

authors list

* Bochkov, Valery

* Dolon, Maria

* Ivanov, Aleksei

Loiko, Serhii

Luzina, Lada

Starobinets, Anna

Yuzefovich, Leonid

rights list

thriller
crime
mystery

live pitch
short clips*

news & updates

news
awards
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thriller

Charon Coronation of the Beast My Brother Cain

Thriller Trilogy. Eksmo. Moscow 2016-2017. Ca. 320 pages each

Publishers: Poland - Insignis

This trilogy is a masterful mix of classical American high-tension political thriller, alive with realistic characters, cinematographic in detail and scope, and of classic Russian intellectual prose, with philosophical and social tension reminiscent of Dostoyevsky's "Demons". A page turner with the plot precisely organized with dynamic pace and action in each individual novel as well as in the trilogy as a whole.

Each novel can be read separately, because in each case the first-person narrator in the centre of the plot is a different hero or heroine. Thanks to this approach three different narrators relate in each novel their perspective of the same event – albeit as perpetrator, intermediary or victim. In addition, the author manages to fictionally connect the remote political participants to the main protagonists in a personal relationship, thereby mirroring the governmental intrigues and power struggles on a personal level. In this way the characters and their motives become easily and emotionally accessible. And the psychologically and intelligently crafted protagonists never become predictable; they are neither only good nor only bad and are easily recognizable to the reader, although to prolong the suspense the author occasionally alters the points of identification.

All three novels deal with the different phases that could occur in a serious upheaval in modern Russia. Within the chronological and atmospherical composition of the trilogy, part 1 (planning and assassination) represents the calm before the storm, part 2 (power vacuum after the murder of the president) presents the unleashing of violence, and part 3 (the new regime) stands for the deceptive peace.

With great insight Bochkov reveals a provocatively straight-forward view of Russia at home in the West – skilfully presents the reader with the external western perspective, but at the same time causes the Westerner to feel directly involved and affected. The great similarity with present-day characters and events is deliberate and strengthens the breath-taking effect of experiencing the historical possibility in a seemingly live transmission.

Whether the future of Russian history is being written in these three books, or whether the reading will write a new future, only time will tell.



THE AUTHOR

translations
1 language

awards
Toronto-based Ernest
Hemingway Award 2016
Russian Award 2013

samples available
Vol. 1 in full english

Bochkov was born in Latvia and grew up in Moscow. He studied graphic design and was creative director of a PR agency based in Moscow and New York between 1995 and 2000. He then emigrated to the USA. With his own Studio for visual communications he worked out the visual concept for popular shows on Discovery Channel or ABC. For the project Greede TV he was given the ADDY Award. As professional artist he had around a dozen personal exhibitions in Europe and the US and had been invited twice to the Edinburgh Art Festival. His first stories as a literary author were published in 2012. Besides several nominations for Russian shortlists (National best-seller, Big Book, Booker, NOS) he was awarded the Russian Prize 2013, the most prestigious literary award for writers living outside of Russia and writing in Russian. Valery Bochkov speaks Russian, English and German. Bochkov lives and works in Washington, USA.

Valery Bochkov

women's detective novel

The #Black_series

Women's detective series. Eksmo. Moscow 2018. approx. 350 pages each
4 volumes so far; english sample available

The main character is the Moscow investigative journalist Inga Belova. Due to a scandal, she and her photographer colleague Oleg were dismissed from the glossy magazine QQ. Inga has since tried her luck as a freelance investigative video blogger. She encounters strange incidents, mostly in her immediate private environment, in which the police see no reason to investigate. Thus Inga herself begins with investigations. Among her supporters are her photographer colleague and friend Oleg, forensic scientist Kholodikver, detective Kirill Arkharov and a mysterious IT guy who hides behind the pseudonym Indiwind and makes special requests for Inga for a small fee: researching addresses, telephone numbers and personal data, cracking passwords, checking the accuracy of information, etc.

Inga herself has the rare gift of seeing spoken words as colours and thus their emotional colouring (similar to synaesthesia). As helpful as this is in her research, as disturbing is it in her private life. Since she cannot turn it off, she also analyses telephone calls with her mother or daughter in clairvoyant commentaries, which also makes subplots in the novel entertaining and funny.

With the young Inga Belova, the female author collective succeeds in creating a modern, authentic main heroine: thoroughly honest and soberly analytical, cheeky, thoughtful and reliable, willing to take risks to the brink of illegality, insistent to the point of stubbornness. As the single mother of a pubescent daughter, we also experience her from her vulnerable, self-doubting side. As a divorced single woman, she attracts the attention of men not only because of her research: ex-husband, best friend and colleague, old classmate, detective and others. Or is it Inga who gives herself a certain hope? The consistent further development of the main heroine Inga not only succeeds very convincingly as a single mother, but also as a „left alone“ woman.

In terms of content, the authors of the collective always focus on very up-to-date topics: international art trade in connection with robbery and counterfeiting, demolition of entire residential quarters in Moscow in connection with land speculation, influence of social networks on the psyche (discussion about depression), etc. Each time they prove their ability to compose the theme into an intelligently entangled plot with several unexpected twists and turns and, moreover, to very cleverly lay the wrong tracks. The main plot in all cases takes place in today's Moscow. Its streets, squares, quarters and backyards, described in detail, provide the concretely recognizable crime scenes for the series.

Each volume has a completed plot and can be read separately. There is an additional hidden plot though running through the series and exposed in volume 4 only.



* Maria Dolon is the pen name of a female collective of authors:
Nelli Abdullina, Natalya Zvezdkina, Tatyana Lebedeva, Natalya Poroshina, Elena Rykova

Maria Dolon*

historical novel

Shades of the Teutons

Historical mystical blockbuster. Ripol Classic. Moscow 2021. 384 pages
with geographical maps

Award: Audiobook of the Year 2021

The main action of the novel takes place in May 1945, immediately after the end of the war between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. The setting is the town of Pillau in East Prussia (now Baltijsk). But through the events of May 1945, events of the 15th century at Marienburg Castle shine through and mystically influence the events in Pillau. Two epochs, two historical catastrophes – the decline of the Teutonic Order and the collapse of National Socialism – seem to mirror each other in a strange way.

„The ponderous historical novel of the twentieth century now seems archaic. It no longer corresponds to the language of our time.... Fantasy or mysticism, paradoxically, are not at all at odds with historicity. What is the essence of the historical novel? It is not about decorative scenery. It's about the protagonists being motivated by a historical process.... I need mysticism to reveal important ideas. My hero talks to the devil. And the devil explains that God is the creator of everything and that he, the devil, cannot create anything, he can only imitate, repeat, copy. And conspiracy theories and by extension postmodernism mean - copy.“
(Aleksei Ivanov in an interview about his novel)

“The authors who know how to write exciting and unconventional books for the general public can be counted on one hand. And of these few, Aleksei Ivanov can confidently count on a yellow jersey...”

The commercial „blockbuster“ character of „Shades of the Teutons“ by no means automatically means that it lacks really strong elements and artistic depth. The majestic battle scenes in Ivanov's text are built with a truly Tolkienian epic sweep and as such are unprecedented in post-Soviet Russian literature...

The novel works magnificently: it engages the reader, entertains, abducts, and puts our external everyday world on pause. ... Now we have, if not our own Stephen King, at least our own Robert Harris.”

GALINA YUZEFOVICH in MEDUZA



THE AUTHOR

languages

8 languages

awards

2021 audiobook of the Year
2006 Yasnaya Polyana Award
2006 Big Book Award
2006 Strannik Prize
2004 Book of the Year
2004 Bazhov Award
2003 Mamin-Sibiriyak Award

Aleksei Ivanov was born in 1969 in Gorky (today Nizhny Novgorod). He grew up in Perm in the Urals. In 1996 he graduated from the University of Ekaterinburg with a degree in art history. He then worked as a caretaker, laboratory assistant, tourist guide, teacher, journalist and lecturer. His first publication in a magazine in 1990 was a fantasy novel. His first book publication was the mystical-historical novel „Heart of Parma“ 2003. 11 novels and 7 non-fiction books by him are now available with a total circulation of over 1.5 million. 5 books have been filmed, 5 more are currently being filmed. Aleksei Ivanov lives in Perm.

Aleksei Ivanov

Synopsis

In the middle of the 15th century there is a war between the trading towns of Baltic Pomerania and the Teutonic Order. In order to be able to conquer Marienburg, the capital of the Order, the Pole Kajetan makes a deal with Satan: Marienburg will fall if Kajetan captures the sword Liguet for Satan. This sword was used to behead John the Baptist, and the knights of the Teutonic Order had captured it during the Crusades. But the plan goes wrong, Kajetan's clan is cursed to have only one male descendant in each generation until one of them obtains the sword.

Five hundred years later: the Polish historian Vincent, a descendant of Kajetan, is studying the history of the Teutonic Order. When the war with Germany begins, two of Vincent's brothers are killed. One is killed by the Germans in battle, the other is shot by the Russians at Katyn. Kozłowski, historian and former prime minister of Poland, tells Vincent about the curse in order to get the sword himself with his help. Vincent agrees, fearing for his own sons. But Kozłowski is a collaborator working for the Gauleiter Erich Koch. Koch wants permission from Hitler to territorially restore the Teutonic Order as a pseudo-state. He wants to become independent and rich himself through this. The mystically inclined Hitler first demands proof of Koch's suitability as „master of the new Teutons.“ Kozłowski proposes to Koch the acquisition of the sword as proof. In the meantime, this sword seems to be in the inventory of the local history museum of the city of Pillau.

In his search for the sword, Vincent joins forces with the Soviet counterintelligence, who are looking for Koch. The latter is said to be hiding in a secret underground facility in Pillau, from where he plans to escape in a mini-submarine – complete with sword procured for him by a pilot of the Nazi partisan organization Werwolf. Gradually grasping what is happening, Vincent discovers a similarity between the events of the mid-15th century and May 1945, and plans the operation in the Pillau catacombs accordingly. But he makes mistakes in the symbolic „mirroring“ of the people involved: he does not take into account the human feelings and relationships between the characters, and therefore falls for Kozłowski and gets everything mixed up. Just like Kajetan, Vincent also fails in his search for the sword.

The novel aims at the fact that repetition of history always remains a devil's way as long as one sees in people only functional figures and not living sentient beings. The reader is left with the option of reading the whole machinations of the devil as an ancient legend, and to interpret the whole story with the enchanted sword without further ado as a Bulgakovian metaphor of an alternative – and not at all necessarily malicious – form of regulation of geopolitical processes.

Gauleiter Erich Koch, Professor Kozłowski and many other characters in the novel (Polish historian Jan Długosz, German historian Konrad Haberland, Taborite leader Ulrich Chervonka, Pillau commander Pierre de la Kav, Lithuanian historian Povilas Pakarklis, German master Luduzen von Ehrlichshall) are real historical actors. The places of action – Königsberg (Kaliningrad), Pillau (Baltijsk), Danzig (Gdansk), Marienburg (Malbork) and the concentration camp Stutthof – are also real. The events of the novel are entirely consistent with the documented history. The „military“ elements are realistic, the „Teutonic“ elements are indeed gothic mystic.

Aleksei Ivanov

Nenastye

Novel. AST. Moscow 2018. 638 pages

Publishers: France - Payot et Rivages

Using a thriller plot the novel describes the development of Russian society from the 90ies into the early 2010s. The plot takes place in a provincial town where ex-Afghanistan combats form a first mafia group that still obeys rules of comradeship and „honesty“ and brings kind of stability to the town. But slowly they are pushed aside by other mendacious and „dishonest“ guys who are seeking their private financial profit only. A late revenge of one of the old „honest“ guys brings the situation to escalation. A very emotional kaleidoscope and realistic analysis of the Russian provincial society developing after the end of the Soviet Union.

Ivanov is at home in different genres. But he is always interested in those times, places and events in Russian culture where a transition from one cultural system to another takes place. Be it in Russian history, where new times replace the old ones, thematized in his historical and contemporary novels. Be it the collision of parallel systems, as in his mystical thrillers. His books are all explicitly plot driven, which is why almost all of them have become movies. Because they are easy to read and follow the rules of the genre, they are always aimed at a broad audience. But even on the surface one senses, without having to consciously perceive it, the authentic saturation and great closeness to life of his novels. Because only one layer deeper Ivanov's books are full of documentary facts, socio-historical descriptions and witty references. This way, even a more intellectual reader will get his money's worth and on top of that a good deal of horror, suspense or historical-exotic entertainment. Union.



THE AUTHOR

languages

8 languages

awards

2006 Yasnaya Polyana Award
2006 Big Book Award
2006 Strannik Prize
2004 Book of the Year
2004 Bazhov Award
2003 Mamin-Sibiryak Award

Aleksei Ivanov was born in 1969 in Gorky (today Nizhny Novgorod). He grew up in Perm in the Urals. In 1996 he graduated from the University of Ekaterinburg with a degree in art history. He then worked as a caretaker, laboratory assistant, tourist guide, teacher, journalist and lecturer. His first publication in a magazine in 1990 was a fantasy novel. His first book publication was the mystical-historical novel „Heart of Parma“ 2003. 11 novels and 7 non-fiction books by him are now available with a total circulation of over 1.5 million. 5 books have been filmed, 5 more are currently being filmed. Aleksei Ivanov lives in Perm.

Aleksei Ivanov

Ukrainian thriller

Airport

Thriller. Bright Star Publishing. Kyiv 2015. 403 pages

Publishers: China - Citic Press, Czech Republic - Biz Books, Estonia - Rahva, France, Georgia - Artanuj, Latvia - Gramata, Lithuania - Briedis, Netherlands - Douane

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution

AIRPORT is a docu-thriller, which illustrates the tragedy of the on-going Russian-Ukrainian conflict by means of a fictional story of love in times of war. On the one hand exciting and emotional, on the other hand it endeavours to be as authentic and accurate as possible. The author's spyglass is directed at the airport of Donetsk, which is important both logistically and symbolically for the entire conflict. Had they seized the airport, the separatists, aided by Russia, would have been able to attack other towns, in particular the city of Kharkiv. However, the author's spyglass is in reality a kaleidoscope, drawing on all events, background information and consequences to form a composite picture. And like a kaleidoscope, the novel clearly shows that the composite picture is actually made up of a great many individual shards and splinters, which can never become a healthy whole again, if indeed they ever were.

Alexei, a journalist and war-correspondent from Moscow has been living the „American Dream“ in the USA with a lovely family and a wonderful job. In 2014 he goes to Kyiv to report about the revolution at Maidan square. The events develop all too quickly taking a tragic turn and eventually leading him to Donetsk airport, where the Ukraine forces have been besieged by the separatists for more than 200 days.

The novel's action and suspense climax during the last five days of the siege.

AIRPORT is neither a war chronicle, nor a documentary, nor an investigative novel. It is a work of fiction based on true facts and events. The novel has many characters and intertwining dramatic plot lines. The novel is not only and not so much about a war everyone thought was impossible. It is also about love, betrayal, passion, cheating, hate, rage, tenderness, courage, pain and death.

“The macro story is ‘war is absurd’ – and more terrible than we can possibly imagine. The micro story is ‘love is absurd’ too, yet it is the eternal, fundamental essence of our being. Together they make up the most powerful experiences we will ever have in our lives.” BEN MOSES (Hollywood producer and writer, “Good morning, Vietnam”)

“Loiko walked right up to journalism's limit, took a deep breath, and leapt into the novel's whirlwind. All the passion our profession holds, all the love that newsprint tries to squeeze out, all the rage and pain that has to be tucked away in the soul's non-work compartments, has broken free here and, crying out, sings aloud.” ECHO MOSKVY



THE AUTHOR

translations
9 languages

awards
L.A.Times editorial award 2015
Overseas Press Club's Bob
Considine Award 2014

sample translation available
full english

other work
The Flight

Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. In 1989, Loiko became a translator and reporter for the Associated Press and later a producer for the British television company TV/am; he has also contributed to Novaya Gazeta and Echo of Moscow radio. Loiko has covered armed conflicts, revolutions, and wars in Romania, Tajikistan, Chechnya, Georgia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. For twenty-five years, Loiko had been the Moscow correspondent and photographer for the Los Angeles Times, specializing in wars and armed conflicts. Loiko covered the Ukrainian revolution and the subsequent war virtually nonstop from the first day until 2015. Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Kyiv, Ukraine.

Serhii Loiko

Ukrainian thriller

The Flight

Thriller. Bright Star Publishing. Kyiv 2017. 430 pages

Publishers: Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution
Inspired by true events, extensive research and war reporting

Sergei Alyokhin, a former corrupt Russian cop hiding under a false identity in L.A., is anxious to rejoin his beloved wife Lena and two young daughters. He hasn't seen them for three long years since he busted the cargo transport of a most powerful mafia syndicate in Russia and fled. The mafia's angry leader swore to find the fugitive, and not only get the syndicate's money back, but avenge his son's death. Finally Alyokhin believes that he has covered his track sufficiently and invites his wife and daughters to join him for the long awaited family reunion at a luxurious island resort in Thailand. Their flight London-Bangkok perishes with 298 people on board over eastern Ukraine. Alyokhin wants to find the culprits and take his personal revenge not only on the perpetrators but also on those who ordered the heinous crime.

In private investigations he sides up with an ambitious and fearless US journalist Jane Ashley. They help each other to survive and uncover the truth. But their motivations are different: while Alyokhin is not much interested in politics, she wants a Pulitzer Prize which kept evading her, she wants to provide evidence and a live witness for the Hague International Tribunal trial to be. In their deadly quest amid the unfolding armed hostilities between Russia and Ukraine Alyokhin and Jane find themselves doggedly pursued by the military, special service agents, mafia syndicate professional hitmen and ... a manic serial killer, who suddenly emerges from Alyokhin's violent past to settle old scores with the former homicide investigator.

Very soon they come to realize that they are actually on a suicidal mission with no chance to survive. But against all odds they continue to follow the tracks they uncover. The tracks that ultimately lead them to the highest echelons of Russian power.

"The author has so skillfully built up the suspense that you cannot get away from it, not even for a second; you are dragged through every phase of this compact story, from the first chapter and not just to the last chapter, but to the very last line. To the very last line ... The episodes of this novel are not merely snap-shots, they are multi-layered images, like a CAT-scan. Every hero, a character; every character, a story; every story, a destiny."
COLTA.RU

"The mainspring and quality of this novel is the human suffering and desire to discover the truth about the circumstances involved in the shooting down flight MH-17. This turns the novel into a genuine political thriller, one that we desperately need in our post-factual world to be able to penetrate the cloud of lies covering the squalid conflict in the Ukraine."
SERGEI MEDVEDEV, *Historian*

Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. For the past twenty-five years, Loiko had been the Moscow correspondent and photographer for the Los Angeles Times, specializing in wars and armed conflicts. Loiko covered the Ukrainian revolution and the subsequent war virtually nonstop from the first day until 2015. The rights of his Documentary novel AIRPORT have been sold to 9 countries. Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Kyiv, Ukraine.



THE AUTHOR

translations
9 languages

awards
L.A.Times editorial award 2015
Overseas Press Club's Bob
Considine Award 2014

other work
Airport
(full english available)

Serhii Loiko

Ukrainian literary fiction

Witches of Kyiv

Phantastic series. Folio. Kharkiv 2005-2020. 11 volumes, approx. 400 pages each.

Publishers: Germany - dtv, Poland - Insignis

With the four chalk hills at its centre Kyiv was and is the focal point of Slavic witchcraft. Belief in this witchcraft is deeply rooted in the Ukrainian mentality and nearly one in three women in Kyiv has a practising witch, magician or healer in her ancestry. Kyiv has been considered not only the centre of the Christian orthodox faith but also the witches' capital since time immemorial. Many Russian-Ukrainian artists (Mikhail Vrubel), authors (Mikhail Bulgakov) and musicians (Modest Mussorgsky) have drawn on this tradition.

The settings are all so authentic that the book can almost be read as an alternative guide book. With a detailed portrait of both contemporary and historical Kiev the author tempts the reader into a world where reality is hardly distinguishable from the phantastic plot.

With scintillating ideas, witty dialogues and an exciting plot the author introduces her female protagonists, three young women from contemporary Kyiv: Masha – a respectable, highly intelligent history student who still lives with her parents while harbouring shy adoration for one of her fellow students. Dasha – a singer in a nightclub, she has seen it all, is street wise and down to earth. Katya – a successful business woman, emotionally cold, lonely and in the depths of her heart full of the desire for love. "By chance" the three of them meet for the first time at precisely the time and place of an old Kyiv witch's death. Her magical powers are transferred to the three of them. From then on Dasha no longer just potters around the town on her old moped draped in the flag of the Orange Revolution. Suddenly she is able to ride above the domes on a broomstick and can't believe it herself. In fact all three of them want to be free of these unbelievable talents. However, when two ritual murders take place in the town and Mascha's father comes under suspicion they have to intervene. In this book a real demon has returned to Kyiv and none other than the three witches are able to protect the town from his curse and from a third murder.

Wishful thinking when the author started to write the series, but already 15 years ago the young generation in Ukraine and especially in the big cities was full of positive plans, dreams and wishes for their own future free of old demons.

"An entertaining novel with a good sense of atmosphere in the Ukrainian Capital."
VOGUE



THE AUTHOR

sample translation
full German

Lada Luzina was born in Kyiv in 1972. After completing her studies at architectural college she worked as a restorer for the architectural monuments department in Kyiv. She continued with studies at the theatre college and became a theatre critic for the newspaper „Bulvar Gordona“. At the end of the 1990s she received not only the distinction of being "Best Ukrainian Journalist" but also attracted attention as a scandal journalist. She produced her own TV show for Ukrainian television's Channel 1 for a year before she swapped her journalist career after a long illness to become "The Best Writer in the Ukraine" (Zolotoi Feliks Award). Her studies of magic, religion and the history of Kiev influence both her literary work and her own newspaper column "Sex and the City of Kyiv". Heralded by the Ukrainian press as one of the most beautiful women in the Ukraine, Lada Luzina lives in Kyiv.

Lada Luzina

horror

Vixen Hill

Novel. Moscow. 2022. 716 pages

The action of this horror thriller in the genre of mystic realism takes place in the Far East, on the border of the Soviet Union and Manchuria (China) in 1945, right after the end of World War II and the Japanese occupation of the region. The novel combines the history of the USSR, Chinese mythology, Japanese genetic engineering and Siberian shamanism.

After his adventurous escape from the GULAG, prisoner Max Kronin journeys to Vixen Hills: a village in the middle of a no man's land on the Manchurian border, in the hope of finding his long-lost wife. Vixen Hills is a place of strange miracles and supernatural phenomena – an appropriate hunting ground for Max who, before the war, was trained by mentalist extraordinaire and KGB officer Gleb Aristov to manipulate his own dreams, trance-walk, predict the future, and bring lost people back to reality. But just like all the others who once found themselves in this cursed place, Max does not find what he is looking for. And he does not realise that he is still being manipulated by his former trainer Aristov, whose ultimate goal is to find and deploy the mythical Terracotta Army. To conquer the world, Aristov wants to resurrect this Army with the Waters of Death and Life, a mighty biological weapon developed by Japanese scientists in Vixen Hills, where they conduct inhuman experiments in their laboratory for breeding the perfect soldier. But so does a German count, with his own links to Max Kronin. Here Soviet soldiers fall in love with Chinese were-foxes. Here KGB agents face a taoist master who knows the secret of immortality. Here those from fascist Ahnenerbe and those from the Soviet Secret Department represent one and the same ruthless totalitarian monster. Here the war never ends.

This is a spectacular and frightful trip to the heart of darkness, where the protagonists not only find themselves contending with shamans, Old Believers, the KGB and the Red Army, a hypnotists and a Tao Master, but everyone finds exactly what he or she has deserved. Some find love, others find death, but everyone finds the only appropriate fate predestined either by God or by the devil.

"Starobinets doesn't let the reader relax for a minute as she manages to keep up the hellish pace over seven hundred and something pages."
MEDUZA (Galina Yuzefovich)

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 the widow of Alexander Garros, a critically acclaimed Latvian author. Her anti-government views have forced Starobinets to escape from Russia with her two children and dog in spring 2022.



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

historical detective series

Putilin

Historical Detective Series. AST. Moscow 2001.

TITLE 1

The Harlequin's Costume. Vagrius. Moskau 2001. 272 pages.

In 1871, the military attaché of the Austrian Emperor, von Ahrensberg, is murdered. Commissioner Putilin is assigned the investigation. The secret police take up the case as well, the assumption being that the murder was politically motivated. The suspicions of the responsible agent become increasingly wild: one after the other he suspects Russian, Polish and Italian revolutionaries and even Turkish spies. True to his principle "coincidence and passion are the real conspirators", the experienced commissioner seeks the answers in the murky waters of the diplomatic circus. The archetypal family man, who worships his stern wife and lives with both feet on the ground, struggles not only with criminals but also the secret police.



TITLE 2

The Encounter. Vagrius. Moskau 2001. 272 Pages.

A historical thriller with Ivan Putilin, a genuine historical figure, as the main character. In this case the plot is purely fictional. Putilin investigates the murder of his neighbour and other persons. The Freemasons are suspected of complicity as a secretive medalion showing the sign of the zodiac, the Big Dipper, with an inscription is found at the scene of each crime. In this, as with his other novels, Putilin's wife and son play an active role. Putilin's profound knowledge of Greek Mythology is indispensable to the solving of the crime.

TITLE 3

Prince of winds. Vagrius. Moskau 2001. 272 pages.

National Bestseller Award 2001

The Mongolian prince, Naidan-Van, in St. Petersburg as a member of the entourage of the Chinese ambassador, converts to Christianity. Like Faust, he is prepared to sell his soul to the devil. The prince is found murdered. The famous writer, Ivan Turgenev, author of "Fathers and Sons" is considered a suspect. The story line takes place simultaneously in two countries and two eras, St. Petersburg in the 1980's and Mongolia in 1913 as the Mongolian war of independence against the Chinese began.

THE AUTHOR

translations
15 languages

awards

Big Book Award 2021
Yasnaya Polyana finalist 2021
National Bestseller 2016
Big Book Award 2016
Booker Translation Grant 2016
Russian Booker shortlist 2009
Big Book Award 2009

samples available

english
french and others

other works

Philhellenes
Winter Road
Horsemen of the Desert
The Putilin Series
Kazaroza

Yuzefovich, born 1947 in Moscow, spent his childhood and youth in the Urals. He has a Doctorate in History and is known to a wide audience of readers through his historical thrillers about Ivan Putilin. Yuzefovich is capable of interweaving detailed knowledge of historical fact with masterly literary style into the plot of a thriller. L. Yuzefovich lives in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Leonid Yuzefovich