WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

rights list 2025

Ukrainian

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FANTASY | SCIFI | HORROR
Valetov, Jan

news & updates

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authors

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literary
fiction

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Ukrainian literary fiction

Grandma did not love to die

Novel. Ukraine. 2021. 180 pages

Publishers: Estonia - Eesti

A cruel, beautiful, open, truthful and relevant saga about three generations of a family who all their lives strive for personal happiness in their home, but in which there has never been love and therefore each of them remains lonely until the end of his life Days, even surrounded by numerous relatives. Each chapter here is a work of its own, a piece of life, an ironic, sad and powerful story. Nestled together, they weave into a magnificent canvas of the story of the residents of a mining village in eastern Ukraine.

All of the stories are not pure fictitious. They were created thanks to the author's power of observation, who as a result of his various professional activities has met many people in the most dramatic situations.

THE AUTHOR

Pavel Belyanski was born in 1977 in a family of military servants in the village of Shakhta No. 9, Perevalsky district, Lugansk region, Ukraine. From 1994 to 1999 he studied at the Chemical-Technological University of Dnepropetrovsk. Since 1996 he has worked as a freelance correspondent for the regional newspaper "Torgovy Dom" in Dnepropetrovsk and for VLD-Press. After graduating from university, he worked as a car dealer, advertiser, wholesale manager, sales department manager and commercial manager. In 2014 he opened his own company manufacturing and installating monuments. Belyanski is married and has two children.

Under the pseudonym „Pashtet" he actively wrote in samizdat and became the winner of various competitions. Later, on the advice of friends, he opened a facebook account. The first entries are from September 2015, and by June 2016 he already had more than 20,000 followers. His works appeared on one of the most visited websites in Ukraine site.ua.

Pavel Belyanski

From the content

Violent grandfather Petro suffers a heart attack before he can drag his unruly grandson out from under the bed.

Great-aunt Dora introduces the narrator to dealing with women and always gives him cotton plugs before she starts cursing.

Grandmother Anyuta always says: don't worry, I'm not going to die, God doesn't want me. She feels sinful because she has denied her firstborn all her life. In the end she dies without seeing him again.

For Cousin Katja, the sea only exists on the map on the kitchen wall. She sees the sea for the first time in the cinema and for the second time on television. In the end she sells the house and yard, including the television, and drives to the sea in Odessa.

At the feast after the grandfather's funeral, Valera and Vitja cut down the fruit trees to fit the long tables in Tanja's garden, adding a new one to the legendary sibling dispute between Pavel and Katja.

Although or because she was brought up in a monastery when the Red Army came, grandma Anja does not believe in God. Nevertheless, at Easter she brings the priest into the house and lets him say prayers for hours before she gives him something to eat. When he knocks on her door again next Easter and says: Christ is risen, she only says: As if we didn't know it ourselves, and slams the garden gate in his face.

When grandma is on her deathbed once again, her husband Petro admits that he never loved her. Whereupon she jumps up alive and leaves the house angrily.

After his divorce from Katja, Valera only comes back twice to visit his kids. The first time, a dashing blonde is waiting in the car while he has to leave a crate of tangerines in front of the gate for his two children because his ex-wife won't let him in. The second and last time he comes as a war invalid with a prosthetic leg and crutches.

Grandma's village, where the narrator always spends his summer holidays, is a village without men. As if they went to the coal mines for the next shift and simply forgot to come home again. But even without men, everything stays the same.

Aunt Anja chose Vitya as a husband to have children. But when he finally wants to sleep with her on the third day after the wedding, she hits him with a prepared iron wrapped in a towel. On the second hit, she feels her own power, loses her fear of him, drops the iron, and hugs him. Ten months later their daughter Aleksandra is born.

The five children or grandchildren who remain, laugh together into the camera, as always on command, because they always did everything on command and have long since stopped doing things together and have long since left their old eastern Ukrainian homeland.

Aunt Tanya dies under the thunder of artillery fire in February 2015, when fighting for Debaltsevo and Mariupol broke out again in Donbass.

Pavel Belyanski

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LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian fiction

Autochthones

Novel. Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2015. 272 pages

Foreign rights: French/ Agullo, US/ Columbia University Press

Galina set a triptych of novels in Ukraine: Little Boondock takes place in Odesa; Mole Cricets is set in the Odesa region, near Snake Island, where legend says Achilles was buried; and Lviv is the stage for Autochthons, an unusual detective novel. The three books play on fantasy, myth, geography, and history, creating characters and situations that nimbly combine coziness with unease.

In the 2010s a mysterious art critic comes from St. Petersburg to a certain European city with a complex history (Lvov is implied). He is interested in the one and only performance of the opera "Death of Petronius" by an avangarde theatre group. The premiere took place in the city in the 1920ies and became the fate of directors and performers. A single performance, as it turned out, launched a chain of strange events that the protagonist has to unravel. The protagonist is especially interested in the mysterious figure of the director - a certain Vertigo and the person hiding under this pseudonym (the prototype of Vertigo is the famous Ukrainian writer and literary critic Domontovich). Gradually, under the tourist gloss, the true face of the city is revealed to the protagonist, and completely different features appear under the mask of the art critic himself. The art critic, whose aims are anything but scientific, as it turns out in the end, finds himself at odds with the interests of the local tourism industry, who have not selflessly invented the city's fake simulacra. But these simulacra suddenly begin to take on a life of their own.

A novel about the search for one's own identity and „historical truth", and whether both exist. A novel not only in the style of magic realism. Werewolves and ghoul bikers are taken here as if from Gothic prose, and the "eternal Jews", undines and languid opera primas with a fatal secret in their chests are borrowed from the romantics.

THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Big Book finalist
2016 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2016 National Bestseller shortlist
2016 New Horizons Award
2016 Novy Mir Award
2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Little Boondock
Mole Cricets

"The novel „Autochthons" immediately after the release became the subject of a local cult ... Maria Galina's book reminded me of David Lynch's „Twin Peaks", which once opened up the abysses of everyday provincial life."
NOVAYA GAZETA (Dmitri Bavilski)

"The author has managed in recent years to walk the fine line between entertaining genre fiction, astute chronicle of modernity and Borgesian metafiction... Galina creates a world of elusive certainties in which the diligent reader is no more certain of his own existence than that of aliens and sylphs."
AFISHA (Aleksandr Gavrilov)

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter "Russian Writers support Ukraine". Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving masking nets for Ukrainian military forces.

Maria Galina

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian fiction

Mole Cricets

Novel. Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2011. 230 pages

Foreign rights: Arabic/ Arab Scientific Publishers

Awards: 2011 Best Book World of Fantastika
2012 Big Book finalist
2012 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2012 Strannik Award
2012 Filigran Award
2012 Marble Faun Award

Galina set a triptych of novels in Ukraine: Little Boondock takes place in Odesa; Mole Cricets is set in the Odesa region, near Snake Island, where legend says Achilles was buried; and Lviv is the stage for Autochthons, an unusual detective novel. The three books play on fantasy, myth, geography, and history, creating characters and situations that nimbly combine coziness with unease.

An autistic loser in Odesa in the mid-90s lives in someone else's dacha and earns a living by inserting the adventures of customers into well-known books at their request, thereby revealing their secret aspirations and helping to realize hidden dreams. At the same time, he is in conflict with an unloved and unloving father, who accuses him of not living up to his father's expectations. One day, a strange client comes to him - Smetankin, a former orphanage resident, and asks him to come up with a "good" family story. The hero, who is fond of searching for cheap antiques ('things of the dead') at flea markets and online auctions, takes an order, selects old photographs of „ancestors" and invents appropriate biographies for them. As expected, invented biographies are intertwined with real ones, and it turns out that the hero himself and his family history begin to intertwine with the fictitious history of the customer, and the hero's father begins to experience those feelings for the newly-minted relative that he denied his own son. And when Smetankin gathers together all the newly acquired relatives at a gala dinner, the celebration is expectedly resolved by a scandal and reveals a tragic secret hiding behind it.

At the same time, some events convince the hero that Achilles, the son of Hecate, is about to rise from the Serpent's Island, where the sanctuary of Achilles the Cannibal, the ancient chthonic god, is about to rise or has already risen in the terrible guise of a monster ...

THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Big Book finalist
2016 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2016 National Bestseller shortlist
2016 New Horizons Award
2016 Novy Mir Award
2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Autochthones
Little Boondock

"Her novel is like a Rorschach test, everyone sees something different in it. One - loneliness and madness, another - chthonic forces gradually dominating the world, yet another - secret meanings of blood ties."
GALINA YUZEFOVICH

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter "Russian Writers support Ukraine". Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving masking nets for Ukrainian military forces.

Maria Galina

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian fiction

Little Boondock

Novel. Novel. Eksmo. Moscow 2009. 354 pages

Foreign rights: French/ Agullo

Awards: 2009 Big Book finalist
2009 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2010 Portal Award Ukraine

Galina set a triptych of novels in Ukraine: Little Boondock takes place in Odesa; Mole Cricets is set in the Odesa region, near Snake Island, where legend says Achilles was buried; and Lviv is the stage for Autochthons, an unusual detective novel. The three books play on fantasy, myth, geography, and history, creating characters and situations that nimbly combine coziness with unease.

The novel consists of two parts connected to each other „at a tangent"; so different in style, in mood, as if they were written by two different authors.

The first part of the novel, „SES-2", is about an adventurous story with a mystical twist. The scene of action is a southern coastal city (behind which Odesa is guessed). The time of action is 1979, a kind of peak of Soviet stagnation. The main character, 17-year-old Rozka, who failed the entrance exams to the institute, for the sake of „work experience" gets a job at the port SES (sanitary and epidemiological station), The new SES employee has nothing to do with herself and she spends her time reading books about Angelica's adventures. „SES-2" is a cross-section of the era of late Soviet stagnation with shortages, queues, commercial rudeness, petty corruption, sweet dreams of „transfer to the ministry" and moving to Moscow. Such a well-established and understandable reality is invaded by some occult-mystical forces, "parasites of the second level", who arrived at the Soviet coast on board an ocean freighter.

The second part – Malaya Glusha, actually „Little Wilderness" - is a story about the journey of the living to the land of the dead, there, beyond the „twilight threshold", in search of the dead closest, dearest people. viscous, almost frozen time; smells of decay and decay, a feeling of inexplicable anxiety does not let go even in the midst of sun-drenched Ukrainian fields. In the air of „The Wilderness" there seems to be a premonition of an inevitable catastrophe, a world break (the duration of the second part is 1987). Wilderness is an amazing quest in which the heroes not only try to get to the land of the dead, but travel deep into themselves, into their own souls. „The Wilderness" is a truly tragic text, in which the hope of saving loved ones turns into an absurd nightmare.

THE AUTHOR

awards

2016 Big Book finalist
2016 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2016 National Bestseller shortlist
2016 New Horizons Award
2016 Novy Mir Award
2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Autochthones
Mole Cricets

"Here the past becomes the scene of the action - just like the world of the dead in Little Wilderness or the coastal town in SES-2. Mind you, not by time, but by place, and it is this place that many of Galina's readers still remember, a place inhabited by demons." KSENIA ROZHDESTVENSKAYA

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter "Russian Writers support Ukraine". Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving masking nets for Ukrainian military forces.

Maria Galina

Ukrainian fiction

Nothing New on the Eastern Front

Novel. Kharkiv. Ukraine 2024. 255 pages

Angelina and Gleb have known each other since school. Their school is one of only two in the small town of Kozachye, in the east of Ukraine. When Angelina and Gleb are getting married, Angelina is pregnant. Finally, at the age of 32, she marries Gleb, who as a twelve -year-old schoolboy climbed the 250-meter-high chimney of the disused Soviet factory as a sign of his love. While they have had as many fights as tender moments, Angelina knows Gleb is one she is meant to be with. And Gleb knows.

What they don't know is that two days after their wedding, Russian tanks will roll through their town and destroy everything. They don't know yet that seven months of occupation with all its harrowing moments lie ahead. The wedding guests see no reason to believe in the threat of an impending attack either. Not grandmother Katya, not father Grigory, not his wife Natalya, not the bull Semyon and not the dog Gavchik, none of the neighbours on Grushevaya Street. Only Gleb's school friend Pavel knows what is going to happen. He had gone to Moscow for training and has now returned as a soldier in the Russian army.

The Lugenko oligarch family and their four children are the first to flee. Gleb will later find their burned-out BMW with the corpses sitting upright inside. Angelina and Gleb's families stay. That's why Angelina and Gleb stay too. And in the end, none of them are spared suffering – not the people, not the animals, not the fruit trees, not the houses. And the readers are not spared either, although Gerasimov tells the story calmly, almost gently melancholically, even comfortingly.

Just as Gerasimov in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, with his Notes from Kharkiv since day one of the attack, has subjected himself and his readers to the painful realization of everyday horrors and absurdities, so too in this novel about the war in Ukraine, which is permeated with true experiences, it is his unerring eye for the small details that make the great suffering the war has brought to Ukraine and Kozachye, with all its cruelty and psychological abysses, tangible, understandable and bearable from afar.

THE AUTHOR

text available
in full English

(about his diary of the first 2 months of the war, published as a book)

"A disturbing testimony." FAZ

"A stirring testimony and an appeal for peace and understanding." MUSIX MAGAZINE

"A document of terror and a document of Ukrainian courage and resistance." WDR

"A darkly shimmering panorama, a tableau made up of descriptions, reflections and memories." TAGESSPIEGEL

Sergei Gerasimov was born 1964, in Kharkiv where has lived all his life. In the early 1990s he studied psychology and graduated at Kharkiv State University, wrote a psychology textbook for schools and a book on psychology in relationships. Since then he has been concerned with the psychological question of how human interest arises and functions. He is the author of several academic articles on cognitive activity with interest in popular literature as a phenomenon and object of human interest. So he became a writer, poet, and translator of poetry. His stories and poems written in English have appeared in many literary magazines. Gerasimov and his wife together with several cats live in the centre of Kharkiv in an appartment on the fourth floor of a high rise building, remaining in the embattled frontline town until today.

Sergei Gerasimov

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Ukrainian literary fiction

Springtime on the Moon

Novel. Azbooka. St. Petersburg 2012/ Fabula. Ukraine 2017. 245 pages

Foreign rights: Eesti Raamat/ Estonia, Suhrkamp/ Germany

A rebellious and visionary girl grows up in the milieu of the bourgeois Jewish intelligentsia in a high-rise building on the outskirts of Kyiv's old town. Demolition excavators lay entire streets in rubble and ash, decay and dissolution prevail all around. While her father, who lives in constant fear of being denounced, writes lyrics for a circus show, the twelve-year-old finds salvation in letters she writes to herself in the near and distant future. And she discovers Lunatism: a heightened self-awareness in the moonlight, with which she can escape the demands of an oppressive reality - her school friend, who emulates the poet Marina Zvetajeva, initiated her into the art of necromancy. And so she talks at night with the leaders of the world proletariat.

Sad, angry, gifted with visionary language, Julia Kissina describes her Soviet childhood against the background of the physical and ideal decay of the city of Kyiv and its inhabitants. The museums and park benches, the winding alleys and backyards of the old town with their dying evening light in the dirty puddles remain unforgettable for the reader.

See Julia Kissina's homepage HERE.

THE AUTHOR

sample translation
English

"In addition to the surrealism of morbid images, it is the precise, often mercilessly mocking ... language that makes "Spring on the Moon" an event... With Julia Kissina's novel, Kyiv has become a place that from now on has its place on the mythopoetic map of Eastern Europe."
NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG

"Springtime on the Moon» is often studiedly amusing, but the attempt to take more than light fiction from her own memories lends Kissina's book a Nabokovian dimension… As funny as Kaminer and as serious as Nabokov."
SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"She oscillates between the harshness of everyday Soviet life and ... fragile beauty. That's why her episodic novel, her first, is so exciting."
ZEIT ONLINE

"An absurd, wonderfully wound-up and comical novel… Intense, eloquent, fantastic and amusing, but sometimes also malicious and merciless – this is what Julia Kissina's novel proves to be."
DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR

Julia Kissina is an artist and writer. Born in Kyiv, she studied dramatic writing in Moscow, then moved to Germany, graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and taught as a Professor of New Media and Art Photography. A member of the Moscow Conceptualist movement and Russian literary underground avant-garde (Samizdat), Kissina is the author of several novels and story collections translated throughout Europe. In 2018 she created Urban Dictionary, a literary festival in Berlin, that brought together writers from New York and Berlin. Kissina lives in Berlin and New York City.

Julia Kissina

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian fiction

Odesa is not on the Hudson

Short stories. Kyiv. Ukraine 2024. 213 pages

Odesa, as we know, is currently under attack (almost daily), like so many Ukrainian cities. Apart from the city being constantly in the news, the relevance of these „Texts from Odesa" is in its paying tribute to the city rich in world-recognized literary tradition: chatty, irreverent, humorous, exuberant, ironic, whimsical. God knows, the irrepressible Odesans need that vibe in these dark times more than ever. But so does the world at large. Also, the book strives not to so much as to perpetuate the eternal 'Odesa myth' but rather to extend and enrich it, employing the new optics the author inevitably picked up during close to half a century of his living in the USA. Because you can take the boy out of Odesa but you cannot take Odesa out of the boy.

"It is not for nothing that Pavel Lembersky, of course, belongs to two cities imbued with the spirit of freedom - Odesa and New York."
MAXIM MATUSEVICH, NEW JERSEY

"One can sense the dearth of that time's aroma when no one had emigrated yet and our parents were still alive and young, and there were no irreparable losses yet. The book takes us back there, where we literally feel this already mythical time."
IRINA KUZMENKO, ODESSA

"Pavel Lembersky's new book, published in Ukraine, was conceived and written by him as a kind of hymn of admiration and support for his sunny hometown, to which the war came."
GARY LIGHT, CHICAGO

"Imagine Borges writing philosophical conceptual anecdotes using the sparkling language of Isaac Babel. Sometimes the significant parts are located in the breaks between phrases, and one can feel the draft of pain and despair blowing from those gaps which perhaps irony alone can suppress."
ANTON NESTEROV

"Despite his cheeky tongue, Pavel Lembersky is a melancholic who winks at us so that we don't notice the tears of homesickness welling up in his eyes - about the lost days of Odessa, the warm wind in the harbor, or in the memory of an English professor who insisted on demonstrating important new vocabulary concerning anatomy on her own considerable physicality."
CICERO

THE AUTHOR

samples available
English
German

Pavel Lembersky was born in Odesa, Ukraine, and emigrated to the United States in 1977. After receiving his BA in comparative literature from the University of California at Berkeley, Pavel did graduate work in film at San Francisco State University. He worked in New York City on film projects of Jonathan Demme and Spalding Gray and the Oscar-winning Appointment of Dennis Jennings, among others. Pavel lives in Brooklyn NY.

Pavel Lembersky

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian fiction

Win can't lose

Familienstellen in Odessa (Family constellation in Odessa)

Novel. Raduga Publishers. Odessa 2021. 284 pages

Awards: 2021 Diploma winner Green Wave international book festival

The novel is set in Odessa and covers a hundred-year period of Rita's family life. The storylines unfold in the 1990s and 1940s (World War 2 period). The title „Family constellation in Odessa" refers to Bernd Hellinger's therapeutic method of so called Familienstellen.

Rita is sixteen, she has no friends and she is too attached to her family. Rita's grandmother lives in the apartment resembling a train station. Numerous relatives are constantly coming and going. All of them experienced tragic losses that WW2 brought to their lives. Accidentally grandmother finds the girl dress of Rita's mom – absolutely new, though it has been worn out and thrown away a long time ago. At the same time, the touristic cruise liner with Rita's parents on board is meeting a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. Grandmother is in despair, she believes that now, when the girl dress of her daughter came back from past, all the family can get into big trouble. Meanwhile, Rita finds other things lost a long time ago – a rug, a notepad, a revolver. In her hands they come to life and retell the stories of their owners.

Rita and grandmother realize, that impregnated with bad memories, things drag the family into a trap of failures, illnesses, losses. The only way out is to find new owners for those things, to give them a chance for a second birth. To do this, Rita will have to learn to act independently, step over her fear and pride, lose and find friends and finally believe that the world is not as hostile as it seemed. After all, it was the War, one of the novel's characters, that pushed her into loneliness. Relatives who died and suffered during the war are passing before her eyes. They don't want her to repeat their unhappy lives. On the contrary, they died to give her a chance to be happy. The storm subsides and the parents return home. The family reunites to start a new page of life. But the War is not gone, wandering around, looking for loopholes to get closer to the people again.

THE AUTHOR

awards

2020 finalist Paustovsky Award

2020 choice of the Odessa City of Literature UNESCO

2020 finalist Cyberiad held by Huxleÿ magazine

other works

In the Cocoon

Hanna Mikhalevska was born in Odessa. She got a master's degree in Economics from the Odessa National Economic University – because of money, and master's degree in Social Psychology from Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University – because of love. Hanna writes in the genres of magic realism – everything that allows going beyond the boundaries of ordinary, but keeps the characters and their feelings real. Hanna loves experiments such as writing collaborative fiction, performing and writing script for literary audio theater „Theater of Ears", presenting her books on various events, stage reading. Since the beginning of the war, she has remained in Ukraine doing what she can best: writing. Hanna organized a charity event, where her works and Ukrainian songs were performed to support families affected by the war.

Hanna Mikhalevska

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian fiction

The Fourth Helper of Saint Christopher

THE AUTHOR

Novel. Summit Books. Kyiv 2021. 700 pages

Awards: 2022 Long List BBC Book of the Year
2022 Pervaya Lastochka, Writers Union Ukraine
2021 Yukhomovich Award

Set in the aftermath of the USSR's collapse, the crew of the ship „Bela Kun" is stranded in Buenos Aires with dwindling resources and no help in sight. The sailors are on the brink of starvation, and the ship is detained at the port as a result of unpaid debts. In a desperate attempt to draw attention to their plight, the first officer Ivan Lubnin sets himself on fire in front of the Soviet embassy. But the strike brings no results.

Amidst this chaos, the young mate Rozov makes a difficult decision. He wants to return to Odessa, no matter what it takes. He doesn't tell anyone why he's willing to risk his life to get home: he wants to see Diana again, the girl he loved and once lost. Captain Samoilov gives Rozov a family heirloom, the cross of Saint Christopher, and asks him to return it to his sister. The cross is said to be the patron saint of all travelers and has helped the captain out of trouble many times.

Rozov starts his gripping journey through South America, as he hitchhikes his way through Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, encountering diverse cultures and fascinating people along the way, encountering unexpected allies and enemies. Despite facing moments of hope and despair, Rozov never loses sight of his ultimate goal - to return home to Odessa and reunite with the love of his life.

"A book that I dragged with me everywhere. 700 pages, hardcover, weighs around 1 kg, so „dragged" is definitely the right word. And „everywhere" means to bed, to the toilet, to the beach, to work. I brushed my teeth with it, went jogging with it, drank coffee with it in the morning and wine in the evening. If there was a way to read while driving to the office, I would have. I regretted having to waste time working, eating, sleeping instead of reading on."

"It's about travel, adventure, friendship, emotions, people and - this wonderful world."

"When describing the landscapes - they arise right before your eyes, bright and real. The events - the heart jumps out of the chest with compassion. The heroes of the novel - it seems that you have known them all your life. I was hot in Mexico, cold in Alaska. Very detailed, accurate, interesting."
GOODREADS

Anna Morozova, born in 1989 in Sumy, Ukraine, is a metal scientist and volcanologist who also pursued a career in travel journalism. She earned her master's degree from Kyiv Politechnic Institute before embarking on a career that would take her to 70 countries around the world. Morozova's writing has been featured in a variety of publications, including Inspired, FurFur, The Village, and Bird in Flight. She is a sought-after speaker, having delivered talks at events like TEDx, Philip Morris training camps, Greencubator, and Tesla Camp. One of Morozova's most notable achievements was her circumnavigation of the world by hitchhiking while wearing a blue and yellow overall, the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Her journey garnered widespread media attention and cemented her reputation as a fearless adventurer. Morozova now resides in the United States, where she is raising her family and running a charity fund within an American corporation. She continues to write about her travels and adventures, inspiring others to explore the world and embrace new experiences.

Anna Morozova

LONG SYNOPSIS

Buenos Aires, January 1992. The crew of the ship "Bela Kun" went on strike in front of the former Soviet embassy. The Black Sea Shipping Company, on the verge of bankruptcy after the collapse of the USSR, left them to their fate stranded in Buenos Aires with dwindling resources and no help in sight. The sailors are on the brink of starvation, and the ship is detained at the port as a result of unpaid debts. But the strike brings no results. In a desperate attempt to draw attention to their plight, the first officer Ivan Lubnin sets himself on fire in front of the Soviet embassy.

Amidst this chaos, the young mate Rozov makes a difficult decision. He wants to return to Odessa, no matter what it takes. He doesn't tell anyone why he's willing to risk his life to get home: he wants to see Diana again, the girl he loved and once lost. Captain Samoilov gives Rozov a family heirloom, the cross of Saint Christopher, and asks him to return it to his sister. The cross is said to be the patron saint of all travelers and has helped the captain out of trouble many times.

Rozov starts his gripping journey through South America, as he hitchhikes his way through Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, encountering diverse cultures and fascinating people along the way, encountering unexpected allies and enemies. Despite facing moments of hope and despair, Rozov never loses sight of his ultimate goal - to return home to Odessa and reunite with the love of his life.

His journey takes some adventurous detours, including escaping the Italian mafia who seek revenge, surviving the infamous Bolivian prison San Pedro, voluntarily locking himself down in a Peruvian monastery, passing through the Darien Gap with Colombian FARC, illegally crossing the Mexican-US border, trying to build an immigrant life in San Francisco, and finally working as a crab catcher in Alaska.

As he travels further from home, Rozov's burning desire to find his way back intensifies, and he must navigate the depths of human emotion to survive. Despite his incredible journey, Rozov experiences his worst test on the ice of the Bering Strait, where he is caught in a storm and attacked by a polar bear. Though he manages to kill the animal, he loses consciousness and only wakes up in a hospital in Chukotka, Russia.

He faces severe frostbite and legal penalties for crossing the border illegally, and some of his toes have been amputated. Colonel Remezov, Diana's father, saves him from his apparently hopeless situation. Arriving in Moscow, Rozov thanks Remezov for the help, but in his heart, he hates him because it was Remezov who separated him and Diana. Remezov, on the other hand, unexpectedly admits that it was Diana who asked him to help end her relationship with Rozov. When Rozov finally meets his beloved again after three years of separation, he tries to understand what happened to her, why she left him. Diana honestly says that she still loves him, but does not want to get married or have a relationship - the Soviet Union is broken, there is an air of freedom, and she believes that she can be more useful in politics than at the stove.

Heartbroken and disappointed, Rozov travels from Moscow to St. Petersburg to fulfill the captain's request. When he returns the cross to his sister, she reveals a terrible secret to him. Now it is also clear why the first officer burned himself and the whole crew was stuck in Argentina for many years because of the captain's cowardice. Rozov is shocked and does not know how to continue living. He takes a train to Odessa, where a fellow passenger offers him a drink, and he agrees with the words „We left the sea and we will return to the sea."

Anna Morozova

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian literary fiction

The Orderly from Institutska Street

Novel. Lyuta Sprava. Ukraine 2016. 150 pages

Awards: longlist Big Book 2016

Publishers: Italy - Mondadori (excerpt)

The Orderly from Institutska Street is the story of two friends from Kyiv, the poet Yurka Nezgoda and the artist Nikolai Umanets. They belong to the generation formed in the first years of Independent Ukraine. In the 1990's Nezgoda and Umanets were prominent members of the bohemian Kyiv art scene. Later, Umanets became a commercially successful artist and Nezgoda – the editor-in-chief of a glossy magazine. Their lives rarely touch politics; each in his own way tries to cope with the problems of contemporary life that always plague Ukrainians. Nezgoda's brilliance, his depression, his morbid obsession with a mythical historical progenitor, is chronicled through the point of view of his detached and ironic friend Umanets. But in the end the heroes meet again on Kyiv's Maidan Square. Umanets is with the protesters, while Nezgoda tries to stay neutral. But it is Nezgoda who gets pulled into the swirl of events in the novel. He dies as an orderly, trying to move the wounded to safety under fire. Umanets watches his friend die on live television.

The author considers the Ukrainian events of the beginning of the 21st century as another link in the historical chain of episodes of Ukraine's struggle for independence, which has been going on, now fading, now escalating, for several centuries.

Nikitin about the novel:
«*Ukraine has always been situated in the center of a cruelly-mounted historical framework and it is continually looking to the past. But its past history is not exactly a story of triumphs. This is a cyclical focus on bad history, on bad experiences that need to be overcome. The success of Ukraine's protest movement was due to its refusal to cling to the past, its ability to find something new, to reject the burden of its negative experience.*»

In 2019, five years after Maidan, the novel was the only Russian-language novel to be included in the list of "best texts about Maidan."

THE AUTHOR

translations
4 languages

awards
National Bestseller 2014
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

sample translation available
english

other works
Bat Ami
Victory Park

"The culminating events of the novel – the protests and violence on Maidan Square in 2014 – makes the novel a vivid evocation of modern Ukraine." CATHERINE O'NEIL

"Nezgoda, just a collective image of the Ukrainian nineties with their grandiose scandals, literary scholarships, the first collections that have become rarities, treatment in fools and constant longing for either imperfect or not perfect. I don't even remember if, after Andrukhovych's "Recreations", one created such a voluminous image..." NOVY NARNIA

"Maidan, as a lived experience, when the feeling of history being created, is perceived deeply and directly. This made The Orderly a deeper and wiser text than a mere projection of a series of lost generation." LITCENTR

Nikitin was born in Kiev in 1967. After completing his course of physics at the university of Kiev and his period of consription he established his own company in 1992 and worked on different projects for the Ukrainian oil, chemical and atomic industries. In 2000 he published his first volume of poetry, which was awarded the Korolenko prize by the Ukrainian writers association for the best poetry of the year. In 2002 Nikitin closed his business operations and worked for several years as an IT journalist. Afterwards he dedicated himself completely to his literary activities and has since published several novels. Nikitin lives in Kiev.

Aleksei Nikitin

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian literary fiction

Bat-Ami

From the Face of Fire

Novel. Ukraine 2020. Approx. 400 pages

Publishers: Italy - Voland, Ukraine - Phoenix, US - Harvard University Press

Ukrainian Jewish boxing champion Ilya Goldinov has just come second place in the Soviet All-Union championships when World War II breaks out. After the German invasion of Ukraine, he joins the partisan fighters in the forests behind the front line. Only by lucky coincidence does he survive and he joins the regular army as a soldier before being sent by the Ukrainian secret service on a life-threatening mission to occupied Kyiv. There a former sports comrade recognizes him by chance on the street and denounces him to the Germans as a Jew. Meanwhile Ilya's wife Felixa is leaving with the evacuation. On the way she falls ill and is abandoned by her Jewish mother-in-law, together with her daughter Bat-Ami. The hope of seeing Ilya alive again keeps mother and daughter alive. They make it back to Kyiv. There Felixa's friend Ira is the last to see Ilya alive. But Ira is in a concentration camp. It's only in the summer of 1945, after miraculously surviving the concentration camp that Ira can deliver the bitter truth.

This family saga, full of unforeseeable twists and turns, is told in such a thrilling, detailed and touching way that it casts its spell after only a few pages. Unique is the perspective – the attack of the Germans seen through the eyes of a boxer and assimilated Jew. Even the Ukrainian farmers, Nazis, secret service agents, partisans, and sports comrades rarely conform to the usual schemata of good and evil, friend and foe. They are interwoven in fine shades into the main plot of Ilya's family during the chaos of war. An emotional and a stylistic highlight of the novel is Ilya's march to Kyiv carrying the small Kyiv rabbi in his rucksack: for the elderly rabbi a rescuing march into life, for the young Ilya a walk to certain death.

BAT-AMI is not a documentary novel, but its story – inspired in part by the author's family history – is based on files relating to 1941-42 secret service operations from the archives of the Ukrainian Secret Service, not released until 2011, as well as from other Ukrainian archives, the museum of the Dynamo Kyiv sports club and Yad Vashem. Most were not published until very recently. These sources enabled the author to tell the true story of the famous boxer Goldinov. Because the widespread theories about what happened to him – the rumours that were still circulating in Kyiv after the war – have largely proven to be false, as has old Yad Vashem version of events. The descriptions of Ukraine's complex conflicts involving an overpowering Russian brother state, the Soviet secret service, German occupation, partisans and patriotic nationalist freedom fighters cast their shadows even onto the Ukraine of today.

All the NKVD officers who were involved in this operation and are mentioned in the novel are real people whose background in the pre- and post-war period has been researched and made known thanks to the work of the Russian Memorial Society and Ukrainian historians.

THE AUTHOR

translations
4 languages

awards
National Bestseller 2014
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

sample translation available
english

other works
Victory Park
Mayong
Istemi - Your Turn

Nikitin was born in Kyiv in 1967. After completing his course of physics at the university of Kyiv and his period of consription he established his own company in 1992 and worked on different projects for the Ukrainian oil, chemical and atomic industries. In 2000 he published his first volume of poetry, which was awarded the Korolenko prize by the Ukrainian writers association for the best poetry of the year. In 2002 Nikitin closed his business operations and worked for several years as an IT journalist. Afterwards he dedicated himself completely to his literary activities and has since published several novels. Nikitin lives in Kyiv.

Aleksei Nikitin

REVIEWS

"An epic novel recounting the events and atmosphere of life in Kyiv before, during and in the early years after the war; in particular, Jewish Kyiv, which was completely destroyed by the Germans; life of rural Ukraine during the war years, along with a chronicle of hostilities in which the hero of the novel takes part in one way or another. This is a novel with a large number of characters, but also a plot for each of them. The work of the NKVD before and during the war, the socio-psychological types of the all-powerful special officers at the time, forms a separate thematic line. In other words, Nikitin creates his own picture of wartime reality and does so through traditional realistic writing, so to speak - with a thorough study of the patterns of events and the psychology of the people of a time long past for us. Of course, this image is solely that of the author, created by someone with no wartime experience, but Nikitin still manages to create a sense of historical authenticity. Reading his novel, one involuntarily recalls the prose of Konstantin Vorobyov or Vasil Bykov. Nikitin's novel is a continuation of this tradition in Russian literature, but with one difference: this is absolutely modern prose - hard-written, expressive, fearless in dealing with its material and with those of life revealed by war."
NOVY MIR

"No, there are no execution scenes at Babii Yar in the novel. But nonetheless Bat-Ami is about the executions at Babii Yar. Even more than that: it is about the Kyiv that ended with those murders, and the Kyiv that began after them. And, no, Nikitin isn't giving us a moral lesson – at least not only. He gives us a masterful work of literature."
THE VILLAGE

"If Grossman's novel «Life and Fate» is the «War and Peace» of the 20th century, than Nikitin's «From the Face of Fire» has the potential to become the «War and Peace» of the 21st century... Everything in this novel is contemporary: both the perspective on historical events and the manner of narration. At the same time, the theme and philosophical message of the book is as old as time itself."
SOFIA BOGATYREVA

Aleksei Nikitin

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian literary fiction

Victory Park

Novel. Ad Marginem. Russia 2011. 208 pages

Publishers: France - Noir sur Blanc, Italy - Voland, Ukraine - Ranok

Apocalyptic sense of doom in Kyiv towards the end of the 1980s. The chest- nut trees are flowering in Victory Park, where veterans from Afghanistan deal in hashish while repairing the playground equipment for the children and black-marketeers entertain the corrupt police at the little kiosk. However, business seems no longer to be flourishing, its last hopeful petals have fallen, and even the corrupt militia will have a poor harvest this autumn. And all because a murder is committed which throws the old well-greased system out of balance. Suddenly all the old alliances between the serious toughs from the Victory Park, who as young boys all went to the same school, begin to disintegrate. Can all this be because a simple literature student wanted to buy a pair of Puma shoes for his girlfriend – but from the wrong blackmarket dealer? In Ukraine a simple thriller would not have a chance to get even close to the truth and so this novel raises its sights to become a literary genre pain- ting. With remarkable accuracy the author brings everything to life: from the smallest day-to-day events right up to the dizzy heights of the political stra- tosphere, all of the organized chaos and entanglements of Ukrainian society that have not disappeared with the demise of the Soviet-Ukraine. Through the prism of the past the reader is shown all the humanity and human fai- lures of the problems of modern Ukraine.

The author has not only a feel for the raw nerves of a fin de siècle, but also the skill to present his hometown of Kyiv ironically and season it with original anecdotes and characters. We learn the names of the villages which occupied the left bank of the Dnepr before the prefab housing blocks began their sprawl in the 1970s; why the soviet housing administration disliked pigeon post and in this did not differ from the German invaders during World War II; and how the rumour of a neglected German army bunker can develop into a real hideout for a neo-Leninist combat unit, who at the end of the novel spark off a final Maidan of the Righteous in Victory Park.

THE AUTHOR

translations
4 languages

awards
National Bestseller 2014
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

other works
Mayong
Istemi - Your Turn

"The soviet and mystical city Kyiv and its inhabitants are very important to this author. He recreates his city, of which he knows every corner and alley, and which he really loves and (not without success) attempts to imbue this love in his readers." *National Bestseller Award Jury*

"A novel in which the driving force above all is love, finely interwoven with the author's humor." *Kultprosvet*

Nikitin was born in Kyiv in 1967. After completing his course of physics at the university of Kyiv and his period of consription he established his own company in 1992 and worked on different projects for the Ukrainian oil, chemical and atomic industries. In 2000 he published his first volume of poetry, which was awarded the Korolenko prize by the Ukrainian writers association for the best poetry of the year. In 2002 Nikitin closed his business operations and worked for several years as an IT journalist. Afterwards he dedicated himself completely to his literary activities and has since published several novels. Nikitin lives in Kyiv.

Aleksei Nikitin

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian literary fiction

Your Turn (Y.T.)

Novel. Ad Marginem. Russia 2011. 208 pages

Publishers: Italy - Voland, UK - Peter Owen

Ukraine, 1984. The Soviet Union is creaking toward collapse, and a group of bored radiophysics students devise a strategy game to keep themselves entertained. But war games are no joke, and no sooner does their game get underway than the KGB pulls the students in for questioning. Eventually they're released, but they remain marked men.
The second time line of the novel starts twenty years later, capitalism is in full swing when one member of the group, Davidov, receives an e-mail with a familiar ultimatum attached. Someone has revived the game, but it's not any of his friends from the university . . . and the consequences now feel more real than ever.
ISTEMI follows an innocent-seeming game to its darkest places, and the result is a disturbing vision of war and tyranny. ISTEMI is a wildly inventive novel exploring the banality deep in the heart of a paranoid totalitarian state.

THE AUTHOR

translations
4 languages

awards
National Bestseller 2014
Russkaya Premia shortlist 2013

sample translation available
full english

other works
Mayong
Victory Park

"The mystery plot...comes to a sublime anticlimax...a gritty, jaded depiction of post-1989 Ukraine." *Wall Street Journal*

"The story — at times hauntingly evocative... is held together by the narrator's nuanced character." *The New Yorker*

"Y.T. is gripping, sardonic and elegantly written." *BBC*

"Encapsulates a multitude of Ukraines... Y.T. questions how much change a few decades, or even centuries, of war and revolution can ever really bring... Nikitin's Kiev is a city on a hill littered with nostalgia, enjoying a tenuous, tedious peace." *Times Literary Supplement*

"[A] tense and melancholic novel of trust betrayed." Publishers Weekly
„Nikitin is an incisive social critic...Stands as an indictment against corruption and false promises, wherever they occur." *Asymptote*

Nikitin was born in Kyiv in 1967. After completing his course of physics at the university of Kyiv and his period of consription he established his own company in 1992 and worked on different projects for the Ukrainian oil, chemical and atomic industries. In 2000 he published his first volume of poetry, which was awarded the Korolenko prize by the Ukrainian writers association for the best poetry of the year. In 2002 Nikitin closed his business operations and worked for several years as an IT journalist. Afterwards he dedicated himself completely to his literary activities and has since published several novels. Nikitin lives in Kyiv.

Aleksei Nikitin

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian literary fiction

The Makings / The Unsimple

TITLE: Z tsogo mozhna zrobiti kilka opovidan
The Makings of Many a Story. Lilea. Ivano-Frankivsk 2005.

Publishers: Suhrkamp/ Germany, Czarne/ Poland

The portrayal of a dramatic era in just a few pages requires the minimalist skills of a great writer. Taras Prochasko turns a family epic harbouring a multitude of stories into a series of narrative extracts evoking the inhabitants of a lost world and one which becomes a meditative focus. This world is called Stanislau and is located in the foothills of the Carpathians, a remote corner of the Hapsburg Empire. In the aftermath of two world wars, nothing is as it was before.
Taras Prokhasko, a young associate of Andrzej Stasiuk and Juri Andrukhovich, is his very own kind of poetic surveyor and storyteller. The "Stanislau phenomenon", the unexpected blossoming of literary talent in a provincial town in central Eastern Europe, finds its most laconic expression in Prokhasko.

"Concrete resumes that make you dizzy because they are shaped by war and flight. In addition, succinct, concise omissions about salt wells, spruce liqueur and the lack of cigarettes.."
ILMA RAKUSA

THE AUTHOR

translations
4 languages

samples available
english

TITLE: Neprosti
The Unsimple People. Novel. Lilea. Ivano-Frankivs 2002. 150 pages.

This story of repeated incest is actually a love story. Sebastian keeps finding his Anna in all of the Annas between 1913 and 1951 and gets to know her in all her facets, getting to know her better and better through the ages. Yet it is the Unsimple People who control his life and who give and take the Annas. Sebastian tries to escape them, in vain. He then learns the art of storytelling and sets off travelling, changing the lives of other people by telling them the story of themselves.
Prokhasko sets this unique family story against the background of the Huzuls, a Ukrainian ethnic group. Their long oppressed, undercover culture comes to life in the novel as a mythical world cleverly peopled with authentic historical events and figures. In its laconic, abrupt style the novel is almost reminiscent of a botanical catalogue which uses poetic images to highlight the awful beauty which drives life. As the "One Hundred Years of Solitude" of the Carpathian Mountains the book has since achieved cult status in the Ukraine.

"The writing of Taras Prokhasko, a young author from Ivano-Frankivsk and key representative of the so-called ‚Ivano-Frankivsk phenomenon,' is one of the most interesting in Ukrainian literature of the last decade." YURI ANDRUKHOVICH

T. Prochasko was born in 1968 in East Gallician Ivano-Frankivsk in the Ukraine. After studying biology in Lviv he returned to his home town in 1992 where he became a member of the literary circle around the newspaper "Chetver" (Thursday), and in which his first prose and poetry were published. Prokhasko has since published several books which have been translated into Polish, Russian, Serbian, Czech and English. He has been a guest of the Villa Deciusz in Krakow, the Donaumenta Festival in Regensburg and the Kleist Festival for Short Prose in Frankfurt/Oder. He was also the recipient of a scholarship from the Literary Colloquium Berlin. Prochasko works as author and journalist for the weekly newspaper "Halyc'kyj korespondent". He is a member of the Association of Ukrainian Writers. T. Prokhasko lives in Ivano-Frankivsk, formerly known as Stanislau.

Taras Prokhasko

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

narrative
non-fiction

Ukrainian narrative non-fiction

Near the War

Odesa. February 2022 - February 2023

Notes. Mikhail Greenberg. Jerusalem 2023. 237 pages

Awards: 2025 Dar Prize shortlist

These diary-like notes are not about the war, but about the new everyday life that was caused and created by the war. First and foremost, it is the record of a rift that quickly widens into an abyss, between the author and the Russians, between Odesa and Russianness. For Odesa, as for the whole of Ukraine, the last few decades have been a time of searching for a new identity. Just like for the author, who was born in Odesa, who lived in Moscow for thirty years and was integrated into the literary scene there, only to move back to her hometown in 2021, before the war began.

The author remembers the former Odesa as „nervous, ambitious, provincial and witty", with painful memories of the „great cultural past", with a cult of the „South Russian school" (Babel, Olesha, Ilf and Petrov) and jovial humor. It was a brand aimed at export, especially to Russia.
In the decades of independence, a new Odessa has emerged – very European, like Lviv and London at the same time. A city with cozy wine shops, jazz concerts, well-groomed poodles and women walking along the beach with a cockatoo on their shoulders. A little run down, but democratic in a European way, unlike snobbish Moscow.
Now a third Odessa is emerging, shedding its „image of a warm, relaxed city" and turning into a „huge sea outpost" whose face will be shaped not only by artists and musicians, but also by marines.

These painful descriptions of metamorphoses from Russian to Ukrainian, from life in Moscow to Odesa, from old to new communities, are autobiographically rooted. This book is not about the aggressors or the chaos they cause. It is about an author's return to her city, not about who is right and who is wrong. The fact that Odysseus has reached Ithaca again is good news in itself.

THE AUTHOR

awards

2025 Dar Prize shortlist
2016 Big Book finalist
2016 Big Book Reader's choice 2. winner
2016 National Bestseller shortlist
2016 New Horizons Award
2016 Novy Mir Award
2015 Best Book of the Year by World of Fantastika

other works

Autochthones
Little Boondock
Mole Cricets

Born in 1958 in Kalinin (now Tver), she spent her childhood and adolescence in Kiev and Odesa, Ukraine. Graduating Odesa State University as a marine biologist, she later got a diploma as a doctor of biology. In the early 1990s she did research of salmon in Bergen, Norway, in 1990-2020 she lived and worked in Moscow, but in 2021 she moved back to Ukraine (Odesa). Maria Galina was one of the subscribers of the letter "Russian Writers support Ukraine". Now being in Odesa in the wartime she mostly spends her time volunteering - weaving camouflage nets for Ukrainian military forces.

Maria Galina

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian narrative non-fiction

Notes from the War

Diary. Kharkiv. Ukraine 2022-2023. 3 parts, covering the war from the very first day so far 620 pages

Publishers (of part I): Germany/ dtv, Hungary/ Helikon

parts published in English by Another Chicago Magazine
published as column in German by Neue Zuercher Zeitung NZZ

Part I Feb 24 2022 until end of April 2022
Part II April-July 2022
Part III August 2022-October 2023 (to be continued)

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The city of Kharkiv, which is located close to the border, quickly comes under heavy fire. Hundreds of thousands of people flee. The Ukrainian writer Sergey Gerasimov and his wife together with several cats live in the centre of Kharkiv in an appartment on the second floor of a high rise building, however, remain in the embattled frontline town. Soon there will be a lack of clean water, food and medical infrastructure. The thermometers show high sub-zero temperatures, people are freezing. Gerasimov begins to write about the absurdity of everyday life in war. The result is a stirring testimony, an appeal for peace and understanding.

Touching, oppressive, comforting in tone, the great catastrophe captured in small everyday observations.

THE AUTHOR

sample translation
full in English

"Sergej Gerasimov's „Fire Panorama" becomes a disturbing testimony, because the form of the diary does not want to overlook the big picture, but tries to formulate a general appeal for understanding from the description of immediate everyday wartime life." FAZ

"The texts are written quickly, concisely, concretely and in detail. They start abruptly and draw into the moment with their presence. Gerasimov's intelligence is evident in the montage of reports, observations, anecdotes, thoughts, stories told by others, internet research, memories of other times, other Russians." DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR

"A stirring testimony and an appeal for peace and understanding." MUSIX MAGAZINE

"The diary will definitely stand the test of time. A document of terror and a document of Ukrainian courage and resistance." WDR

"A darkly shimmering panorama, a tableau made up of descriptions, reflections and memories."" TAGESSPIEGEL

Sergei Gerasimov was born 1964, in Kharkiv where has lived in Kharkiv all his life. He is a citizen of Ukraine.
In the early 1990s he studied psychology. He is a graduate of Kharkiv State University, wrote a psychology textbook for schools and a book on psychology in relationships. Since then he has been concerned with the psychological question of how human interest arises and functions. He is the author of several academic articles on cognitive activity. This also brought him into contact with popular literature as a phenomenon and object of human interest and he became a science fiction writer, poet, and translator of poetry.
His stories and poems written in English have appeared in Adbusters, Clarkesworld Magazine, Strange Horizons, J Journal, The Bitter Oleander, and Acumen, among many others. His last book is "Oasis" published by Gypsy Shadow. The poetry he translated has been nominated for several Pushcart Prizes.

Gerasimov Sergei

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

non-fiction

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian non-fiction

In Bed with the Bear

Neighbouring Russia as a historical challenge

Non-fiction. Kyiv 2023. approx. 200 pages

This book tells the story of the uneasy experience of coexistence with a state that is constantly seeking to expand its borders, while at the same time complaining about prejudiced attitude from those who live next door to it. Even after the aggression of Russia against Ukraine not all people in Europe have understood that they shouldn't reassure themselves that such problems only affect Ukrainians, Belarusians or Moldovans. History shows that if the aggressor is not dealt with in time, any country in Europe and even in the world can eventually become Russia's neighbour.

Comparing Russia to a bear seems obvious to many today. However, such an association arose in the 16th century completely unintentionally and almost by chance. Only later did the Moscow rulers do their part to justify this association with a bear. Could it have been different? In the corresponding Russian folk tale, too, the bear does not defend his private space from invasions like his three English colleagues, but forces a girl who has gotten lost in the forest to live with him under the same rule – and threatens her with death if she does try to escape.

Russia itself usually does not wait for someone to come, but boldly invades other people's houses and declares them its own. This book attempts to tell the story of exactly how that happens.

From the first victim Novgorod where people lived and developed independently, forming their own cultural, economic and political tradition, being absorbed by Muscovy in the 15th and 16th centuries, to the Tatars, Belarusians and Ukrainians over many centuries. Finally, all of this culminated in an attempt to establish a power over the whole of Europe by fueling up national conflicts between the Western States, using not only the army, but also bribes and propaganda.

Mustafin reveales also historical details mostly unknown to the broad Western audience. For example Bakhmut known today as a place of heavy fighting between the Russian army and the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The town has a long history though. It first came into prominence in the early 18th century. Back then, Ukrainians and their Russian neighbours, the Don Cossacks, were fighting each other for the local salt mines.

THE AUTHOR

sample translation available

english

Oleksii Mustafin was born in Kyiv in 1971. He studied history at the Mykhailo Drahomanov Pedagogical University in Kyiv, but later worked mainly in the fields of journalism, politics and media management. He has held the position of news director at leading Ukrainian TV channels (INTER, STB, ESPRESSO). From 2013 to 2016 he was the general director of educational channel Mega-TV, from 2016 to 2017 as a producer of Media Group Ukraine he created a new information cross platfomr for the TV channel „Ukraina" and the newspaper „Segodnya". He is a member of the Ukrainian Television Academy and sits on the supervisory board of the "Honor of the Profession" journalism award. Between 1990 and 2005 he was politically active for the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party and also was engaged in media and political consulting. Mustafin has published over a dozen popular books on historical topics, including "The Power of the Maidan. Who Invented Democracy and Why" (2016), "Downfall: Crises of Political Regimes" (2021), "Pearls in the Steppe: Conversations about the Past of the Ukrainian South" (2023). Mustafin lives in Kyiv.

Oleksii Mustafin

press reviews

"Oleksii Mustafin combines scientific rigor and journalistic expressiveness, making his book easy to read and trustworthy."
ANDRYIY LYUBKA, Writer

"The style of this work might remind one of a fictional story, but the author is very accurate in his facts and meticulous in his details."
SERHYI OLHOVSKY, Historian, professor at Taras Shevchenko National University

"Even if you think you are well versed in history, Oleksii Mustafin might well surprise you."
OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO, Historian, former Vice-Director of Ukrainian Institute of National Memory

"Unlike many other historians, Mustafin is distinguished by his thorough knowledge of history, simple language and logical, consistent and generally spot-on presentation of facts and their interpretation. Mustafin could easily be compared to Serhii Plokhy, if he were a scholarly historian like the latter. But Mustafin is a journalist first and foremost, and therefore his writing is easy and understandable for all non-fiction readers, be it about misfortunes that determined the fate of nations or about the real history of the late modern period. And most importantly, the stories Mustafin tells can be understood not only in Ukraine, but also abroad, on all continents."
SERHIJ RUDENKO

"Oleksii Mustafin's book „In Bed with a Bear" is not just interesting, but also extremely necessary. In simple language, fascinating fact and captivating characters, it traces the chronology of Russian imperialism from the destruction of Novgorod to the present day."
OLENA KONDRATIUK, Vice-Chair of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine

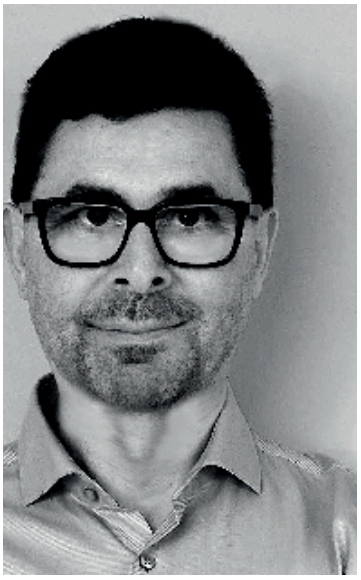
"Oleksii Mustafin combines his skills of a historian with many years of experience as a media manager. This allows him to analyze global processes from the point of view of what actually engages the general audience. Respect for details, analysis of long-term processes and trends of how humanity becomes ever more aware and sensitive of rights and dignity for everyone makes his texts interesting for both professionals and a wide range of readers. Mustafin's irony does not only liven up how the information is presented, but also makes it impossible to use his books for ideological indoctrination. „In Bed with a Bear" is a dynamic, thorough and convincing work that encourages the audience to think for themselves, debunks historical stereotypes informed by centuries of propaganda and negligence, uncovers the roots of processes that still affect things in Europe, Asia and the world, and satisfies intellectually."
KOSTIANTYN DOROSHENKO, Publicist and art curator

Oleksii Mustafin

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian non-fiction

Anatomy of Hate. Putin and Ukraine



Non-fiction. Manuscript. Kyiv. approx. 170 pages
Available by January 15th 2024

The new book by the author of „Zelenskyi without make-up".

Russia's war against Ukraine is the most important event in the life of President Vladimir Putin. He staked everything on this war: the future of Russia, his political career, his well-being and even his life. He has already dedicated his entire presidency to trying to conquer Ukraine.

For him, the "Ukrainian question" became, without exaggeration, a matter of life and death. Putin's hatred of Ukraine rests on a good foundation – the Ukrainophobia that has prevailed in Russia for centuries.

This book is, of course, about when, how and why Vladimir Putin started the largest continental war in Europe since World War II – from a Ukrainian perspective. Because the West has learned but still must continue to learn that the Eastern European perspective on these events matters. Especially the view of Ukraine, which, as a direct victim, also defends the values of the West. Telling us even more about the history of this decision-making, which is also rooted in Putin's personal relationship with Ukraine, this book is an almost exclusive look behind the scenes of this relationship.

Rudenko has been a political journalist in Ukraine since Putin came to power in Russia and even before. Since then he has built up a network for insider and first-hand information, which gives him access to people who know Putin well or who met him directly during their work. For this book he interviewed and spoke to the following:

Yuri Shvets, Putin's former classmate at the Academy of Foreign Intelligence
Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine (2004–2010)
Vladimir Ogryzko, Foreign Minister of Ukraine (2007–2009)
Valentin Nalyvaichenko, head of the SBU (2006-2010 and 2014-2015)
Pavel Klimkin, Foreign Minister of Ukraine (2014–2019)
Roman Tsymbalyuk, UNIAN's own correspondent in Moscow (2008-2021), the only Ukrainian journalist accredited in Russia 2014-2021
Mark Feigin, deputy of the State Duma of Russia (1994–1995), Russian opposition activist, lawyer
Andrei Piontkovsky, Russian opposition leader and Putin critic
Konstantin Eggert, former editor-in-chief of the Russian BBC service, opposition Russian journalist

THE AUTHOR

other translations
25 languages

sample translation
English

other titles
Zelenskyi without make-up
Battle for Kyiv

Sergii Rudenko was born 1970 in the Sumi region in Ukraine. He is a publicist and television journalist, author of a weekly author column for Deutsche Welle and anchor man at „Espresso.TV". He worked for the Ukrainian service of Radio Svoboda, was the editor-in-chief of the editions „Now", „Gazeta 24", „Glavred". He is founder of the book portal „Bukvoid". He became famous by his quite critial political biography about President Zelenskyi translated into more than 25 languages.

Sergii Rudenko

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian non-fiction

Battle for Kyiv

Non-fiction. Manuscript. Kyiv October 2022. 180 pages

Foreign rights: Albania/ Shkupi, Finland/ Tammi, Georgia/ Siesta, Macedonia/ Shkupi, Romania/ Editorial Art

This is the new book by Ukrainian journalist Serhii Rudenko, author of "Zelenskyyiy Without Make-Up: A Political Biography" sold in 2022 in 25 languages.

In February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine: the taking of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, was a declared main goal of the "special operation". Both the seat of government and the base of President Zelenskyy, Putin's number one enemy, are in Kyiv. Whoever controls Kyiv controls Ukraine. The unexpectedly successful defense of the capital and the expulsion of the Russian occupiers from the surrounding settlements in the greater Kyiv area was a crucial turning point in the course of the war.

Chapter by chapter, battle round by round, the author Serhii Rudenko recounts the decisive moments in the defense of Kyiv and the surrounding area. Rudenko himself was in Kyiv when the war broke out, and he witnessed the first rockets hitting the Ukrainian capital. His book is following the individual fates of 12 people, many of whom he knew personally before the war, illustrating how brutally this war changes lives. In brief flashbacks, Rudenko shows these people in their earlier life with all their plans and hopes, and then their fate during the struggle for Kyiv. Its hot first phase is described here from a wide variety of perspectives and eye witnesses. And tragically for many of these people, whose voices that appear in the book have since been silenced by the war.

Of course also the Klitschko brothers, whom the author met for the first time thirty years ago, are among these witnesses in the book. And it turns out that the first round of the Klichkos' personal struggle against Putin took place well before 2022. The two world-famous boxers, who could have made themselves comfortable anywhere in the world after their careers, put themselves at the service of the fight for freedom regardless of the risk to their own lives and thus also personally became symbolic figures for the determination of Ukrainian citizens to defend their country.

This incredible spirit of resitance, which neither Putin's generals nor the Western world had counted on, made it clear that the war in Ukraine and the battle for Kyiv is also a battle for freedom and self-determination in Europe. Only with the liberation of the villages around Kyiv and the gruesome discoveries of Bucha and Irpin would the Western world finally realize that this is also a battle to defend human dignity.

The 12 „heroes"
a photo reporter who died near Kyiv, a politician and a poet who were under occupation near Kyiv, a journalist who spent 10 days under occupation in Bucha, an actor and film director, a major who fought for Gostomel airport, a female lieutenant who burned Russian tanks, a public activist who died, a fighter of the territorial defense who died in Kharkiv Oblast, a Major General who headed the defense of Kiev airport, an editor-in-chief, a pop singer.

THE AUTHOR

other translations
25 languages

sample translation
English

other titles
Zelenskyi without make-up
Putin. Anatomy of Hate

Sergii Rudenko was born 1970 in the Sumi region in Ukraine. He is a publicist and television journalist, author of a weekly author column for Deutsche Welle and editor-in-chief of „Espresso.TV". He worked for the Ukrainian service of Radio Svoboda, was the editor-in-chief of the editions „Now", „Gazeta 24", „Glavred". He is founder of the book portal „Bukvoid". He became famous by his quite critial political biography about President Zelenskyi translated into more than 25 languages.

Sergii Rudenko

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian non-fiction

Zelenskyi without make-up

Political Biogaphy. Summit-Book Publishing House. Ukraine 2021. 180 pages
manuscript updated by the author until March 2022

Foreign rights: Albania/ Fan Noli, Czech Republic/ Kniha Zlin, Denmark/ Word Publishing, English/ Polity, Estonia/ Tänapäev, Finland/ Tammi, Georgia/ Siesta, Germany/ Hanser, Hungary/ Libri, Iceland/ Utgafan, Italy/ Nutrimenti, Japan/ PHP Inst., Latvia/ Latvias Medij, Lithuania/ Alma Littera, Mongolia/ Mirnom, Netherlands/ Atlas-Contact, Northern Macedonia/ Shkupi, Norway/ Gyldendal, Poland/ Poznasnkie, Portugal/ Casa das Letras, Romania/ Editura Art, Slovak Republic/ Lindeni, Slovenia/ Ucila International, Spain/ Editorial Pinolia, Sweden/ Word Publishing

THE AUTHOR

sample translation
full English et al

„Zelenskyi without make-up" was the first critical political biography about the Ukrainian president. In 38 episodes, the author tells about the different stages of Volodymyr Zelenskyi's life - starting from his childhood in Kryvyi Rih and ending with the Russian-Ukrainian war of 2022. The last episodes and the epilogue of this work were written by the author in a bomb shelter during the missile strikes of the Russian army on Ukraine.

The book introduces Zelenskyi starting as a president for peace and becoming a president in war. In episodes which spotlight Zelenskyi's rise to power as honestly and openly as possible and without any retouching we read about Zelenskyi's triumph in 2019, but also about his numerous defeats in the political Olympus.The story of a man who, without any political experience or relevant knowledge, promised the Ukrainians to change their state. A man trusted by 13.5 million voters. A person who understood: great trust is also a great responsibility. The man who accepted the challenge of Vladimir Putin, becoming the head of the Ukrainian state in this difficult period. Last but not least we read about the shift not only in public opinion from a president with few success and bad ranking to a president standing up for his people, defending not only Ukraine but the freedom of Europe as it seems.

Contributors to this book have been in addition to Ukrainian politicians such as Roman Bezsmertny, Geo Leros and Ruslan Ryaboshapka, also political scientists and political technologists such as Viktor Bobyrenko, Serhiy Haidai and Kost Bondarenko.

Rudenko does not have any direct connection with Zelenskyi and was never part of Zelenskyi's team or entourage. This book has no connection whatsoever to the presidential office and is written from a completely independent point of view. It is neither pro-Zelenskyi nor pro-Poroshenko, it keeps critical distance.

Sergii Rudenko was born 1970 in the Sumi region in Ukraine. He is a publicist and television journalist, author of a weekly author column for Deutsche Welle and editor-in-chief of „Espresso.TV". He worked for the Ukrainian service of Radio Svoboda, was the editor-in-chief of the editions „Now", „Gazeta 24", „Glavred". He is founder of the book portal „Bukvoid". He wrote dossier books on the entourage of Viktor Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yanukovych, which according to the magazine „Correspondent" were included in the TOP 20 best books (3rd place in the „Journalism" nomination).

Sergii Rudenko

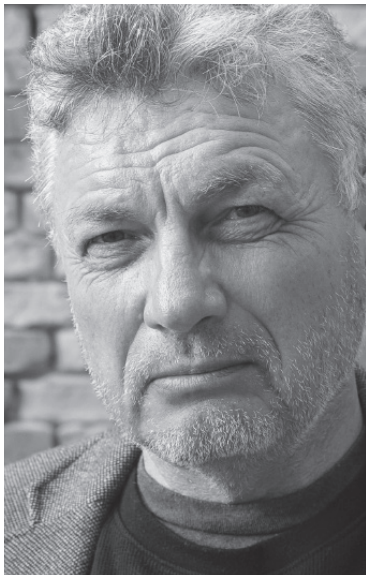
WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

thriller
detective

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian thriller

The Flight



Thriller. Bright Star Publishing. Kiev 2017. 430 pages

Publishers: Czech Republic - Host, Latvia - Gramata, Lithuania - Briedis

Enspired by true events, extensive research and war reporting of the former prize-winning Moscow Los Angeles Times correspondent

2015 L.A. Times Editorial Award for best beat reporting
2014 Overseas Press Club Bob Considine Award for "guts, credibility, depth and sophistication of interpretation, and enganing writing style that made every story a greeping and compelling read"

Rejected by Russian publishers for distribution
(available within Russian territory only via amazon)

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 with $62 million. The mafia's angry leader swore to find the fugitive wherever he might be, 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, living under false identities in London, to join him for the desired and 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.

Returning to Russia, he volunteers to join the ranks of pro-Russian separatists. 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.

For a variety of reasons all these forces are poised to thwart Alyokhin's and Jane's investigation before it gets too far and too high – into the corridors of supreme power. 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

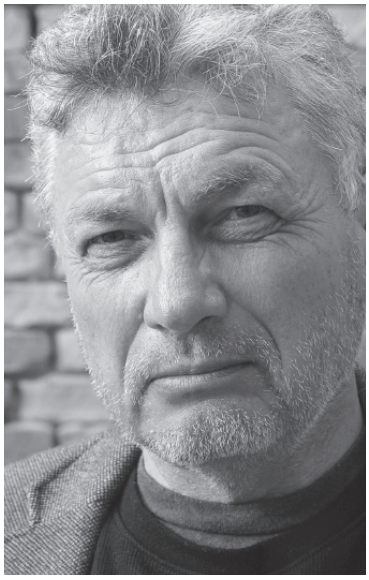
translations
9 languages

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

other work
Airport
(full english available)

Serhii Loiko

thriller



"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

"Journalistic handicraft, American to the core, with powerful protagonists in a plot that even by Hollywood standards must be called explosive."
Yuri Makarov, TV-Journalist

"Up to now I thought, ... our contemporary authors can no longer find the language that truthfully and honestly presents our situation as it really is. After THE FLIGHT we can relax again: there is a witness of how we have lived. And of course this novel will not be printed in this country."
Elena Zelinskaya, President of the Russian Media Union

"Every character makes his own way through the story and in the end realizes: it is personal, it affects me. Me! This is the main theme with which the author has designed the novel, a theme introduced without being intrusive, didactic, or argumentative, but presented with forcefulness and supported by a dizzying plot – and it is precisely this theme that gives the gripping suspense of the novel its inherent strength."
Anna Berseneva, Academic at the Gorky Literature Institute

"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

"In the light of military expertise, the novel reconstructs the key moments of one of the greatest tragedies of this war and represents the circumstances truly and with documentary accuracy. But these precise details never interfere with the development of the story and of the protagonists. A great number of destinies are suddenly linked together by the war."
Igor Romanenko, Lieutenant-General, retired

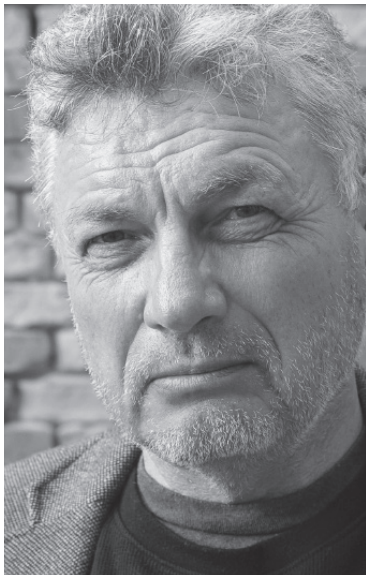
Loiko was born in Moscow in 1953. He served in the Soviet army and was later awarded a degree in philology. In 1989, Loiko became a translator and reporter for the Associated Press and later a producer for the British television company TV/am; he has also contributed to Novaya Gazeta and Echo of Moscow radio. Loiko has covered armed conflicts, revolutions, and wars in Romania, Tajikistan, Chechnya, Georgia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. For 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. In 2014, for this reporting, Loiko was awarded one of the highest prizes in American journalism, the Overseas Press Club's Bob Considine Award, "for its guts, credibility, originality, depth and sophistication of interpretation, and its engaging writing style". He has also been awarded the prestigious Los Angeles Times editorial award for "Best Reporting in 2014". The rights of his Documentary novel AIRPORT have been sold to 9 countries. Loiko now lives in Texas, USA, and Kyiv, Ukraine.

Serhii Loiko

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

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 that 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 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

"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*

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

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

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

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

scifi
fantasy

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian postapocalyptic

Best Age to Die

Postapocalyptic dystopia. 3 volumes
Folio. Kharkov 2017. approx. 500 pages each

1 Best Age to Die/ 2 No Time to Die/ 3 Best Age to Live

OPTION FOR MOVIE AND COMPUTER GAME SOLD

Publishers: Germany - Piper

A virus has escaped from a military laboratory and has quickly swept through the globalized world before the antiviral drug was available. The virus was developed for use in war to incapacitate all enemy soldiers. Within a few weeks everyone over the age of 18 begins to age rapidly and dies. All adults in the world are wiped out. The inexperienced children and adolescents fight a pointless and bloody battle for brief survival. They quickly learn how to kill, but learning how to love does not seem to be worth the effort any more. In the doomed world, every gang tries to organize its own survival in its own zone by using various strategies: shamanism, cannibalism, recruitment of males and females capable of reproduction, selection, strictly controlled programs for breeding, inbreeding and so on.

Tim, a wimpish bookworm, and his female companion Belka, an aggressively merciless lone-warrior, are an unlikely team. But they are driven by a final mutual hope, because Tim, who is very widely-read, has gathered information about the virus, which is viewed by the ignorant as a MERCILESS god. For their seemingly hopeless odyssey to the source of the evil they need not only each other, but it is also necessary to convince the other gangs. However, in spite of this last chance of saving humanity and the planet in a combined effort, the battling groups are more inclined to join forces to oppose Belka and Tim. Finally, however, Belka and Tim find containers with the antiviral drug in bunkers under the military laboratory. For Belka the discovery comes too late, but Tim sets off back with several boxes of the vaccine to rescue those who are destined to die over the winter. Only a bird circling overhead observes that a pursuer is hard on Tim's heels...

The unusually cinematic and graphic descriptions of locations and events, but also of atrocities and violence keep the level of suspense high. The novel has no monsters or other fantasy-elements and, despite the abundance of detail, focusses on human nature in all its facets. None of the protagonists is only good or only bad. They are first and foremost human beings, reduced to living by their instincts and with the personalities and physical capabilities they had at the time of the catastrophe. The character development is concentrated by the magnifying glass of the desperate circumstances, causing the youthful age of the protagonists to be quickly forgotten after only a short time of reading. The place names have been Americanized, the descriptive names of the characters are in Russian, the story line could take place in the conurbation of either a western or an eastern metropolis.

THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

awards
2009 INTERPRESSKON
2009 BRONZE CADUCEUS

sample translation available
english
full german

other works
The Damned
Stay Alive

Valetov was born in 1963 in the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk (now Dnipro). He finished Technical University as a missile construction engineer, but became a private businessman later. He began to write after the turn of the millennium. Since then he has had seven books published, some as multi-volume series, of which several have achieved bestseller status and been awarded prizes. One of his books has been adapted for Russian television. Valetov lives in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

Jan Valetov

WIEDLING
LITERARY AGENCY

Ukrainian postapocalyptic

No-Man's Land

Postapocalyptic dystopia. Folio. Kharkov 2007-2009. 582 pages

Tetralogy

Awards: 2009 Interpresskon, Bronze Caduceus (Starbridge)

Publishers: Poland - Fabrika Slov

No-Man's land, former Ukraine. The collapse of the Dnieper dam cascade 12 years ago killed millions. The ecosystem collapsed. Chemical, biological and radioactive contamination have turned the areas into No-Man's land. The Black Sea and coastal areas are practically lifeless. Central and southern Ukraine have been transformed into a common zone of influence for the G7 countries. Gas and oil pipelines are placed under the protection of Russian troops. Ukraine is divided into the Eastern Republic, which is under the protectorate of the Russian Empire (ruled by Emperor Alexander Alexandrovich Krutov, who was appointed to power by the people) and the Confederation, which is under the protectorate of Poland and the EU.

No-Man's land is separated from the rest of the world by barbed wire fences, mine-fields and control paths. The neighboring countries dump criminals and dissidents there like in a swamp. Getting into the Zone of Common Influence means death, and sometimes worse than death. But people still live here. People for whom No-Man's land has become a home.

In further storylines, a picture of modern political life in Ukraine unfolds. There are interests of the political elites of Ukraine, the Russian FSB, Cuban mercenaries and African terrorists. Another line is heroe's affair with the press secretary of the President of Ukraine.

No-Man's Land is a mixture of post-apocalyptic action, political crime, spy novel and prophecy.

THE AUTHOR

translations
3 languages

awards
2009 INTERPRESSKON
2009 BRONZE CADUCEUS

sample translation available
english

other works
The Damned
Stay Alive
Best Age to Die

Valetov was born in 1963 in the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk (now Dnipro). He finished Technical University as a missile construction engineer, but became a private businessman later. He began to write after the turn of the millennium. Since then he has had seven books published, some as multi-volume series, of which several have achieved bestseller status and been awarded prizes. One of his books has been adapted for Russian television. Valetov lives in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

Jan Valetov