

RIGHTS CATALOGUE FALL 2011

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

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LITERARY FICTION

MIKHAIL SHISHKIN

Letter Book
Maiden's Hair

VLADIMIR MAKANIN

Asan
Underground, or the Hero of Our Time

MARINA STEPNOVA

The Women of Lazarus

MARIAM PETROSYAN

The House That . . .

LENA ELTANG

The Other Drums
The Stone Maples

VLADIMIR LORCHENKOV

Milk & Honey

SERGEI SAMSONOV

Oxygen Limit

IGOR SAKHNOVSKI

The Conspiracy of Angels
The Man Who Knew Everything

SERGEI KUZNETSOV

The Circle Dance of Water

MIKHAIL ELIZAROV

The Librarian

LUDMILLA PETRUSHEVSKAYA

Magical Stories and Fairy Tales
The Little Girl from the Metropol

SPECIAL PROJECTS

SVETLANA DOROSHEVA

The Nenuphar Book, or A Book Found in a Water Lily

QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION

YANA VAGNER

Vongozero

ANNA STAROBINETS

The Living
The First Squad. The Moment of Truth

ANDREY RUBANOV

Gods of Gods
The Psycho Agent
Chlorophilia
Earth of Life
All That Glitters

SERGEI KOSTIN

Paris Weekend
Sleepless in Afghanistan
Ram-Ram

ARSEN REVAZOV

Solitude-12

ANTON CHIZH

Camouphlet
Bloody Sunday

DMITRY KOSYREV/MASTER CHEN

Pet Monkey of the House of Tang

MAX FREI

Mazes of Echo

DARYA DONTSOVA

Darya Dontsova Detective Series

TATIANA USTINOVA

Tatiana Ustinova Crime Titles

NON-FICTION

ANNA ARUTUNYAN

The Putin Mystique

LILIANNA LUNGINA

Transcript

PAVEL BASINSKY

Leo Tolstoy - Flight from Paradise
Maxim Gorky

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 12 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 p, AST, Moscow
- ❖ Fall 2010
- ❖ **12 000 copies sold since September 2010**

Foreign Rights:

- ❖ World English Quercus UK
- ❖ Germany DVA
- ❖ Spain Lumen / Random House Mondadori
- ❖ France Noir sur blanc
- ❖ Italy Volland
- ❖ Finland WSOY
- ❖ Norway Oktober
- ❖ Sweden Ersatz

- ❖ Serbia Paideia
- ❖ Czech Republic Vitrné mlýny
- ❖ Lithuania Vaga
- ❖ Latvia Jumava
- ❖ Bulgaria Fakel
- ❖ Estonia: Varrak
- ❖ Greece: under offer

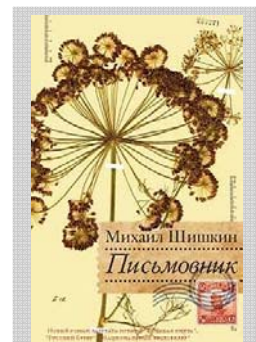
Option publishers:

- ❖ Denmark: Batzer & Co, 2010
- ❖ France: Fayard, Paris, 2007
- ❖ Serbia: Paideia, Beograd, 2006
- ❖ Bulgaria: Fakel, Sofia, 2007
- ❖ China: People's Literature, Peking, 2006

This new novel by Mihaial Shishkin is deceptingly 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 emmerge into the wrighting 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 fist 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 get married, carries and loses a child – and keeps writing to him as if these letters exist in a parralel 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 the 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 instument 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

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: Fabel, 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:

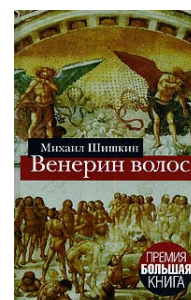
- ❖ Halpérine-Kaminski Prize for the Best Translation 2007 (Laure Troubeckoy)

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



French & Italian translations available

"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 whole 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.



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 UBEGAIUCSHII (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

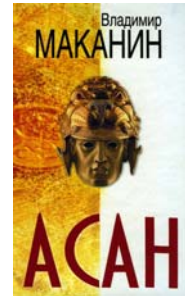
Novel, 339 pages

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 - Acanilado (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.

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

Novel, 608 pages

Publishers: Geleos, Moscow

1998, Geleos, 2010, Exmo

Foreign rights

- ❖ 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



Makanin's first novel evokes both Lermontov's famous hero Pechorin and Dostoevsky's Notes From the Underground, Makanin's Underground firmly roots itself in the Russian literary tradition.

The novel's central character is the writer Petrovich. A hero of the literary underground in the sixties and seventies, he has now turned into an anti-hero who no longer writes. Instead, he stays 'underground', flat-sitting for absent tenants in one of Moscow's huge apartment blocks. During the day, he haunts its corridors; at night, he acts as lover, confidant, and drinking companion to its various inhabitants.

In his struggle to assert his own self, which is under threat both from new and old dangers, Petrovich turns criminal: in an act of self-defense he stabs a Caucasian who tries to rob him, and later, in an act of revenge, he kills Chubik, an informer. Petrovich has escaped the most serious consequences of Soviet repression, but his brother Venya has not been so lucky. Twenty years ago the KGB confined Venya to a psychiatric hospital, where, all attempts to repress his creative, and hence subversive, talents, have left him psychologically debilitated. Tormented by his crimes, Petrovich eventually finds himself in the very institution where his brother Venya has languished for the last two decades.



MARINA STEPNOVA was born in 1971 in the small town of Efremov, in the Tula region. Marina was raised in Moscow, where she now lives. She graduated from The

Gorky Literary Institute and did postgraduate studies at the Institute of World Literature. Stepnova's translation from Romanian of the play "Nameless Star" by Mihail Sebastian has been staged by numerous theaters throughout Russia. Marina

Stepnova is the author of short stories and the novel *The Surgeon*, which won her the nomination for the **National Bestseller Prize** and broad critical acclaim.

Marina Stepnova works as an editor-in-chief of the men's magazine *XXL*. She lives with her family in Moscow and is at work on her next novel.

Selected Bibliography

2011 - *The Women of Lazarus*, novel

2005 - *The Surgeon*, novel

THE WOMEN OF LAZARUS

Novel, family drama

September 2011, 444 pp

Publisher: AST, Astrel, Moscow

Chosen as Book of the Month by Moskva Book Store

English sample available

After the success of her debut novel *The Surgeon* (2005), which gained her the nomination for the National Bestseller Prize and enthusiastic critical acclaim, Marina Stepnova returns with a mesmerizing story of love, loss and human genius.



Marusia and Sergei Chaldonov are indeed blessed in their marriage. He – a respectable scientist with a bright academic career ahead, despite the revolutionary turmoil in Russia at dawn of the 20th century; she – a beautiful, kind, and intelligent wife. Their complete happiness is marred by one thing only: the couple is childless. After the first years of disappointment and doubt, Marusia makes a deal with God, the terms of which she never reveals to her husband. And in 1918, when Marusia is 49 years old, a child is bestowed on the couple. This child is Lazarus Lindt: 18-year-old self-educated maverick, true genius and a peer of the troubled century.

Lazar, too, loves Marusia, and with a passion that is different from filial love. The offspring of a poor Jewish family of which nothing is known besides their name, the prodigy Lazarus Lindt becomes Sergei Chaldonov's brightest pupil, his follower, and in no time outdoes his champion. An easy winner in all fields of science, Lazar fails to accomplish what he wants most. Marusia will never know about the true nature of Lazarus's feelings – not when he, already an acclaimed physicist and head of a promising line in nuclear physics, follows the Chaldonovs to Ansk during the evacuation and stays in the provincial town when Marusia decides against returning to Moscow after the war; not when the jowir and bon vivant refuses to introduce Marusia to any of his numerous lovers; not even when Lazarus takes his chances and articulates his feelings at Sergei Chaldonov's anniversary. Marusia's open-hearted and easy response – "I love you too" – leaves no hope for Lazarus.

Lindt gets love-struck for the second time in his life years after Marusia's quiet and peaceful death. Galina – all peaches and cream, an exceptionally beautiful 18-year-old assistant at a Department of Chemistry in the Ansk Engineering Institute of Water Supply – plans her happy and simple family life with a postgraduate student, when her future knocks on the door of the Department in the guise of the Institute's guest lecturer, living classic of the physical sciences and father of the Soviet atomic bomb, Lazarus Lindt. Galina responds to Lazarus' passion with virulent hatred unto death, with the stubbornness of a simple and shallow nature. She will never love anyone else, not even her son, who commits suicide after a fatal accident befalls his wife, leaving their 5-year-old daughter Lida an orphan. The lovely tomboy Lida soon learns to endure pain, living through the spiteful indifference of her grandmother Galina, the physical strains of ballet school, and the despair of unrequited first love. Lida is yet to discover that sometimes you have to go to the farthest ends of the earth and even to die to find your love – and your home.

Marina Stepnova has depicted the country's 20th century on a broad canvas, permeating it with rhyming fates, echoes of feelings, and the tiniest movements of the human soul. The author's unprecedented literary command enables the reader to marvel and wonder at new meanings underlying the most basic notions of family, home, happiness, and love.



MARIAM PETROSYAN (1969, Armenia), studied graphic design and for twenty years has worked on animated films. As she explains, years ago she began writing this book, the drawings came first, and then the characters began to come to life on the pages. She states that she never intended to publish the work, but that she wrote it for

herself. Friends of hers brought the manuscript to the publisher and then she made herself bring the work to completion. Now with the book in publication she acknowledges a feeling of emptiness inside herself, and writing the sequel.

Bibliography:

2009 The House That... .

THE HOUSE THAT...

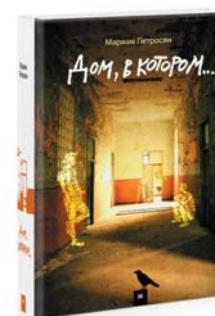
- ❖ Novel
- ❖ Volume: 1,5 mln characters
- ❖ Publishers: Gayatry, Livebook
- ❖ 2009

Awards

- ❖ 2010 Russian Literary Award for the best novel
- ❖ 2010 National Bestseller Literary Award nominee
- ❖ 2010 Russian Booker shortlist
- ❖ 2009 Big Book Russian National Literary Prize readers' open voting bronze-winner
- ❖ 2011 Roscon Fantasy Award – bronze-winner
- ❖ 2010 Pilgrim Fantasy Award –most unusual concept
- ❖ 2009 Star Bridge Fantasy Award – Silver Caduceus

Foreign rights

- ❖ Norway - PAX
- ❖ Italy – SALANI
- ❖ Hungary – MAGVETO
- ❖ Poland - ALBATROS



The House That... is an extraordinary book, unexpected, fresh, of those which are impossible to put down. It is interesting that it has been published just now, when world literary trends are showing interest towards the enigmas of adolescence and the use of means far from pure realism to closely consider them. It is a current book but nothing transitory.

“The House” is the name given by the children and adolescents to the center for disabled minors they are residing, or rather interned in. The universe of The House has little, if anything, to do with that of outside; there within they've created laws, myths and their own rules, until nature itself has been become unique, independent. The resident pupils of The House haven't names, only nicknames, and are divided into groups, or better said, into packs or gangs, whose leaders fight to the death for supremacy. Their deficiencies are no more than a condition, almost a symbol, which establish their belonging to this other reality of their own design. Through the stories of various characters, the chapters separated in time, a panorama of the world of these youths has been created; limitless, fantastic, cruel, tender, completely isolated and cut-off from communication with the “real” world of the adults. Focal points of Petrosyan’s novel are friendship, adapting to the group, power, confrontation between the concepts of the individual freedom of the youths and the rules imposed by the educators, psychological growth, self-definition, choosing between “right” and “wrong”, love/sex/sexuality/sensuality..

The House That..., with no place for doubts, is a literary event which exceeds the borders of national literature. The work stands out with its harmony and fullness; all of the elements – language, rhythm, character development – are in perfect synchronization. The narration flows, envelopes, hypnotizes. The impact is profoundly emotional. Perhaps forth is reason, difficulties arise at the hour to “explain” the work, the literary critics have had to turn to examples and have created a long list of “predecessors”: Salinger, Golding (Lord of the Flies), Faulkner (Light in August), Ken Kesey, Lewis Carroll, Ruben Gallego, Haruki Murakami, Philip K. Dick, John Steinbeck, etc. Rational, verbal resources come up short.

The House That is a remarkable work. It's a door leading to that new literature we all have been waiting for. – Dmitry Bykov, writer and literary critic.

The book is a brilliant and fanciful parable telling about other kids. – Yevgenia Ritz, literary critic

“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 OTHER DRUMS

Novel

Publisher: Eksmo

September 2011

In *The Other Drums*, Lena Eltang’s brilliant third novel, the national prize-winning author completes the theme of escape and freedom in a work that has prompted comparisons to such classics as *De Profundis* and *Invitation to a Beheading*.

The novel begins with the arrest of 34-year old Kostas Kairis, a Lithuanian citizen, in his house in Lisbon, Portugal. Kostas is not the original owner of the house; his step-aunt Zoe inherited the ancient mansion after the suicide of her husband, scion of a noble Portuguese family. Zoe included Kostas in her will at the last moment, just a few days before her early demise from cancer at the age of 44, leaving virtually nothing to her own daughter. The aunt’s will burdens Kostas with mortgage payments to the bank, and bans him from re-selling the property. An idle intellectual, Kostas pays the bills by selling the Braga family furniture and jewelry, and subletting the house to shadowy business operations. First, his childhood friend Ljutas installs cameras into the mansion to shoot porn movies. The built-in surveillance appliances come in handy for blackmailing Kostas’ chance lover, who offers a share of her husband’s settlement deal if they catch him with his pants down on a set-up date with a call girl. Kostas watches in awe as the date unravels and a stranger shoots the prostitute with the Braga family gun. The blackmailers turn the evidence of dead body against Kostas, and when the police come to arrest him several weeks later on murder charges, Kostas feels relieved—he will not hesitate to reveal the identities of the real murderers.

His experience in jail is a rude awakening for Kostas: he is held in solitary confinement as a murderer; the interrogations and meetings with a lawyer are only occasional; and the guards often forget to bring him his meals. Yet he’s been allowed to use his laptop—a real treasure for an undereducated historian turned writer. Kostas begins by writing a letter to his Estonian wife, from whom he separated over fifteen years before. What begins as an explanatory letter grows during nine weeks of imprisonment into powerful confessional prose permeated with guilt, melancholy, and fear of loss. As Kostas Kairis speaks of people he once knew, loved and hated, befriended and betrayed, dreamt of and never came to understand, the reader of Kostas’ “diary” becomes the spectator of a street puppet show at which the director, with a wave of his wand or the sound of the other drums, exchanges roles with the cast. The tension and passion grows with every page, until one day Kostas begins thinking the door to the cell is not real either, throws it open – and walks out.

In her immaculate poetic diction, and with profound encyclopedic knowledge, Lena Eltang concocts a unique mosaic of a novel about guilt and memory that makes us all its voluntary prisoners.



THE STONE MAPLES (*Kamennye kleny*)

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

Awards:

- ❖ New Literature Award (NOS)

Foreign rights:

- ❖ Lithuania (Vaga)



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.

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:

- ❖ Germany (Arche Verlag)
- ❖ Italy (Atmosphäre Libri)
- ❖ Norway (Libretto)
- ❖ Serbia (Solaris)



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 Largavite 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 Largavites on the outskirts of Moldova's capital city. Having failed to reach their destination by a direct route, the Largavites 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.



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 Sukhozilov, 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-know 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.» Vzgl'yad

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



Sergey Kuznetsov was born in Moscow in 1966. In the late '90s he became a leading Russian film and pop-culture critic, and achieved prominence as one of the pioneers of the Internet in Russia. He has actively contributed to magazines such as Harper's Bazaar, Playboy, Vogue and L'Officiel.

In 2001 he became the first Russian

journalist to receive a Knight Fellow scholarship from Stanford University. Kuznetsov is the author of *The Nineties: A Fairy Tale*, a detective trilogy, and *NO*, a futuristic novel (together with Linor Goralik).

His book *BUTTERFLY SKIN* has acquired cult status in Russia and has been translated into German (Heyne) and Italian (Gaffi). His story *Moscow Reincarnations* was included into the *Moscow Noir* anthology (Akashic Books, 2010).

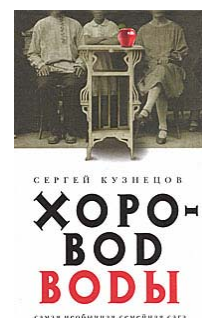
He lives in Moscow with his wife and two children.

THE CIRCLE DANCE OF WATER

(Horovod vody)

- ❖ Novel, 608 pp
- ❖ 2010
- ❖ Publisher: AST, Moscow

From “the most talented young Russian author,” according to Arturo Pérez-Reverte, comes this extraordinary family saga, an engrossing journey into the fate of generations and into the depths of the human soul.



The Circle Dance of Water is an intricately patterned portrait of three generations of a large family. In the narrative there is no division into primary and secondary characters: each individual fate bears significant weight and streams into the common flow of the turbulent history of the 20th century.

There's Nikita Melnikov, 37, who runs a small aquarian design business. As he soaks in his young lover's sweat, Maria, Nikita's wife, is verging on despair, crushed by her fruitless attempts to conceive a child. She sees her barren body as a vessel for other people's dramas, living through the grieves and sorrows of strangers and opening herself up to the tragedies of people she could never meet in the real world. They come to her in dreams, these strangers, and Maria, an unwilling witness, never imagines that the history of her own family could in fact be intertwined with these sad stories.

Alexander Borisov, Nikita's 30-year old stepbrother, is a gifted artist whose once anti-bourgeois escapist actions have now turned into frequent drinking bouts. In his bleak, vodka-infused fears, he is being dragged to the bottom by monsters and drowned men. He suspects that he knows who these ghosts are: they are the victims of the purges, arrested and interrogated in the 1930s by his grandfather Grigory Borisov, a member of the Russian nobility who became an NKVD officer to save his own and his family's lives.

We also follow the life of Nikita's and Alexander's cousin. Anya, 33, is a single mother who works as a salesclerk in a shoe shop. A strong and independent young woman, she takes after her grandmother, who served as a sniper in WWII. Shielding herself from attachments with the motto *Be afraid of no one, rely on no one - and trouble can't touch you*, Anya is caught unprepared when her new lover offers to build a normal life together with her.

Time here is like deep water separating people from different epochs; yet it is also numerous streams that flow from the past into modern days. Actions taken by the characters' parents in the past echo decisions their children make in the present - strange parallels seen *through the looking glass* of the refracted surface of time.

As the finely pitched narrative moves between generations, locales, and times, so shifts the tone of the text. Each character's story is told in part by themselves and as imagined by another member of the family, making for unexpected twists and discoveries. The journey into time and human psychology has also become a field for literary adventure for Sergey Kuznetsov. Written in a clear, elegant style, the novel is filled with literary allusions and is rich with cultural codes. The range of voices is diverse and broad- from Rudyard Kipling through Andrei Platonov and Daniil Kharms, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and the Strugatsky brothers; from canonic *film noir* to Japanese anime. The masterfully directed chorus is an outstanding accomplishment, a pure artistic delight, and the novel represents a genuine exploration of culture of the 20th century.

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:

- ❖ Denmark, Vandkunsten
- ❖ Estonia, Varrak
- ❖ Italy
- ❖ France

Awards:

- ❖ Russian Booker Prize 2008

- ❖ Serbia
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Croatia
- ❖ China



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.

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

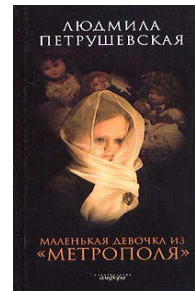
"Petrushevskaya writes with humour, and has an obliqueness of style and unexpectedness of form that give the reader a sense of having found something unusual and unfamiliar." - Sunday Times

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

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

Rights sold to:

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



Nominated for the National Bestseller Prize 2007

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.

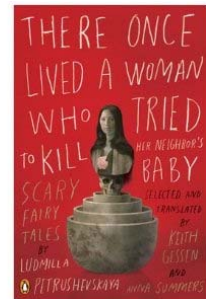
As the story of a small girl in the hungry post-war years unfolds, the fate of the enormous country appears before the reader - a country where the magical is intertwined with the mundane, beautiful and refined neighbor with terrible ones, and despair with hope. A family forest grows out of Petrushevskaya's 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-Classics
- ❖ UK - Penguin Classics
- ❖ Spain - Jacobo Siruela/Atalanta
- ❖ Portugal - Relogio d'Agua
- ❖ Norway - Cappelen Damm
- ❖ Germany - Berlin Verlag
- ❖ Denmark - Forlaget Vandkunsten
- ❖ Japan - Kawade Shobo Shinsha
- ❖ Italy - Einaudi
- ❖ Estonia - Tõpännev



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.

QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION

POST-APOCALYPTIC ROAD STORY



JANA VAGNER was born in Moscow in 1973 into a bilingual family. Her Czech mother came to Moscow in the 60s to study Russian language and literature. Jana graduated from Moscow State University with a major in management and has worked as an interpreter, an anchorperson on radio, and a logistics manager, which allowed her to travel extensively throughout Africa, Europe and Latin America. Jana Vagner lives with her

husband, teenage son, and two dogs in their country house on the outskirts of Moscow. She is currently at work on a sequel to Vongozero. The author's blog is define_violence.livejournal.com.

Selected Bibliography

2011 – Vongozero, novel

2011 – Sunny Mood, short story anthology – selected short stories

2010 – Fox Honor, short story anthology – selected short stories

Vongozero

Novel: drama, road- story, post- apocalyptic novel

June 2011

Exmo, Russia, 448pp

English sample is available

In her debut post-apocalyptic thriller Jana Vagner refers simultaneously to Stephen King's *The Stand*, Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* and the popular TV show *Man vs. the Wild* – and yet the author concocts a strikingly visionary survival story in its own right. Written at the time of the H1N1 flu epidemic and coming out as weekly entries in Vagner's blog, *Vongozero* – a haunting and arresting tale of a young woman who attempts to survive with her family during the throes of a pandemic – had already won thousands of readers before its publication as a book, setting off a heated auction among major Russian publishers.

What begins as a flu epidemic rapidly transmutes into a national catastrophe; but in the first days there's little panic. Anya, the story's narrator, 36-years old, was married three years before the events and now resides with her husband Sergei and her teenage son Misha in their country house outside of Moscow. They remain oblivious to the scope of the danger until the authorities send out troops to close down the major cities for entry, dooming their inhabitants to a swift yet painful death. Panic triggers violence, looting and devastation.

Anya and Sergei have both left family members behind in Moscow, and while Sergei succeeds in rescuing his ex- wife with their 3- year old son, Anya's mother gets infected and dies in the city under siege. Anya's father arrives just prior to the appearance of the first looters in the settlement, a direct warning to the family. They choose to flee to a shabby getaway house at the Vongozero lake near the Finnish border, where Sergei had stayed a few times on hunting trips.

Born out of necessity, the expedition grows into eight adults and three children in four crossovers, loaded with belongings and fuel. Mortal danger draws together this weird and ill- assorted group of fellow travelers, speeding to the north of the rapidly deteriorating country.

Scheduled as a 48-hour journey, the road trip turns into twelve days of nightmare, dreary anticipation of grief, worry, and struggle. As this highway trip escalates into a test of ultimate survival, the fellow travelers have to find the strength and resources not only to fight against the looming external dangers, but to face the deepest corners of themselves. There are no guarantees, no rules, and no truths outside those that help them to survive. The road challenges the limits of human nature, measuring compassion against the thirst for living, the strength of family ties against jealousy and exasperation - and forces each traveler to pay the utmost cost for survival.

The sweeping avalanche of a road story stops short at the destination point: a tiny shelter on the shore of the ice- covered Vongozero lake in the freezing taiga forest. The protagonists now have time to weep for those who failed to reach the final point and to attempt to build out of the ruins and rubble a new routine, a new code, a new life, and possibly new selves.

As horrifying as one's worst nightmares, the novel reads as a very plausible scenario. Jana Vagner demonstrates outstanding writing skills and deep psychological insight as she sets out the simplest and at the same time the most complicated question before her characters and readers: what does it take to remain human in the face of mortal danger?



SOPHISTICATED SCI-FI, FANTASY



ANNA STAROBINETS is 32 years old. She is a journalist and contributor to a number of established publications, such as *Expert* and *Russian Reporter*, writing on cultural issues. She is also a scriptwriter. *The Awkward Age*, her collection of short stories, has been translated into a

number of languages, including **English (Hesperus)**. She is also the author of the novel *Refuge F/A* (2007); *Cold Spell* (2008), a collection of short novels; *The First Squad. The Moment of Truth* (2010), a tie-in; as well as two books for children. All of her novels were nominated for the **National Bestseller Prize**.

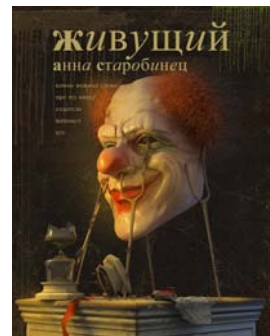
Anna lives in Moscow and is married to Alexander Garros, the well-known author of international bestseller *Headcrusher*.

THE LIVING

- ❖ Zhivushiy
- ❖ Sci-fi
- ❖ April 2011
- ❖ 286 pp
- ❖ Publishers: AST, Moscow

Rights sold

- ❖ UK Hesperus
- ❖ Italy Atmosphere Libri



English sample available

A brave new dystopia from the "Russian horror queen," who this time steps into the territory of George Orwell and Aldous Huxley.

After a global catastrophe called the Great Reduction, the number of people living on Earth has become fixed, remaining a constant 3 billion. This stability is based on the common notion of continual reincarnation. There is no death, as the main social byword suggests – just a brief "pause," or "ninety seconds of darkness." After these ninety seconds a person is conceived again. No wonder all humankind is considered to be one composite organism called *The Living*. Every person has an *in-code* that keeps track of information about all their previous incarnations.

Family and country are now of no importance. Every person can be reborn anywhere on the planet, issuing from their previous incarnations rather than biological parents. Society is global, and attachment to parents and children is denounced as a deviation. All people (or, rather, all the particles of *The Living*) in this society are connected directly from the brain to the social network (called *Socio*), where they can surf on various levels simultaneously. Needless to say, the first level – that of reality itself – is barely used, and usually ignored.

The particles of *The Living* live happily and die happily, according to a government-determined schedule, and it seems that nothing can threaten this stability. Yet . . . there is one man born without an *in-code* (i.e. without previous incarnations) – a *spare* human being. His birth increases the number of *The Living* by one, which threatens the harmony of *The Living*. So who is Zero? This is the question Zero himself is desperate to answer. From early childhood he shows deviations. He is attached to his mother; he is loved by pets, who normally are scared of *The Living*. After his mother's death he is sent to the correction center where kids with bad "karma" are kept. There he makes friends with Cracker, who actually invented *Socio* in one of his previous incarnations. Cracker helps Zero to flee and to eventually find out that this whole comfortable, logical, and fair world rests on lies. It is probable that even the proverbial "incarnation" is just a result of astute manipulation. Zero soon gets to know that the slogan "There is no death" is meaningless – actually, it's all there *is*.

THE FIRST SQUAD. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

- ❖ Pervyi otryad. Istina
- ❖ Novel, tie-in
- ❖ 2010
- ❖ 339pp
- ❖ Publishers: AST, Moscow

- **Joint Russian-Canadian-Japanese project includes the anime film *THE FIRST SQUAD. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH*, the manga, and the novel**
- **10,000 copies in the first printing**
- **World premiere at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival ; Russian premier at the 2009 Moscow International Film Festival**
- **First Russian anime treating the occult motives of WWII**
- **European screenings in spring-summer 2011**



The bold, original anime set during the Second World War, for which Starobinets wrote her tie-in novel, received massive acclaim on release and has become one of the most significant cultural events in Russia in 2010.

Nika, 17 years old, pupil in an orphanage for gifted children, has a unique gift – she feels pain when she hears a lie. Nika knows well that there is a secret reason why Mikhail Podbelsky, head of the orphanage, shows her schoolmates a cult anime about the occult struggle between the Nazi and Soviet special services. The anime tells of a turbulent moment in the history of the Second World War when the pioneer girl Nadia is deployed by the occult branch of the Soviet intelligence services in order to summon her fellow mates from the special boarding school (the *First Squad*), the only force that can counter the evil plan of the Nazi's Ahnenerbe.

These days, Nika has no intention of becoming a puppet in the big game of the secret services. On graduation she plans to start a bachelor's program at a university in Berlin and enjoy her time in Europe, as any other teenager would. One day she returns to the orphanage to find all her classmates dead, with happy smiles on their faces. The body of the director of the school is found nearby, obviously caught by the murderer(s?) as he tried to escape.

The only key to the anime's code, Nika has to start her own investigation. On a roller coaster journey between Germany and Russia she interferes into the state's secret psycho-biological experiments; meets with a pensioner residing in Germany who claims to be the protagonist Nadia, heroine of the famous anime *The First Squad*; falls in love with a blue-eyed blond postgraduate – and finds her way to the World of the Dead.

The farther Nika's investigation takes her, the more her life intervenes in the stories of the heroes from the animated film. When the borderline between the mystical, fictional, and real worlds grows thin, Nika has to pay the highest price to discover the terrifying truth of the recent past.



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. Translation rights on for his works are sold to **UK, Poland, Bulgaria, France, Spain.**

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.

Rubanov in 2011 is what Aksenov was in 1961, Erofeev in 1971, Limonov in 1981, and Pelevin in 1991 – smart, intelligent, with a keen ear and a healthy portion of impudence; a narcissist with self-irony. This makes him no mere “big writer,” but a truly national treasure.» – Lev Danilkin for Afisha

GODS OF GODS

Novel, sci-fi

Publisher: AST, Astrel, Moscow, August 2011

444pp

With his tenth novel, the nationwide bestselling author Andrei Rubanov has crafted an intelligent helter-skelter thriller, a modern bio-punk version of H. G. Wells' The Island of Doctor Moreau and Pierre Boulle's Planet of the Apes. Rubanov confronts his characters with two competing ideologies in order to examine modern civilization as a battlefield between violence and love.



A bio-engineered spacecraft, the Biom, is transporting over 6,000 convicts to a planet where the detainees will be serving their terms. Among the convicts is Marat, a former pilot charged with hijacking numerous spacecraft, and Zhilets (a nickname meaning the Living One), a hardcore criminal sentenced for life. A carefully premeditated plan of escape is implemented by Zhilets, with the aid of Marat's unique skills as a pilot. The two fugitives land on a planet not listed in any space atlases, leaving the rest of the passengers floating in space, confined within the Biom's swiftly decomposing body. The landing is rough, and Zhilets, immobilized with a broken spine, cannot fully enjoy the promised land.

The Golden Planet is a true paradise: its tropical climate ensures the lavish growth of all forms of life. Sweetness is, literally, in the air: the water, earth, local plants, animals, even the pagans' sweat all taste and smell of chocolate and caramel. Yet the local population does not eagerly welcome the strangers. Marat's first encounter with the aboriginal people of the planet challenges his deeply held conviction that control and authority are only established through love. The neolithic pagans interpret sympathy as weakness; the unprepared Marat has to abide by the commands of Zhilets and to fight back. The first bloodshed proves productive, and Zhilets imposes his authority through blunt algorithms of the divide and rule type. Marat seeks a compromise between ruling as a tyrant and retaining a humane sense of morality. In a few years, the handicapped old criminal and the genius pilot, left with only wild animals to tame, completely reconstruct the life on the planet: treated as deities, they rule over dozens of tribes in a swiftly erected City-on-the-Shore.

The visit of a female vagabond implodes into their blissful routine. The woman takes them to the legendary Uzur, a source of life energy. The revived Zhilets launches a meaningless massacre as he explores the limits of what the Golden Planet has to give, and only Marat can stand in his way to ultimate power.

In Gods of Gods the fascinating inventiveness of bio-engineered life forms, the intricate detail of both the societies and habitats, and the complex, believable characters, all amount to a fabulous story. Rubanov is at his best here, turning a sweeping interplanetary adventure first into a drama of survival, then into a deftly crafted farce, and eventually into a thoughtful examination of human nature.

THE PSYCHO AGENT

- ❖ Psychodel
- ❖ 2011, 352 pp
- ❖ Publishers: AST, Astrel, Moscow

Foreign rights

- ❖ France - Flammarion

Awards

- ❖ Longlisted for the National Bestseller Prize 2011



The first printing of 7,000 copies sold out within the first two weeks after its publication

Andrei Rubanov is the only writer to make it onto the **long list of the National Bestseller Prize** this year with three titles, including his latest novel *The Psycho Agent*.

The Psycho Agent, Andrei Rubanov's breakthrough after his debut prison novel Do Time, Get Time, supersedes ready-to-hand comparisons with Houellebecq and Wolfe and their social denunciations in this truly "big Russian novel" on love and punishment.

Psycho Agent is a term coined by the author to identify a person who engages in the psychological suppression of another person for his own benefit: an "agent" or initiator of psychosis, a psychological "cannibal". Such is Kirill Korablik, a.k.a Cactus, a 40-year-old convicted murderer, released on parole after only eighteen months of his prison term, who bursts into the life of an ordinary young couple.

Mila Bogdanova, 28, knows that she is smart and beautiful, and is determined to get whatever she desires. With solid professional credentials as a top accountant in a small Moscow-based firm, she has recently established having a happy personal life as a major priority. Her partner Boris loves cars, as well as his own private business in auto tuning—and, naturally, his girlfriend Mila. Boris knows he can provide a good income for the two of them even when business is bad: he rents out a large flat in Moscow's city center. With their friends—Masha who lavishly spends her days between partners and their wallets; and Masha's latest boyfriend Dima, a bright and well-to-do representative of the modern Moscow cultural beau monde—they merge and mingle, contributing to the formation of the new Russian middle class. The "Buoyant Russians," as the author dubs them, these young people are prepared to live life to the hilt, though they can hardly imagine what this will mean for them.

The two couples celebrate the New Year in a country house. Kirill, a friend from Boris's childhood years, pays a short visit with the purpose of giving him an extravagant present: the photograph of an old Jaguar selling at bargain basement price, and the first installment for the deal. On returning from the country after their short holiday break, the excited Boris and Mila discover that someone has broken into their flat. The robbery sets in motion the couple's underlying problems. Mila does not want to stay in the defiled place and moves out, while Boris refuses to take action, instead sinking into a vodka-induced alcoholic haze. A growing number of unscrupulous competitors, his mother's progressive alcoholism, and even the wedding with Mila planned for the coming summer all drag Boris down into a deep depression.

Kirill, on the other hand, shows up shortly thereafter to report that the robber has been detained, and that their belongings will soon be restored to them. Kirill is benevolent, supportive and kind. Mila, however, suspects that the gracious friend who has suddenly taken control of their lives may have secret motives. Mila resolves to get to know Kirill better. Their swiftly developing relationship escalates into a ruthless duel, and stakes are much too high. Mila realizes that Kirill threatens not only the peace and love of her family, but that their very lives are in danger.

"The theme of the novel is biblical: "thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife". The agent in the novel is hardly Prince Charming. The narrative centers on the battle between Beauty and the Beast; between a modern young woman who fights for her happiness, and a man—a broken 40-year-old fossil from the troubled Soviet epoch," says Andrei Rubanov.

In this essentially pop-lit novel, Andrei Rubanov masterfully draws a gallery of vivid, utterly believable characters, and keenly observes the slightest shifts in dramatic psychological development. Rubanov's blunt, somewhat publicist narrative examines truly Dostoevskian questions from a surprising new angle, with a fresh twist that adds volume and topicality to the vast panoply of popular literature of the 21st century.

Chlorophilia

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

Foreign rights

Spain Planeta/Minotauro

English sample available



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*. 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.

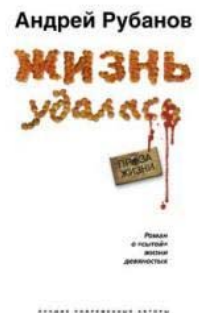
ALL THAT GLITTERS

(Zhizn' Udalas')

- ❖ Novel
- ❖ 2008
- ❖ 384 pp
- ❖ Publishers: Eksmo, Moscow

Foreign rights

- ❖ France - Flammarion



Nominated for the National Bestseller prize 2009

A high-pitched criminal drama from the celebrated author of the prison novel that stirred up the Russian literary scene, Do Time, Get Time.

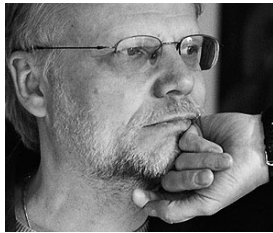
The life of wine-merchant Matvei Matveev is no less ordinary than the life of anyone who started a business in early nineties in Russia. A safe flat, a smart wife, and a nice job seem to be all he has, and all he needs.

But the business is not doing as well as it seems; in fact, it's a mess. Matvei's only employee is a percussionist who plays in a band called Los Anormales every Saturday. His ex-partner is a banker, ultimate workaholic, exploiter, and a person heartless enough to refuse credit to Matvei when he desperately needs it.

Still, Matvei's life is no less ordinary than anyone's. Until... he dies. Or at least that is what he thinks has happened. After he disappears, his wife Marina hires police captain Svinets to find her husband. Meanwhile, Matvei, hidden in the basement of a country house, is forced to recollect the episodes of his life that brought him to this condition.

Masterfully, with wit and compassion, Rubanov creates an entire gallery of psychological portraits of Russians in the 1990s. Bold entrepreneurs and their wives, corrupt politicians, drug-users, criminals and cops—their jealousies and revenge are the pivot of this terrifying and convincing plot, in which there is death even after death.

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
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Italy

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

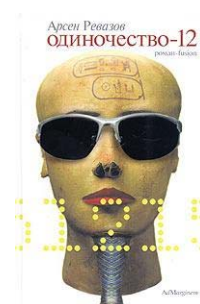
Film option sold

Special promotional edition with a music tie-in on CD

Sample English translation is available

Rights sold to:

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



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

Foreign rights

- ❖ Poland - Otwarte



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

Foreign rights

- ❖ Poland - Otwarte



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 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

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

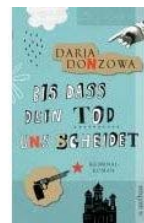
Rights sold: Estonia

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 Brightt 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.

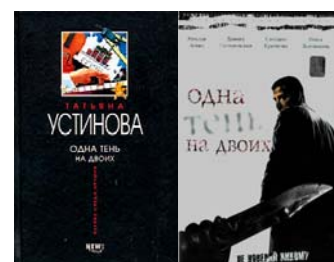
More than a year ago Kira divorced her husband Sergey. Fifteen years before, when their love was burning like a lit fuse, this turn of events was unthinkable. Their son Tim still cannot accept it and dreams of reconciling them. And now there is a good chance to do it, in fact a terrible business. Somebody 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)

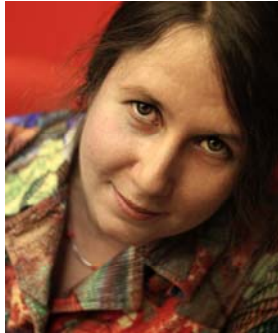
Eksmo, 2002
416 pp.

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.



NON-FICTION

THE PUTIN MYSTIQUE
Feudalism, Corruption and God in Russian Society



author of *The Media in Russia*, published by McGraw-Hill in 2009.

ANNA ARUTUNYAN is a bilingual Russian-American journalist who has reported on the Russian political scene for ten years. Ms. Arutunyan's work has appeared in USA Today, The Nation, Foreign Policy in Focus, and The Moscow News, where she is senior political reporter. She is

As an expert on Russian media and politics, she has lectured at Tampere University in Finland and Michigan State University. Her deep knowledge of Russian current affairs coupled with her understanding of what it is like to live and work in Russia gives her a unique opportunity to look at Russian power from an inside perspective.

Anna Arutunyan lives in Moscow with her husband and daughter.

The Putin Mystique
Feudalism, Corruption and God in Russian Society
Non-fiction, Current Affairs, Social History
Complete text available January 2012

This timely and provocative book from a bilingual Russian-American journalist, living in Russia for the past nine years, does not seek to answer the oft-examined question "Who is Vladimir Putin", but rather provides first-hand analysis and groundbreaking research into what in contemporary Russian culture, economy and her people's psyche has allowed Putin to become what he has become.



Anna Arutunyan, the Senior Political reporter at The Moscow News, sets forth an insightful journalistic investigation of the dynamics of the relationships between the Russian people and their ruler.

With an approach at once journalistic and personal, this book draws on over one hundred interviews, numerous case studies, and lively yet scholarly examinations of existing writings to paint an often chilling portrait of Russian autocracy from below. *The Putin Mystique* reveals the shocking and previously unexamined fabric of life that is at the base of Russian power - from the impoverished worker who appeals directly to Putin for aid, to the businessmen, security officers and officials in Putin's often dysfunctional government who look to their leader for instruction and protection. Putin's seeming omnipotence has confounded the West and much of the world since he solidified power more than a decade ago. But the key paradox uncovered in *The Putin Mystique* is one which will astonish readers: supreme power in the Kremlin today is actually far weaker and less vigorously exerted than many hunger for in modern Russia.

The author goes underneath the politics and looks at how the structure and expectations of modern Russian society have determined the form and style of governance which has crystallized during Putin's rule. Rather than examining Putin's evolution as a leader and policy maker, *The Putin Mystique* uncovers how social and economic factors have molded the second President of the Russian Federation into a classical autocrat, reviving the ancient, feudal relationships that have historically governed Russia in the absence of the rule of law. *The Putin Mystique* places the contemporary situation into the context of five centuries of autocratic power in Russia, revealing unexpected historical parallels which will surprise readers and illuminate their understanding of what's happening in Russia and why.

Ms. Arutunyan persuasively demonstrates that despite Putin's nominal and temporary subordination to President Dmitry Medvedev, power in Russia today overwhelmingly rests in the hands of an individual, with Putin as sovereign. His recently announced return to the Presidency in 2012 has only entrenched the idea of personalized, rather than institutional rule. The book exposes the conspicuous weaknesses of the current system, where all initiative is handed over to the autocrat, in cases where he is willing to be involved, or to unreliable and often ethically-challenged regional vassals in cases where he is not.

The book ultimately reveals Russia's crippling Catch 22, where perpetual government efforts to reform and modernize society from the top – and benefiting only the top – serve to stimulate in the masses a deep longing for order and control – creating the ideal social and political foundations for autocracy and forming a vicious circle of repression, corruption, and perhaps inevitably, consistent with Russian history, revolution.

With the 2012 presidential election fast approaching, Anna Arutunyan uses her first-hand, expert knowledge of Russian national affairs and politics, both public and private, to create a compelling exploration of Russia today, providing an urgent warning to policy makers and business leaders both in Russia and the West, and a fascinating work of social science and modern history for anybody interested in Russia and her people.

Target Audience

Written in an accessible, often personal style, this book focuses on individual people and targets a general audience. It is particularly relevant for students of Russian studies, history, and political science. Based on original reporting, it will also offer crucial insight for policy makers.

While a number of books are published about Russia and Putin every year, such as Michael Stuermer's *Putin and the Rise of Russia*, or Peter Baker's *Kremlin Rising*, these are written from policy perspective, and the focus is on Putin as a leader. Richard Sakwa's *Putin: Russia's Choice* went a step further and examined the basis for Putin's popularity, but remained with the scope of Putin's political vision.

The Putin Mystique looks at autocracy from below. It builds on the works of noted sociologists Vladimir Shlapentokh (*Russia as a Feudal Society*) and Olga Kryshchanovskaya (*The Anatomy of the Russian Elite*) to journey into the depths of the modern, feudal social fabric that serves as a foundation for Russian power. Rather than ascribing the problems of Russian governance to what journalists have disparagingly written off as "subservience" or "tsar love," this book treats these issues on their own terms, uncovering, for instance, that Putin does not have to be liked, approved or even trusted to be "popular" and that Russia's dysfunctional autocratic structure is virtually recreated on various social levels, from factories to corporations.

Timeliness of the Project

With a projected delivery in early 2012, the publication will coincide with a new political cycle in Russia, when interest in the country's affairs will be high. The presidential elections in March will either see Vladimir Putin return to the Kremlin, or Dmitry Medvedev stay on for a second term. In an unlikelier scenario, a third candidate may emerge from the ruling elite. In either case, it is widely believed that Putin will remain in power as "national leader" either through the post of Prime Minister, or in some other capacity. Less likely is Putin's departure from the political scene and the emergence of Medvedev as an independent leader. While the outcome will be reflected in the book, it will not change its focus, which is on the social aspects of how Russians relate to their leader. Regardless of whether Putin remains in power, the book provides new insight into how social relations determine power – whether for Putin, Medvedev, or whoever their successor may be.

“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

- ❖ Sweden Ersatz
- ❖ Poland WAB
- ❖ Latvia Janis Roze



92,000 copies sold to date, the book is currently in the 13th printing

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”.

WINNER OF THE BIG BOOK PRIZE & BOOK OF THE YEAR 2010



PAVEL BASINSKY was born in 1961 in Frolovo, near Volgograd. He studied at Saratov University and at the Maxim Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow. A prolific journalist and author, Basinsky has excelled at a number of genres, from scholarly monographs to experimental novels. Basinsky holds a PhD in

Comparative Literature, has sat on the jury of several major Russian literary prizes, such as the Russian Booker, the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Prize and the Yasnaya Polyana Prize, and is the Cultural Editor of Rossiiskaia Gazeta. He is married with two children and lives in Moscow.

Pavel Basinsky's book *Leo Tolstoy: Flight from Paradise*, came out in July 2010 and since then has been reprinted 10 times. According to sales figures from some of the largest Russian bookshops *Flight from Paradise* ranks among the top ten most popular books of the year 2010.

Awards:

- 2010 - The Big Book Prize
- 2010 - Book of the Year

2008 - Shortlisted for the Big Book Prize

1998 - The AntiBooker Prize Ray of Light Award for literary criticism

Selected Bibliography

2011 - *Passion According to Maksim. Gorky: Nine Days after Death / Страсти по Максиму. Горький: девять дней после смерти*

2010 - *Leo Tolstoy: Flight from Paradise / Лев Толстой: бегство из рая*

2008 - *Maxim Gorky: Myth and Biography / Максим Горький. Миф и биография*

2008 - *A Russian Romance or The Life and Adventures of John Polovnik / Русский роман или Жизнь и приключения Джона Половинкина*

2006 - *A Humble Aristocrat / Смиренник и аристократ*

2006 - *The Family as a Form of Mysticism / Семья как мистика*

2004 - *The Prisoner of Moscow / Московский пленник*

2002 - *Writer Par Excellence / Писатель par excellence*

1998 - *Russian Literature of the Late 19th and Early 20th centuries and the First Emigration / Русская литература конца XIX начала XX веков и первой эмиграции*

1993 - *Themes and Characters / Сюжеты и лица*

Leo Tolstoy: Flight from Paradise

- ❖ Лев Толстой: бегство из рая
- ❖ AST, Russia
- ❖ 2010
- ❖ 637 pages

Foreign Rights:

- ❖ Germany Projekt Verlag
- ❖ Brazil Laya
- ❖ Portugal Laya
- ❖ Slovenia Cankarjeva Založba
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Poland – under offer

Awards:

- ❖ The Big Book Prize 2010
- ❖ Book of the Year 2010



10 print runs within a year, nearly 50 000 copies sold

Bestseller: top 10 bestselling books of the year

English sample is available

Basinsky's book traces Tolstoy's life after his flight from Yasnaya Polyana, his childhood home and literary sanctuary, up until his death.

One hundred years ago, 82-year-old Count Leo Tolstoy, Russia's greatest literary genius, shocked the world by suddenly abandoning his vast ancestral estate, Yasnaya Polyana – and his family. His disappearance on a freezing winter night immediately became an international sensation.

During Tolstoy's last days in Astapovo in November 1910 he was quickly surrounded by a camp of journalists and devotees, living in tents, with daily reports about his state of health sent to the international press via an especially installed telegraph line, with added commentaries and interviews with the most prominent Russian writers, bishops, governors, etc. Thus, what the 82-year-old man had intended as the start of his new life as a wandering ascetic, became a world media circus involving Russia's most powerful forces: the clergy, the secret police and the Supreme State Authority, headed by tsar Nicholas and Stolypin.

Since then, the circumstances surrounding his departure and the death of the man called the Greatest Writer of All Time gave rise to much speculation ...

Flight from Paradise presents not just a new version of Tolstoy's secret flight from Yasnaya Polyana and his sudden death, but a vivid and in-depth reconstruction, based on archival and documentary evidence. We follow Tolstoy's escape step by step, learning the reasons behind his tragic family situation and the secrets surrounding the signing of his will. These events are placed in the context of Tolstoy's fascinating life story, key moments from which are reconstructed and explored.

What was the real reason behind Tolstoy's flight from Yasnaya Polyana? Was it "spiritual heroism", a sign of weakness or just plain panic and fear of something - or someone...? Was the flight connected to Tolstoy's last will, signed by Tolstoy in the strictest secrecy in the woods near the village of Grumont?

To answer these and many other questions the author investigated all the available literature on the subject including the archives of the Tolstoy Estate Museum at Yasnaya Polyana. The book is richly illustrated with rare photographs from these archives.

Selected reviews

Pavel Basinsky has written an absolute bestseller. His well-researched tale of Tolstoy's escape is a road story, a thriller and a psychological drama all in one. – Maya Kucherskaya, Vedomosti

Basinsky performed no less than a miracle in managing to find the delicate balance between Tolstoy the writer and Tolstoy the man. In many ways this could be attributed to the cinematic approach of the book, the skillful use of flashbacks tracing his life back from the fateful flight from home, to find the answer to the question: Who was that man who died in Astapovo? – Alexander Gavrillov, Snob

This new book about the man often referred to as the genius of Russian literature is a good match to the genius' novels themselves. Skillfully and thoroughly, the author weaves the fabric of his investigative novel – which makes you hold your breath like a true thriller would – in an attempt to explain the strange fact that up until this day remains a mystery – Tolstoy's escape from home right before his death. This is not a reference book of facts and figures, but an exciting novel with one of the most contradictory thinkers of our times as the main character. Having researched tons of sources – letters, memoirs, diaries of Tolstoy and his family, servants, followers and close friends – Basinsky creates a seamless mosaic so perfect you couldn't find a single fault with a magnifying glass. - Vladimir Pankratov, Afisha

This is a detailed chronicle of the life of Tolstoy, researched and investigated from every possible angle. It's not just a story of an eccentric death but a full-fledged biography told with a particular incident of Tolstoy's life – his flight from home - as a starting point in a series of detailed flashbacks. It gives an insight into many aspects of Tolstoy's life: His relationship with the church, with people in his household, dependents and frequent guests, and his social network in the last years of his life. The financial side of life. The history of his marriage... The author has a good "Tolstoy sense", his interpretation of the source is deep and credible. – Lev Danilkin, Afisha

An extremely fascinating study not only of Tolstoy's escape from Yasnaya Polyana, but also of the circumstances that lead to this dramatic event; one could almost call it a documentary novel about the life of the great Russian writer... The deep psychological rendering combined with the dramatic turns of life almost brings the story to the level of a biblical parable. – Natalia Kurchatova, Expert

SPECIAL PROJECTS

MAGIC STORYTELLER & MASTER OF ILLUSTRATION



SVETA DOROSHEVA is no less than a magician. A 34-year old author and illustrator, linguist and designer, copywriter and art director, she manages to create stories where words and images so magically intertwine they create a whole new

universe, stories so unique they turn the world on its head so that Alice in Wonderland comes to mind.

Sveta lives in Israel with her husband and two children.

Sveta's anticipated magical book *The Nenuphar Book* is due to be published October 2011.

Sveta's illustrator portfolio can be found here:

<http://www.behance.net/lattona>.

Selected Bibliography

2011 - *The Nenuphar Book*

2009 - *Mummy Hurries Home*

The Nenuphar Book, or A Book Found in a Water Lily

- ❖ Книга, найденная в кувшинке
- ❖ Ехмо, Russia
- ❖ To be published October 2011
- ❖ 21 x 24 cm, full color
- ❖ 210 pages

English sample is available

Human world through the eyes of magical creatures

The *Nenuphar Book* is not a fairy tale, nor is it a book for children – but it appeals to our inner child or helps take an ironic look in the mirror. Or rather, this is a book for children and adults alike. Just like Lewis Carroll's masterpiece, *The Nenuphar Book* presents the world through the looking glass, but this time the roles are reversed.



The *Nenuphar Book* is a book about people and the human world, as seen through the eyes of fairy-tale creatures.

They don't necessarily believe in people – just like we deny them their existence - but some have travelled to our world in various mysterious ways: some have been kidnapped, some ventured into the unknown of their own free will. Such travelers collected evidence and observations, thus creating an encyclopedia of human world, an assortment of drawings, letters, stories and diaries about people, written and drawn by fairies, elves, gnomes and other magical beings. However perplexing, funny and absurd these observations may seem, they all present a surprisingly fresh look at the things that we, people, take for granted.

In an attempt to understand what a human is, the magical creatures thoroughly study all human areas of life: human anatomy, types and origin of people, human dwellings, language, beliefs, rituals, work, music, dance and more.

The result is a tongue-in-the-cheek picture of a world so odd, no wonder fairy creatures can't believe it even exists!

With her stunning imaginative illustrations, the author manages to bring together philosophy and literature, creating her own fictional narrative in the form of fairy tale, whilst actually defining many truths about human nature.

