

Ukrainian literary fiction

Witches of Kyiv

Phantastic series. Folio. Kharkiv 2005-2020. 11 volumes, approx. 400 pages each.

Publishers: Germany - dtv, Poland - Insignis

With the four chalk hills at its centre Kyiv was and is the focal point of Slavic witchcraft. Belief in this witchcraft is deeply rooted in the Ukrainian mentality and nearly one in three women in Kyiv has a practising witch, magician or healer in her ancestry. Kyiv has been considered not only the centre of the Christian orthodox faith but also the witches' capital since time immemorial. Many Russian-Ukrainian artists (Mikhail Vrubel), authors (Mikhail Bulgakov) and musicians (Modest Mussorgsky) have drawn on this tradition.

The settings are all so authentic that the book can almost be read as an alternative guide book. With a detailed portrait of both contemporary and historical Kiev the author tempts the reader into a world where reality is hardly distinguishable from the phantastic plot.

With scintillating ideas, witty dialogues and an exciting plot the author introduces her female protagonists, three young women from contemporary Kyiv: Masha – a respectable, highly intelligent history student who still lives with her parents while harbouring shy adoration for one of her fellow students. Dasha – a singer in a nightclub, she has seen it all, is street wise and down to earth. Katya – a successful business woman, emotionally cold, lonely and in the depths of her heart full of the desire for love. "By chance" the three of them meet for the first time at precisely the time and place of an old Kyiv witch's death. Her magical powers are transferred to the three of them. From then on Dasha no longer just potters around the town on her old moped draped in the flag of the Orange Revolution. Suddenly she is able to ride above the domes on a broomstick and can't believe it herself. In fact all three of them want to be free of these unbelievable talents. However, when two ritual murders take place in the town and Mascha's father comes under suspicion they have to intervene. In this book a real demon has returned to Kyiv and none other than the three witches are able to protect the town from his curse and from a third murder.

Wishful thinking when the author started to write the series, but already 15 years ago the young generation in Ukraine and especially in the big cities was full of positive plans, dreams and wishes for their own future free of old demons.

"An entertaining novel with a good sense of atmosphere in the Ukrainian Capital."
VOGUE

Lada Luzina was born in Kyiv in 1972. After completing her studies at architectural college she worked as a restorer for the architectural monuments department in Kyiv. She continued with studies at the theatre college and became a theatre critic for the newspaper „Bulvar Gordona“. At the end of the 1990s she received not only the distinction of being "Best Ukrainian Journalist" but also attracted attention as a scandal journalist. She produced her own TV show for Ukrainian television's Channel 1 for a year before she swapped her journalist career after a long illness to become "The Best Writer in the Ukraine" (Zolotoi Feliks Award). Her studies of magic, religion and the history of Kiev influence both her literary work and her own newspaper column "Sex and the City of Kyiv". Heralded by the Ukrainian press as one of the most beautiful women in the Ukraine, Lada Luzina lives in Kyiv.



THE AUTHOR

sample translation
full German

Lada Luzina