

# Nora-Druk Publishers

Kyiv, UKRAINE

**Autumn 2021**

## Rights Guide



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## **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**



### **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.*

## Previous Titles

### **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.

### **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**

## **HERE AND NOW** **by Irene Rozdobudko**



Four female friends - the protagonists of the novel by Irene Rozdobudko - decide to live here and now, without expecting that they will be given other times.

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

It is a novel about modern Ukraine. A current situation in the country doesn't give a chance for each of the protagonists of the novel to stay away from the fight for independence and a better future for the country.

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**

**Rights Sold**

Filming rights are reserved by Production U.A. Producer Company.

English language – Glagoslav Publications.

Russian language – Folio.

Persian language – Ana POI Publishing House.

Arabic language – Dar Mintad Publishing.

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



## **FADED FLOWERS GET TOSSED** **by Irene Rozdobudko**



The two women live in the Shelter for single theatre and cinema stars. They are the two great actresses of the past (of WWII times). Edith Beresh is a bright and daring woman, and Leda is meek and tender. Once they were rivals but had never met. They simply knew of each other... and hated each other.

They also shared a secret: Edith's husband, a famous dramatist and script writer, had an affair with and later married Leda. All his life he loved Edith... who fell into disfavor of the existing authorities and was repressed. Leda, who accidentally got into filming business, on the contrary, was a lucky daughter of a Party worker. She was found by a film director in the street and was eventually offered a role that Edith had rejected.

Now the elderly ladies reside in the Shelter and do not even know that they are neighbours who live on the same floor.

Youth memories torture both.

Stephania, a young caseworker takes care of them. She has her own troubles and tragedies. Stephania hates the elderly, but secretly hopes that they will favour her to the drama school. Besides, her lover left her, and she fancies that life ended for her.

Stephania venerates proud and old Edith, but she has no idea of who the latter is.

Gradually, the girl begins her investigation and understands that she may become a nexus between the past of these grand dames, may eventually reconcile them and let them understand that both of them are great and can become friends rather than hate each other all their lives. Their lover is the one to blame as he was foul and cowardly; it was he who betrayed them both...And it is the Time that will put everything into places...

Published: 2017. 288 p.

**English sample translation available**

**Italian sample translation available**

### **Rights Sold**

Filming rights are reserved by Production U.A. Producer Company.

Russian language – Folio.

## **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 Irene Rozdobud'ko's pen, ends unexpectedly.

248 p.

**English sample translation available**

**Italian 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.

## 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**



### 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**



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: 2017. 160 p.

**English sample translation available**

**Rights Sold**

Bulgarian language – PARADOX.

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### **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".*

#### **Contact to all languages:**

Astier-Pécher Literary & Film Agency (France)  
lpecher@pierreaستير.com

## **A STROLL TO THE ZONE** **by Markiyam Kamysh**



Almost 35 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 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.

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.

## **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.

Kamysh 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: 2016. 154 p.

**English sample translation available**



## 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**



## 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.*

## 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.

## 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.



### **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.

Published: 2018. 224 p.

**English sample translation available**



### **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.*

## THE THIRD BOOTH IS LOS ANGELES by Olena Zakharchenko



### PRIZES

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

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**



### 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.*



## 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 months, 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**

## 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.*



## **PORCELAIN DOLL**

**by Natalia  
CHAJKOVSKA**

## **PORCELAIN DOLL by Natalia CHAJKOVSKA**

In the port of Honolulu, Polina is standing at the gangplank of a cruise ship. It will be her home for the coming six months, 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.

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 ...

Will be published: 2022.

### **Natalia CHAJKOVSKA**



*Natalia Chajkovska is the author of short stories collections and novels. She is a winner of literary contest "Crown of the Word" in the nomination Inclusive stories in 2020. She works as the chief specialist of communications with mass media in the regional authority of Volyn region in Ukraine and runs a literary blog on Instagram about books and motivation..*

### 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.*

### 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)  
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## 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**

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