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Spring 2024

Rights Guide

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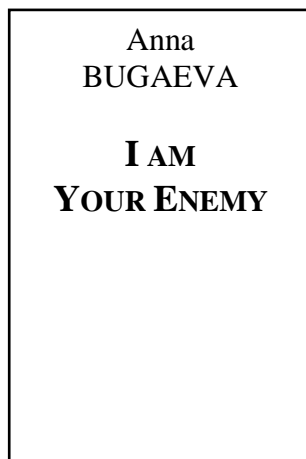
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Anna Bugaeva



Anna Bugaeva received a master's degree from the Kyiv National University of Economics and worked in the banking sector but then she started her own businesses in the field of entertainment and real estate. Her first novel was published in 2021 and the second in 2022. Anna met the beginning of a full-scale Russian invasion to Ukraine in Kyiv, and later evacuated to a small village in the Kyiv region. At the moment she temporarily lives in London with her teenage son.

I AM YOUR ENEMY by Anna Bugaeva



The events of the novel begin on New Year's night, two months before Russia's full-scale invasion to Ukraine. The main character is Zoya, the owner of a small construction company. She receives an urgent call from the foreman that one of the workers on the construction site has been seriously injured, and Zoya is forced to cancel her plans for the New Year Eve and take the woman to the hospital, but despite the serious injury the worker refuses hospitalization rushing to her home in a village near Kyiv where her fifteen-year-old daughter Oksana is waiting for her.

On the morning of February 24, 2022, Zoya wakes up to the sounds of explosions, the Russian invasion has begun. A few days later, a Russian missile hits her apartment. Zoya remains alive because she slept on a mattress in the corridor. She is forced to leave her apartment and move in with her parents, with whom she has had an extremely strained relationship since early childhood. While trying to sort out her business affairs, she learns from a conversation with the staff that the worker she was driving home from the hospital on the New Year's night died, and her daughter Oksana became a complete orphan. It also becomes known that the Russians are already approaching Oksana's village. Zoya decides to go and take the orphan to Kyiv, but does not manage to return in time, because Russian tanks enter the village, and in front of the women, a neighbor's car with an old man and his teenage grandson is shot. Zoya and Oksana remain in Oksana's house. The Russians cut off the electricity, gas, and communications in the village, prohibit the delivery of food and medicines to the village. Murders and torture of local residents by the Russians begin, and one day the invaders come to the women's house, rape and kill Oksana, and Zoya is brutally beaten. Zoya decides to run away on foot through the minefields and miraculously makes it home. After what she experienced, she evacuates to London and tries to forget all the horror she witnessed. After getting a job as a real estate agent in London, she one day rents an apartment to a young student of Russian origin, who introduces her to her

father, who turns out to be the same officer of the Russian intelligence services who led the Russians who occupied that village near Kyiv where Zoya stucked, and he personally took participation in murders and rapes. It seems that a war criminal does have enough money and does not have any problems with getting UK visa. He also recognizes Zoya and tries to kill her. Who will win this duel?

The novel is based on the materials of journalistic investigations and testimonies of victims who survived the Russian occupation, as well as on the author's personal experience.

Will be published in 2024, 280 p.

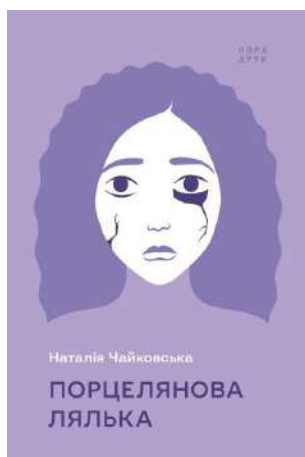
Natalia Chajkovska



Natalia Chaikovska graduated from the Lutsk Humanitarian University with a degree in journalism. She is the author of several novels. Finalist of the International Literary Contest "Coronation of the Word" in the category of novels. The rights to the German translation of her novel "The Porcelain Doll" were bought by the Austrian publishing house Haymon Verlag even before the book was officially published in Ukraine.

She lives in Lutsk with her family and has devoted herself entirely to writing novels and running a blog on Instagram, in which she promotes reading.

PORCELAIN DOLL by Natalia Chajkovska



Martha's husband was found dead. Friends express their condolences to her, but Martha finally feels free. It all started 5 years ago. Martha was going through a difficult period after her mother's death. So, when she met the man who proposed to her, she did not hesitate, believing that a new start will help to overcome her loss. But soon something strange began to happen. Martha's life turned into hell. And, it seemed, there was only one way out of this hell ...

Published: 2022. 336 p.

Rights Sold

Germany language – Haymon Verlag, Austria.

English sample translation available

THREE PROMISES by Natalia Chajkovska



Kyiv, 1938. The foreboding of a great war is hovering around the world, but in the Soviet Union these are the times of repressions. For the slightest suspicion of disloyalty to the Stalinist regime, people are disappeared and had been shot, and their family members are sent to camps.

Maryna is from Kyiv, her husband was shot because a colleague framed him, and she herself ended up in inhumane conditions in Kazakhstan in the Akmolinsk camp for wives of so called traitors to the motherland. The camp is located in the steppe, in the winter prisoners suffer from terrible frosts, and in the summer they suffocate from the heat and the sand winds. They are forced to work: they harvest reeds in knee-deep water, from which they then make adobe bricks. It is there Maryna learns about hard work, atrocities and rape, but also about friendship, humanity and hope. She stops fighting, puts her hands down, and then with renewed strength she holds on to life. And the day comes when Maryna to be released and tries to fulfill the promises she made to the people who she loved.

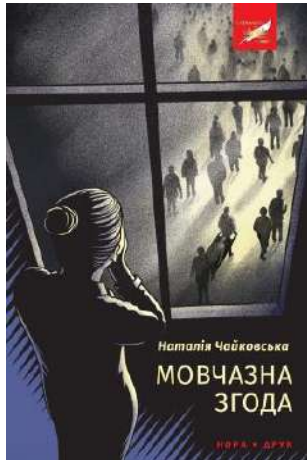
The author relied on historical sources during the writing of the work, she depicted the daily life and life of women in the camp. Three Promises is a novel not only about terrible trials, but also about life contrary to the plans of the Soviet leaders.

Published: 2023. 384 p.

English sample translation available

TACIT CONSENT

by Natalia Chajkovska



PRIZES
In 2023 the novel was
awarded by special
award in the Koronatsia
Slova (*Crowning the*
***Word*) Literary Contest.**

The book tells us about a little-known tragedy that happened in Kyiv during the WWII.

1941, Kyiv is occupied by the Nazis. Klara and Olga work as nurses in a psychiatric hospital. Nazis come to the hospital every day. The director of the psychiatric hospital, who cooperates with the occupiers, clearly follows the instructions of the Nazi doctor Rakovsky. Strange things are happening at the hospital. One day, the Nazis take gruesome photos of sick women to show all the wretchedness of their existence. Another day, patients of Jewish origin are gathered in the eighth ward, where Klara and Olga work. Medicines and food are not delivered to the eighth ward. There is not enough space, because the ward is not designed for three hundred patients. Patients lie on beds two or three at a time, huddle on the floor.

On October 18, cars drove up to the hospital, and hospital workers were ordered to take Jewish patients out of the ward. Nazi soldiers stand on both sides of the path that leads into a deep ditch dug in the Nutwood (Gorikhova Dibrova). That day, more than three hundred patients of Jewish nationality were shot, the shooting lasted for more than six hours.

The atrocities did not end there: mobile gas chambers appear on the hospital premises, in which other patients are gradually killed. Clara and Olga plan to organize the escape of the patients. Paramedics and nurses take patients out of the hospital almost every night, thereby saving them from death.

Based on real events.

Published: 2024, 312 p.

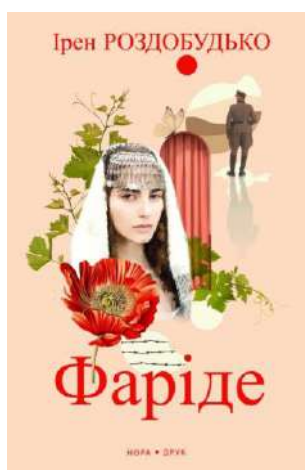
English sample translation available



Irene ROZDOBUDKO

One of the most popular Ukrainian novelists and screenwriters, Irene Rozdobudko is an author of more than 30 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.

FARIDE by Irene Rozdobudko



The beginning of the novel takes place in the 20s of the last century in the Crimea. Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians and Jews live peacefully in the village. We see a company of children of different ethnic backgrounds. Before World War II, these children graduated and were preparing for adult life. Young Crimean Tatar woman Faride works in a kindergarten. Crimea is occupied by the Nazis. They gather all the Jews to shoot them outside the village. Faride taught Jewish children from her kindergarten to say that they were Tatars, and gave them new Crimean Tatar names. The Nazis tortured her, but the children were saved. 50 years later she was awarded the title of the Righteous Among the Nations.

In 1944, Crimea was liberated from the Nazis by the Soviet army. Stalin accused the Crimean Tatars of collaborating with the Nazis and ordered their expulsion from the Crimea, even those who had fought in the Soviet army. One night they are all driven from their homes and taken for months in wagons, designed to transport cattle, to camps in Siberia. Half of them died on the way from starvation and disease. Faride manages to save her young son, leaving him in the village with neighbors, but she finds herself in a Stalinist concentration camp, where she works on cutting trees. After Stalin's death, Crimean Tatars were still not allowed to return home to Crimea; they were relocated to Uzbekistan, where they lived under police surveillance until 1989, when the Soviet Union began to disintegrate. Faride returns, but her son did not come to meet her, and strangers live in her house. Faride returns forgotten, tortured by both the Nazis and the Soviet regime.

The novel is based on real events, it shows the life story of one woman in parallel with the tragic history of the entire Crimean Tatar nation.

Published: 2021. 232 p.

English sample translation available

Rights Sold

Turkish language – PUL Yayınevi şirketi.

BUTTERFLY DOES NOT SHOUT

by Irene Rozdobudko



Mika is 7 years old, his mother does not love him and locks him in the room while she has fun with her friends. Then his mother died after falling out of the window, and Mika lives with his mother's friend, who closes her eyes to his weird games. He is now an adult and his games became much cruel.

Martha is divorced, her life is boring and she does not know what to do with her free time. She goes to a boutique in the city center, tries on an expensive dress that she is not going to buy and suddenly finds a pretty phone in the pocket of this dress. When she left the store, the phone rang and Martha heard a threat to the unknown owner of the phone. Wanting to warn this girl, Martha goes in search of the owner of the phone, meets the ex-boyfriend of this girl, who says that the girl disappeared a few months ago. The two of them start their searches, but later, Martha loses interest in this case, because she suddenly has a romantic relationship with an absolute stranger. But something becomes so weird that she no longer knows whom she can trust and she realizes that she is trapped.

According to statistics, millions of people disappear from the world every year without a trace. Most of these disappearances are due to natural causes: accidents, natural disasters. But some of them are those who, like butterflies, fly to the light, but fall into the flames, from which they will never escape ...

Published: 2020. 216 p.

English sample translation available

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 nephew 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.

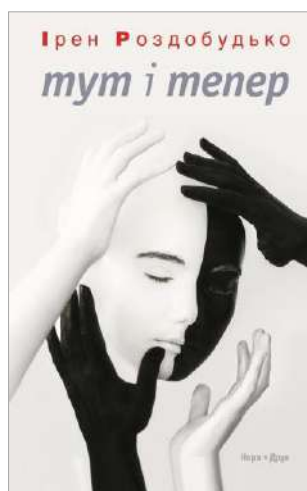
Published: 2018. 304 p.

French sample translation available

Rights Sold

Polish language – Bohdan.EU.

HERE AND NOW by Irene Rozdobudko



The novel "Here and Now" is a quartet of women's destinies, a gallery of female images, as if "captured" by a camera from the crowd of people. We meet women like these, maybe without noticing, every day. But that doesn't mean they're so inconspicuous. They are us. By talking about four, the author is actually talking about one. About Woman.

Julia - actress of the Young Spectator Theater, wife of a successful actor, played squirrels and bunnies for ten years, but when she received the lead role in the biographical film of the famous director about Sofia Witt-Potocka, seems to have believed in herself, her talent, her purpose. Elmira is a Crimean Tatar woman (the face of the poster "Crimea is Ukraine"), who put her dentist's license on a shelf and immersed herself in household chores to provide her husband, a successful surgeon, with family comfort, but with the start of the war goes to the war zone to treat soldiers. Susanna is the wife of an American businessman, has a secure, sometimes stagnant life, organizes a music group for women who suffer from domestic violence. The fourth woman is Lara, a radio host, deeply hurt by a failed relationship, skillfully balances between freedom and loneliness, but she changes her mind abruptly when she learns that her boyfriend is wounded in the war zone.

Once upon a time, to the question: "What would you like for yourself after your adult life becomes artificial, loses its freshness and authenticity?", each of them answered in their own way: death, glory, freedom ... Then they did not know that when life brings them closer to these concepts, they will understand: there is nothing more important than to save others from death, glory will not replace true love, and absolute freedom becomes selfishness.

Published: 2016. 348 p.

THE BUTTON

by Irene Rozdobudko



PRIZES

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

The main character of the novel Denys has a relaxed approach to life. He comes from a well-to-do family which allows him to enjoy quick and futile love affairs. He had thought little about the logic of relationships between men and women, or women's heart secrets until he met Yelyzaveta (Elizabeth) Tenetska, a film director whose film *Madness* had become rather infamous in the end of Soviet era and had even been banned for its queer style. A passing meeting with Tenetska at one Carpathian resort changes Denys's life drastically. While he cannot forget her, Yelyzaveta has never taken this younger lad seriously.

During one night only, the lives of accidental lovers seem to be quite successful.

As for Tenetska, she lives to see from prison her dissident lover whose natural child she bore and who deprived her of the opportunity to make a career in cinema. They get married and soon he becomes a famous politician, while she starts her creative work. Yet, despite this superficial success her life is not happy. The relationships with her husband soon turn into formality, and her contact with a talented though odd daughter is gradually lost.

Denys goes through bloody hell of the war in Afghanistan and at last returns to the capital to start working as a successful businessman. One day he accidentally meets Tenetska with another young woman in a café. However he does not have the courage to come to them, so his former lover does not recognize him. Denys gets acquainted with the young woman Lika, but all his mind is filled with the thoughts of his Fair Lady and his feelings are as ablaze as many years ago.

This drama turns into a tragedy when Denys marries Lika, Tenetska's companion and daughter...

No one dies in this sad story; there are even no suicides. However, the reading is no less horrifying and the twists of the plot add to the dynamism of narration.

224 p.

English sample translation available

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English language – Glagoslav Publications.

Russian language – Folio.

Audio release rights reserved by A.E.L. Publishing House.



TWO MINUTES OF THE TRUTH **by Irene Rozdobudko**

The Filming group of one of the TV channels goes on a business trip to shoot a story about a literary festival. A female journalist and a male cameraman, who once were considered as comers and dreamt of truthful journalism, lost their joy of creativity and principles. On their way, they take along two losers, a deaf-mute waitress from a roadside café and a painter in some village Orthodox church. Amazing metamorphoses happen to the four in Ukrainian province, and they start to realize that live has a considerable value in itself.

This is a novel about forlorn people who walk along the brink of the good and the evil, and at any moment they can choose either. The multilayered plot, characteristic of Iren Rozdobud'ko's pen, ends unexpectedly.

248 p.

English sample translation available

Rights Sold

Russian language – Folio.

EARLY JANITOR

by Irene Rozdobudko



The action of the novel takes place on Malta. The story is narrated on behalf of the landlowner who used to live in Ukraine but now came to Malta from America.

He worked as IT programmer and musician, by nature he is a romantic and adventurer, but in fact, he is a single idle representative of the 'lost generation'. Michael got to Malta by accident. His friend's sport airplane crashed: the plane sank, a pilot died and he fell into the sea. He has nothing to do here, and he is forced to take a second-rate job: he cleans hotel rooms. At least it means he is busy.

... Once he finds an old book in Ukrainian in one of the rooms. It is Three Comrades by E. Remarque. This book offers an amazing virtual game with the woman lodging in the room. Michael notices a lot of details that make him understand the woman is his congenial, and he falls in love with the image he creates.

At the same time, he gets into different adventures. He abandons his Malta lover, meets a friend who works as an underwater archeologist and seeks Malta Gold Falcon. All this happens because of the book which returns him to life and to the real him.

He ardently tries to find this woman. He recollects his whole life, which he would like to start anew. He is utterly homesick.

In the middle of the game, when he finally makes up his mind to get acquainted with his countrywoman she ... leaves the hotel room. His friend-archeologist dies...

Michael is in agony with the losses.

But the stranger from the room leaves him the book. In the moment of despair, he starts to turn over the pages, and on the last page he finds some numbers; yet another puzzle!

Having spent a sleepless night, he understands that this is a telephone number. What is more, it is his native town number...

So he makes a choice to return back home. But what may the future hold?..

160 p.

English sample translation available

Rights Sold

Russian language – Folio.

TWELVE

OR RAISING WOMEN IN CONDITIONS UNFIT FOR LIFE

by Irene Rozdobudko



The author calls this work an allusory novel and presents it in such a manner that the reader can stop in time. In the first section, the novel contains the stories of patients at a psychiatric clinic where the heroine has just begun to work. In her job as a “psychospeaker,” she is a kind of guide to the closed world of these patients. Her main function is to simply listen to them. The patients’ tales are many.

At first, it seems that this is all the babble of sick people. But in time, the heroine begins to see the inner workings of things and from that point on, everything external makes her only weep or laugh. As she recalls her earlier life—the career as a successful writer, the glamorous evenings, the small talk, the chase after fame and money—she begins to understand that she needs to run away from this to some desert isle. The question is only how many tickets she should get: in order to lead her own army, is it enough to have 10 followers, or is the magical number still 12?

224 p.

Arabic sample translation available

Rights Sold

Russian language – Folio.

Arabic language – EGYPTIAN OFFICE FOR PUBLISHING.



Markiyan KAMYSH

Markiyan Kamysh is a Ukrainian writer, Chornobyl researcher, militaryman. Participant of the Revolution of Dignity and Defense of Bakhmut. His novel "Oformlandia" was included in the short list of books of the year by la Repubblica, and The Guardian called it "excellent".

Stalking the Atomic City: Life Among the Decadent and the Depraved of Chornobyl (Oformlandia) by Markiyan Kamysh



Almost 35 years ago, on the 26th of April 1986, an accident occurred at Chornobyl nuclear power plant (CNPP). Liquidators and firemen were able to prevent the worst from happening, but Chornobyl 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 Chornobyl 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 Pripyat'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 35 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.

First published: 2015. 128 p.

English sample translation available

Rights Sold

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

Italian language – Keller Editore.

German language – MATTHES & SEITZ.

English language – Astra House.

Bulgarian language – Paradox.

Georgian language – Academic Press of Georgia.



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).

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: 2016. 176 p.

French sample translation available



KAPRANOV Brothers

are the most recognizable writers of Ukraine because of their similarities. The twin brothers write together, moreover, they are married with twin sisters, which fuels the media's interest in them.

Brothers in the 90s, during the hard period of development of Ukraine after the collapse of the USSR, worked in different businesses, so their works are based on knowledge of political and life realities. Readers appreciate Kapranov Brothers's books for easy style, psychological authenticity, factual precision combined with extraordinary imagination.

RUTA by Kapranov Brothers



Soviet soldier Andriy Lytvyn served in Vilnius in 1991, and is willing to take part in the suppression of Lithuanian protests at the Telecentre. Andriy witnesses the death of a Lithuanian activist, Ruta, whom he was in love with. The death of the girl makes a great impression on Andriy, so he later calls his daughter Ruta in honor of the dead girl. In 2014, Andriy Lytvyn, now a successful businessman, participates in the Revolution of Dignity in Kyiv. On February 18 the clashes with the special forces begin. Andriy worries about his daughter Ruta, who is also on the Maidan, but her phone does not answer. In search of his daughter, Andrei travels from one hot spot to another, breaks the phone and suddenly calls to the year 1991 to the Lithuanian activist Ruta, who is about to go to defend the Telecentre. There is a connection between the two Maidans: Vilnius 1991 and Ukrainian 2014. Andrew and his friends defend Maidan the worst night of February 18-19, when the barricades were attacked by armored special forces, looking for his daughter Ruta and at the same time trying to protect his beloved Ruta in the distant 1991, preventing her from going to the Television Center.

In the year 2021 we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the collapse of Soviet empire and the end of Cold War. The novel reminds us of the events, when the Soviet Union collapsed and the republics that joined it after years of clandestine struggle became independent. But even 30 years later, the empire cannot accept the collapse of the Soviet Union and annexes the territories of its former republics.

Published: 2020. 224 p.

English sample translation available

THE PAPER SOLDIERS by Kapranov Brothers



The Ukrainian Insurgent Army and Hollywood, Volhynia and California, Stalin and Disney—what can these ultimately different realities have in common?

Two young artists meet in Warsaw, Poland. One of them is Bill Tytla, a son of the US immigrants of Ukrainian origin. The other one is Nil Khasevych, a young Volhynian. The fate has many challenges in store for them, but they cannot know about it yet and thus spend their days drinking beer and arguing about art.

When you chose one of two possible paths of life the second one is lost for you forever, but the readers of the *Paper Soldiers* will have a unique chance to follow both paths—they will find themselves in the Walt Disney Studios together with Bill Tytla and take part in the creation of the animation classics, from *Snow White* to *Pinocchio* to *Dumbo*; and they will stay in Ukraine together with Nil Khasevych, join the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, and grow to be its leading artist. They will get to choose whether to live on the farm by the ocean or to hide in dugouts and cover up your tracks. To marry a Hollywood fashion model or to tame voiceless feelings in your heart for the rest of your life.

The novel is based on true stories.

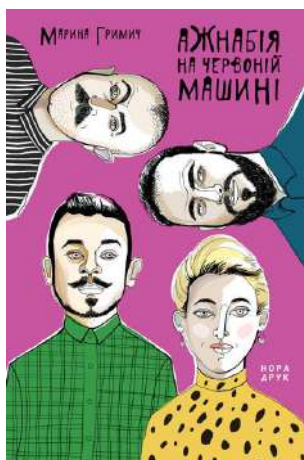
Published: 2019. 224 p.



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.

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 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.

Published: 2018. 176 p.

Arabic sample translation available

Rights Sold

Arabic language – Arab Scientific Publishers, Inc.



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.

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.

Published: 2018. 224 p.

English sample translation available

THE CASE OF THE ROCK OIL by Natalia Tysovska



Are you ready to escape to the early 1900s? The Gilded Age is over, but the Great War is still far ahead. The life on the outskirts of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire is slow and idyllic, and when in March of 1905 in the little Ukrainian town of Stary Sambir a girl is murdered, the locals are dumbfounded. Orestes Linytsky, a 19-year-old student coming home from the University for the Easter break, is just an accidental witness of the death of the poor girl, but when the gendarmerie accuses his sister Dora of poisoning her former schoolmate, Orestes is forced to start his own investigation to save his sister from under arrest. But who could have murdered an innocent girl in a quiet, provincial town? Is it true when they say that still waters run deep?..

This book is ideal for fans of cozy historical murder mysteries.

Published: 2024, 288 p.

In 2023, The Case of the Rock Oil by Natalia Tysovska won the FIRST PRIZE in the Koronatsia Slova (Crowning the Word) Literary Contest.



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.

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.

Published: 2018. 240 p.

English sample translation available



PRIZES

**The short list of the
Espresso Award.
Readers' Choice. 2018**

VERTEP. A NOVEL ABOUT THE MAIDAN **by Olena Zakharchenko**



The novel is dedicated to the events on the Maidan in 2013/14 in Kyiv, when the people rose up against the corrupt government, which wanted to stop Ukraine's movement towards integration into the European Union, instead to integrate with Russia.

The beginning of the novel, presented in a reportage manner, creates the effect of presence... in the nativity scene. A nativity scene that dragged on in time and ended in a bloody denouement. In some places, the novel rises to a ballad, when the author departs from reporting and adds mystical Ukrainian sacredness to real events. We see the events through the perception of the main character Kateryna and through the perception of her eight-year-old son and his friend. Like every historical event, everything takes place on two floors of the nativity scene. On the top - heroism, betrayal, self-sacrifice and national symbols. At the bottom are simple human relationships: unrequited love, children's pranks, despair, petty frauds and outdated complexes. Both floors are inseparable..

Published: 2016. 288 p.

English sample translation available

Rights Sold

German language – Akademische Verlagsbuchhandlung, Germany.



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.*

BELOW by Kira Malko



PRIZES

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

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. 400 p.

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.

Andriy
KOKOTYUKHA

**A DOG COMES
IN THE
DARKNESS...**

A DOG COMES IN THE DARKNESS...

December 2022. Russia has been bombing Ukraine's energy infrastructure for months. As a result, Ukrainian cities are immersed in darkness. On one of these dark nights the corpse of a man was finded in Kyivan suburbs. Based on the condition of the corpse, the police concluded that a man became the victim of a stray dog. But ex-policeman Danylo Krechet who has known the deceased since their childhood suspects that this is not an accidental death, but a premeditated murder. And the killer's weapon in this case is unusual and never used anywhere before: specially trained animal. He shared his suspicion with a police officer Yulia Sapiga who was assigned to investigate this death. She loves dogs and she really wants to find and punish someone who does this with the animal on purpose. So in the winter darkness, to the accompaniment of air alarm sirens the two of them begin hunting for a killer dog or, better to say, its owner. And this investigation brings to light many secrets from the recent past which were not solved by Danylo Krechet and because of which he was expelled from the police.

Will be published in 2024, 382 p.

CALL ME MARY...



After returning from the war zone, former police officer Oleg Kobzar works as a taxi driver trying to readjust to ordinary life, until one day he meets a young woman and, having spent a passionate night with her, finds her dead in his bed the next morning. As it turns out, she's not the first woman in the city to die a strange death—she might actually be the fifth victim of a possible serial killer. Criminal investigator Veera Kholod has been trying to track the killer for quite some time but the new murder doesn't quite fit the pattern, and thus Kobzar becomes a suspect. Now an outlaw, he is forced to embark upon his own investigation. The only connection between the five victims is the method of homicide and the fact that all of them had moved to Kyiv from the occupied territories in East Ukraine, but why did they die and what does Kobzar have to do with it? In an unlikely alliance, Kobzar teams up with Veera Kholod to uncover the truth no matter how many rules they will have to break.

Published: 2018. 352 p.

English sample translation available



ANOMALOUS ZONE

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: 2009. 256 p.

English sample translation available

Rights Sold

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

Arabic language – Arab Scientific Publishers Inc.

Contact to Astier-Pécher Literary & Film Agency (France)
lpecher@pierreastier.com

DARK WATER



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: 2018. 272 p.

PRIZES

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

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 Tepliy, 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: 2014. 368 p.

English sample translation available

List of translators from Ukrainian

Arabic

Imaddine Raef
Dr. Samir Mundy

ingowaee@gmail.com
samirmundy@gmail.com

Bulgarian

Miglena Zlatareva
Hristina Yotova
Galina Zlatareva
Kamberova Rayna
Dimitar Hristov dimitar.book@abv.bg

mzlatareva@gmail.com
hryotova@soft-press.com
g.zlatareva@gmail.com
rkamberova@abv.bg

Croatian

Damir Pešorda

dpesorda@gmail.com

Czech

Rita Kindlerova

rita@centrum.cz

Dutch

Alexandre Popowycz

aibpopowycz@yahoo.com

English

Hanna Leliv
Michael Naydan
Petro Fedynsky
Patrick John Corness
Uilleam Blacker
Zenia Tompkins

hanna.leliv@gmail.com
mnaydan@facebook.com
pfedynsky@yahoo.com
patrickcorness@yahoo.pl
u.blacker@ucl.ac.uk
zeniatrans@gmail.com

Finnish

Eero Balk

eero.balk@kolumbus.fi

French

Iryna Dmytrychyn
Oksana Mizerak

idmytrychyn@noos.fr
mizoksan@aol.com

German

Claudia Dathe
Maria Weissenböck
Beatrix Kersten
Jutta Lindekugel

claudia.dathe@uni-tuebingen.de
maria.weissenboeck@gmail.com
b.kersten@sprachgitter.de
julin@gmx.net

Greek

Giorgos Moleskis
Eleni Katsioli
Nikolaos Metaxas

moleskis@primehome.cy
futurelabprint@gmail.com
metaksasnik@yahoo.gr

Italian

Lorenzo Pompeo
Giuseppe Perri
Giovanna Brogi
Alessandro Achilli

lor_pompeius2000@yahoo.it
Giuseppe.Perri@ulb.ac.be
giovanna.brogi@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/alessandro.achilli.56>

Macedonian

Igor Stanojoski

<https://www.facebook.com/vcerasevrativ>

Persian

Oles Kulchynskyy

kulchynskyy@gmail.com

Polish

Ola Hnatiuk
Katarzyna Kotyńska
Bohdan Zadura
Aneta Kamińska
Anna Łazar
Anna Korzeniowska-Bihun

ola.hnatiuk@gmail.com
kkot@poczta.onet.pl
zadura@biuroliterackie.pl
zapisz.zmiany@gmail.com
annlaz@wp.pl
anna.korzeniowska@gmail.com

Romanian

Aliona (Olena) Bivolaru

aliona.bivolaru@lils.unibuc.ro
ali.bivolaru@gmail.com

Serbian

Milena Ivanović
Tanja Gaev
Dejan Ajdačić

ivanovic.milena@gmail.com
scienciaipsa@gmail.com
dejajd@gmail.com

Spanish

Oksana Gollyak
Yakubov Andriy
Olga Korobenko

golssana@gmail.com
uv.ukraina@gmail.com
info@olgakorobenko.com

Swedish

Dmitri Plax

dmitri.plax@sr.se

Turkish

Oles Kulchynskyy
Jale Yasan
Selin Selimoglu

kulchynskyy@gmail.com
jaleyasan@hotmail.com
sselimoglu@gmail.com