

Russian literary fiction

Dyatlov Pass

Novel. AST Publishers. Moscow 2005. 286 pages

Publishers: China - Inner Mongolian University, Czech Republic - Akropolis, France - Belfont, Latvia - Latvijas Mediji, Poland - Kobiece

Matveeva's novel is dedicated to the true story of a group of young students who died under mysterious circumstances as ski tourists on the Dyatlov Pass in the northern Ural mountains in 1959. The exact circumstances of the mysterious deaths on Dyatlov Pass remain unexplained to this day. Following on from the series of earlier books on the subject, Matveeva's novel is the first attempt to see the story of Dyatlov Pass, comprising documented facts on the one hand and largely probable, albeit mysterious interpretations on the other, as an overall phenomenon in which the fates of victims and the investigators have become linked in fiction. Accompanying Matveeva's heroine on her quest for the truth, therefore, the reader returns not only to a brutal past but is also drawn into discovering the truth behind his/her own life.

In 2000, a regional Ural TV company produced a documentary film about the mystery of Dyatlov Pass. Cooperating with the film crew, Anna Matveyeva published her short novel of the same name, a large part of the book including broad quotations from the official case, diaries of victims, interviews with searchers and other documentaries collected by the film-makers.

A Hollywood feature film has been released 2013 with Renny Harlin as director (Nightmare on Elm Street 1988/ Die Hard 2 1990/ Cliffhanger 1993/ Deep Blue Sea 1999/ Exorzyst Beginning 2004/ The Covenant 2006/ 5 Days of War 2011) and Richard Reid (Love, Wedding Marriage 2011/ William&Kate 2011/ Navy CIS/ Hangover) and Matt Stokoe (Hollow 2011/ Misfits 2009) in main roles.

"The Dyatlov Pass could signal the start of a new literature just as In Cold Blood by Truman Capote once was for American prose... What I value in Matveeva's novel is... that she displays affection for the nine victims, lives with them and thus forces me to see one of them in the youngster sitting next to me in the cafe or in the underground... What I like most about reading this book, however, is the feeling of living through someone else's tragedy because it is built into and woven into our own lives." *Dmitri Bykov*

"Force and brutality are very finely nuanced here against the „feminine“, „contemporary“ part of the novel that forms the „vessel“ containing the opposites „brutal - tender“, „male - female“, „past - present“... a remarkable book!" *Aleksei Ivanov*

Matveeva was born in Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg, in 1972. She comes from a family of linguists and, after completing her studies at the State Ural University, she worked as a journalist for newspapers and magazines. She has since published several books and writes for all of the leading Russian media. Matveeva has three children and lives in Yekaterinburg.



THE AUTHOR

translations
6 languages

awards

Bazhov Prize 2017
Big Book Award shortlist 2016
Big Book Award public vote #2 2015
Big Book Award shortlist 2013
Kazakov Prize shortlist 2011
Lo Stellato Prize, Italy 2004

samples available

english
full french

other works

Vera Stenina's Envy
Nine from the Nineties
Wait, I will die and then - come

Anna Matveeva