

Ukrainian thriller

# Airport

**Thriller.** Bright Star Publishing. Kyiv 2015. 403 pages

**Publishers:** China - Citic Press, Czech Republic - Biz Books, Estonia - Rahva, France, Georgia - Artanuj, Latvia - Gramata, Lithuania - Briedis, Netherlands - Douane

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution

AIRPORT is a docu-thriller, which illustrates the tragedy of the on-going Russian-Ukrainian conflict by means of a fictional story of love in times of war. On the one hand exciting and emotional, on the other hand it endeavours to be as authentic and accurate as possible. The author's spyglass is directed at the airport of Donetsk, which is important both logistically and symbolically for the entire conflict. Had they seized the airport, the separatists, aided by Russia, would have been able to attack other towns, in particular the city of Kharkiv. However, the author's spyglass is in reality a kaleidoscope, drawing on all events, background information and consequences to form a composite picture. And like a kaleidoscope, the novel clearly shows that the composite picture is actually made up of a great many individual shards and splinters, which can never become a healthy whole again, if indeed they ever were.

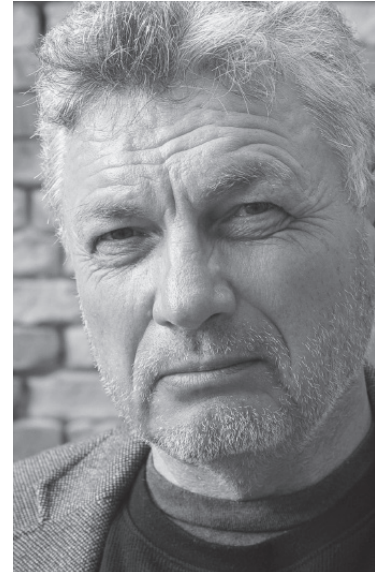
Alexei, a journalist and war-correspondent from Moscow has been living the „American Dream“ in the USA with a lovely family and a wonderful job. In 2014 he goes to Kyiv to report about the revolution at Maidan square. The events develop all too quickly taking a tragic turn and eventually leading him to Donetsk airport, where the Ukraine forces have been besieged by the separatists for more that 200 days. The novel's action and suspense climax during the last five days of the siege.

AIRPORT is neither a war chronicle, nor a documentary, nor an investigative novel. It is a work of fiction based on true facts and events. The novel has many characters and intertwining dramatic plot lines. The novel is not only and not so much about a war everyone thought was impossible. It is also about love, betrayal, passion, cheating, hate, rage, tenderness, courage, pain and death.

“The macro story is ‘war is absurd’ – and more terrible than we can possibly imagine. The micro story is ‘love is absurd’ too, yet it is the eternal, fundamental essence of our being. Together they make up the most powerful experiences we will ever have in our lives.” *BEN MOSES (Hollywood producer and writer, “Good morning, Vietnam”)*

“Loiko walked right up to journalism's limit, took a deep breath, and leapt into the novel's whirlwind. All the passion our profession holds, all the love that newsprint tries to squeeze out, all the rage and pain that has to be tucked away in the soul's non-work compartments, has broken free here and, crying out, sings aloud.” *ECHO MOSKVY*

Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. In 1989, Loiko became a translator and reporter for the Associated Press and later a producer for the British television company TV/am; he has also contributed to Novaya Gazeta and Echo of Moscow radio. Loiko has covered armed conflicts, revolutions, and wars in Romania, Tajikistan, Chechnya, Georgia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. For twenty-five years, Loiko had been the Moscow correspondent and photographer for the Los Angeles Times, specializing in wars and armed conflicts. Loiko covered the Ukrainian revolution and the subsequent war virtually nonstop from the first day until 2015. Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Kyiv, Ukraine.



## THE AUTHOR

**translations**  
9 languages

**awards**  
L.A.Times editorial award 2015  
Overseas Press Club's Bob  
Considine Award 2014

**sample translation available**  
full english

**other work**  
The Flight

# Serhii Loiko