

Russian diaspora literary fiction

Look at him

Documentary novel. Corpus. Moscow 2017. 190 pages

Publishers: Latvia/ Janis Rose, Spain/ Impedimenta, US/ Three String Press

Awards: among Best Books of the Year 2021 (chosen by LatvEl País, TELVA, ELLE, Esquire, Forbes)

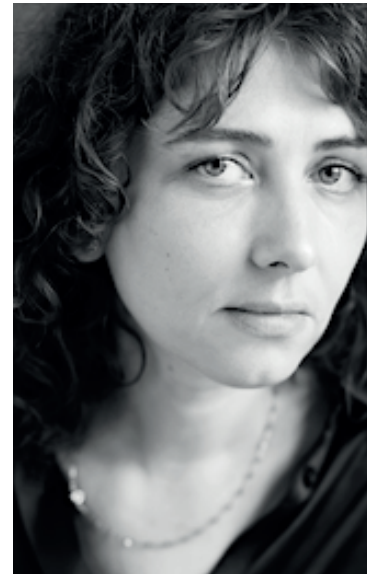
In this groundbreaking memoir, Starobinets chronicles the devastating loss of her unborn son to a fatal birth defect. After her son's death, Starobinets suffers from nightmares and panic attacks; the memoir describes her struggle to find sympathy, community, and psychological support for herself and her family. A finalist for the 2018 National Bestseller Prize, *Look at Him* ignited a firestorm in Russia, prompting both high praise and severe condemnation for the author's willingness to discuss long-taboo issues of women's agency over their own bodies, the aftereffects of abortion and miscarriage on marriage and family life, and the callousness and ignorance displayed by many in Russia in situations like hers. Beautiful, darkly humorous, and deeply moving, *Look at Him* explores moral, ethical – and quintessentially human – issues that resonate for families in the world beyond Russia, as well. This is in some way a survival guide for those who find themselves in the face of a grief that seems unbearable.

"[A] most important statement on a topic that no one has ever spoken aloud here [in Russia]—necessary, traumatic, but also healing reading for any woman, and also for any man living with a woman and contemplating having children with her." MEDUZA (Galina Yuzefovich)

"[W]hat makes the book so compelling and human is that Starobinets puts her fiction-writing background to good use, pacing her book to develop a story arc and suspense. I could only read a little bit at a time because a personal story about late-term abortion is so intensely emotional. Even so, I had a hard time putting the book down at night." LIZA HAYDEN

"As abortion again takes center stage in national and international politics, *Look At Him* underscores the fact that even with birth defects, there are still so many sides to this issue." NANCY NAOMI CARLSON

"Unable to put it down, a memoir of a young woman in Moscow who discovers in the 16th week of her pregnancy that the baby she is carrying has a fatal defect. The book chronicles not only the author's personal anguish as she contemplates abortion but the inflexibility of the Russian medical system and Russian society in general." LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS



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»
Scifi 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