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Rights Guide



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PRIZES

The novel won the Third prize in Novels Category at the literary contest Coronatsiya Slova (Crowning the Word), 2017.

BELOW by Kira Malko

In the port of Honolulu, Polina is standing at the gangplank of a cruise ship. It will be her home for the coming six month, for this is the duration of the contract for Europeans. For Polina, searching for new places and trying to fit in is one of the ways to overcome her childhood psychological trauma caused by her permanently drunk and abusive father. She has always been different, and this feeling only intensifies once she realizes that the woman she left behind in Ukraine was her true love she always yearned for.

Polina is desperate. The reality overwhelms and suffocates like a thick dirty blanket. Insatiable passengers and cynical fellow staffers... The mockery of the five-star service... Jesting and idling... This consumption fair is taking place above the waterline, on Decks 4 to 19. What is happening below is a different story; dirty laundry and trash compartments, gossip and scandal, one-time relationships and uncontrollable lust.

Hawaii, Alaska, and Mexico, whales, dolphins, and snow-top mountains... A motley swirl of landscapes and passing faces dancing in her eyes, Polina is sucked into a whirlpool of alcohol, tears, and a thousand empty words.

Everything changes when she meets a peculiar passenger, a woman. What happens on the ship stays on the ship. But sometimes it means a new beginning.

Published: Jun 2018.



Kira MALKO

After five years of university, filled to the brim with existentialist and postmodern discourse and deeply affected by the ideas of Kierkegaard, Sartre and Baudrillard, upon graduating Kira Malko found herself changing office jobs in an effort to find her place in life until, quite suddenly, she wound up on a cruise ship working as a buffet stewardess. Those six months were just another attempt to try on a different model of existence. This experience eventually resulted in her award-winning debut novel, Below, published in early 2018. Apart from her fiction, she writes essays for several Ukrainian and American e-journals, such as The Devochki, The Establishment, Electric Literature. She is currently working on her second novel.

THE AJNABIA IN THE RED CAR by Maryna Hrymych

(‘Ajnabia’ is an Arabic word for a foreign woman)

The setting of the novel is the present-day Lebanon famous for its religious and national variety. The plot is loosely based on the Arabian Nights folk tales.

The clouds are gathering in the Shia family of Javvad; his Ukrainian wife Veera (aka Viroonchik) has grown sad and depressive. The only way to resolve the family problem is to turn for help to another Ukrainian, so Javvad brings home Veera’s Facebook friend Paullina and her Sunni husband Ahmad. All of a sudden, Viroonchik goes missing, and now Javvad, Ahmad, and Paullina will have to travel around the whole Lebanon in search of the runaway wife.

The book is full of subtle humor helping the reader to picture the nuances of the interethnic marriages in the Middle East and to unveil the secrets of interfaith understanding. It will be useful to anybody interested in cultural convergence and enrichment inevitable in the case of close living of different ethnic and religious groups.

Will be published: Apr 2018.



Maryna HRYMYCH

is an award-winning author of more than 20 novels who writes both literary and genre fiction. Her books display the neat plot architectonics and are full of exquisite humor. Apart from fiction writing, she is engaged in academia as a prominent Ukrainian anthropologist, and thus her books boast colorful cross-cultural background.

She currently lives in Beirut.





KYIVAN HOLIDAY **by Natalia Tysovska**

A young American Fulbright scholar ventures to Kyiv, Ukraine only to find herself in the middle of two different mysteries both perilous and addictive.

A young American scholar Jenny Barton whose main scope of interest is the role of women in WWII comes to Kyiv to work in the local archives, but even before she can reach her destination she is taken hostage by criminals as a burglary witness. Her quick wit helps her run away only to wind up all alone in the suburban area, without money or ID, with the criminals chasing her.

By chance she meets two Ukrainian youths who give her shelter, and all of a sudden she is plunged into the current Ukrainian life with its every-day issues—aiding the Army, protesting against abuse of power, helping IDPs, countering foe intelligence which would be impossible without mutual aid, trust, and collective responsibility of common people. The past intertwines with the present, the danger becomes real, and Jenny realizes that her study of WWII will better than anything help her find common ground with modern Ukrainians.

By turns a tautly paced story of crime and violence and a captivating portrait of friendship and love, set against the unsettled backdrop of the city tormented by the war in the east of the country, *KYIVAN HOLIDAY* is an unforgettable journey to the Ukrainian capital.

Will be published: Apr 2018.

Natalia TYSOVSKA

is an award-winning novelist and the Ukrainian translator of the Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin. She holds an MA degree in English from Lakehead University (Canada) and works as an editor at a publishing house.



A LITTLE SWALLOW FLEW IN **by Irene Rozdobudko**

At the end of the 20th century, a strange resident with a difficult name, Leontovych, dies in one of the retirement homes in the US. Who is this man? He called himself a brother of the famous Ukrainian composer, the true author of 'Shchedryk', known throughout the world as 'Carol of the Bells'. For many years, this beautiful carol was credited to someone else. How could it happen?

The Christmas carol 'Shchedryk' by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych premiered in Kyiv in 1916. After the 1917 Russian Revolution, Ukraine declared independence but lost the war with the Bolshevik Russia and thus was stuck with the Soviet regime for many decades. In 1921, Mykola Leontovych was murdered by a Soviet state security agent at his parents' home under murky circumstances.

The author of A LITTLE SWALLOW FLEW IN invites the reader to discover the truth about the famous carol and advances a new theory of the mysterious assassination of the Ukrainian genius.

Will be published: May 2018.

Irene ROZDOBUDKO

One of the most popular Ukrainian novelists and screenwriters, Irene Rozdobudko is an author of more than 20 books for adults and children. In 2012, she was named the Golden Writer of Ukraine; this recognition is awarded to the writers whose books have sold more than 100,000 copies.



THE THIRD BOOTH IS LOS ANGELES by Olena Zakharchenko

A family story spanning a century, from the Soviet invasion of Ukraine in early 1920s to date.

While hitchhiking in Germany, the protagonist of the novel, a young Ukrainian woman, enjoys a chance meeting with a young man, Roman, who stopped to give her a lift. In his car, she notices an embroidered shirt with a unique ornament—the same ornament adorned the burial shirt of her Uncle Maxim tortured to death in a Soviet jail after WWII.

As the family legend goes, everybody in the family had artistic skills but as soon as someone decided to become a painter s/he would meet tragic fate. Uncle Maxim draw the ornament, and his sister Lida embroidered the unique shirt for him and after his arrest sent it to jail. Shortly after, Lida was also arrested and sentenced to the Gulag but managed to survive the Siberian camps and shared the story with the protagonist of the book.

Back in Ukraine and firmly in love, the young couple gets married, and at the same time the protagonist starts unraveling the truth about her family, unlocking more and more secrets forbidden to discuss during the Soviet times and being uncovered in the archives in the recent years.

When writing her novel, Olena Zakharchenko used the archive materials she discovered while researching the tragic deaths of her own relatives. The 20th century history of Ukraine has way too many terrible pages; the Holodomor, WWII, the Nazi invasion, the after-war struggle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army against the Soviet regime, the undercover war the KGB led against Ukrainians up until the dissolution of the USSR have all impacted every generation of every Ukrainian family scattered around the world.

Will be published: May 2018.

Olena ZAKHARCHENKO

Having two degrees in math and journalism, Olena Zakharchenko changed many jobs working as a software engineer, a system administrator, a university instructor. As a journalist, she wrote articles for a number of magazines and informational websites. She is an author of several books for adults and children. She lives in Kyiv with her husband and three sons.

5 SECONDS, 5 DAYS by Yevgen Polozhii



At the end of August 2014 a few Ukrainian army units are surrounded not far from Russia's border while conducting the anti-terrorist operation in the Eastern Ukraine. Both the regular army and the volunteer battalions are locked in the Ilovaysk besiegement and are trying to get out through the "green corridor" that turns out to be a trap. Among those trying to break through the heavy fire of the Russian troops is a LAMT (light-armed mechanical trailer) with thirteen soldiers and crew inside it. They were brought together by chance and a desire to survive this hell. There are no commanders or senior officers between those people, and they are all equal in the face of fate and death. Half of the soldiers are wounded, three of them cannot move by themselves. The will to live has many allies – valor, scoundrelism, courage, cowardice, sensibility, foolishness, treachery. It is in those worst moments that a person shows their true face. But victory will always belong to those who have not lost humanity, even if they are ready to pay the highest price for victory – their own life. The events in the book have been reconstructed by the author from the stories of witnesses – soldiers of volunteer battalions. He has traveled across the country for a few months after the Ilovaysk besiegement to meet them.

Published: Sep 2016.

French sample translation available

Yevgen POLOZHII

is a well-known writer, traveller, journalist, and editor-in-chief of the "Panorama" newspaper (Sumy, Ukraine).

He is the author of 8 novels such as "Mary and Her Airport" (2003), "The Guy Called God" (2008), "Towers of Silence" (2009), "Kids of the Fish" (2014), "Ilovaysk" (2015).



SCRAP by Markiyan Kamysh

Маркіян Каміш

ЧОРМЕТ



Ferrous Scrap is a story of people from half-abandoned Chernobyl villages where life still barely lingers. Of people near the border of Exclusion zone who illegally collect radioactive scrap. Of harsh, bold, constantly drunken men with metal teeth and monochrome prison tattoos on their hands who turn in air bombs in sacks and metal fences they stole from their neighbors to be exchanged for alcohol.

Ferrous Scrap reveals to its reader a provincial Ukraine from its unattractive, dark and gloomy side. This is tragic comedy, an honest story about distinctive outcasts who dream of turning everything in as scrap, even the core of the Earth.

The novel Ferrous Scrap has been included into BBC's „Book of the Year 2017“ long list and has received Oles Uliianenko award for the author's non-conformist life position.

Published: Sep 2017.

English sample translation available

Markiyan KAMYSH



Markiyan Kamysh is a Ukrainian writer, representing a flow of Chernobyl's illegal stalkers. He's been researching Chernobyl Zone for the past six years, having spent more than six months there in total, and has walked more than 7,000 km within the Zone. His first novel "A Stroll to the Zone" was praised by reviewers as the most interesting debut of 2015.

Markiyan Kamysh is a laureate of the international literary contest "Granoslov-2015".

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Previous Titles

A STROLL TO THE ZONE by Markiyan Kamysh



Rights Sold

French language –
Arthaud (Groupe
Flammarion, published
under the title La Zone).
Italian language –
Keller Editore

Almost 30 years ago, on the 26th of April 1986, an accident occurred at Chernobyl nuclear power plant (CNPP). Liquidators and firemen were able to prevent the worst from happening, but Chernobyl region still remains a forbidden land. As all taboos, it attracts adventurers who climb over the barbed wire in the middle of the night to wander waist-high deep through swamps to abandoned places. They spend weeks in Pripyat and are not afraid of wild animals anymore.

A Stroll to the Zone is the confession of an illegal Chernobyl tourist and stalker. It's not just a simple instruction on how to get there and not just a shallow attempt to describe the subculture. It's a tale for those who are always interested to see the other side of the story. It's for those who long to feel the wraith of the forest at night and the coldness of gaping holes in the abandoned houses, to touch the swamps and see the red flashes of Pripjat's sunrises, hear the speechless and dead silence of abandoned towns, and then be so happy about the homelike feeling, when a blanket and hot tea are more important than anything in the world.

Here you will find an inside look at illegal tourism into the Exclusion Zone, a unique territory of Ukrainian Polissya, existing for almost 30 years. The book will take its reader on a journey to the emerald world of Polissya, into a magical country of romantics and criminals, policemen and law violators.

The book is illustrated with photographs, many of which are unique since a lot of the Zone's significant landmarks have been destroyed in the fire of April 2015.

Published: Sep 2015.

English sample translation available

Kyiv-86 by Markiyan Kamysh



After Chernobyl's nuclear plant accident in 1986 a complete resettlement of Kyiv - Ukraine's capital with a population of several million people - was quite possible. In his novel, "Kyiv-86", the author has imagined how things might have turned out in this case.

30 years after the accident a stalker guide leads Japanese tourists to their goal - deserted Kyiv. Each tourist on the planet dreams to see it, but only a few dare to do so. The author paints a vivid picture of an abandoned city with decorations of its Communist past and depicts a clear image of battered buildings with quiet empty rooms, where moth grows on carpets and frogs bathe in puddles on the roof under young birches.

Kamysch doesn't mourn for this lost Kyiv. He doesn't focus too much on describing the characters' adventures in estranged Kyiv, although the book's pages contain some action, but concentrates on the narrator's reflection instead. The author perceives the city as eternal perfection, like the perfect love that never grows old.

The text accentuates how close Ukrainian identity is with Chernobyl's theme and reminds how close humanity is to the horror of world catastrophes.

Published: May 2016.

English sample translation available

Andriy KOKOTYUKHA



A well-known Ukrainian writer, journalist, scriptwriter, the author of 60 fiction, non-fiction and books for children.

Researchers of Ukrainian mass literature name Kokotuha a father of Ukrainian Gothic detective, although the author himself thinks that his texts are mote Neogothic, directly linked to the burning social problems of Ukraine, and him turning to Gothics and folklore in general goes in line with ancient Ukrainian literary traditions.

In 2012 Andrij Kokotuha was awarded by honorary award the GOLDEN WRITER OF UKRAINE. This award honors authors, who well recognized by readers and whose novels were sold more than one hundred copies in the form of paper books for the period from early 2000 to the present time.

ANOMALOUS ZONE



Rights Sold

French language –
Michel Lafon (2016),
Pocket (2018).

Ukrainian Polissya. Zhytomyr villages abandoned after the Chernobyl disaster. They say that in one of such villages unusual occurrences happen to people. First, they disappear, but then they return having lost their memories.

This news becomes a great sensation for the yellow press. However, when a young woman Tamara Tomilina really disappears in this anomalous zone and returns back having lost her memory, the tall tale turns out to be the truth... The story gets more complicated when it becomes known that Tamara is somehow connected to the murder of a big Zhytomyr businessman. So when one more person disappears in this abandoned Polissya village, Police Captain Serhiy Brazhnyk makes a decision to go to this dangerous place by himself...

What horrible secrets are hidden in the deserted Polissya village? Andriy Kokotyukha will tell you in his new novel. This book is a breathtaking story written in the best traditions of *roman noire* and Ukrainian gothic prose. Beyond doubt, the unexpected dénouement will become a real treat to any reader.

Published: Jan 2017.

English sample translation available

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DARK WATER



PRIZES

The novel won the First prize in *Novels Category* at the literary contest *Coronatsiya Slova (Crowning the Word)*.

The quiet of recreation center on the Desna river bank was disturbed. In picturesque bay Tikhyy Zaton fishmen are dying one by one under mysterious circumstances. Old people say that this is a cursed place, where underworld power reigns. But what if all this mysticism is somebody's doing, the result of perverse fancy or sly reckoning? An agent Vitaliy Mel'nyk tries to find the answer to these questions. And as he approaches Tikhyy Zaton, his life also becomes exposed to danger. What secrets does the dark water conceal? The ending is unexpected, as always.

Andriy Kokotyukha's novel is a combination of detective and gothic narration traditions.

Published: Jan 2018.

FULL MOON



It is the fall of 1944. Ukrainian Podillya, and military actions are already over. The front line is far away, but it isn't quiet at all in the rear. In Sataniv village fear of Gestapo has given way to being afraid of punitive operations by People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (PCIA). Moreover, the neighborhood is terrorized by heavily armed criminals and deserters. And as if that wasn't enough, people's dead bodies are found near the forest edges, and these people are bitten to death by wild beasts. People say a werewolf has occupied a nearby forest...

A wartime officer and a front-line soldier Andriy Levchenko sets out to solve the satanic forest mystery. Along with him this dangerous game is played by a Stalin camp break-away Igor Vovk, violent captain of PCIA Somov, deserter Zhora Teplyy, and insurgents' leader Grim.

Their fates are tied into a tight knot, and each of them has a secret of their own.

Which one will be able to survive the fight with a werewolf?

A detective thriller in the popular retro-novel genre grabs your attention right from the first pages. And the finale promises surprises unexpected by the author himself, as he confessed.

Published: Sep 2014.

English sample translation available

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