

Ukrainian fiction

Odesa is not on the Hudson

Short stories. Kyiv. Ukraine 2024. 213 pages

Odesa, as we know, is currently under attack (almost daily), like so many Ukrainian cities. Apart from the city being constantly in the news, the relevance of these „Texts from Odesa“ is in its paying tribute to the city rich in world-recognized literary tradition: chatty, irreverent, humorous, exuberant, ironic, whimsical. God knows, the irrepressible Odesans need that vibe in these dark times more than ever. But so does the world at large. Also, the book strives not to so much as to perpetuate the eternal 'Odesa myth' but rather to extend and enrich it, employing the new optics the author inevitably picked up during close to half a century of his living in the USA. Because you can take the boy out of Odesa but you cannot take Odesa out of the boy.



“It is not for nothing that Pavel Lembersky, of course, belongs to two cities imbued with the spirit of freedom - Odesa and New York.”
MAXIM MATUSEVICH, NEW JERSEY

“One can sense the dearth of that time’s aroma when no one had emigrated yet and our parents were still alive and young, and there were no irreparable losses yet. The book takes us back there, where we literally feel this already mythical time.”
IRINA KUZMENKO, ODESSA

“Pavel Lembersky’s new book, published in Ukraine, was conceived and written by him as a kind of hymn of admiration and support for his sunny hometown, to which the war came.”
GARY LIGHT, CHICAGO

“Imagine Borges writing philosophical conceptual anecdotes using the sparkling language of Isaac Babel. Sometimes the significant parts are located in the breaks between phrases, and one can feel the draft of pain and despair blowing from those gaps which perhaps irony alone can suppress.”
ANTON NESTEROV

“Despite his cheeky tongue, Pavel Lembersky is a melancholic who winks at us so that we don’t notice the tears of homesickness welling up in his eyes - about the lost days of Odessa, the warm wind in the harbor, or in the memory of an English professor who insisted on demonstrating important new vocabulary concerning anatomy on her own considerable physicality.”
CICERO

THE AUTHOR

samples available

English

German

Pavel Lembersky was born in Odesa, Ukraine, and emigrated to the United States in 1977. After receiving his BA in comparative literature from the University of California at Berkeley, Pavel did graduate work in film at San Francisco State University. He worked in New York City on film projects of Jonathan Demme and Spalding Gray and the Oscar-winning Appointment of Dennis Jennings, among others. Pavel lives in Brooklyn NY.

Pavel Lembersky