

Russian diaspora children's

Beastly Crime Chronicles

Series of 6 Volumes (so far). Clever. Moscow since 2016. Approx. 100 pages each
For children age 6-13

Publishers: Arabic/ Thaqafa, China/ 21st Century, Czech/ Albatros, Estonia/ Tänapäev, Germany/ Fischer, Georgia/ Academic Press, Hungary/ Europa, Latvia/ Zvaigzne, Mongolia/ Nepko, Netherlands/ Querido, Poland/ Dwie Systry, Romania/ Frontiera, Serbia/ Kozikas, Slovakia/ Ikar, Spain/ Dolmen, Turkey/ Kalila, US/ Dover

Awards: 2021 longlist Astrid Lindgren Award
2021 shortlist Kornei Chukovski Award
2020 winner Russian Detective Award

Vol 1 In the Wolf's Lair
Vol 2 A Predator's Rights
Vol 3 Claws of Rage
Vol 4 The Plucker
Vol 5 Gods of Mango – Award Russian Detective 2020
Vol 6 Tail eaters
(Vol 7 planned)

AND: Beastly Ferry Tales

Life in the Far Woods tends to be tranquil because the animal denizens are strictly forbidden to kill (or eat!) one another. An elderly detective, Chief Badger, oversees the community and solves its petty crimes, from stolen pine cones to plucked tail feathers. His restless assistant, Badgercat, longs for some excitement — a desperate crime, a beastly crime!

All the heroes of this book series are animals, but they know how to love and hate, lie and tell the truth to their face, trust and despair, betray and save – no worse and no better than us humanoid readers. Who is friend and who is foe, who is an innocent, fluffy victim, who is a deadly female predator, who is a hostage and who is an intruder, you only find out at the end, because according to the rules of the genre, the perpetrator always remains unknown until the very end.

"A clever whodunit featuring believable animal characters in a convincing, recognizable society... Mystery fans (around the world) should rejoice." KIRKUS

"A children's detective is a rare genre, and a children's psychological detective is an even more unique one. A spectacular literary event." PSYCHOLOGIES

"Perfect for all fans of detective stories." THE STANDARD

"Racy, mischievous, suspiciously good!" CHILDREN'S BOOK FAVORITE



THE AUTHOR

translations
over 20 languages

awards
2021 Spanish Celsius-232

2018 ESFS award
«Best European Sci-fi author»

2017 Winner Imaginales
festival in Epinal/ France

2016 Grand Prix of Utopiales
Sci-Fi book festival/ France

2014 National Bestseller Russia

2014 Prix Masterton

2014 Winner «The Portal»
Sci-Fi Assembly Ukraine

sample translation available
full english

Anna Starobinets was born in Moscow in 1978. She is a Russian and Israeli citizen, writer and scriptwriter who works in various genres: sci-fi, dystopias and horrors for adults, fairy and detective stories for children. She is a widow of Alexander Garros, a renowned writer from Latvia. Starobinets was in opposition to Russian government for the last years, and after the beginning of war with Ukraine she escaped from Russia with her two children and a dog.

Anna Starobinets

Summary

VOL 1 - The first case for forest police officer Badger - the Columbo among animal detectives.

When Badger - like every Friday evening - eats his back of bark in the tavern and secretly looks forward to the well-deserved hibernation, a terrible crime occurs: A rabbit has died! Some croaking frogs reveal the shocking news. Wolf appears to be the most likely culprit, because — duh — he's a lone wolf without an alibi, but Badger refuses to jump to conclusions. With the help of Vulture the crime scene investigator, Mouse the psychologist, brave witness Beetlebug Buck, and other curious creatures, the woodland detectives set out to discover the truth.

VOL 2 - Flush with success from having solved the case of the murdered Rabbit, crotchety detective Chief Badger and his impetuous young assistant, Badgercat, anticipate the return of peace and quiet to their community. But trouble recurs with a visit from Huntington Farm's bloodthirsty security team, who bring accusations of theft and harsh demands for justice. Guard dog Muxtar and hunting hound Polkan are searching for Chicken Four, a plucky little fowl who's just discovered what happens to her sister chickens when they disappear into Nina Palna's kitchen on Fridays. Now Badger and Badgercat have to persuade Palna to stop making chicken soup and to prevent Muxtar and Polkan from taking matters into their own paws (and jaws) suspecting the Fox. Guard dog Muxtar sets an ultimatum of twenty-four hours. After that he will come back with the other guard dogs from the security team and get the Fox. But is she really the culprit? Badger has his doubts. Will he succeed in convicting the culprit before there is a big row in the thick thicket? One thing is already clear: Badgers can forget his hibernation for the time being.

VOL 3 - The peaceful existence of the animals in the Far Woods is threatened by a crime wave. First, an underground art exhibition is robbed. Soon after, Marquise, a pampered, snow-white Persian, is kidnapped from the cat show. To Chief Badger and his ambitious assistant, Badgercat, all clues point to the snooty Arctic Fox as the culprit — until the emergence of Claws of Rage, a nefarious group of nonpedigreed agitators seeking vengeance against purebred, well-fed, happy-go-lucky animals. Can Chief Badger and Badgercat round up Claws of Rage members before they strike again? Will Badgercat be able to put aside his growing feelings for Marquise and uphold his duty as a Far Woods officer of the law? And what is that strange hairless animal up to?

VOL 4 - Chief Badger faces his most bizarre case yet, in which someone is plucking and burning the feathers of birds in the Far Woods. To make things even worse, the top suspect is his former assistant, young Badgercat. Chief Badger knows that Badgercat can't possibly be the Plucker, so who plucked Lady Cuckoo and attacked the owl twins, Chuck and Huck? Was it Warbler the barber, who's obsessed with hair, fur, and feathers? Or the sly, treacherous Arctic Fox? Was it the compulsive thief, Sneaky Sal the salamander? Or someone else?

VOL 5 - The Badgers of the Deep Forest Police are sent on a mission to the African savannah to investigate the kidnapping of newborn giraffe Rafik. They are constantly in mortal danger. After all, the Far Woodland spares no one: neither strangers nor natives. This is a terrifying and dangerous place where cruelty and lawlessness reign, brutal sacrifices are made and the law of the jungle prevails. But for a brave and honest animal, Woodland can also become a place of power that helps the animal find itself and find true love. Badger Senior, Badgercat, and Vulture Vulture don't shy away from trouble. They conduct their investigation on the fair principles by which residents live back home in Far Forest. But unraveling the complex case does not mean solving it. Because the hard truth from the investigation has yet to be taught to the residents of Woodlands, but those in power there don't need that truth at all.

VOL 6 - An epidemic has broken out in the forest.

VOL 7 (planned) - One of the beasts has disappeared far away in the woods of Sri Lanka

Anna Starobinets

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Beastly Ferry Tales

Children's book. Moscow 2020. 176 pages

Age 3-13

Beastly Tales by Anna Starobinets is a spin-off of the popular "Beastly Detective" series – for all fans and their younger sisters and brothers.

This book contains sagas and fairy tales, poems and songs, ancient legends and modern adventure stories, which animals from different forests of the world tell and sing to their young, mostly at bedtime. The collection also includes stories from the village of Okhotka. In this way, wild bookworms learn about the beliefs and myths, life and customs of little-studied rural animals.

The Big Badger from the Far Forest Police tells the Little Badger Kittens about the Sky Bears. The dog Polkan entertains the Muchtarchik pup with stories about the Great Dane and his sworn enemy Pusi-Don. The Persian cat remembers how the black magician Cat Noir lured her to the Forest of Shadows. The owl brothers Ug and Chuck learn that the location of the nearby forest used to be a field of honey carrots grown by the flying rabbit Wryluh. Badger Melesandra convinces her daughter that her father was the first badger on the moon. The Tail listens to the story of the laughing witch Koya, ancestor of the coyotes. The giraffe Rafik listens to the legend of the mango gods who created the first animals of the desert. The penguin boy listens to the shark penguin's hunting stories. And the Misfit listens to the scary fox story about the frozen demon.



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