

Belarusian literary fiction

Mova

Novel. Logvinau. Belarus 2014. 238 pages

Publishers: Germany - Volland&Quist, Latvia - Prometejs

Minsk in the year 2044, a provincial town in the north-west of the United States of China and Russia. Family and love are considered to be out-dated concepts, spiritual needs are fulfilled by consuming and advertising. Despite draconian punishments a particular drug somehow and repeatedly manages to get into the country: mova. Anyone who reads the mova note, hardly understands a word, but experiences a wonderfully euphoric high. Chinese triads, Belarusian underground insurgents and the national narcotics control office are tangled up in a drug war. Or is there more to it than meets the eye?



THE AUTHOR

translations
5 languages

awards
Bogdanovich Literay Award
2012
Best European Fiction anthology
2011 (Dalkey Archive)

sample translation available
english
full german

other works
Lake of Joy
Paranoia
Revolution
Night

"MOVA is funny. MOVA is sad. MOVA is full of surprises. It is bizarre, it is a thriller, a nightmare – and intoxicating. A powerfully un-cut drug in the form of a book, a fix of which can only be heartily recommended." *Deutschlandradio Kultur*

"Using the techniques of pop literature MOVA lays bare both the power structures of authoritarian systems and of the supposedly meaningless consumer society. A hilarious barrage of absurd incidents and unexpected twists." *literaturkritik.de*

"... a masterpiece ... The author's power of language and richness of ideas create a captivating atmosphere. And thanks to this skill the novel develops into a fascinating literary trip." *WDR 3*

Martinovich was born in Oshmiany, Belarus in 1977. He is a political scientist, doctor of art history, and professor at the Vilnius University. He is a regular contributor to the German weekly DIE ZEIT. His literary works are published parallel in the Belarusian and Russian languages. Paranoia, published in Russia at the end of 2009, was immediately banned from sale in Belarus (unofficially prohibited). In 2017 he was Writer in Residence at the Literaturhaus Zürich and PWG foundation. Martinovich lives with his family in Minsk.

Viktor Martinovich