

Ukrainian literary fiction

Springtime on the Moon

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

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

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

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



THE AUTHOR

sample translation
English

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

NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

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

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

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

ZEIT ONLINE

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

DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR

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

Julia Kissina