoid starvation, her move to an orphanage is planned. The threat of bullying and victimisation in the orphanage leads her to flee, and begin a nomadic life in the steppes. She is saved from drowning in a river by fishermen who believe they have saved a legendary Tatar Princess. Imperceptibly, Hanna metamorphoses into the legendary figure. People make secret pilgrimages to see her. Thirteen years later she returns to the family that abandoned her. However, an atomic war is imminent in her hometown, a military settlement in southern Russia. Children who have been evacuated to the steppe are frightened to sleep out at night. Her brother pleads with Hanna to do something.

An egregious, reduced language, bundles diverse motivational strands into a unique mixture of tragedy and transcendence, creating a shocking and moving story in which the boundaries between the historical past, folklore and legend become blurred. The novel is aimed at Russia's present aimless and confused self-reflection, a male unconsciousness, seen through the eyes of a mute, defenceless girl, a dumb "little fool".

Reviews:

»"The Little Fool" presents a refined, stylised life and sheds light on events which have remained hidden away for more than four decades.«
DIE WELT

»"The Little Fool" is reminiscent of naive art: strong colours, stark contrasts and simple stylistic means are used to tell a story which is both fairytale-like and allegorical, and which is saturated with unexplained coincidences.« SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG



ANDREI ASTVATSATUROV was born in St. Petersburg, then still Leningrad, in 1969. He comes from a famous family of philologists, his grandfather was V. Zhirmunsky. Astvatsaturov himself is a literary scholar and professor in the history of foreign literature at the University of St. Petersburg, as well as head of the "Literature Programme" at

the Smolny Institute. His particular focus is English and American literature. He is an expert on the works of Henry Miller. He is also a columnist and reviewer for several newspapers and online portals. A. Astvatsaturov lives in St. Petersburg.

Lyudi v golom

People in Their Birthday Suits

- ❖ Novel. Ad Marginem Press. Moscow
- ❖ 2008
- ❖ 303 pages

Foreign Rights:

- ❖ Finland, 2010



No. 3 on the list of the most-sold books at MOSKVA, Moscow's largest book supermarket, for the whole of summer 2009

If you can have people in white, people in blue, then why not people in their birthday suits? This is the question schoolboy Andrey asks, earning himself bad marks again. To his parents' despair he often hangs around with the wrong crowd. The likes of him are never going to amount to much. But then he does in fact go on to become a professor. Only his is not the worthwhile engineering profession, but penniless literature. Other colleagues in the humanities make it into television and earn money. But not our hero: a loser, a bookworm? No, better: Petersburg's Woody Allen.

The self-deprecating confessions of a Petersburg intellectual "with thick glasses" introduce the reader to the Bohemian side of the Petersburg intelligentsia. Their souls and mental states are enacted and revealed in the author's persona, with a satirically sharp pen and unsurpassable humour. Already the cult book of a whole generation and anything but a novel.

PRESS REVIEWS

"Only Akunin and Lukyanenko sell more than Astvatsaturov in St. Petersburg's bookshops." 812' ONLINE

"... a decadent Figaro, a quick and self-deprecating cynic, who ponders Joyce on the side and caviar snacks with tremendous sincerity." NATALYA KURATOVA, EXPERT

"... tremendously effective and that without respite. A voice that you enjoy listening to, irrespective of what he is going on about; you are guaranteed to laugh out loud every twenty pages... the year's most interesting memoirs... the ideal read for the beach..." LEV DANILKIN, AFISHA

"Almost every one of Astvatsaturov's episodes is meant to go on and live a long, happy life as a fable, to be repeated often at parties, gradually forgetting the author's name and, over time, replacing the distanced, chilly "he" with a warm, personal "I"..." GALINA YUZEFOVICH

"The narrator: a philologist but no bore; a wise guy but no snob; a bum but no alcoholic; a writer but no grandiloquent "Messiah". ANDREY MIROSHKIN, EX LIBRIS

"The portrait of Michel Houellebecq in the book will greatly upset someone. However, I myself was present at the dinner he describes and I can assure you: in this instance Astvatsaturov was merciful." MIKHAIL TROFIMENKOV, GQ

WINNER OF THE RUSSIAN LITERARY PRIZE 2008



VLADIMIR LORCHENKOV was born in 1980. A journalist and prose writer, he was shortlisted and won numerous literary prizes, including Debut Literary Prize and Russian Literary Prize (for fiction

written in Russian by authors living outside Russia). Vladimir Lorchenkov is the author of four published books. He lives with his wife and small son in Kishinev, Moldova.

MILK AND HONEY (*Vse tam budem*)

- ❖ Novel, 336 pp
- ❖ Publisher: LiveBooks, 2008

Prizes & Awards:

- ❖ Winner Of The Russian Literary Prize 2008

Foreign rights:

- ❖ Serbia



Like Saramago's The Stone Raft, young prize-winning author Vladimir Lorchenkov addresses both global issues of the human condition and topical matters of modern European politics in his horrific, surrealistic novel.

This is the phantasmagorical story of dwellers in the small village of Larga, Moldova, neighbouring on Italy. True to Leo Tolstoy's idea that "happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way," every Larga-vite has his/her own pitiful story, and all of them dream of going to prosperous Italy as a solution to their wretched existence. Italy, the land of milk and honey, becomes their ultimate goal and obsession, and the dwellers of Larga will stop at nothing to reach the living paradise.

At first they sell all their property to pay 4000 Euros a head to swindlers, who, after several days of "traveling," dump the Larga-vites on the outskirts of Moldova's capital city. Having failed to reach their destination by a direct route, the Larga-vites design an aircraft out of an old tractor - which gets shot up by stray fireworks on a national holiday. They then transform the remains into a submarine, only to have it sink by a frontier post. They master the sport of curling (to take part in an international competition); and, eventually, set off on a crusade, which at last arouses the general concern of the EU.

Loss, shattered hopes, and broken lives become the price the dwellers pay to realize an old truth - we all bear a personal paradise and hell within us.

Bitter, painfully sardonic and insightful, Milk and Honey takes on a deeply tragic note, as it sharply articulates universal assumptions that reveal themselves in a subversive perspective.

DUMP-TRUCK (*Gruzovik*)

- ❖ Novel, 96 pp
- ❖ Publisher: LiveBooks, 2007



From the young prize-winning writer comes this funny, blunt and audaciously unsentimental account of a young single father's misadventures.

The story begins in hospital, as Vladimir Lorchenkov, the narrator and protagonist, bon vivant and womanizer, successful journalist and prize-winning writer, stands watching his wife die while he holds his bawling newborn son in his arms. Before she dies, Vladimir's wife names the son (Matthew) and makes her husband promise to take a good care of him. So he will, no matter what it takes. It is no surprise that the promise proves hard to keep. Vladimir is forced to battle with his son's month-long dysbacteriosis, to change his own blithe life style, and even his job - he becomes an interpreter of dreams, as this allows him to work from home. As Vladimir has to face the trials of child-rearing - sometimes dramatic, sometimes absurd, and often funny - he discovers that he does not simply accept the situation, but starts to take pride in his little Matthew - and, ultimately, to love him. It is at this moment, though, that a final challenge emerges: the young widower has to struggle to prove his right to fatherhood against a successful and influential businessman, who appears at the door of his house claiming to be his wife's lover, and Matthew's real father!

Fresh, insightful, hilarious and unsettling, Lorchenkov's Dump-Truck is certainly closer to Nick Hornby's About a Boy than to a single father's guide to parenting.

“BEST NOVEL OF THE DECENNIUM” – FOUNDER OF NATIONAL BESTSELLER AWARD



LENA ELTANG was born in 1964 in Leningrad. A journalist and a translator, she has also become known as a poet after the publication of two collections of poems in 2003 and 2004, and as a

short-prose writer, when her works were included in the **Five Names** anthology published by Max Frei. **BLACKBERRY SHOOT**, Lena’s first novel, created a stir on the Russian literary scene. Lena has lived in Paris and Copenhagen. She now lives in Vilnius, Lithuania.

THE STONE MAPLES (*Kamennye kleny*)

- ❖ Novel
- ❖ 2008
- ❖ 414 pp
- ❖ Publishers: AST, Moscow

Awards:

- ❖ New Literature Award (NOS)



A stunning family drama told with the precision of Nabokov and the hypnotic intensity of Joyce, from the author of BLACKBERRY SHOOT (“one of the finest novels written in Russian in recent years”).

Red-haired Sasha Saunley runs a Bed and Breakfast called *The Stone Maples* in the tiny, remote village of Wishguard, somewhere on the moors of Wales. Not only is she considered *weird*, she is also rumored to be a witch. Such a rumor is not absolutely groundless, since she has refused to speak since the next-door teenagers killed her dogs, Hugin and Munin, all the more as *The Stone Maples* long ago became a substitute for her five-o-clock meetings with the second cousins of her late father. Sasha’s younger stepsister Edna disappears under obscure circumstances - while in the courtyard, a hummock appears with an epitaph for the «Younger One.»

The possible crime of the Welsh witch becomes the pretext for a bet - and Llewellyn, a Londoner, arrives at *The Stone Maples* to investigate what is purported to be a murder. Sasha’s journal falls into his hands - the passionate, poetic, and witty confession of an enigmatic woman. Her love-hate relationship with her younger stepsister, knotty affairs with the locals, envy and betrayal, fantasies, myth, and legend - all this enchants Llewellyn, and when he is about to admit his loss of the bet, he finds another of Sasha’s journals, containing totally different entries. Why does she need two journals; and, more important, which of them is truth and which is fiction?

Told through the journals and letters of Sasha, her stepmother, and her younger stepsister Edna Alexandrina, Llewellyn, and Tabitha, the London girl who is in love with him, this entrancing family drama reveals one shocking mystery after another. The most significant puzzle is broached at the very end.

The Stone Maples is a breathtakingly deep and atmospheric novel inhabited by lovable and vivid characters. Masterly use of cultural layers, the delicacy of literary allusion reminiscent of Joyce and Nabokov, and an eerily prophetic gaze at reality - these are the trademarks of Lena Eltang, one of the most unique authors writing in Russian today.

ONE OF THE FINEST LIVING RUSSIAN WRITERS, Publishers Weekly



LUDMILLA PETRUSHEVSKAYA

was born in Moscow in 1938. Petrushevskaya studied journalism at Moscow State University, and began writing prose in the mid '60s. Her first work was published in 1972, only to be followed by almost ten years of officially enforced silence, when the publication of her plays and prose was forbidden. At that time Petrushevskaya earned her living by working as a radio and television journalist and contributing to newspapers and literary Magazines. When her somber and disturbing absurdist plays were finally staged, Ludmilla Petrushevskaya became widely recognized as one of Russia's finest dramatists. A collection of short stories and monologues, **IMMORTAL LOVE**, was published in 1988 and met with stunning success among readers and critics alike. In 1992 Petrushevskaya's novel **THE TIME: NIGHT** was short-listed for the Russian Booker Prize; it was translated into more than 30 languages and included in college courses as one of the most important novels of the 20th century. Since then, Petrushevskaya has published over 30 books of prose. A 5-volume set of her writings was published in Russia in 1996. Today, award-winning plays by Petrushevskaya are produced

around the world, while her prose pieces have been published in more than 30 countries. Ludmila Petrushevskaya is considered to be the only indisputably canonical writer currently at work in Russia today.

Ludmilla Petrushevskaya's recent publications (**A BLACK COAT**, 2002; **IT HAPPENED IN SOKOLNIKI**, 2002; **WHERE I'VE BEEN**, 2002; **GODDESS OF THE PARK**, 2004; **NUMBER ONE, or IN THE GARDENS OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES**, 2004; **THE CITY OF LIGHT**, 2005) have established her reputation with a new generation of readers as a master of the mystical thriller and short stories of magical realism.

In 1991, Petrushevskaya was awarded the **Pushkin Prize by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation** in Germany. She has also received prizes from the leading literary journals in Russia. Petrushevskaya's novels **THE TIME: NIGHT** and **NUMBER ONE, or IN THE GARDENS OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES** were short-listed for the **Russian Booker Prize**. In 2002, Petrushevskaya received Russia's most prestigious prize, **The Triumph**, for lifetime achievement. Petrushevskaya's play **BIFEM** was awarded the **first prize at the New Drama Festival** in 2003. In 2003 Ludmilla Petrushevskaya was awarded the **State Prize of Russian Federation**.

Praise for the author:

"One of the finest living Russian writers... Her signature black humor and matter-of-fact prose result in an insightful and sympathetic portrait of a family in crisis." - Publishers Weekly

"Petrushevskaya is a strikingly original author." - The Guardian

"Told in an intimate, loose, over-the-back-fence style, this is an alternately funny and desperate book - a welcome introduction to a strong talent." - Kirkus Review

"The writing is beautifully controlled and the spirit large... She deserves a wide readership." - TLS

"A wonderfully talented and significant writer." - John Bayley

"THE TIME NIGHT is one of the most powerful books on poverty that has ever been written." - Amazon.com

"Petrushevskaya writes with humour, and has an obliqueness of style and unexpectedness of form that give the reader a sense of having found something unusual and unfamiliar." - Sunday Times

THE LITTLE GIRL FROM THE METROPOL
(*Malenkaya devochka iz "Metropolia"*)

- ❖ An autobiographical novella
- ❖ 103 pp
- ❖ 2006
- ❖ Publishers: Amphora, St Petersburg

Prizes and awards:

- ❖ Nominated for the National Bestseller Prize 2007

Rights sold to:

- ❖ France: Christian Bourgois Editeur
- ❖ Lithuania: Vaga, Lithuania



This is not a typical fiction memoir. Through the prism of the story of her family, Ludmilla Petrushevskaya draws a compelling portrait of the era of communist Russia.

With brilliant precision and telling details, Petrushevskaya draws a gallery of portraits of the Muscovite intelligentsia as they struggle to survive in the new - poverty-stricken and ignorant - country. The author recalls her beautiful grandmother, whom the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky was in love with; her great-aunt, lover of head-of-state Mikhail Kalinin; and her grandfather, a celebrated linguist, one of the fathers of the Moscow linguistic circle. These characters are set next to violent and ruthless neighbors who attack Ludmilla's grandmother with an axe when she wants to use the bathroom in their communal flat, and beat Ludmilla if she is found rummaging in their slop-pail for the remains of food. The 8-year-old girl grows up in the company of fatherless boys, homeless beggars and war invalids that crowded the streets of Saratov (then Kuibyshev), where her family lived as evacuees during the war.

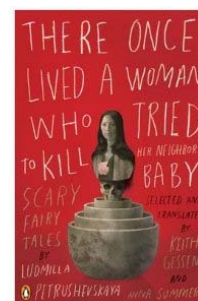
As the story of a small girl in the hungry post-war years unfolds, the fate of the enormous country appears before the reader - a country where the magical is intertwined with the mundane, beautiful and refined neighbor with terrible ones, and despair with hope. A family forest grows out of Petrushevskaya's memoir, one in which each tree is at once "a child, a parent, and a personality."

THERE ONCE LIVED A WOMAN WHO KILLED HER NEIGHBORS' BABY

The selection of mystical short stories

Rights sold to:

- ❖ US - Penguin Non-Classic
- ❖ UK - Penguin Classics
- ❖ Germany - Berlin Verlag
- ❖ Denmark - Forlaget Vandkunsten
- ❖ Norway - Cappelen Damm
- ❖ Spain - Jacobo Siruela
- ❖ Portugal - Relogio d'Agua



English translation available

#34 in NY Times bestsellers list, #15 in Amazon.com in translated fiction and #5 last week in The Strand

A master of the short story genre, Ludmilla Petrushevskaya dazzles the imagination with explorations of death, love, space, time and identity.

In her magical-realistic stories that at once recall Kafka, Borges and Gogol, Petrushevskaya pictures the deprived and desperate - orphans, childless women, lonely elderly people - in search of love and happiness, in their struggle for life.

The fantastic (magical transformations, resurrection of the dead, living dolls and magical objects) merges here into reality, authentically captured by the author. Petrushevskaya's signature prose, harrowing and painfully sensitive, seems to strip off your skin, making your naked nerves shudder at the touch of this fictional reality that is much too close for comfort.

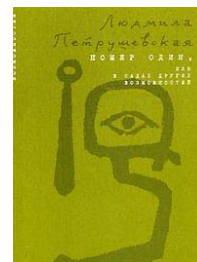
Here is a childless woman who grows a girl in a cabbage, or a girl attempts suicide and finds herself in a horrid, unlit apartment building chased by monstrous lorry drivers, escaping a split second before it is too late to come back to life. Set against a bleak background, Petrushevskaya's "fairy-tales for grownups", as the author defines the genre, are amazingly dynamic and ingenious.

NUMBER ONE, OR IN THE GARDENS OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES

- ❖ Novel, 336 pp
- ❖ 2004
- ❖ Publishers: EKSMO, Moscow

Rights sold to:

- ❖ Denmark: Vandkunsten
- ❖ Poland: Bertelsmann



The long-awaited new novel from “one of Russia’s finest living writers” far exceeded the expectations of Petrushevskaya’s vast number of devoted readers and triggered heated discussions in the press.

The bullet-paced, breathtaking narrative opens with a brilliantly rendered dialogue between a research fellow (Number One) and the director of an ethnographic research institute (Number Two). Ivan (Number One), an underpaid, enthusiastic scientist, father of a handicapped child and clandestine creator of a computer game called IN THE GARDENS OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES, reports the results of his last expedition to the settlements of the nearly extinct Antti people, whose beliefs and myths merit international scientific attention. Number One plays a recording of the incantations of the powerful shaman of the Antti, who is an adept in the transmigration of souls and knows the way to the evil world of the dead. Ivan has to persuade the director to find 5,000 US dollars in ransom money for his colleague Kukharev, kidnapped during the expedition. Ivan fails to return to the settlement with the money - he is robbed, and the violent pursuit of the thieves ends in the double murder of Ivan and Valery, one of the criminals. Instead of dying, Ivan finds himself in the body of the thief - and in the centre of the grim reality of the criminal world of Russia’s provinces. As Valery’s body suppresses the consciousness of the intellectual researcher and determines Ivan’s actions, the intricately concocted story escalates into a blood-curdling thriller.

Petrushevskaya’s unsurpassed mastery in rendering the shifts in the linguistic personalities of the intellectual and the thief, and the dense, concentrated narrative that is the author’s signature technique, open up new textual realms. In the fictional world of Petrushevskaya, the boundaries between the real and the surreal, between everyday existence and the reality of a computer game, are blurred, and her heroes wander along the “forked paths” in the “gardens of other possibilities” that spiral into endless limbos of personal and social hells - the hell of life, the hell of culture, the hell of eternity.

Written in the matrix of the modern mystical thriller, **NUMBER ONE** puts forward the ontological oppositions of body vs. soul, living vs. being, and draws a compelling portrait of an almost-extinct Russian intelligentsia.

Praise for the novel:

“The reader’s perception of the text is intentionally frustrated; the brilliant narrative technique confronts and confounds (in a Joycean manner) us. <...> The concentration of the macabre surpasses everything previously published in Russia.” - Russian Journal

“A text of frenzied energy and passion. <...> One of the brightest literary events of the year.” - www.ej.ru

“This is the unpredictable and harrowing story of a soul that travels between bodies and at the same time tries to solve its numerous problems.” - Private Time Magazine

“Petrushevskaya prepares her plot with a dissector’s precision.” - Afisha

“Petrushevskaya has conveyed the nightmare of identity and the question ‘Who am I?’ hanging in mid-air, unanswered, with consummate skill, in the best traditions of David Lynch.” - Vash Dosug

QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION

NATIONAL BESTSELLER: 112 MILLION COPIES SOLD!



Darja Dontsova (alias Agrippina Vassilyeva) was born in 1952, in Moscow. She graduated from the Department of Journalism of the Moscow State University, and worked as a translator and French and German languages teacher. Now Darja Dontsova is the author of 103 novels, she hosts a radio talk show and is just an outstanding woman. Her books have acquired the label of “antidepressant” literature and they instantly become national bestsellers. The total edition of Darja Dontsova's works has amounted to **112 million copies** (!) over seven years. Her novels inspired numerous radio plays and TV series.

Darja Dontsova is a three-time winner of the **Writer of the Year** national award and twice a laureate of the **Bestseller of the Year** national award and a winner of **the Book “Oscar”**. A bronze star has been laid in her honour in the Moscow Literary Square. Darja Dontsova lives in Moscow with her large family and pets. Her novels have been translated into sixteen languages. Darja Dontsova’s works is a truly unique phenomenon in the contemporary mass-market literature of Russia. You can hardly find a person in this country who wouldn’t be very well

acquainted with her sparkling novels filled with cheerful irony and funniest self-deprecating humour giving light to the recognizable comic situations.

In 2007 Darya managed to break all the existing popularity records: the print-run of her titles has overreached the level of 100 mln samples. Each new novel by Dontsova becomes a bestseller. According to the Publishing statistics of the Russian Book Chamber, Darya Dontsova has headed the list of the most popular Authors of Russia. But this is not the only award of the Author. More than 100 novels have been created by Daria Dontsova by now, and all of them were marked with the readers’ love and gratefulness.

A few TV-series were made after Darya’s novels: “Dasha Vasilyeva: An Amateur of the Private Investigations”, “Eulampia Romanova. The Dilettant Investigates”, “Viola Tarakanova. In the World of the Crime and Passions” and “Ivan Podushkin. The Gentleman of the Investigation”. At the moment Darya – is a TV-performer of her own show “Eager to Live!” on the radio, while her columns in such newspapers as “Life” and magazines “She”(Ona) and “Most”(Samaya) are extremely popular!

Darya Dontsova Detective Series (7 series)

Year: 1999-2009

Publishers: Eksmo

Genre: female detective story, ironical crime fiction

Rights sold:

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| ❖ Bulgaria | ❖ China | ❖ Finland | ❖ Poland |
| ❖ Hungary | ❖ Croatia | ❖ Germany | ❖ Romania |
| ❖ Germany | ❖ Italy | ❖ Japan | ❖ France |
| ❖ Turkey | ❖ Czech Republic | ❖ Latvia | |
| | ❖ Estonia | ❖ Lithuania | |

Series:

- ❖ Dasha Vasilyeva, the investigator (33 titles)
- ❖ Evlampia Romanova (Lampa), the investigator (25 titles)
- ❖ Viola Tarakanova, the investigator (21 titles)
- ❖ Ivan Podushkin, the investigator (16 titles)
- ❖ Tatyana Sergeeva: Crime-story on a diet (2 titles)
- ❖ Culinary books (3 titles)
- ❖ Notes from a Hopeless Optimist (3 titles)

It is recommended to start with Evlampia Romanova series which has proved to be the most successful formula.

Selected titles of Evlampia Romanova series:

- ❖ Newly published: Shopping in an Air Castle
- ❖ Bestselling title: Feng-Shui Non-Stop
- ❖ Cinderella in Chocolate
- ❖ The Lamp is Seeking Alladin
- ❖ Blue Pug-dog of Happiness
- ❖ Quasimodo on High Heels
- ❖ Poker with a Shark
- ❖ Diner with a Cannibal
- ❖ Trobles Forecast for Tomorrow
- ❖ Kama-sutra for a Micky Mouse

Combined print runs for the first 11 titles of ER series:

- ❖ Poker with a Shark - 225 000 cps
- ❖ Manicure for a Departed - 230 000 cps
- ❖ My Dear Bastard - 70 100 cps
- ❖ Snake in a Syrup - 240 000 cps
- ❖ Diner with a Canibal - 285 000 cps
- ❖ Greedy Dogs Constellation - 310 100 cps
- ❖ Cancan on a Funeral - 310 000 cps
- ❖ Troubles Forecast for Tomorrow - 110 000 cps
- ❖ Hangover Walking - 95 200 cps
- ❖ Fig Leaf Haute Couture - 320 000 cps
- ❖ Kama Sutra for a Mickey Mouse - 730 000 cps

SERIES:

Amateur Private Detective Dasha Vasilyeva Series (Lubitelnitsa chastnogo syska Dasha Vassilyeva)

29 titles

Rights sold: Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Turkey.

Dasha Vasilieva, a modest teacher of French at a Moscow university, unexpectedly inherits the estate of a Parisian nobleman. Soon thereafter she quits her dead-end teaching and moves to Paris with her entourage of family and pets and finds a new meaning of her life working as a private detective. Having solved her first murder mystery, she gets a taste for investigations and can't stop any more. She divides her life between her Paris residence and a luxurious house in one of Moscow's fashionable suburbs enjoying detective business and bringing continuous headache to both French and Russian police.

Evlampia Romanova : The Dilettante Investigator (Evlampia Romanova : Sledstvie vedet diletant)

21 titles

Rights sold: Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania

Like Dasha Vassilieva series, Evlampia balance criminal mystery with situational comedy and melodrama, all grafted onto a gently ironic portrayal of contemporary Russian circumstances.

Evlampia Romanova is a thirty-something pampered wife of a wealthy new Russian. Having discovered that her spouse had been unfaithful, she runs away from her comfortable house and thereafter is "adapted" by a family of complete strangers whom she encounters in the street. Since then Evlampia shares with them a small apartment and crazy everyday life helping her new family to get out of multiple troubles and solving intricate criminal cases.

Viola Tarakanova: in the World of Criminal Passions (Viola Tarakanova: v mire prestupnykh strastei)

17 titles

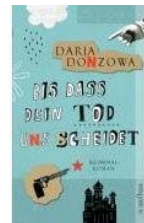
Rights sold: Estonia

This series features a twenty year old girl, Viola, an orphan, whose life can hardly be called easy. To earn her leaving she does any jobs. In spite all this Viola, like other Darija Dontsova's protagonists, is an open-minded, altruistic person and other peoples' misfortunes just can't leave her unfazed. Because of this she often finds herself deeply involved in complete strangers' lives helping them to get out of serious troubles. Thus she discovers that her true mission is to be a private detective. . .

The Gentleman Detective Ivan Podushkin (Dzhentlemen syska Ivan Podushkin) 13 titles

Rights sold: Estonia

Ivan Podushkin is a pleasant, handsome young man who works as an assistant and legman for Eleonora, a wealthy but physically handicapped elderly woman who has established her own Charity Foundation to help deprived and invalid people in trouble. She receives lots of disturbing letters and charges Ivan Podushkin with handling all investigations that take place outside her apartment. . .



25 MILLION COPIES SOLD



Tatiana Ustinova was born in 1968 in Moscow. Prior to becoming a writer she worked as an editor for the Russian State TV Radio Company and ORT TV Channel. She debuted as a writer in 1999 with her crime story *A Personal Angel*. Since then every book by Tatyana Ustinova turned a bestseller. Today

Tatiana Ustinova is one of the best-selling Russian crime fiction authors whose novels invariably feature the female protagonist that unexpectedly finds herself in the midst of criminal activity. Ustinova's witty-in-language works are a smart mixture of "cozy" and "hard-boiled" detective novels combining brutal crimes, affecting love-stories and elements of situational comedy. She has written 25 novels that have been translated

into many European languages and inspired several successful Russian TV series – to the date 13 movies have been made after Tatyana Ustinova's plots. The general print run of Tatyana Ustinova's titles is **25 143 600 copies**.

In 2004 the Academy of the Russian Television gave Tatiana the prestigious TEFI Award in the category of **The Best Script Writer of a Movie (Series)** for the script to the series "Always Say Always". As a result of the General Ukrainian survey 2006 among the Publishers and Distributors of the Books, Tatyana Ustinova was given the prestigious **Sherlock Holmes' Golden Smoking Pipe Book Award** for being the most popular Russian Author in Ukraine. In 2007 Tatyana Ustinova took the third place on the rating list of **the most read Writers of Russia**.

Praise for the author:

"Tatiana Ustinova can present the most horrible crime in a... sort of intelligent fashion. Moreover, she has books where no one is murdered at all. The "black PR" is described there, how they have a required man elected as a Governor, for example. Here there act not rascals but ordinary people, who are not bad at all, for the most part. Yet to reach their goal, to persuade the people to vote "in the right way", they have to resort to forgery, fraud and anything, following the Machiavelli's principle that the goal justifies the means..." Rossiyskaya Gazeta

"Tatiana Ustinova sees herself in the vein of Agatha Christie. But she in fact is a Russian Sydney Sheldon. Her characters, successful businesswomen, settle their awkward private life in a tense atmosphere of suspense: whether you will be killed or not. It's nothing like a relaxed detective puzzle. Rather, it's a woman's psychological thriller adapted for men." Stolichnaya Vechemyaya Gazeta

Tatiana Ustinova Crime Titles (25 titles)

- ❖ Year: 1999-2009
- ❖ Publishers: Eksmo
- ❖ Genre: female detective story, ironical crime fiction

Rights sold:

- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Estonia
- ❖ Latvia
- ❖ Serbia

List of titles:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>My Personal Enemy</i> ❖ <i>Big Evil and Petty Tricks</i> ❖ <i>The Special Purpose Friend</i> ❖ <i>The Vices and Their Devotees</i> ❖ <i>The First Rule of a Queen</i> ❖ <i>The Personal angel</i> ❖ <i>The Divorce and a Maiden Name</i> ❖ <i>One shadow for two</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>A Myth About an Ideal Man</i> ❖ <i>My General</i> ❖ <i>The Seventh Heaven</i> ❖ <i>A Spare Instinct</i> ❖ <i>Prime-time Goddess</i> ❖ <i>The Intimate Friends</i> ❖ <i>The Inverse magic Law</i> ❖ <i>Oligarch from The Great Bear Constellation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>The Chronicle of Heinous Times</i> ❖ <i>A Phantom House Dowry</i> ❖ <i>A Gripsac of Bright Future</i> ❖ <i>Five steps in the Clouds</i> ❖ <i>The Spirit of Empty Space</i> ❖ <i>The Last Hope Hotel</i> ❖ <i>The Forgotten Wishes Drawn-Well</i> |
|--|--|---|



Selected titles

The First Rule of a Queen (Pervoje pravilo korolevy)

Eksmo, 2003
384 pp.

Inna Seliverstova, head of the Information Department of the Belovarsk Territory, The Queen of Saba, Cleopatra, a bitch and a “stinker”, as her opponents call her, is confused for the first time. The local Governor Mukhin was killed. Then somebody shot his widow dead as well, with Inna present next room. Like a sleepwalker, she seized some newspapers marked 'To Ms. Seliverstova' - and fled from that terrible house. The morning after, it was announced that Mukhina had died from a heart attack. A struggle for the Governor's throne begins. And here the main pretender, tycoon Alexander Yastrebov, appears. Inna was terrified to recognize him as her casual lover who “comforted” her after her divorce. This is too much for Inna: she cannot unravel the Mukhins' murder, her strange liaison with Yastrebov continues, and she feels drawn into some terrible game. She has to outplay her adversary before he destroys her...



The Personal angel (Personalnyi angel)

Eksmo, 2003
320 pp.

While reading a political profile of an oligarch Timopheyy Koltsov, Katerina, a PR agency analyst, feels that her chief has undertaken an almost ruinous task - to raise that gloomy, cynical millionaire to the position of the region's governor. But she changes her mind when Koltsov saves her life protecting her from bullets by his body in a machine-gunned car. Little by little Katerina realizes that she is falling in love with him. Timopheyy rescues her again when she is accused of confidential information disclosure...



The Divorce and a Maiden Name (Razvod i devichja familia)

Eksmo, 2002
384 pp.

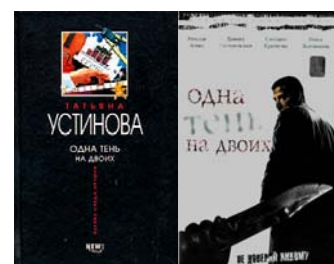
More than a year ago Kira divorced her husband Sergey. Fifteen years before, when their love was burning like a lit fuse, this turn of events was unthinkable. Their son Tim still cannot accept it and dreams of reconciling them. And now there is a good chance to do it, in fact a terrible business. Somebody shot Kira's boss, Editor-in-Chief of a well-reputed magazine, on the stairs next to her door. The police seem to suspect Kira, and her son Tim turns to his father for help. Sergey comes in no time. He would do his best to get his former yet still beloved wife out of trouble...



One shadow for two (Odná ten' na dvoikh)

Eksmo, 2002
416 pp.

Andrei Danilov is a son of well-known parents. They expected him to become a professional musician but he chose to be an architect. One day he returns home and finds his wife dead... Fortunately, Andrei has a strong alibi. But misfortunes continue to trap him later on. A ready to be finished private residence of a wealthy client is disfigured; one of his colleagues is killed. Someone is trying to crush Danilov. He would never take up this challenge, if Marta – a woman who'd loved him all her life – was not next to him. Having his beloved one by his side he feels that he can cope with anything.



«THE MOST MYSTERIOUS RUSSIAN WRITER» - ECHO OF MOSCOW



SVETLANA MARTYNCHIK, who has created both a male author and protagonist of her work in **Sir Max Frei**, was born in 1965 «in Uzhgorod or Nurnberg» as she claims. She is an artist, poet and

author of a number of extremely acclaimed literary projects. Max Frei has compiled several books of modern prose, fairy-tales and has also championed young, talented Russian novelists. She has recently moved to Vilnius in Lithuania.

MAZES OF ECHO (*Labirinty Eho*)

- ❖ Series of ten novels
- ❖ Publishers: Amphora, St Petersburg
- ❖ Year: 1999–2003, 2004
- ❖ Genre: fantasy, detective

Bestseller: over 1 million copies sold



Rights sold to:

The Stranger

- ❖ World English: The Overlook Press
- ❖ Norway: Schibstedt
- ❖ Sweden: Ersatz
- ❖ Germany: Blanvalet/Bertelsmann
- ❖ Italy: Mondadori
- ❖ Spain: Minotaur
- ❖ Czech Republic: Triton
- ❖ Bulgaria: Infordar

Volunteers Of Eternity

- ❖ World English: The Overlook Press
- ❖ Czech Republic: Triton
- ❖ Bulgaria: Infordar

Simple Magic Things

- ❖ World English: The Overlook Press
- ❖ Czech Republic: Triton
- ❖ Bulgaria: Infordar

The fascinating and amazingly funny adventures of Sir Max, a noble, kindly and lighthearted knight who appears in the magical world of Echo will appeal to readers both young and old.

Thirty-year-old Max finds himself in the world of Echo, whose inhabitants can all master different magical powers. With his effervescent humour, dead-pan logic and a newly-discovered talent for magic, Max soon finds his place in Echo. As head of Echo's night-duty secret police, Max's job is to investigate cases of illegal magic. Indeed, his work is never a drudge: his daily routine is to fight with illegitimate magicians and monstrous creatures from other worlds. The marvelous Sir Max easily wins over the inhabitants of Echo – the omniscient Sir Juffin Hally, the effervescent and lighthearted Sir Melifaro, the composed and dangerous Sir Shurf Lonli-Lokli and the absent minded Sir Luukfi Pants, a connoisseur of the art of cookery and the master of disguise Sir Koffa Yoh and the astonishingly beautiful Lady Melamori Blimm. The fantastic stories of their adventures and misadventures, richly spiced with Frei's amazing humour, have struck a chord with a large readership.

Selected reviews

*"We didn't acquire Max Frei's wonderful contemporary epic *The Stranger* because it was foreign literature or because it came from Russia. It's just a marvellous book that has sold everywhere"* Overlook Press

"If Harry Potter smoked cigarettes and took a certain matter-of-fact pleasure in administering tough justice, he might like Max Frei, the protagonist of this fantasy novel. Well-written, well-paced grown-up fantasy with a strong dose of reality." - Kirkus Reviews



ANDREI RUBANOV, journalist by profession, became known to the Russian readership in 2006, when in one of the major time-out magazines Afisha there appeared a review on

his first self-published semi-autobiographical novel *DO TIME, GET TIME*, about self-perfection in prison.

Within a week after this review he received the offers from all the best Russian publishers. In two months the novel was **short-listed for the National Bestseller prize**. His second novel – *GREAT DREAM* was published a year later.

Both *GREAT DREAM* and *ALL THAT GLITTERS* were nominated for the **National Bestseller prize** in 2009. Andrei lives in Moscow and runs his own small business.

Chlorophilia

- ❖ Novel, 2009
- ❖ Publishers: AST, Moscow

People turning into vegetation is the premise of this penetrating dystopia from Andrei Rubanov, prize-winning author of the prison novel DO TIME, GET TIME

Moscow, the 22nd century. Saveliy Gertz works as a journalist for *The Very Best*, a major Moscow weekly. The magazine writes about those Russians who continue working while most of their compatriots produce nothing, but mostly consume. Money is no longer a problem: Siberia is rented out to the Chinese, and the Russians live on the rent, cheering themselves up with the slogan "You don't owe anyone anything".

The strangest thing, however, is that Moscow is overgrown with giant grass. Each stem is 300 meters long. It is impossible to cut it or to root it out: it grows back instantaneously. What's more, the pulp of this grass is a powerful psychostimulant that causes pure joy, without, it seems, any consequences. The drug is consumed in many forms: the rich take it as a sublimed concentrate, and the slum dwellers devour it raw.

The grass totally changes the metropolis's social structure and value system. The supreme value is the sun that is blocked out by the rampant grass. One's social status depends on the floor where one lives. The ninetieth floors are occupied by the elite; the sixtieth by the middle class. The twentieth are true slums, and the people who live there are called the pale.

As for other kinds of values, the pale grass-eaters don't really have any. They can lie still all day long, basking in a feeling of pure joy and watching *The Neighbors*, a popular reality show. Consuming the grass is technically against the law, but is not prosecuted... until it is discovered that the seemingly harmless grass gradually turns people into itself: into plants, that is. And the first people to start literally striking root are not the pale, as one might have expected, but the upper-floor residents, who consume pure joy in concentrated form.

Among them is the protagonist Saveliy Gertz, and his pregnant wife Varvara. Their story evolves against the chilling background of the unenviable future of Moscow. When people begin to disappear, and the lamentable truth of their disappearance is revealed, the urban thriller morphs into a western. Fearing that Varvara will give birth, not to a healthy baby, but to a "little green man," the couple flees from Moscow to the countryside. There, in a special colony, doctors and volunteers are trying to save the grass-eaters and prevent them from turning into the plants. At the same time, they must risk their lives trying to get along with the savage locals. Saveliy, who now often wants to just stand still basking in the sun, faces a difficult choice: to put down roots, to stop thinking, to turn into a plant completely—or to struggle to remain a human being.

Rubanov is one of the most fearless of contemporary Russian writers. An established master of realistic fiction, mostly based on true stories, he has created a penetrating anti-utopian vision that spares no one. The reader is poised on the cusp of curiosity and terror—so ingenious, and so terrifying at the same time, is this brave new world.



EARTH OF LIFE

(Zhivaya zemlya)

- ❖ Novel
- ❖ 2010
- ❖ 352 pp
- ❖ Publishers: AST, Moscow

In his sequel to the nationally acclaimed CHLOROPHILIA Andrei Rubanov draws a bitter and strikingly evocative panorama of the country's life after "the extermination" or "rooting out".



It's been only 20 years since the grass disappeared or was rooted out, as the authorities claim, yet Denis Gertz never lived it differently. The consumption-based economical system of the country collapsed, the government moved to a new capital built around lithium sources, and Muscovites had to learn to survive on scarce allocated goods supplies. For the young man this implies living in a small apartment on the floor up to the twelfth level (no water or electricity supply provided above); doing public labour on the demolition of skyscrapers; stopping by a local hole for some cheap vodka, tea and *sourcroust*; buying local food and clothing in a next-door supermarket; and delivering goods to those few crazy or outcasts who choose to stay on the upper levels of the city's landmarks. Making 100 flights in one "run" pays well – at least, Denis can provide for his mother's treatment of grass-eating post effects.

New slogans of the Muscovites differ drastically from "You behold to no one" of the times of prosperity: "Make things, not money" and "Spare the savings". Those few who spend time and money in restaurants instead of contributing to the society's well-being, who choose delicatessen to simple nutritious products, or fashion clothing to rough leather and cotton items from a local store are disapprovingly called *the decomposed* (разложенцы). The latter however prefer to leave the city and get to settle in the new capital – The New Moscow – a city under the dome built in the heart of Siberia. The dome protects the authority, business, science and cultural elite from any external aggression – be it a climate change or unwanted immigrants. The price for a comfortable, rich and safe life is a personal transparency. All citizens are being implanted personal ID files that are open to public. Authorities can add anything into a file, from information to feelings that range from remorse, shame to euphoria or respect – a vast field for manipulation.

Denis has other concerns than choosing The New Moscow over his native city, a satiated yet transparent life over challenging and simple lifestyle in the Old Moscow. His girlfriend left him for his best friend and his mother gradually gives up to her illness. Until one day together with his friend he gets hold of what everybody believes to be a myth – a grass seed. Now Denis Gertz knows he can change it all. The seed has just to be planted.

Praise for the author:

«A true breakthrough . . . the attempt alone is worthy of a medal, but this one goes the whole ten yards». Chastny korrespondent

«One of the most convincing anti-utopias of the recent past». Booknik

«What a novel! Dashing, smart, witty, funny—and very Rubanesque...Chlorophilia stands every chance of becoming a bestseller». Afisha

«Rubanov's novel makes a stunning contribution to the driving theme of contemporary letters: the search for an all-encompassing Metaphor for Russian Life». Prochtenie

«Chlorophilia is both intelligent and cruel; but, most important, it seems to me, is that it is the very crux of the present moment; one hundred per cent here and now. This is why it is required reading». Knizhny bazar

ESPIONAGE THRILLER TURNED FILM



SERGEI KOSTIN is a spy novelist, an expert in espionage history, and a television documentary film maker. Kostin is currently working on a new novel featuring Paco Araya. A film based on Kostin's book *Bonjour, Farewell* is currently being produced, directed by Christian Carion's with Emir Kusturica as a leading actor.

Rights to sold to:

- ❖ US
- ❖ Serbia
- ❖ Bolgaria

PARIS WEEKEND

(Bog ne zvonit po mobilnomu)

Novel

Publishers: Eksmo, Moscow, 2006

Populiarnaya Literatura, Moscow, 2008

SLEEPLESS IN AFGHANISTAN

(Afganskaia bessonitsa)

Novel

Publishers: Eksmo, Moscow, 2006

Populiarnaya Literatura, Moscow, 2008

RAM-RAM

Novel

Populiarnaya Literatura, Moscow

Publication date: December, 2008

❖ **First printing of 100,000 copies of each title by Populiarnaia Literatura Publishers**

- ❖ Complete text in English available, published in US by Enigma Books, 2008
- ❖ Two reprints on publication of each novel by Eksmo
- ❖ A major national promo campaign by Populiarnaia Literatura Publishers

Espionage and personal drama provide a winning mix in the masterful Russian version of John Le Carre.

Paco Araya, KGB operative of Spanish origin (his father was a Spanish communist who had immigrated to the Soviet Union), runs a travel agency in Manhattan, where he has been living for over twenty years. Araya has little concern for the current political situation. A "mole" since the age of 20, Paco is financially independent on the Bureau—which is how he refers to the FSB (former KGB)—and carries out operations in his own way, by his own means. The Bureau does not abuse its special operative and calls out Araya only for missions that demand his urgent participation and expertise. Thus, a balance is achieved—the Bureau has an operative for "missions impossible", while Paco can feel that he is involved in Russia's national affairs and get an occasional adrenaline rush.

As the three novels unfold, the reader gets to know Araya's dramatic background, and at the same time witnesses the intricate schemes of covert operations involving international intelligence. Set in different parts of the world, the missions are rendered in such plausible detail that the reader never doubts the author's first-hand experience.

High-pitched narrative, fine psychological observations, brilliantly captured geographical diversity, and expert knowledge of espionage make for a ground-breaking literary event in Russian spy fiction.

In *Paris Weekend*, Araya must find a courier agent who failed to arrive at a rendezvous at the appointed time. The missing agent was supposed to be carrying an unknown, but extremely dangerous substance. The Libyan counter-intelligence is apparently involved. It looks as though Araya won't be having a relaxing weekend in Paris after all. The dangerous mission is put in jeopardy as Paco discovers by accident that a man he has wanted to kill for many years happens to be within arm's reach.

Sleepless in Afghanistan unfolds over nine nights in January 1999 in Talukan, a town set in the territory of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan. Araya arrives in Moscow with a request for retirement. Instead, he is sent on an operation with two nearly impossible tasks. The first mission is to find Russian General Tairov, kidnapped with his family by the Chechens, and kept, according to the Bureau's sources, by the Taliban somewhere in Afghanistan. The bonus mission requires that Araya use the skills of theft. Russia would receive unthinkable benefits from a Saudi



prince in exchange for the exclusive “Dragon’s Tear” emerald. The precious stone belongs to Ahmad Shah Massoud, an infamous leader of the Northern Alliance forces, who refuses to sell it. Posing as a TV journalist with an unsuspecting crew, Paco Araya has only one week to carry out both missions—before the end of Ramadan, the time of armistice between the Taliban and the Mujahideen. No one from the crew speaks the local languages, and the only source of information is a Pakistani officer, a Bureau defector. He was captured by the Mujahideen and is being held prisoner in Talukan.

Araya’s new mission, in the novel *Ram-Ram*, is set against the breathtaking backdrop of India, where he travels to investigate the strange death of his old friend Roman Liakhov. Liakhov had been the most promising student in their class, and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel—only to retire after the collapse of Soviet Union and immigrate with his wife to Israel. Rumors in the Bureau have it that Liakhov was recruited by the Mossad. Araya has had no news of his friend for ages, until he receives a report from the Bureau that Liakhov’s body has been discovered in a shelter in Old Delhi. The mission gets more complicated, as Paco travels in the company of Masha, a Hindi-speaking agent—according to legend, Masha will be Araya’s wife. Yet Masha seems to have no intention of building a friendly relationship with her colleague. The operatives have no information as to the possible motives of Liakhov’s murder or his mission. They have to act as “bait” by following Liakhov’s route and actively calling attention to their own presence. Weird coincidences follow the traveling agents from the start—three young fellow-travelers from Israel turn up at the same hostel in Old Delhi, and the leader of the group, a bright, charming girl, is apparently eager to get to know Paco better. This does not make Paco’s relations with Masha any easier. Soon the agents become a target for real weapons. The pursuers rise to the bait—and Paco is set on a course of finding out who the real hunter is.

Praise for Sergei Kostin’s spy novels:

«The author is obviously familiar with the routines of espionage, and not just through Ian Fleming’s books. <...> Permeated with numerous flashbacks, rich with cultural allusions, the novels are clearly penned by an intellectual author. [Thanks to Sergei Kostin] we are witnessing a mini-revolution in the Russian espionage thriller, of the sort Boris Akunin set in motion ten years ago in the realm of the detective novel”. *Expert* magazine.

«[In Sergei Kostin’s novels] one finds not only original and compelling intrigues, constructed in the spirit of the high-profile standards of creative writing programs, but also well-written dialogues, unconventional language, and fine imagery. <...> These are solidly built and firmly stitched novels, and they deliver a fascinating read. <...> Though the time when we lavishly bestowed odd titles to writers (“Kostin is the Russian Graham Greene”) is gone, we have to acknowledge that Sergei Kostin is very close indeed to Graham Greene». Lev Danilkin for *Afisha*

«These are powerful, professional, solid novels that change our vision of the genre». Knizhnaia Vitrina

A HUGELY ACCLAIMED LITERARY EVENT

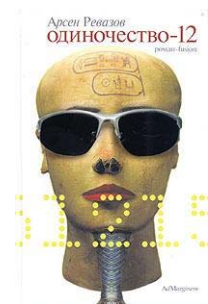


ARSEN REVAZOV was born in Moscow in 1966. He graduated from the Medical College in Moscow, and received a PhD in psychology at Ben-Gurion University. Since 1995 he has been living in Moscow, actively involved in the advertising business.

Arsen Revazov is director, president and co-owner of a number of international agencies, including ARS Communications, RaiFort, PR-Technologies, IMHO VI. **SOLITUDE-12** is his first novel. Arsen is now working on a prequel/sequel to his successful debut, provisionally entitled **TWO SKIES AS ONE**.

SOLITUDE-12 (*Odinchestvo-12*)

- ❖ Novel, 2005
- ❖ 492 pp
- ❖ Ad Marginem, Moscow
- ❖ Foreign rights: Goumen&Smirnova
- ❖ Genre: thriller



Three print runs in three months from publication

Film option sold

Special promotional edition with a music tie-in on CD

Sample English translation is available

Rights sold to:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ Germany: Bertelsmann | ❖ Czech Republic: Bonguard |
| ❖ Italy: Piemme | ❖ Hungary: Gabo |
| ❖ Portugal: Bertrand Editora | ❖ Bulgaria: NSM Media |
| ❖ Poland: Literackie | ❖ Israel: Keter Books |

With the publication of his debut novel, Arsen Revazov has a hit. Revazov's spicy "fusion novel," a Dan Brown bullet-paced thriller and an Umberto Eco medieval mystery play rolled into one, with a delicious touch of A WILD SHEEP CHASE and an intricately concocted plot reminiscent of Arthur Perez-Reverte, has soared up the national bestseller charts and been enthusiastically received by critics and readers alike.

Three old friends meet by the beheaded body of their fourth mate, the talented chemist Ilya. The primary lead of the police points to the victim's professional activity at a major pharmaceutical company. Iosif, the narrator of the gripping story and the owner of a small PR agency, has been approached with an offer of a hefty sum for the placement of several words and a nine-digit number in the mass media. The friends know the gruesome murder and the mysterious order are linked somehow, and they set up their own investigation. Numerous exotic trips bring the heroes in contact with a beautiful Mossad agent and a Coptic priest in Jerusalem, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in the Vatican, and a Buddhist monk in Japan. On his return to Moscow, Iosif finds himself in prison, charged with premeditated murder, then in an Orthodox monastery in Russia's far north. His friend Matthew is incarcerated in a private mental hospital, whereas the top-ranked programmer Anton flees to Microsoft headquarters. The source of the misfortunes lies with an ominous millennia-old sect that worships the female pharaoh Hatshepsut and is bent on world domination. Yet the friends are set to stake their lives in order to prevent the catastrophe.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE BIG BOOK & RUSSIAN BOOKER PRIZE 2007

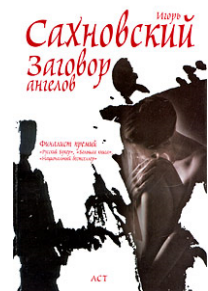


IGOR SAKHNOVSKI was born in 1958 in Orsk. He studied Russian language and literature at the State University of the Urals, then worked as a literary consultant and editor for a number of publishers and Magazines. He is co-founder of the weekly newspaper Book Club. His collection of short stories **won the 2003 Russian Decameron prize**. His book **THE HAPPY AND THE MAD**, incorporating the novel *The Inner Needs of the Dead* and short stories, **was short-listed for the National Bestseller Prize in 2005**, and although it was not awarded the first prize, it was the absolute winner according to readers' polls. His novel **THE INNER NEEDS OF THE DEAD** has been translated into German and French. Sakhnovski is also the author of two books of poems.

THE CONSPIRACY OF ANGELS

(Zagovor angelov)

- ❖ 2009
- ❖ 380 pp
- ❖ Publisher: Astrel, AST, Moscow



An unusual family chronicle about love, time, and auspicious coincidences, from the author of the prize-winning *THE MAN WHO KNEW EVERYTHING*

Irkutsk, Egypt, Moscow, Hampshire. 16th century Spain and Flanders, the invasion of the Ukraine during World War II, evacuation, the Holocaust, a small, Soviet-era industrial town in the Urals. This unusual family chronicle is an intricate cross-roads of far-flung love stories.

The narrator's grandfather, Roman, is so profoundly in love with his wife that he goes through the war without even noticing it. His wife, "Mama Berta", misses the train on which she and her daughters are being evacuated, and three days later, against all possible odds and the laws of physics, catches up with it.

The narrator's father is crazy about a woman who cannot belong to anyone—for which reason he leaves her and his children; yet hers is the name he utters again at the very end of his life, when he is dying of cancer.

The narrator's friend Arseniy confides a strange secret to him: there is a portrait of a woman kept in his family, and this woman appears to every man of this family before his death. The woman, as we eventually learn, is Maria del Rosario, who either killed herself or disappeared more than two centuries before. And is it just by chance that Maria del Rosario bears a great resemblance to a girl called Dina, an orphan, whose fragile, child-like beauty produces an indelible impression on men? Surprisingly, in the photos of Dina one never sees her face: in its place is a white blur.

The gothic apocrypha about Maria del Rosario transmute into the story of Mad Juana, medieval queen of Castilla and Aragon, who was forced to marry a womanizer, nevertheless fell madly in love with him, and dragged his dead body around the desert for four years after he died. The court intrigues against Juana are succeeded by scenes of a wretched existence in a small industrial town in the Urals, where the narrator lived as a child, and his memories of his father's death; which then segue into his joyful and sensual trip around England with a beautiful red-haired woman.

All these odd yet delicate fragments form a perfect mosaic of a novel, the intricate pattern of which seems to be inevitable—indeed, the only one possible. Igor Sakhnovski, acknowledged master of psychological prose, tells a story that is both totally fantastic and profoundly true, both intimate and multidimensional. *The Conspiracy of Angels* is a novel that insists that, in this world full of lies and violence, there are still "too many lucky coincidences". This is a novel about the physiology of miracle, about love, about the non-existence of time.

THE MAN WHO KNEW EVERYTHING (*Chelovek, kotoryi znal vsio*)

- ❖ Novel, 2007
- ❖ 272 pp
- ❖ Publishers: Vagrius, Moscow

Prizes & Awards:

- ❖ Shortlisted for the Big Book Award 2007
- ❖ Short-listed for the Russian Booker Prize 2007

Rights sold to:

- ❖ Italy: Il Saggiatore
 - ❖ Gallimard (France)
 - ❖ Serbia (Laguna)
 - ❖ Bulgaria (Riva Publishers)
-
- ❖ Film rights for THE MAN WHO KNEW EVERYTHING have been sold prior to the publication
-



An unexpected solution to the trite dilemma of a common man up against to the big world—from Igor Sakhnovsky, prize-winning author of The Happy and the Mad. Written in the tradition of A Hero of Our Time and set in a puzzling modern world, this brilliant new novel is destined to become a Russian classic.

Alexander Bezukladnikov is trapped in total misery: he can hardly make ends meet; his beloved wife, sick and tired of poverty, dumps him for a prosperous ex- sportsman; and there is no chance for Bezukladnikov to get a better job because he is unable to keep up with the fast-changing social reality. There is nothing left to do but reach for an exposed electrical wire, hoping for a quick death.

Instead, he gets a new life. After being discharged from a hospital, his scorched palms still in bandages, Bezukladnikov soon realises that he possesses a unique gift: he knows everything. The only thing he has to do to get an answer to any question, be it “how many eggs are there in the fridge?” or “where can I get half a million dollars?”, is to *ask* himself a question. Bezukladnikov can now see anything that is happening, has happened or is yet to happen to anyone. He is supposed to be almighty—but instead, torpid and inoffensive, he becomes the prey of thugs, politicians, women, and international intelligence. Everybody pursues their own interests. Some want to use Bezukladnikov, others to kill him. But Bezukladnikov doesn't play either their game or his own. Although comparisons with Superman are there for the taking, Bezukladnikov remains a Russian Forrest Gump, unintentionally betraying the hopes of the crowd. Paradoxically, all he uses his gift for is to protect himself from those who are after him.

Employing the plot of a blockbuster action thriller, the author masterfully creates a classic psychological story of an ordinary, touching, yet by no means pathetic person, who tries to assert his right to a private life.

“Sakhnovski has an innate keen eye, absolute pitch and tact, and – especially so – a deep feeling of truth.” - Literaturnaya Gazeta

“This “euronovel” in a strange way reminds at once of Kurkov, Benacquista and Auster. . . The wording, secret thoughts, literary allusions, ironic implications have been worked out exceptionally well.” - Afisha



ANTON CHIZH was born in the suburbs of Lyon, France, where his father lectured on criminalistics at the

University of Lyon. In Russia, Anton studied literature and cinematography. His mixture of Russian origins and French upbringing has influenced his writing.

CAMOUFLET: The Case of the Stolen Trunk
(**Kamuflet. Delo o pohishennom sunduke**)

- ❖ Novel, historical mystery, detective
- ❖ 2009
- ❖ 400 pp
- ❖ Publishers: Populiarnaia Literatura, Moscow



The deepest secrets of Russian state power. Investigating a series of gruesome murders, Vanzarov, a criminal investigator, is plunged into the middle of top-level political intrigues and government conspiracy. This time, Vanzarov refuses to be a mere puppet in the big game, and is determined to play the leading role. Yet is he prepared to pay the price the role demands?

The sweltering August of 1906 in Russia's capital threatens to burst into storm. The decree that convenes the State Duma becomes a new headache for Vanzarov. Moreover, on the morning of August the 6th he receives an anonymous letter that alleges the infidelity of Vanzarov's own wife.

Both political and family worries are brushed aside in the wake of some terrifying news from the Vyborgsky district police department. The cabman delivers to the police station a suspicious trunk left behind by one of his passengers. Much to the shock of both cabman and police, the torso of a dead man is found inside. The method of dismemberment is particularly bizarre: the extremities have been blown up, as if in an explosion. Vanzarov finds a hiding place in the trunk that conceals a list of encrypted names of members of a secret society called *Primus sanguinis* ("first blood").

Soon, the theft of the antique trunk is reported by its owner, Prince Pavel Odolensky. He is the only heir of an old family with extensive connections at the Court. He enjoys the tsar's special trust. That evening, Vanzarov is summoned to the Court by the chief of the Tsar's Guard. Vanzarov receives orders to privately investigate a special case: someone has started to blackmail the Tsar himself, threatening to make public a state secret, the consequences of which cannot be overestimated. The blackmailer demands a sum that equals the country's entire budget, to be paid in four days time. One of the few who is privy to the information is Prince Odolensky.

Yet Vanzarov does not have a chance to question the prince. Odolensky is found dead in the morning in his bed, with his throat . . . blown up.

In the three remaining days, Vanzarov has to find other members of the secret society, and not only to save the state from the threat of the political scandal—the initials of one of the society's members point to Vanzarov's wife. The concierge of their building confesses that on the morning of August 6th Mrs Vanzarov arrived home in a cab with a large antique trunk . . .

BLOODY SUNDAY: Vanzarov's First Case.
(Bozhestvennyi iad. Pervyi roman o Vanzarove).

- ❖ Novel, historical mystery, detective
- ❖ 2009
- ❖ 398 pp
- ❖ Publishers: Populiarnaia Literatura, Moscow

A perfect blend of Boris Akunin's authenticity in the treatment of historical details, intriguing mystery reminiscent of Perez-Reverte, and Chekhov's characters, this is a powerful new voice in the world of retro-detective fiction.



December of the year 1904, the eve of Bloody Sunday – a tragic event that sparked revolutionary activities in Russia, when unarmed, peaceful demonstrators marching to present a petition to the tsar were gunned down by the Imperial Guard. A young girl is found dead in a St. Petersburg courtyard with no sign of violent death, as if a conjurer had simply told her: «Die».

Rodion Vanzarov, a sleuth from the criminal investigation department, sets out to probe the mysterious case and soon touches down in a wide-ranging conspiracy involving an ancient drink that fills people with euphoria first and then leaves them emaciated; a strange photo of a university professor and three women forming a pentagram with their fingers; and the unusual degree of interest on the part of the political investigation department for what seems to be a criminal case.

Assembling a colourful cast of suspects – beautiful women with their faces always veiled, a crazy professor, a British diplomat *cum* ex-boxer, an officer of the political investigation section, a deaf-and-dumb cook – and attributing to every character more than one role, the author holds the reader in his grip until the very last page.

The highly-likable Vanzarov, whose priority is truth over political orientation or loyalty to the empire, demonstrates Poirot's brilliance and indulges in showy displays of Holmesian observations. A rich trove of atmospheric historical details gives depth to the sinuous plot, while its elegant style and classy *retro*-feel makes *BLOODY SUNDAY* a luxury literary journey in time, revealing an unexpected dimension of the onset of the Russian revolution.

Praise for the novel:

«Impeccable style, lively characters, vivid images of St. Petersburg». Piterbook

«The author with the potential of a young Akunin». Vzgliad

«A brilliant mystery. Chizh is the first author to beat Akunin at twisting the plot». Afisha

«The author shows tricks from the Holmesian repertoire, while some characters evoke Chekhov's writing». TimeOut

DMITRY KOSYREV



DMITRY KOSYREV is the first Russian writer to adopt a Chinese pen-name. In Russia, the author is known under the name of Master Chen, first used in the Hong Kong

media in the 90s. Born in 1955, Dmitry Kosyrev studied Chinese history at Moscow State University and the Nanyang University of Singapore. Since late 1970s Dmitry Kosyrev has been actively

involved in the International Politics section of the national media, writing for the leading newspapers (Pravda, Rossiiskaia Gazeta, Nezavisimaia Gazeta) and news agencies. He is a Member of the Board of the Foreign Policy Association. With his features and columns on wine, food, cigars and travel, Dmitry is a regular contributor to special editions. An expert on China and the Orient, he has lived in various parts of Asia, including the places described in the novels. He is happily married with two daughters and lives in Moscow.

PET MONKEY OF THE HOUSE OF TANG

(Liubimaia martyshka doma Tan)

- ❖ Novel, 560 pp
- ❖ October 2006, 2007 – new edition
- ❖ Publishers: Olga Morozova Publishers, Moscow
- ❖ Foreign rights: Goumen&Smirnova
- ❖ Genre: historical spy novel

Rights sold to:

- ❖ Spain: Tekel
 - ❖ Bulgaria: NSM-Media
-



This book sets a unique precedent – as an example of how an expert's ambition to write a historical espionage thriller can meet with resounding success.

Set during one of the most turbulent moments of Chinese history, 755–756 AD, the novel tells a taut and compelling story of the sudden and still unexplained rebellion of a prominent regional commander of the Tang empire. The uprising toppled the emperor and caused the death of the most famous woman in all of Chinese history, Yang Guifei. These events had a drastic impact on the history of Chinese civilization, as the empire was cut off from the Central Asian overland trade route known as the Great Silk Road.

Writing with convincing authority and imagination, Master Chen expertly reproduces authentic locales of medieval China with a restrained profusion of engaging facts and living details of the time. The author's greatest accomplishment is the introduction of a new super-spy hero to vie with the long-beloved, ancient predecessors of the Bond kin. A Sogdian (the contemporary term for Uzbek) by origin, Nanidat Manyakh seems *larger than life*. He is an expert in business, war, medicine, and diplomacy, a lover of poetry and women; he is here to twist the politics of the empire for the needs of a shadowy organization that hides behind an all-powerful and cash-laden silk-trading house. The Emperor's concubine Lady Yang, an infamous beauty and an authority on the art of love, falls for Manyakh, and the master spy's involvement threatens someone dear to him. The realization comes too late – Manyakh loses control over the plot which seemed to have been so carefully designed. An avalanche of revolt and blood-shed ravages the empire, sweeping away the hero's own life with it.

A fiction-writing debut, this is a literary accomplishment that commands attention. Characteristic genre components – explosive action, fierce confrontations, ingenious sex scenes – combine in the novel with a daring treatment of well-documented historical facts and famous personalities, evocative fragments of Du Fu's poetry, and Shaolin philosophy, to result in a powerful and engaging must-read for espionage professionals, experts on China, and general readership alike.

“THE HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF ONE PERSON” - RUSSIA TV CHANNEL



LILIANNA LUNGINA, a renowned translator, was the first to introduce the Russian reader to such authors as Knut Hamsun, August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, and, most famously, Astrid Lindgren. She was a Russian Jew who spent

her childhood in Germany, France and Palestine, before moving to the U.S.S.R. in 1933 at the age of 13.

Lungina experienced some of the most dramatic events of the 20th century, from Stalin’s purges and World War II, to the Khrushchev thaw. It is no exaggeration to say that her life was a profound expression of the century itself.

TRANSCRIPT

The life of Lilianna Lungina as told by herself in Oleg Dorman’s documentary

- ❖ Memoir, 2010
- ❖ 383 pp
- ❖ Publisher: Corpus/Astrel, Moscow

Awards:

- ❖ The Book of the Year 2009 (Non-fiction Category)

Foreign rights

- ❖ Poland WAB



45,000 copies sold to date, the book is currently in the 8th printing with another 10,000 copies

This deep, profound and insightful memoir took Russian readers by a storm - soaring to the top of the national bestseller lists and receiving a unanimously warm welcome from the cultural elite and ordinary readers alike. This unprecedented publishing success inspired numerous references to the memoir as “the most significant cultural event of the year”.

Lilianna Lungina, a renowned translator, was the first to introduce the Russian reader to such authors as Knut Hamsun, August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, and, most famously, Astrid Lindgren. She was a Russian Jew who spent her childhood in Germany, France and Palestine, before moving to the U.S.S.R. in 1933 at the age of 13. Lungina experienced some of the most dramatic events of the 20th century, from Stalin’s purges and World War II, to the Khrushchev thaw. It is no exaggeration to say that her life was a profound expression of the century itself.

She agreed to tell the story of her life in TRANSCRIPT, an eight-hour documentary by Oleg Dorman. Filmed in 1998 right before Lungina’s death, it was initially turned down by all the major networks. When it was finally shown on national TV in 2009, the response from viewers was so overwhelming that the book was published shortly thereafter.

Lilianna Lungina’s depth and charm as a person inspire the reader to follow her life - every moment of which was full of meaning - with bated breath. She had the rare ability to show the events of her personal life through the prism of what was happening in the country. The memoir is full of sad and tender stories about her family, her friends (who were mostly, of course, members of the intellectual elite: scientists, writers, filmmakers), and the country itself. These are stories about a time in which not only parents and children were killed, but also the human soul itself.

But what captivated viewers of the documentary and readers of the book alike was no doubt the author’s charming, gentle self-irony, her honesty and straightforwardness, and the intonations of her own inimitable voice. Despite all her hardships, Lungina’s message to the younger generation in TRANSCRIPT is that “events in my life that at first seemed an unprecedented disaster, in the long run often led to remarkable happiness”.

VLADIMIR ARKHIPOV was born in Ryazan in 1961. He has a higher technical and medical education. Worked as a doctor in Moscow, but since 1990 fully committed himself to art and his project of «folk forms». Objects from his wide collection exceeding now a thousand items have been exhibited both in Russia and abroad.

His personal exhibitions include: «Folk Sculpture. Kunstverein» (Rosenheim, Germany, 2004), «Berlin/Moskau/Moskau-Berlin

1950–2000» (Moscow, Russia, 2004), «Russische Kunst Heute» (Baden-Baden, Germany, 2004), «Horizons of Reality» (Antwerp, Belgium, 2003), «Post-Folk Archive» (Llandudno, Wales, 2003 and Birmingham, Great Britain, 2001) and many others.

Vladimir Arkhipov lives in Moscow.

He travels a lot in search for new objects for his unique collection.

HOME-MADE

- ❖ 220 colour illustrations, creators' stories, from the collection of Vladimir Arkhipov
- ❖ Publishers: Fuel Publishing, 304 pp, 2006
- ❖ Language: English (original Russian)

Foreign rights:

- ❖ UK: Fuel
- ❖ Italy: ISBN

Neither serious research nor a definitive encyclopedia, this is a highly amusing and unputdownable guide into the Russian side of an international phenomenon of home-made production of necessary everyday items – of a large, spontaneous and mainly unknown nature.

The book features 220 colourful photographic images of «folk forms» from the vast collection of Vladimir Arkhipov which far exceeds 1,000 items, all made by different people. These are objects which would never concord with society's imposed norms, nor the aesthetics of commodity.

Adapted to meet basic requirements of functionality and convenience, these items are all united by the warm and human touch of their maker, be it a doormat from beer bottle tops, a drinking fountain for birds from a casing, a spade made from a crutch and the scoop of a shovel or a pocket torch made from a plastic tube. The special appeal to both author and reader is each inventor's unique written testimony.

Reviews:

«... this is the richest and most wonderful archive of improvisation». Financial Times

«HOME-MADE gathers objects from over 50 years that represent individuality triumphing over the mainstream, disposable culture rampant today». Frieze

«This small book, [...], achieves something matched by few conventional histories – a vivid and moving picture of real life behind the Iron Curtain». The Telegraph

«[This is an] elegant little book... Together [the items] evoke a world in swift transition, in which these modest inventions loom large for a while – universal ephemera, destined to be soon lost or thrown away as circumstances changed, but preserved in this collection for their evocative power». Guardian



GRAND MASTER OF MODERN PROSE , Moscow News



MIKHAIL WELLER (1948) is the most paradoxical figure on the contemporary Russian literary scene. Somehow, Weller has succeeded in what hardly seems possible - he has crossed the divide between commercial and intellectual prose. Critics have touted him **as a representative of "intellectual fiction" and "Grand Master of contemporary prose."** Many consider him the literary heir of

Sergey Dovlatov. At the same time, his books enjoy **hundreds of editions, with a total print run of nearly 6 million copies.**

The signature characteristics of Weller's prose are its paradoxical, Gogolesque narrative, its laconic, surgical precision and finely-honed technique. In his prose, an unpretentious story soars to symbolic heights in the space of a moment, while a welter of phantasmagorical detail turns into a kitchen-drama by the bottom of the page. Dipping his pen into gall, Weller as a storyteller is bold; his straightforwardness nearly borders on insult. His writing is both amusing and profoundly philosophical.

About the author:

Mikhail Weller was born in Siberia in 1948. In 1972 he graduated with a degree in linguistics from Leningrad University. He has worked as a children's summer camp counselor, a hunter in Taymyr, a shepherd in the Altai Mountains, a lumberjack, a museum worker, a journalist, a teacher – all told, a total of approximately 30 professions.

Weller's first book, a selection of short stories titled **I Want To Be A Yard-Sweeper**, was published in Estonia in 1983. After the relaxation of censorship laws since Glasnost, he has published: **Heart Breaker** (1988); **Technology of a Short Story** (1989); **Rendezvous with a Celebrity** (1990); **Adventures of Major Zvyagin** (1991); and **Legends of Nevsky Prospect** (1993), which critics called "the funniest book of the last seven years." All these books became bestsellers. His book **Everything about Life** claims to be nothing less than a new system of philosophy, developed in accessible, down-to-earth language. His mini-novel **The Knife of Seryozha Dovlatov** caused a literary scandal. The latest bestseller, **Courier from Pisa** (2000), had had eleven editions. His book **The Tower of Babylon** was nominated for the National Bestseller prize 2005.

Praise for the author:

«Some Weller fellow from Tallinn has stormed over here». Sergey Dovlatov

«These stories are written by a storyteller of genius». Vremya

«Here is a Grand Master of modern prose playing with you, the subtlest intellectual of all – Mikhail Weller». Moscow News

«He is called the heir of both Zoschenko and Dovlatov. He is, indeed, Grand Master of the short story. His stories are entrancingly hilarious». Kommersant

«Mikhail Weller is the most convincing author of his generation. He is, perhaps, the first individualist in the Russian literature». Knizhnoe Obozrenie

«Weller challenges literary fashion by his seemingly simple style and his personal ideology». Obschaya Gazeta

«The best short prose written in Russian today». Expert

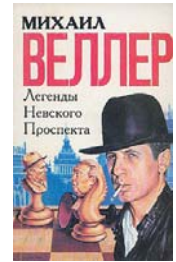
«Weller manages with ease to cross the gap between literary and mass fiction. His writing is serious, yet keeps you asking for more». Rossijskaya Gazeta

LEGENDS OF NEVSKY PROSPECT

(Legendy Nevskogo prospekta)

Short stories, 1993

Foreign rights: Goumen&Smirnova



Rights sold to:

- ❖ France
- ❖ Lithuania

Bestseller; over 1 million copies sold!

Short stories recreating Soviet myths that have become our history

LEGENDS OF NEVSKY PROSPECT was first published in 1993 and immediately named “the funniest book of recent years.” It is a collection of 28 short stories, each representing an urban legend, in which more-than-lifelike characters find themselves in more-than-unbelievable situations. Creating, or rather re-creating, contemporary Soviet myths, the author also ridicules a certain type of character we often come across in works by Gogol, Chekhov and Zoschenko – the miserable, defeated, world-weary man. The effect is always complex – these stories make readers laugh and sympathize with the characters, and cope with universal problems that are particularly difficult to face. The language in these stories is colloquial and colourful, and the biting satire introduces the reader to the awkwardness of Soviet reality, always vulnerable to satire.

A Jewish intellectual becomes the Al Capone of St Petersburg. An Englishman, rather than bringing his Russian wife to England (which was what she, after all, had wanted), changes his citizenship, unable to resist the charm of the Soviet Union. A modest factory worker goes to a picnic organized by the factory’s “cultural department” and gets lost in the forest, only to find himself in Finland – and outside the Iron Curtain. A promising boxer who does not speak French is sent to the Sorbonne for academic purposes only because he is “politically reliable.” Moreover, the author of the famous *Sabre Dance*, composer Aram Khachaturian, is ridiculed by Salvador Dali.

This collection of Weller’s *LEGENDS* combines international flair and local color in such a way that ensures credibility and manages to characterize an epoch. This is the epoch that evokes nostalgia in one generation and curiosity, if not shock, in another. But both generations have laughed over these stories, retelling them as *bona fide* folklore.

Praise for the book:

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