

# Zoorama

**Novel.** Tropen Verlag. Germany 2022. 421 pages

**Publishers:** Sulakauri/ Georgia

**Awards:** SABA Award Best Georgian Novel 2022

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

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

Zoorama is the venomous mixture of an insane world.

"Book of the Year" GEORGIAN TV

"Book of the Century" RADIO LIBERTY

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

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

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

Zaza Burchuladze was born in Tbilisi in 1973. He started writing after graduating from the National Academy of Arts in Tbilisi and has since published novels, short prose and screenplays. He translates Russian authors, including Dostoevsky, Khams, Sorokin and Bitov, into Georgian. He played the leading role in the film version of one of Dzhavakhishvili's novels, a Georgian literature classic. Burchuladze is considered one of the most important writers of post-Soviet Georgian literature. As an underground writer he initially provoked outrage within Georgian society with his scandal topics and language experiments and was long ignored by critics. Since the appearance of his novels he has become a leading intellectual and one of the most promising authors, and is beginning to achieve fame beyond the borders of Georgia. After aggressive press, a severe insult on the radio by former president Saakashvili, physical attacks on the street of Tbilisi and ultraorthodox publicly burning his books, he had to flee to Germany with his family. He has received several awards for his novels, including the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Prize and the Brücke Award. Today he lives and works in Berlin.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
8 languages

## awards

SABA Award Best Georgian Novel 2022

Bruecke Berlin Preis 2018

Best Georgian Novel 2011

Ilia State University Award 2011

## samples available

english, full german

## other works

Adibas

Mineral Jazz

The Inflatable Angel

My Song

# Zaza Burchuladze