

literary fiction

Rain in Paris

Novel. AST. Moscow 2018. 411 pages

Publishers: France - Noir sur Blanc, Macedonia - Makedonika Littera, Serbia - Utopia

Despite national upheavals, economic turmoil and the departure of his own family, Andrei Topkin still does not want to leave his Siberian hometown of Kyzyl. In this hopelessness, he finally books the journey he has dreamed of for a lifetime: Paris. There he thinks he can avoid his misfortune and the impending changes in his life. But it is raining in Paris. And so Andrei hardly comes out of the hotel room, but travels - against his will, but with a lot of alcohol - deep into his own past, to his youth in the nineties, to his first love, yes, at all first times. So far suppressed by the events of everyday life, they rise from the depths to the surface, behind the rainy window of a lonely Parisian hotel room. Internally, however, the sun comes out more often and illuminates the dark spots of that time.

The sincerity and accuracy of the author, the attention to detail create the vivid and truthful image of a forty-year-old man and his life in the Russian province. The hero and the reader with him become gradually clear: Without understanding the past, people have no future.

"In this novel, Senchin takes a turn away from his traditional hopelessness, away from the ice underfoot and towards what man attaches to life ... In fact, Roman Senchin is very cheerful and bright, and his novel «Rain in Paris» confirms this. Only that one has to earn this light, has to fight back to him by dregs, melancholy, cold and despair." LITERATURNAYA GAZETA

"«Rain in Paris» is an extraordinarily graceful novel for all the details of everyday life. And with all the acute socio-political content a thoroughly philosophical text." PAVEL BASINSKI

"Senchin has a fantastic ear for any vulgarity - linguistic, political, everyday. The adventures of his hero are actually the adventures of a fly caught in amber." LEV DANILKIN

"«Rain in Paris» is also a kind of crypto-remake, an encrypted on many levels extensive allusion to Oblomov." HOMO LEGENS

"Do you know the prose of Senchin? A constantly drip-drip-drip, a Chinese torture with drops on the forehead, and the most unpleasant thing is that you can not skip over anything, with the eyes skipped anywhere else as in boring descriptions or eternal dialogues – for here every word is weighty and necessary... as if listening to the invisible chamber music of kindness itself. The world is absolutely mirrored as it is, drawing exactly the boundary behind which man ceases to be man. And never crossing it." OKTYABR

Senchin was born in Siberia in 1971 where he subsequently grew up. Having completed his engineering studies he then went on to study at a Moscow literature institute where he still lectures today. His prose has made him one of the most prominent exponents of "New Realism". His works have so far been translated into German, French and a number of other languages. Senchin lives in Ekaterinburg.



THE AUTHOR

translations
13 languages

awards

Big Book Shortlist 2019
Big Book Awards 2nd Prize 2015
National Bestseller shortlist 2010
Big Book Award shortlist 2010
Russian Booker Prize shortlist 2009

sample translation available

full french

other works

Flood plains
The Eltyshevs
What do you want?

Roman Senchin