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Literary Agency

# FILM RIGHTS 2026

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*LITERARY FICTION*

*QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION*

*CHILDREN & YA*

*NON-FICTION*

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# MIKE OMER

*The New York Times and Washington Post bestselling author*

3+ mln copies sold  
Adapted to film

## ABOUT

Mike Omer is an internationally bestselling author renowned for his crime, thriller and fantasy novels.

Omer's books have been translated into over 20 languages and have sold more than 3 million copies worldwide.

His notable works include the Zoe Bentley mystery series, the Abby Mullen series, the Glenmore Park mystery series, and the Dark Fae FBI urban fantasy series, written under the pen name Alex Rivers.

Mike Omer has achieved New York Times and Washington Post bestseller status and was the second most-read Kindle author of 2018.

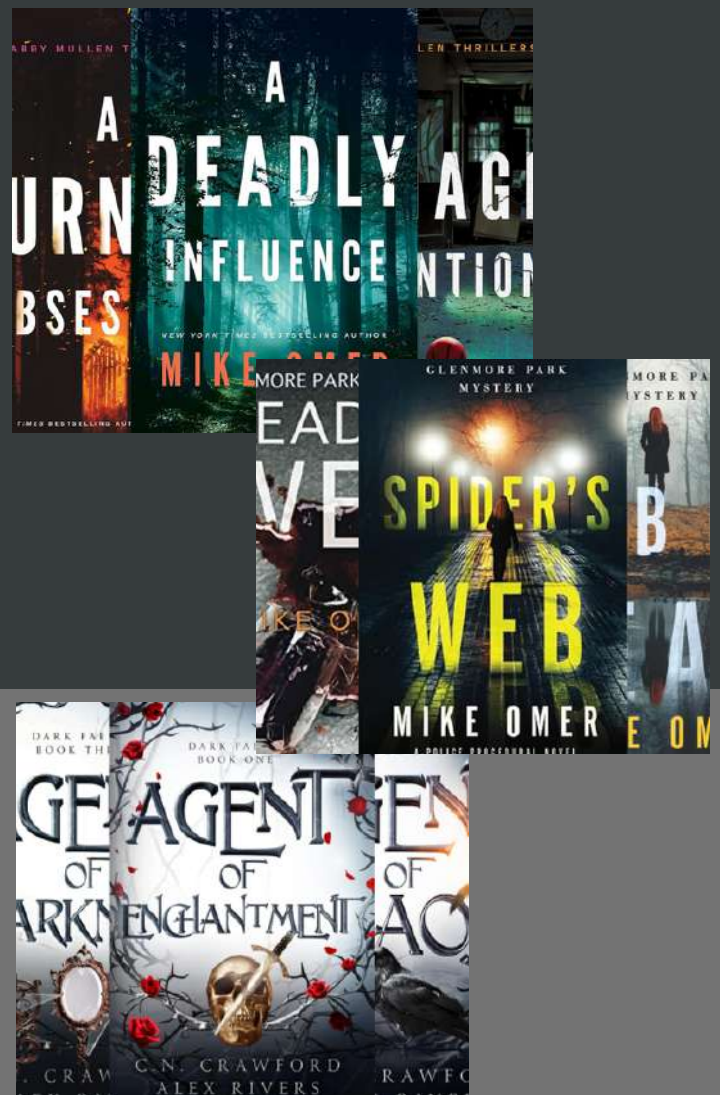
In 2024, a TV series adaptation of his Zoe Bentley series was released. Another series is currently in development.

## AWARDS

- Thomas and Mercer Silver Raven Award 2019
- LiveLib Readers' Choice Award for Detective Fiction 2020
- LiveLib Readers' Choice Award for Detective Fiction 2023

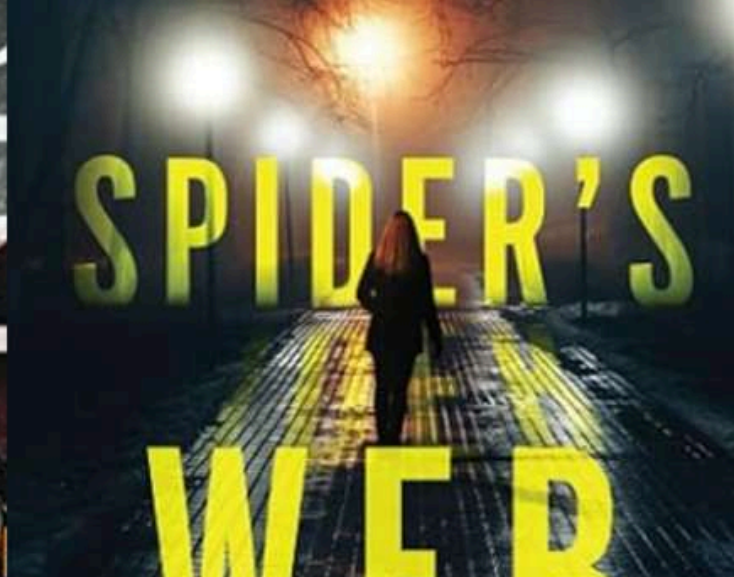
[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) | [THE WASHINGTON POST](#) | [AMAZON](#) | [THE ATLANTIC](#) | [KIRKUS REVIEW](#) | [PUBLISHERS WEEKLY](#) | [FORBES](#)

## SELECTED BOOKS



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# Glenmore Park Series

Serial Killer Thrillers | Police Procedurals |  
Suspense | Mystery & Detective

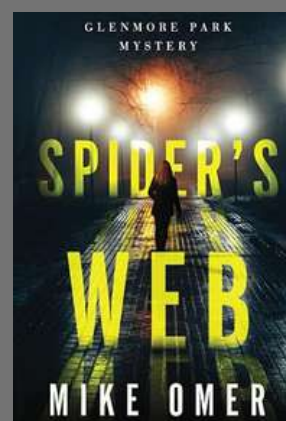
## SPIDER'S WEB. BOOK 1

*Sometimes, death comes with a warning. There's a killer prowling the streets. He stalks and murders young women seemingly at random, and he always warns them first...*

Twenty year old Kendele Byers is savagely killed and buried in a shallow grave. She had a violent past, a bizarre kinky line of work, and the suspect list grows longer every day. But when another woman is murdered, Detective Mitchell Lonnie realizes that there's something much more sinister afoot, a connection between the two murders. Both victims had received a clue hinting their oncoming demise several minutes before they were attacked. There's a serial killer in Glenmore Park. Even worse, he seems to be accelerating his murder pace. Now Mitchell and his partner need to locate the killer before more innocent women die. But when his sister gets involved, Mitchell's focus begins to unravel. Soon his pursuit becomes personal, and the stakes rise very high... The Glenmore Park Mysteries are stand alone novels, and can be read in any order. They have interconnecting characters that you come to love.

## BOOKS

- [Spider's Web](#)
- [Deadly Web](#)
- [Web of Fear](#)
- [A Death Not Foretold \(Novella\)](#)



## DETAILS

Title: [Spider's Web](#)  
Book 1 of 3: [Glenmore Park](#)  
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform  
Publication date: April 29, 2016  
Language: English  
Print length: 440 pages

*"If you like James Patterson's Alex Cross, You're going to like this as well."*

– Wayne Stinnet, Author of the Caribbean Adventure Series

*"Omer's mystery is compelling from page one, the sense of dread palpable."*

– For the love of books

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# PLEASE

## Please Tell Me

Suspense | Thriller | Psychological Thriller |  
Mystery & Detective

### PLEASE TELL ME

*After a year in captivity, a kidnapped child escapes – only to reveal horrific truths that lead her psychologist on a race against time in this thriller from New York Times bestselling author Mike Omer.*

When eight-year-old Kathy Stone turns up on the side of the road a year after her abduction, the world awaits her harrowing story. But Kathy doesn't say a word. Traumatized by her ordeal, she doesn't speak at all, not even to her own parents.

Child therapist Robin Hart is the only one who's had success connecting with the girl. Robin has been using play therapy to help Kathy process her memories. But as their work continues, Kathy's playtime takes a grim turn: a doll stabs another doll, a tiny figurine is chained to a plastic toy couch. All of these horrifying moments, enacted within a Victorian doll house. Every session, another toy dies. But the most disturbing detail? Kathy seems to be playacting real unsolved murders.

Soon Robin wonders if Kathy not only holds the key to the murders of the past but if she knows something about the murders of the future. Can Robin unlock the secrets in Kathy's brain and stop a serial killer before he strikes again? Or is Robin's work with Kathy putting her in the killer's sights?

*Omer weaves suspense and mystery, culminating in jaw-dropping twists.*

– [New Book Recommendation](#)

*A masterful melding of everyday domestic suburban fears with serial-killer thrills.*

– [Kirkus Review](#)

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: [Please Tell Me](#)  
Publisher: Thomas & Mercer  
Publication date: December 1, 2023  
Language: English  
Print length: 379 pages

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# BEHIND YOU

## — Behind You —

Suspense | Thriller | Psychological Thriller |  
Mystery & Detective

### BEHIND YOU

*In this gripping thriller from New York Times bestselling author Mike Omer, a woman who fled home with a dark secret must now flee the strangers who seem to know it – and the stalker behind it all.*

Seventeen-year-old Theodora Briggs left home in the dead of night, after a brutal crime shattered her life. Thirteen years later, she's made a name for herself as Gemma: beautician, wife, and mother. But the trauma still lingers... And then one day, it's more than just a phantom pain.

Gemma is suddenly accosted by stranger after stranger, all of whom seem to know the truth about her. They confront her with her real name and ominous allusions to the tragedy that drove her out of town. When her family begins to have their own strange episodes, Gemma is rattled. There's no one left to trust but herself – except Gemma can't even remember what happened that night. Accusations and danger lurk around every corner, and Gemma's not sure where to turn. But if she can't put together the pieces of her past, the new life she's built might disappear just as quickly – and violently – as her old one.

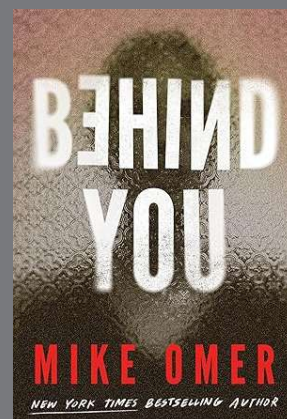
*“Omer delivers some truly surprising twists in the final act. This gets the job done.”*

– Publishers Weekly

*“Mike Omer is a gifted storyteller who is a master of the psychological suspense thriller genre. His latest, deftly crafted, and original novel...is a compulsive page turner of a read.”*

– Midwest Book Review

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: [Behind You](#)  
Publisher: Thomas & Mercer  
Publication date: October 15, 2024  
Language: English  
Print length: 377 pages

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# Dark Fae FBI Series

Urban Fantasy | Mystery & Detective |  
Thriller & Suspense | Fantasy Romance

## AGENT OF ENCHANTMENT. BOOK 1

*The fae live among us. And one of them is a serial killer.*

I thought this would be a simple profiling case. Just another Jack-the-Ripper wannabe, prowling London's streets, searching for easy kills. I was wrong.

This killer is fae, and he's as elusive as smoke on the wind. But I'm an FBI profiler, and it's my job to track him down. It doesn't matter that one of the main suspects – a lethally alluring fae – is trying to seduce me... or kill me, I'm not sure which.

I won't be stopped, not even when panic roils through the streets of London, or when the police start to suspect me. As I close in on the killer, I follow him to a magical shadow realm that's like nothing I ever expected, where I'm hunted like prey. Fine. Bring it on. I'm an FBI Agent. And it turns out I have magical powers of my own.

*"The storytelling has one of those TV shows that are based on FBI profilers feels to it with a definite supernatural twist."*

– Goodreads reviewer

## BOOKS

- [Agent of Enchantment](#)
- [Agent of Chaos](#)
- [Agent of Darkness](#)
- [Agent of the Fae](#)



## DETAILS

[Agent of Enchantment](#)  
Book 1 of 4: [Dark Fae FBI](#)  
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent  
Publication date: February 13, 2023  
Language: English  
Print length: 368 pages

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# Chloe Maddox Series

Magic School Adventure | Middle Grade  
Fantasy | Young Readers

## DRAGON'S DAUGHTER. BOOK 1

*The New York Times and Washington Post bestselling mystery author ventures into the new territory of fantasy adventure novels for young readers – staking a confident claim for success.*

Eleven-year-old Chloe Maddox has spent years perfecting the art of staying invisible in her New York foster care home. But when her hiccups suddenly start spewing smoke, Chloe discovers she is far from ordinary – she's the world's only half-dragon.

Before she can even process this revelation, Chloe is whisked away to Farborgen, a secret school full of magical creatures, complete with treehouse classrooms, rope bridges instead of hallways, and a witch as the cafeteria cook. There, magical children learn to harness their powers, and magic thrives alongside modern technology.

Determined to uncover the truth about her family, Chloe soon stumbles into dark secrets, a rival school conducting sinister experiments, and a half-brother she never knew existed – who now depends on her for survival. Accompanied by a talking raven, a fairy hacker and a mischievous imp, Chloe must learn to control her dragon powers, outwit an ancient secret society, and race against time to prevent her abilities from falling into the wrong hands.

Adventure, humour, and heart-pounding suspense intertwine in this journey of self-discovery, courage, and the power of family – both chosen and born.

*Wednesday meets His Dark  
Materials in this new fantasy adventure  
for young readers.*

## BOOKS

- Dragon's Daughter
- Book 1 of 8
- Book 2 available Dec 2026



## DETAILS

Title: Dragon's Daughter  
Book 1 of 8: Chloe Maddox Series  
Publisher: tbc  
Publication date: tbc  
Language: English  
Print length: ca 90 000 words

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ALEX RIVERS

ALEX RIVERS

# Yliaster Crystal Series

Urban Fantasy | Fantasy Action |  
Women's Adventure Fiction

## STOLEN SOUL. BOOK 1

*They say no man can rob a dragon. Good thing I'm not a man.*

There's an underground magical vault, protected by sorcery, security cameras, guards and whatnot. Think of the most impenetrable place in the world. Now triple it. Here comes the bad news. It belongs to a dragon, and I was hired to break into it and steal his hoard. Suicidal? Insane? Maybe, but... actually, there's no but. It's suicidal and insane. Still, fortune favors the bold. Let's hope fortune has a good disposition toward the crazy as well. I might be an alchemist extraordinaire, and the best burglar on the East Coast, but this is not a solo job. I'll need a team for this one.

Accompanied by a powerful sorcerer, a fortune teller, a scam artist, and a hacker, I embark on the heist of the century. If we succeed, we'll be legends. If not – crispy dragon snacks.

*"Seriously, an alchemist, sorcerer, psychic, hacker and con-artist get together to rob the vault of a dragon. What could go wrong?.. It's like poetry in motion... I HIGHLY recommend it!"*

– Goodreads

## BOOKS

- [Stolen Soul](#)
- [Hunter's Soul](#)
- [A Soul Unchained](#)



## DETAILS

Title: [Stolen Soul](#)  
Book 1 of 3: [Yliaster Crystal](#)  
Publisher: Independently published  
Publication date: February 26, 2018  
Language: English  
Print length: 384 pages

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# SLEEPLESS

Michael Omer



# Moth to a Flame

Michael Omer



## Narrowdale Mystery

Ghost Thrillers | Suspense | Teens and  
Young Adult

### SLEEPLESS. BOOK 1

*Don't fall asleep. Don't dream. Don't get caught.*

Amy knew she'd hate Narrowdale, a boring suburban town. How could it possibly compare to L.A., where she lived her entire life? Being a high school freshman in a new place made things even worse.

And that was before she started having the same nightmare over and over again. Before she woke up every night to a shrill whistle outside her window. Before she met a homeless man who seemed to know way too much.

Some things seem to happen only in Narrowdale, where dark secrets are hiding beneath the surface...

*"...I was hooked to the point where I wouldn't put it down in the car even though it was making me feel nauseous to read in a moving vehicle."*

– C.N. Crawford, Author of *The Witching Elm*

*"Omer's mystery is compelling from page one, the sense of dread palpable. I love a book that can give me the shivers one moment and crack me up the next."*

– Pauline M Ross, Author of *The Fire Mages*

### BOOKS

- [Sleepless](#)
- [Moth to a Flame](#)
- [The Buzzing \(novella\)](#)



### DETAILS

Title: [Sleepless](#)  
Book 1 of 2: [Narrowdale Mystery](#)  
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent  
Publication date: January 12, 2015  
Language: English  
Print length: 180 pages

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# VALENTINA NAZAROVA

Adapted to film  
Published in 10 languages

## ABOUT

Valentina Nazarova is a bestselling Cyprus-based writer, screenwriter, and podcast creator.

Valentina studied Creative Writing at the University of Northampton, UK. Her debut English-language novel, *The Hidden Track*, was nominated for the National Bestseller Award, adapted into a web film in a British-Russian co-production directed by Bran Lye, and translated into nine languages, including German (Piper). Film adaptation rights to two further thrillers have been sold, with both projects currently in development.

Nazarova's latest English-language novel, *The Taste of Songbirds*, is a crime thriller set in Cyprus that explores exploitation, post-colonial legacies, and institutional power with contemporary real-world relevance.

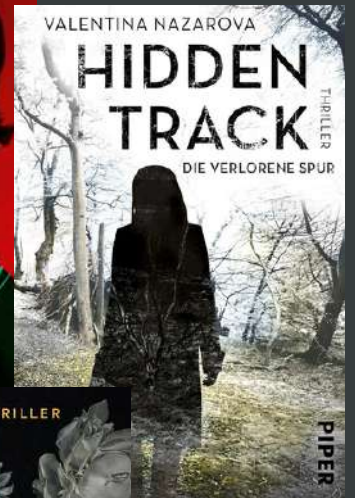
Together with her brother, she co-hosts the popular true crime podcast *The Hills Have Podcast*. Her interests include indie rock, music festivals, and true crime. She lives in Cyprus with her husband, daughter, two dogs, and a ginger cat.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- The author's thriller, *The Hidden Track*, adapted to web series released in 2019, directed by Brian Lye.
- Two film adaptations of the author's novels are currently in development

NOMINATED FOR THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER  
PRIZE 2016, 2018, 2020  
MANUSCRIPT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2015

## SELECTED TITLES



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# THE TASTE OF

## The Taste of Songbirds

Crime Thriller | Serial Killer Thriller | Noir

### LOGLINE

Assigned to a politically sensitive murder case in Cyprus, a sidelined female detective follows a trail of clues into a hidden world of wealth, ritual, and exploitation – only to realise the power behind it is entangled with her past, threatening to unravel her life if exposed.

### PITCH

A troubled London police officer is sent to Cyprus to join an international task force hunting a serial killer targeting migrant women. But when a suspect is quickly arrested, she begins to sense the case is being contained rather than solved. Following a trail of dead songbirds, she uncovers a hidden network of power, sex, and violence operating behind the glamorous façade of the island of love. The deeper she digs, the clearer it becomes: the killer is not the threat, but a cog in a system designed to protect itself. As the investigation closes in, she realizes that her connection to the island – and to the men who control it – is more personal than she ever imagined. And that exposing the truth may cost her everything.

INSPIRED BY TRUE  
EVENTS

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: [The Taste of Songbirds](#)  
Publisher: tbd  
Publication date: tbd  
Language: English  
Print length: ca 80 000 words

### REFERENCES

True Detective, Nic Pizzolatto, 2014–  
The Night Manager, David Farr, 2016  
Memories of Murder, Bong Joon-ho, 2003  
Top of the Lake, Jane Campion, 2013–2017  
The Killing, Søren Sveistrup, 2011–2014  
Killing Eve, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Luke  
Jennings, 2018–2022

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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, dark-colored bird, possibly a sparrow or similar songbird. The hand is adorned with a silver, ornate bracelet. The background is filled with large, white, multi-petaled flowers, likely chrysanthemums, set against a dark background.

# The Taste of Songbirds

Crime Thriller | Serial Killer Thriller | Noir

## SYNOPSIS

A British vice detective, Xanthe Blake, is sent to Cyprus as part of an international task force investigating a series of murders drawing political attention. The victims are migrant women, their bodies discovered sealed in suitcases at the bottom of a flooded quarry known locally as the “blood lake.” When one of the victims is identified as being from Northern Cyprus, the case escalates into a diplomatic crisis. With negotiations underway to open a checkpoint in divided Nicosia – split along the Green Line since 1974, a scar left by British colonial rule – pressure mounts to resolve the case quickly and quietly.

For Xanthe, this is a long-awaited chance to escape vice and prove herself in serious crime, yet she quickly realizes she has been brought in as much for optics as for her ability. Half-Cypriot, she is paired with Amir Serçe, a Turkish Cypriot officer equally sidelined, their presence serving as a gesture of unity while the real decisions are made behind closed doors. A suspect is arrested before Xanthe has had the chance to do more than observe.

What stops her from walking away is a detail no one else considers worth pursuing: dead songbirds found alongside the bodies. The clue leads Xanthe and Serçe into the world of illegal bird trapping, a brutal black market supplying ambelopoulia – a banned delicacy served in private villas, at political gatherings, and at off-menu dinners for those who can afford it.

This leads to another suspect, a man who confesses to the murders and guides them to additional dumping grounds, revealing details that should close the case for good. But Xanthe becomes convinced his performance is rehearsed. The motive – sexual compulsion – feels too convenient, a narrative designed to contain something far more dangerous. When the suspect slits his wrists in custody hours after the questioning, it becomes clear that someone is controlling not just the crimes, but also the narrative.

With the help of Theo, the magnetic head of a women’s NGO who rescues victims while moving effortlessly among the island’s elite, Xanthe begins to uncover a network that operates across borders and institutions. An exclusive club of ultra-wealthy men gathers on the island. Its enigmatic “priestess” has recreated a forgotten cult of Aphrodite, once practiced on that site thousands of years ago – essentially, a ritualised form of prostitution. But the woman herself is also a victim of the club. The true leader is someone else.

At the centre stands a former British commander who never truly left the island, his influence reshaped but intact, his reach extending into every layer of the system. As Xanthe follows the trail upward, she realizes she was not sent here by chance, and that her connection to this place – and to the men who run it – is deeper than the investigation itself. What began as a murder investigation becomes a descent into a power structure designed to protect itself at any cost, forcing her to choose between walking away, becoming complicit, or trying to break a system that will take her down with it.

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# SERGEY KUZNETSOV

Translated into 15+ languages

## ABOUT

Sergey Kuznetsov is a Paris-based writer, journalist, entrepreneur and educator.

Kuznetsov took part in forming post-Soviet independent journalism in Russia, focusing mainly on movies and literature, and in 2011 became the only Russian journalist having received a Knight Fellowship in journalism from Stanford University. Sergey contributes to American periodicals, including The New York Times, The Huffington Post and others.

Kuznetsov is the author of a dozen of books of prose. His serial killer thriller *Butterfly Skin* was published in 12 languages, including English, German and French. His novel *Round Dance of Water* was published by Dalkey Archive in the US in 2022.

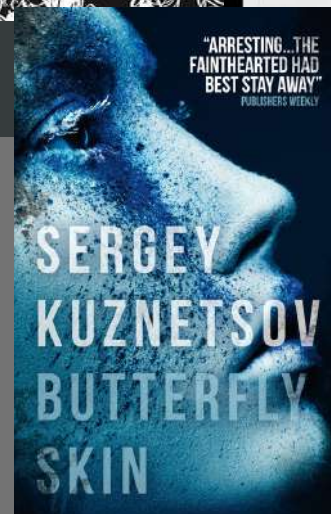
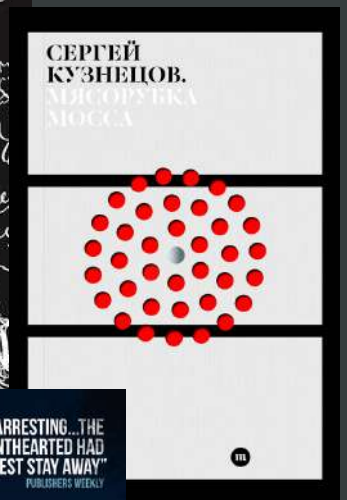
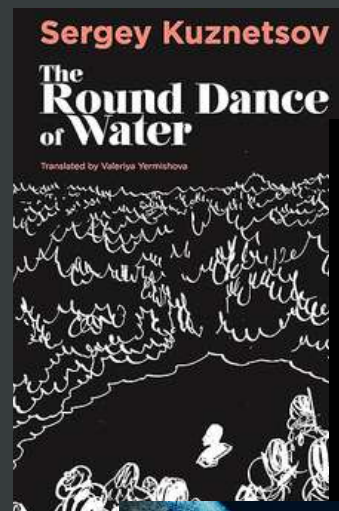
Kuznetsov received numerous nominations to the prestigious literary prizes and was a finalist for the Big Book Award and New Horizons Award, for the best novel in sci-fi and fantasy.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Shortlisted for the New Horizons Prize 2017, 2019
- Longlisted for Yasnaya Polyana Award 2018, 2019
- Shortlisted for the New Literature Award 2018
- Longlisted for the Big Book Award 2016, 2018

FINALIST OF THE BIG BOOK AWARD  
THE KNIGHT FELLOWSHIP FROM STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY

## SELECTED TITLES



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# SERGEY

# KU

## Butterfly Skin

# SOV

Crime Thriller | Serial Killer Thriller | Noir

### LOGLINE

When a brutal and sadistic serial killer begins stalking the streets of a big city, Ksenia, an ambitious young newspaper editor, takes it upon herself to attempt to solve the mystery of the killer's identity. As her obsession with the killer grows, Ksenia devises an elaborate website with the intention of ensnaring the murderer, only to discover something disturbing about herself: her own unhealthy fascination with the sexual savagery of the murders.

### PITCH

Moscow is plagued by a series of gruesome murders: a serial killer is targeting young women in the city, inflicting grisly sexual tortures upon his victims.

Ksenia, an ambitious young editor in the news department of a small but influential online magazine, decides to track down the serial killer, devising an elaborate website to entrap him and thereby boost her company's profile. She soon realizes, however, that her obsession with the psychopath reflects something more deeply disturbing: her own unconscious mixture of horror and fascination with the sexual savagery of the murders.

A sexual masochist, Ksenia has her own dark side and is drawn deeply into the story. New victims emerge as Ksenia has an affair with a co-worker and tries to make sense of her desires.

Her one potential soul mate is an online chat partner identified as "alien"; their virtual affair is both psychologically and erotically charged. They fall in love and edge toward a face-to-face meeting, without Ksenia suspecting that her correspondent is the killer. Ksenia's best friend, Olga, tries to keep her grounded, with disastrous results.

*"A love story from hell"*  
– The New York Times

*"Arresting...The fainthearted had  
best stay away."*  
– Publishers Weekly

### BOOK



### DETAILS

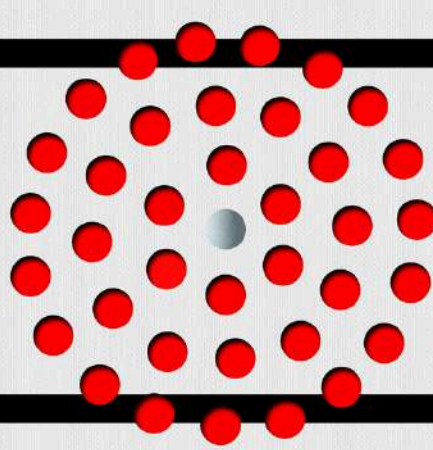
Title: [Butterfly Skin](#)  
Publisher: Titan Books  
Publication date: 2014  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 400 pp

### REFERENCES

Mindhunter, Joe Penhall, David Fincher, 2017-2019  
Seven, David Fincher, 1995  
The Silence of the Lambs, Jonathan Demme, 1991

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# Meat Grinder

Speculative Fiction | Social Drama | Noir

## PITCH

What if guilt turned into a deadly virus springing up a pandemic of suicides and suicide killings across continents? Razor-sharp and bold as Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*, raw and disturbing as Marlon James' *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, *Meat Grinder* takes you on a roller-coaster ride across years and continents, exploring violence through the lenses of culture, society, and, ultimately, human nature.

## SYNOPSIS

2030. While studying the statistics of expanded suicides and self-destruction, big data analyst Kevin Moss notices that the spread dynamics of these incidents resemble the progression of a pandemic. However, he never manages to understand the nature of the disease that would later be named after him – and neither does the reader understand at first, until the truth is revealed.

Among the characters are Thierry and Sonia, a young couple spending their honeymoon on *Pleasure Island*, a hidden tropical paradise; Michelle, Thierry's lover, her son Quentin, and her non-binary lover Vic; Sonia's parents, Russian-Jewish immigrants who have made a successful business in the US; Mirabel, a flight attendant suffering from alcoholism and nymphomania; Charlie Kumamoto, a Japanese-American marine stationed on the other side of *Pleasure Island*; participants and victims of the war in Yugoslavia who are futilely trying to forget their past and heal the wounds that have already been passed down to their children. All of them, in one way or another, will encounter Moss's disease.

Its first stage resembles the flu, the second – a transcendental trip, and in the third, an immense guilt emerges inside the afflicted individual, growing to a point where it becomes unbearable. This guilt could be towards parents, children, spouses and lovers, the underprivileged, the ravaged nature, the victims of wars and outbreaks of violence. The feeling of unbearable guilt pushes the afflicted person to the edge, where suicide seems like the only way out.

However, not everyone succumbs to the disease. Some possess innate immunity, for some, the disease takes a mild form, and others are saved by the arrival of a vaccine. But how safe is the vaccine itself? By safeguarding people from the sense of guilt, wouldn't the vaccine kill conscience itself? And now, groups of religious extremists storm the medical laboratory building...

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: Meat Grinder  
Publisher: Meduza  
Publication date: 2025  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 600+ pp

## REFERENCES

*Melancholia*, directed by Lars Von Trier, 2011  
*Fireworks (Hana-Bi)*, directed by Takeshi Kitano, 1997  
*Bad Lieutenant*, directed by Abel Ferrara, 1992  
*The Act of Killing*, directed by Joshua Oppenheimer, 2012

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«ЭТО — НЕ МОИ СТЕНЫ,  
НЕ МОЯ ГРАНИЦА,  
НЕ МОИ ЗАКОНЫ»

# LIVING AND ALL GROWN UP

Speculative | Urban Fantasy | YA

## PITCH

Stranger Things in a Cold War setting.

Living and All Grown Up tells the story of four 13-year-old friends in an alternative world where there is a border separating the living from the dead, and the war between two states has recently finished. Teenagers from the state of the living incidentally open the gate between the worlds and make friends with a child from the dead. But what if grown-ups find out about the new passage?

## SYNOPSIS

Living and All Grown Up is set in an alternative world where there is a border separating the living from the dead. There has been a war between the two; however, some forms of communication and cooperation exist.

Nicka, Marina, Leva, and Gosha are 13 years old, they live in a strictly ordered society of the living in the aftermath of the bloody war with the dead which split the known world in two. They are taught that the dead are the enemy, every contact is forbidden and labeled treason. However, technologies, consumer goods, gossip, and movies trickle into the world of the living, and are of great value and interest. What's across the Border? Should the teenagers trust the adults that all the dead are evil? Or is there more to this black and white order of things?

When the friends stumble upon an opportunity to communicate with a teenage dead how can they resist? They become friends with Mike who showers them with knowledge of the world of the dead. New gadgets, languages and jargon, new interpretation of the known historical events and social order – Nicka, Marina, Leva, and Gosha are sponging the information. How come their deadly enemy is just like them? He even falls in love with Marina although this is strictly forbidden – there is no time in the world of the dead and Mike will never age.

This seemingly innocent exchange and blossoming friendships turn out to be a trap. The group of friends incidentally help to breach the border and come under attack of zombies and other evil creatures. Their interaction has been flawed all along – scheming adults have been trying to use it to gain control of both worlds. Will they be able to restore the balance?

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: Living and All Grown Up  
Publication date: 2019  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 340 pp

## REFERENCES

Stranger Things, the Duffer brothers, 2016  
Super 8, J. J. Abrams, 2011  
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children,  
Tim Burton, 2016

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# NARINE ABGARYAN

1.5 mln copies sold  
Translated into 30+ languages

## ABOUT

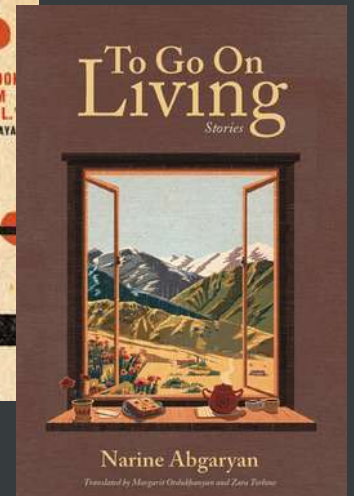
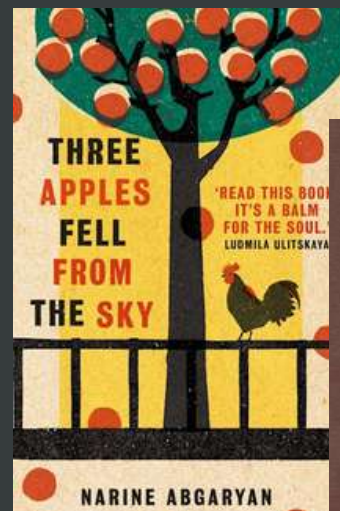
Internationally bestselling author

Born in 1971 in Berd, Armenia, Narine Abgaryan is the internationally bestselling author of a dozen of books, with combined sales of over 1,5 million copies.

The author's powerful and moving novel *Three Apples Fell From the Sky*, nominated for the Booker Prize, was translated into 30+ languages and became a long seller throughout Europe.

Since 2022 Narine Abgaryan has been sharing her time between Germany and her native Armenia.

## SELECTED TITLES



## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Winner of the Yasnaya Polyana Prize 2016
- Shortlisted for the Big Book Award 2021
- Longlisted for the National Bestseller Prize 2016

NOMINATED TO THE BOOKER PRIZE  
SEVERAL BOOKS ADAPTED TO FILM

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# DIN CER AU CĂZUT

## Three Apples Fell — From the Sky —

Magic Realism | Drama | Family Saga

### LOGLINE

Life as a miracle.

When a village librarian Anatolia, at 58, takes a closer look at her neighbours, one true miracle changes everything in this fascinating fable of an Armenian mountain village facing an imminent ending.

### PITCH

In a dying mountain village, Anatolia, the aging librarian, believes her life is nearing its end. But when she gets to know her old neighbour things take a sudden turn, both for her and the whole community.

This poignant and transformative tale explores love, friendship, and the enigmatic nature of life. With a touch of magic and the resilience of the human spirit, the story delves into the depths of hope, challenging our perceptions of time and purpose.

*“A magical realism story of  
friendship and feuds.”*

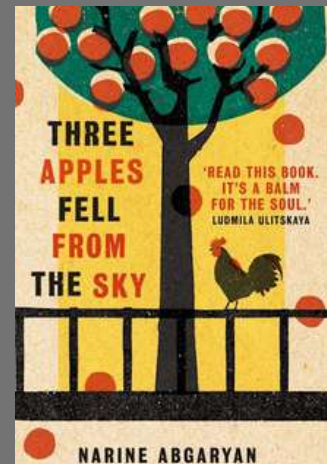
– The Guardian

*“This magical tale transcends  
familiar mystical tropes with its  
fresh reimagining of Armenian  
folklore.”*

– Publishers Weekly

NOMINATED FOR  
THE BOOKER PRIZE

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: [Three Apples Fell from the Sky](#)

Publication date: 2016

Language: English

Original language: Russian

Print length: 315 pp

Available in 32 languages including English, French, German, Spanish

### REFERENCES

The Banshees of Inisherin, Martin McDonagh, 2022

Everybody's Gone, Georgy Parajanov, 2012

Life is Beautiful, Roberto Benigni, 1997

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# DIN CER AU CĂZUT

## Three Apples Fell — From the Sky —

Magic Realism | Drama | Family Saga

### SYNOPSIS

In a forgotten Armenian village lost on the Manish Kar mountain top, the remaining inhabitants – a handful of elderly people – cling to their vanishing way of life. Part weirdoes, part naggers, their lives intertwined by love, war, vengeance, and forgiveness, they are ready to embrace the village's imminent ending.

Among the villagers is Anatolia, the village librarian, a resilient survivor of a devastating famine, who endured the brutal attacks of her husband. Vasily, a widowed blacksmith, carries the weight of losing three sons and his younger brother during World War II. Yasaman, Anatolia's neighbor and friend, serves as the village healer, offering herbal remedies to the ailing residents.

Through the mundane yet captivating routines of the elderly inhabitants – baking baklava, tending crops, and carrying out household chores – readers become immersed in their life stories, witnessing the slow-paced yet entrancing fable of a village on the verge of its inevitable demise.

However, everything changes when Anatolia, aged 58, finds herself confronted with a startling revelation. As she notices signs of bleeding, she believes her time is coming to an end. Faced with the imminent death, she hesitates to reject the proposal of a local blacksmith, a widower who has offered his companionship during her dwindling days in this world. Despite her reluctance they slowly grow closer – old neighbors, they start to discover new things about each other, until one day a true miracle happens – Anatolia realizes she bears a child, something that shakes the foundations of their reality and the whole community.

With its striking beauty, visual imagery, and underlying melancholy, Narine Abgaryan's *Three Apples Fell from the Sky* echoes the magical realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.



# To Go On Living

Drama | War-time Drama

## PITCH

In the wake of unspeakable tragedy, survivors grapple with the simplest yet hardest question: how to find love, hope, and a future while holding onto the memories of those lost to war.

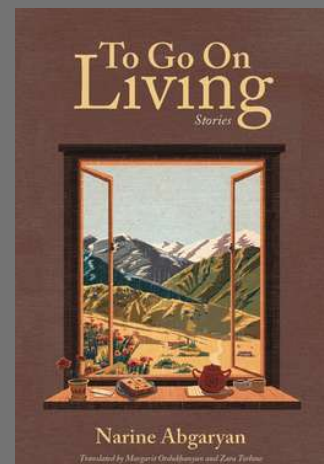
## SYNOPSIS

Set in the picturesque mountain village of Berd, we follow the interconnected lives of its inhabitants, seemingly unremarkable villagers who go on about their lives, tending to their daily tasks, engaging in their quotidian squabbles, and celebrating small joys amid a beautiful local landscape. Yet their seemingly unremarkable existence in a setting imbued with a deliberate sense of being suspended in time and space belies an unspeakable tragedy: every character must contend with the unbearable burden of loss that they have suffered during the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the early 1990s.

The war itself appears only in small and fragmented flashbacks, as the author focuses on the war's aftermath, portraying the different ways in which the survivors work, as individuals and as a community, to find a way forward. For some, the toll is a psychological one, as the opening vignette introduces the reader to Zanazan, a beautiful young woman who has lost her unborn child, her husband, and her ability to speak to enemy shelling, and who now lives in the care of her elderly mother-in-law. The middle-aged Metaksia visits her stepson's grave and chats with him as if they were sitting across from each other at a dinner table. Agnessa, whose ill-fated desire to keep her daughter warm in a bomb shelter has cost her not only her own limbs but also the life of her child finds love and a chance at redemption with a new family. Lusine, who barely recalls her mother, abducted and brutally murdered by the enemy, receives, as an engagement present, the last surviving rug woven by her mother. Anichka, whose entire family has been brutally murdered, forges a platonic relationship with a widower whose son has been left incapacitated by yet another act of senseless violence.

Each character has lived through unimaginable loss, but their sadness is described as cathartic, engendering hope where all hope must be lost. There are thirty interconnected short stories, and thirty dramas to follow – a true hymn to the resilience of the human spirit and its ability to soar above.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: *To Go On Living*  
 Publication date: 2014  
 Language: English  
 Original language: Russian  
 Print length: 280 pp

## REFERENCES

Paisan, Roberto Rossellini, 1964  
 The Cranes Are Flying, Mikhail Kalatozov, 1957  
 L'Amore, Roberto Rossellini and Federico Fellini, 1948

# MIKHAIL SHISHKIN

International Bestseller  
Translated into 40+ languages

## ABOUT

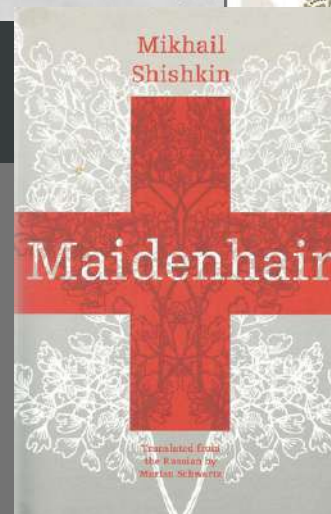
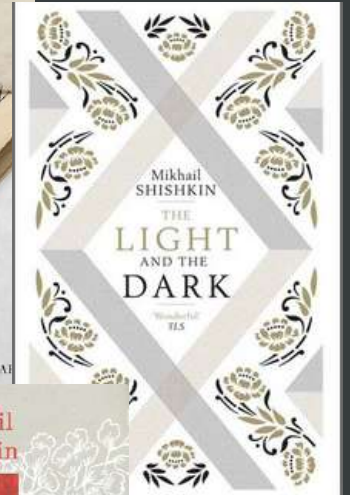
### Internationally bestselling author

Mikhail Shishkin is one of the most celebrated Russian authors today. Born in 1961 in Moscow, he worked as a school teacher and journalist. In 1995 he moved to Switzerland, where he worked as a Russian and German translator within the Immigration Department and specifically with Asylum Seekers. His writing debut in 1993, *Calligraphy Lesson*, a short story translated into French and Finnish, has won him the Prize for the Best Debut of the Year. Since then, his works – both fiction and non-fiction – have been translated into 40+ languages and have received a large number of prestigious national and international awards, including Haus der Kulturen der Welt International Literature Award (2011), Premio Strega Europeo (2022), The Russian Booker Prize (2000), The National Bestseller Prize (2006), The Big Book Award (2006, 2011) and many others. Today Shishkin is a fearless critic of Putin's regime and Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Premio Strega Europeo 2022
- Shortlisted for Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2013
- Haus der Kulturen der Welt International Literature Award 2011
- The Big Book Award 2011
- Halpérine-Kaminski Prize for the Best Translation 2007
- Shortlisted for Giuseppe Berto Prize 2007
- Grinzane Cavour Prize 2007

## SELECTED TITLES



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PREMIO STREGA EUROPEO  
2022

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Mikhail  
SHISHKIN

THE  
LIGHT  
AND THE

The Light and The  
Dark

Magic Realism | Drama | Family Saga

## PITCH

A timeless love story unfolding through a series of poignant letters exchanged between Vladimir and Alexandra. As their correspondence transcends time and death, their words become a lifeline, reuniting a fractured world and exploring the secret of eternity.

This poignant and transformative tale explores love, friendship, and the enigmatic nature of life. With a touch of magic and the resilience of the human spirit, the story delves into the depths of hope, challenging our perceptions of time and purpose.

## SYNOPSIS

The Light and the Dark delves into the captivating story of Vladimir, a young man who goes to an unnamed war, and Alexandra, who stays behind living an ordinary life. Through their heartfelt letters, they share the joys, sorrows, and everyday experiences that bind them together. However, as readers immerse themselves in their words, they discover that time has been disunited, and the boundaries of reality have become blurred, like fragments of a nonsensical rhyme.

Set against the backdrop of shifting eras, the story takes us from Alexandra's life in the 1960s to Vladimir's involvement in the Boxers uprising in China at the turn of the twentieth century. Though Vladimir meets an untimely death, his letters continue to arrive, defying the boundaries of time and mortality. Alexandra, even after marriage and personal tragedies, writes to him as if their words exist in a parallel universe, where time holds no sway, and death loses its grip.

The Light and the Dark explores the profound mysteries of life and love transcending death. Mikhail Shishkin's intricate storytelling elevates this tale to new heights, earning him numerous international literary awards and drawing comparisons to the greatest authors of our time.

TRANSLATED INTO 40+  
LANGUAGES

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## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: The Light and The Dark  
Publication date: 2010  
Language: Russian  
Print length: 544pp  
Available in 40+ languages including English,  
French, German, Spanish

## REFERENCES

A Very Long Engagement,  
Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2004  
The English Patient, 1996,  
Atonement, Joe Wright, 2007  
Doctor Zhivago, David Lean, 1965

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# IVAN PHILLIPOV



Writer and film producer

## ABOUT

Internationally bestselling author,  
journalist and film producer

Ivan Phillipov is a Berlin-based writer, journalist, film executive and co-host of a popular podcast. For the past 15 years Ivan worked with Alexander Rodnyansky as a creative executive in his US film company AR Content. As a journalist Ivan Phillipov wrote for many Moscow-based publications, including Forbes, GQ and Esquire. Leaving Russia in the first weeks of war for Tbilisi, he now writes for independent Russian media Holod and his op-eds were published in The Guardian in 2022 and 2023.

## SELECTED TITLES



## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Mouse banned in Russia as a threat to national security

MASSIVE PRESS-COVERAGE



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# r1s

IVAN PHILIPPOV

# LES ZOMBIES ENGINE

## MOUSE

Zombie Apocalypse | Horror | Action |  
Survival Story

### PITCH

After a lab experiment to make Putin immortal goes wrong, a deadly virus is unleashed on Moscow. The city of 12 million is quickly overrun, leaving few survivors. Two brothers, a prison guard and her prisoner, and a theatre student dressed as a pink mouse accompanied by a migrant worker fight for their lives as they navigate the infected city.

### SYNOPSIS

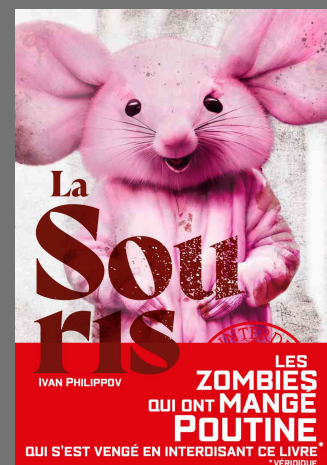
In 2020, an infected mouse escapes from the Institute of Functional Immortality, where technology for Putin's immortality is being developed. This results in a devastating zombie apocalypse that sweeps through Moscow, leaving behind a trail of destruction and death. Millions of people die, becoming zombies. The infected have heightened senses of hearing and smell, but their vision and motor skills are severely impaired, which makes an escape possible, if far from easy.

The story follows three different groups of characters: Seva (15) and Kostya (10), two brothers trapped in their apartment, their parents killed, looking for a way to get out of town; Asya, a girl dressed in a full-length costume of a pink mouse, who is also trying to escape the city and return to her hometown, finding romance along the way against all odds; and the 80-year-old doctor of biological sciences, Lavr, and his prison guard, Tonya, stuck in a paddy outside the prison, where Lavr is kept on charges of treason.

The three groups set off from different parts of town heading in the same direction as they try to escape the city. The story unfolds through the three parallel narratives, each group facing various dangers and challenges. As we follow their journeys through devastated Moscow, they will get to visit the Pushkin museum, escape from a deranged cannibal, walk through the metro tunnels, climb the rooftops and hijack a train. Eventually, they all converge in the final chapter, where their paths cross and their fates are intertwined.

The novel ultimately explores the themes of survival, hope, and human connection in the face of adversity, all while providing a sharp social critique of contemporary politics through its satirical depiction of the brutal deaths of well-known political figures.

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: Mouse  
Publication date: 2023  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 345 pp  
Available in English, French

### REFERENCES

The Last of Us, Craig Mazin, 2023  
The Walking Dead, Frank Darabont, 2010-2022  
28 Days Later, Danny Boyle, 2002

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# The Shadow

Urban Fantasy | Superhero Action | Fantasy  
Thriller

18+

## PITCH

When death is only the beginning.

A recently deceased investigator must save Moscow and the supernatural world of the city below from destruction and his own soul from the torments of hell.

## SYNOPSIS

On a hot August night, a girl in downtown Moscow is ran over by a car. This is not an ordinary hit-and-run, but a premeditated murder. However, the murder is deemed an accident and an innocent migrant worker is quickly arrested.

Stepan is a Moscow police detective. Far from a hero, he is just an ordinary Russian cop – a little corrupt, indifferent, not outright evil, but getting there. His one redeeming quality is his soft spot for girls who fell victim to violent crimes, due to his own past. Stepan will easily take a bribe from a drug-dealer, but Lord have mercy on a rapist who will cross paths with him.

Sonya's death worries Stepan, who sets out to find the truth, ignoring the violent objections and direct order of his superior officer not to dig into it. He quickly realizes that he will lose his job if he doesn't stop, but before he can admit defeat and fall in line, Stepan is gunned down by two of his fellow officers. His body is thrown into a sewage well.

This is how the story begins. Stepan finds himself in The Other Moscow – the so-called Moscow Down Under, inhabited by all the unclaimed dead of the city's 900 years of history.

But Stepan is no ordinary deceased, he was chosen by the City as a Champion. Not unlike a huge prehistoric animal, the City can sense danger. It knows not where the danger is coming from, but it chooses a Champion – someone who will identify and neutralize the threat. The chosen Champion is known as The Shadow. As a reward the City gives The Shadow a chance at redemption, a chance to avoid hell. It also gives The Champion a superpower: an ability to inhabit shadows.

Stepan soon realizes that death brought him true freedom. He no longer has desires, he no longer has to play by anyone's rules, he can be himself. With grim satisfaction Stepan agrees that a dead cop is a good cop. And now this good cop will find the people who are responsible for his death. And, while he's at it, save the city.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: The Shadow  
Publication date: 2022  
Original language: Russian  
Available in French  
Print length: 352 pp

*"Philippov has a masterly command of film production methods, which results in this fascinating story with a range of interweaving storylines from different periods of Moscow's history that tie together in a grand finale.*

– Antenna Daily

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# MARINA STEPNOVA

Bestselling Author  
Translated into 35+ languages

## ABOUT

Internationally bestselling author

Marina Stepnova is an accomplished writer and screenwriter, has collaborated on notable film projects, including *Butterfly Jam* by Kantemir Balagov, the director of the Cannes Un Certain Regard winner *Beanpole*, produced by Alexander Rodnyansky, a four-time Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Film.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Double winner of the Big Book Award 2012
- Finalist of the National Bestseller 2012
- Finalist of the Russian Booker Award 2012
- Shortlisted for Yasnaya Polyana Literary Award 2012

## SELECTED TITLES



DOUBLE WINNER OF  
THE BIG BOOK AWARD

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# Women of Lazarus

Drama | Family Saga | Period Drama

## PITCH

A captivating story of a genius physicist and three women in his life, unfolding throughout the tumultuous landscape of the 20th century.

## SYNOPSIS

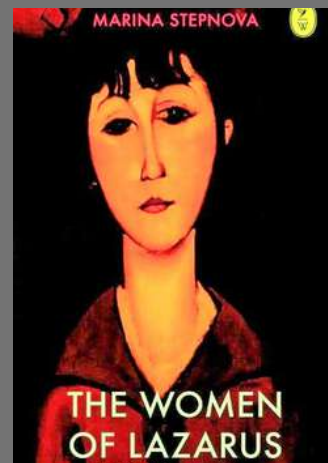
Marusia and Sergei Chaldonov share a happy marriage, their only sorrow being their inability to conceive a child. However, at the age of 49, Marusia's prayers are seemingly answered when they meet Lazarus Lindt, an 18-year-old orphan possessing a remarkable intellect, a true maverick of his troubled era.

As Lazarus matures into a prodigious talent, he finds himself in love with Marusia, but she views him solely as a son. Tragedy strikes when Marusia passes away, leaving Lazarus to grapple with his unrequited love. In his grief, he crosses paths with Galina, 30 years younger, who harbors deep animosity toward him despite his fervent adoration. Galina has her reasons, having previously envisioned a future with a fellow college student before she was threatened into marrying powerful Lindt.

A devastating accident claims the lives of Galina's son and daughter-in-law, leaving their young daughter, Lida, as an orphan at the tender age of five. Enduring the harsh indifference of her grandmother and the physical demands of ballet school, Lida, a spirited tomboy, learns to navigate pain and heartache. Along her arduous journey, she discovers that love and a sense of belonging can be found in the most unexpected of places.

In this poignant tale of love, loss, and resilience, *The Women of Lazarus* reveals the profound impact of family, the enduring strength of the human spirit, and the transformative power of unexpected connections.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: [Women of Lazarus](#)  
Publication date: 2012  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 444pp  
Available in 32 languages including English, French, German

## REFERENCES

Autumn Sonata, Ingmar Bergman, 1978  
A Thousand Acres, Jocelyn Moorhouse, 1997  
Atonement, Joe Wright, 2007  
A Beautiful Mind, Ron Howard, 2001

TRANSLATED INTO  
35 LANGUAGES

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# EDWARD REZNIK

Adapted into an  
English-language film script

## ABOUT

### Writer and screenwriter

Edward Reznik (born 1960) is a scriptwriter and playwright with twenty feature films and TV series to his name, including the prizewinning German-Ukrainian-Russian co-production *Four Days in May* (2011).

He writes for theatre, radio, and film.

His novel *Therapy* draws on his ten years of experience as a practicing counselor. Reznik adapted *Therapy* into a feature script, which was recognized in the Best Script category at film festivals in Berlin, Toronto, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Tel Aviv, and Chicago.

Edward Reznik lives with his family in New York.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

Adapted into an English-language feature script, recognized in the Best Script category at film festivals in Berlin, Toronto, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Tel Aviv, and Chicago.

## SELECTED TITLES



FILM SCRIPT AVAILABLE

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# Therapy

Shoah Drama | Drama | Psychological Drama

## PITCH

In pre-war Berlin, a Jewish psychologist saves a young German from suicide and offers him free therapy. Drawn to the psychologist's daughter, the boy agrees. But as his confidence grows, he rises through the ranks of the SS at the cost of his love, while the psychologist's family is deported to a concentration camp. Now on opposite sides of the barbed wire, the prisoner and the guard continue their therapy amidst the horrors of the Shoah. It becomes an ultimate test of the psychologist's skill and moral strength to help his patient-turned-enemy reclaim his humanity.

## SYNOPSIS

Set in 1933 Berlin, the story follows Richard, a 19-year-old laborer and morgue assistant. His life takes an unexpected turn when he encounters Aida, a Jewish girl with whom he shares a rare blood type, but their connection is fleeting. Haunted by his mother's suicide, Richard attempts to take his own life, only to be saved by Joachim, a Jewish psychoanalyst who offers him free therapy. Initially reluctant, Richard agrees when he discovers that Aida is Joachim's daughter. Joachim helps Richard gain self-confidence and overcome his psychological burdens, leading to a romance with Aida.

Meanwhile, high-ranking SS official Ulrich brings his son, Theo, to Joachim for treatment to address his homosexuality. When Ulrich blames Joachim for a subsequent scandal, the psychoanalyst's career – and life – is threatened.

In a surprising twist, Richard learns that Ulrich is his father. Influential officer Ulrich promotes Richard within the Nazi hierarchy. Richard no longer believes he needs therapy and cancels his appointments with Joachim. He resumes his relationship with Aida and enjoys the privileges of being an SS officer, while Aida hides her Jewish identity, feeling protected by Richard's status. But when Ulrich demands that his son break up with the Jewish girl, Richard obeys, and Aida returns to her parents.

As the war intensifies, Richard becomes disillusioned with the newly found father-son relationship, hoping to reunite with Aida. However, he discovers that Aida perished in the concentration camp, where Richard now serves as a guard.

Overwhelmed by grief and confronted with the horrors of the camp, Richard pleads with Joachim to resume therapy. Therapy is a piercing Shoah drama that delves into the complexities of human psyche and history.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: Therapy  
Publication date: 2022  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 480 pp

## REFERENCES

Shindler's List, Steven Spielberg, 1993  
The Pianist, Roman Polanski, 2002  
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Mark Herman, 2008  
Sophie's Choice, Alan J. Pakula, 1982  
Cabare, Bob Fosse, 1972

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# LENA ELTANG

Internationally acclaimed  
author

## ABOUT

Bestselling author & poet

Lena Eltang was born in 1964 in Leningrad. In 1988 she left the USSR, lived in Paris, London and Copenhagen. She has been living in Lithuania since 1991.

A journalist and a translator, she has also become known as a poet after the publication of two collections of poems in 2003 and 2004, and as a short-prose writer, when her works were included in the Five Names anthology. Blackberry Shoot, Lena's first novel, created a stir on the Russian literary scene, became a finalist of the National Bestseller Prize and Andrei Bely Prize, hailed by literary critics as "the best Russian novel in years".

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Longlisted for the Big Book Award 2022
- Longlisted for the Yasnaya Polyana Prize 2022
- Shortlisted for the Big Book Award 2012
- Finalist of the Russian Literary Prize 2011
- Winner of the New Literature Award 2009
- Shortlisted for the National Bestseller Prize 2006
- Finalist of Andrei Bely Prize 2006

## SELECTED TITLES



AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH

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# КАРТАХЕНА

р о м а н

## Cartagena

Mystery Thriller | Detective Story | Drama |  
Romance

### PITCH

Returning to the seaside hotel in Calabria where his relationship with his girlfriend ended years ago, young writer Marcus finds himself entangled in a web of secrets. Taking on the role of resident pianist, Marcus forms a connection with Petra, a mysterious orderly with her own hidden agenda and a murder to solve. Together, they uncover a series of murders connected to the hotel's owner and a stolen rare stamp. Their amateurish investigation unveils the shocking truth linking their lives to the dark secrets of hotel Briatico.

### SYNOPSIS

A young writer, Marcus, returns to the seaside hotel Briatico in Calabria where his relationship with his girlfriend ended years earlier in the mysterious blaze of a chapel fire. Haunted by the loss, he has turned their ill-fated love affair into a novel, hoping to find closure. When he arrives, Marcus finds that the hotel has changed, and so has the story he thought he knew. Determined to stay, he conceals his identity and takes a position as the resident pianist, immersing himself in the life of the hotel.

There he meets Petra, a striking and enigmatic orderly with secrets of her own. In truth, Petra is a law student on a private mission to uncover the truth behind her brother's murder, which she believes is connected to Briatico and to Averici, the hotel's former manager, brutally killed on the hotel grounds.

Drawn together, Marcus and Petra become entangled both in a love affairs as well as in the dark intrigues of Briatico, where no one is who they seem.

Their search reveals that Averici was in possession of a rare and priceless stamp, The Sicilian Error, once hidden in a secret safe by Stefania, Briatico's late owner. The missing stamp, intended as a family heirloom, has become the silent key to betrayal, greed and murder. Yet the true identity of its rightful heir remains hidden.

As Marcus drifts from novelist to reluctant detective, he begins to uncover not only the secrets of Briatico but also the unsettling ties between his own past and the crimes that haunt the estate. The truths he unearths overturn everything he believed and lead him onto a perilous path where love, betrayal and redemption collide.

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: [Cartagena](#)  
Publication date: 2014  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 544 pp

### REFERENCES

The Talented Mr. Ripley, Anthony Minghella, 1999  
Big Little Lies, Jean-Marc Vallée, Andrea Arnold, 2017  
The English Patient, Anthony Minghella, 1996  
Stealing Beauty, Bernardo Bertolucci, 1996

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# YANA VAGNER

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Bestselling author  
Previous works adapted to film

## ABOUT

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Internationally bestselling author of  
*To the Lake*, adapted to Netflix series

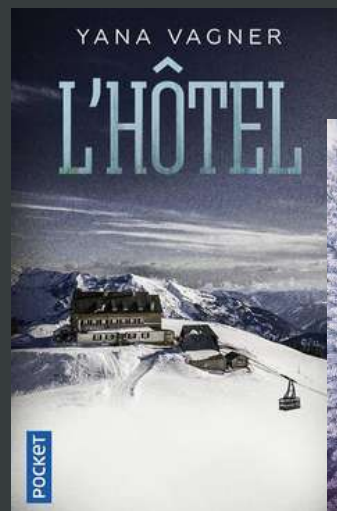
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Yana Vagner was born in Moscow in 1973 into a bilingual family. Her Czech mother came to Moscow in the 60s to study Russian language and literature.

Yana started writing *To the Lake* as a weekly blog while a flu epidemic swept through Moscow. It has since become a bestselling novel, translated into multiple languages and adapted into a Netflix series. Yana has written four novels to date, her latest novel *The Tunnel* currently being adapted to film.

## SELECTED TITLES

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## SPECIAL MENTIONS

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- Finalist of the Big Book Award 2024
- Finalist of the Big Book Award in the Audio Book nomination 2025
- Laureate of the Big Book Award Reader's Choice (2nd prize) 2024
- Reading 3.0 Award in the Most Anticipated Film Adaptation 2024

- Financial Times Book of the Year 2021 (UK)
- Herald Book of the Year 2021 (UK)
- Longlisted for the Big Book Award 2017
- Shortlisted for Prix Russophonie 2015
- Shortlisted for Prix Bob Morane 2015 (France)
- Finalist of the Grand Prix des lectrices Elle 2015 (France)

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# The Hotel

Crime | Mystery | Thriller | Drama

## PITCH

A film crew retreats to a remote ski resort, only for the lead actress to be murdered on the first night. Trapped by an ice storm with no way out, the group must investigate the crime, uncovering dark secrets and realizing one of them is the killer.

## SYNOPSIS

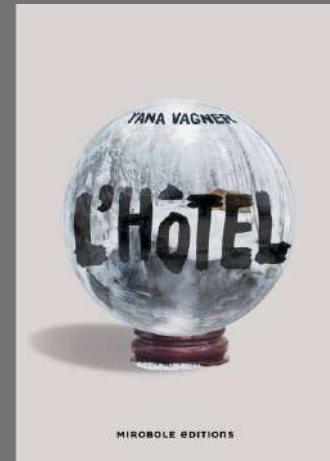
A film crew arrives at a mountain ski resort for a shoot. The producer rents a secluded hotel atop the mountain a week before the shoot for a friendly getaway. On the first night of their vacation, the lead actress is brutally murdered – pierced twice with a ski pole and pushed over the parapet, down to the rocks, left to die under a falling ice storm.

By morning, the group discovers the cableway (their only link to the outside world) is covered in ice and de-energized, the transmitter is destroyed, and there's no mobile signal. A frozen body is found on a rocky slope, just meters from the ski path.

There are nine of them – eight lifelong friends and a morose, somewhat sinister hotel manager – and one of them is the killer. Cut off from the world, they take matters into their own hands and begin investigating. No one has an alibi, each has a confession to make, and each might have wanted Sonya, the film's star, dead. For years, Sonya – a brilliant manipulator, a gifted actress – ruthlessly exploited and controlled her friends, feeding off their love and despair.

The friends must confront harsh truths, face the dark secrets of their past, and break free from the ice-cold shell of their lifelong illusions.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: [The Hotel](#)  
Publication date: 2017  
Language: French  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 542 pp

## REFERENCES

Gone Girl, directed by David Fincher, 2014  
Knives Out, directed by Rian Johnson, 2019  
The Hateful Eight, directed by Quentin Tarantino, 2015  
And Then There Were None, directed by Ren Clair, 1945

From the bestselling  
author of *To the Lake*

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# DINA RUBINA

Over 2 mln copies sold  
Adapted to film

## ABOUT

### Bestselling author

Dina Rubina is an Israeli Russian-language writer. Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 1953, Dina Rubina had her first stories published in 1970s in Yunost magazine. She has received numerous awards, and is the bestselling author of over 40 titles, including fifteen novels. Dina Rubina's novels and novellas have been made into films, adapted for TV, and staged in theaters in Russia and Israel. Dina Rubina is the Big Book Award winner in 2007 and 2020 (reader's choice) for the novels *On the Sunny Side of the Street* and *Napoleon's Train*, respectively. In 2009 she won one of the Russian Literature prizes for the novel *The White Dove of Cordoba*.

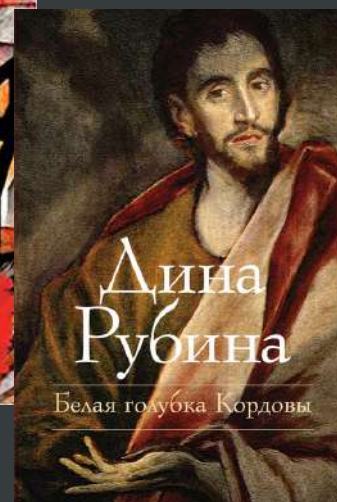
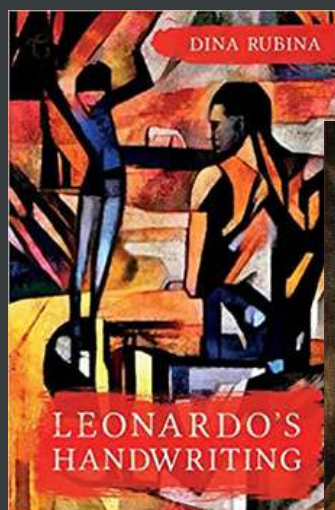
Each new title by Dina Rubina is published in a first printing of 50,000 to 80,000 copies. The total printing of the author's work is over two million copies.

Since 1990 Dina Rubina has lived in Ma'ale-Adumim, Israel with her family, artist Boris Karafelov, her daughter, and grandchildren.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Finalist of the Big Book Award 2020 (2nd prize in Reader's Choice)
- Shortlisted for the Big Book Award 2015
- Finalist of the Russian Prize 2009

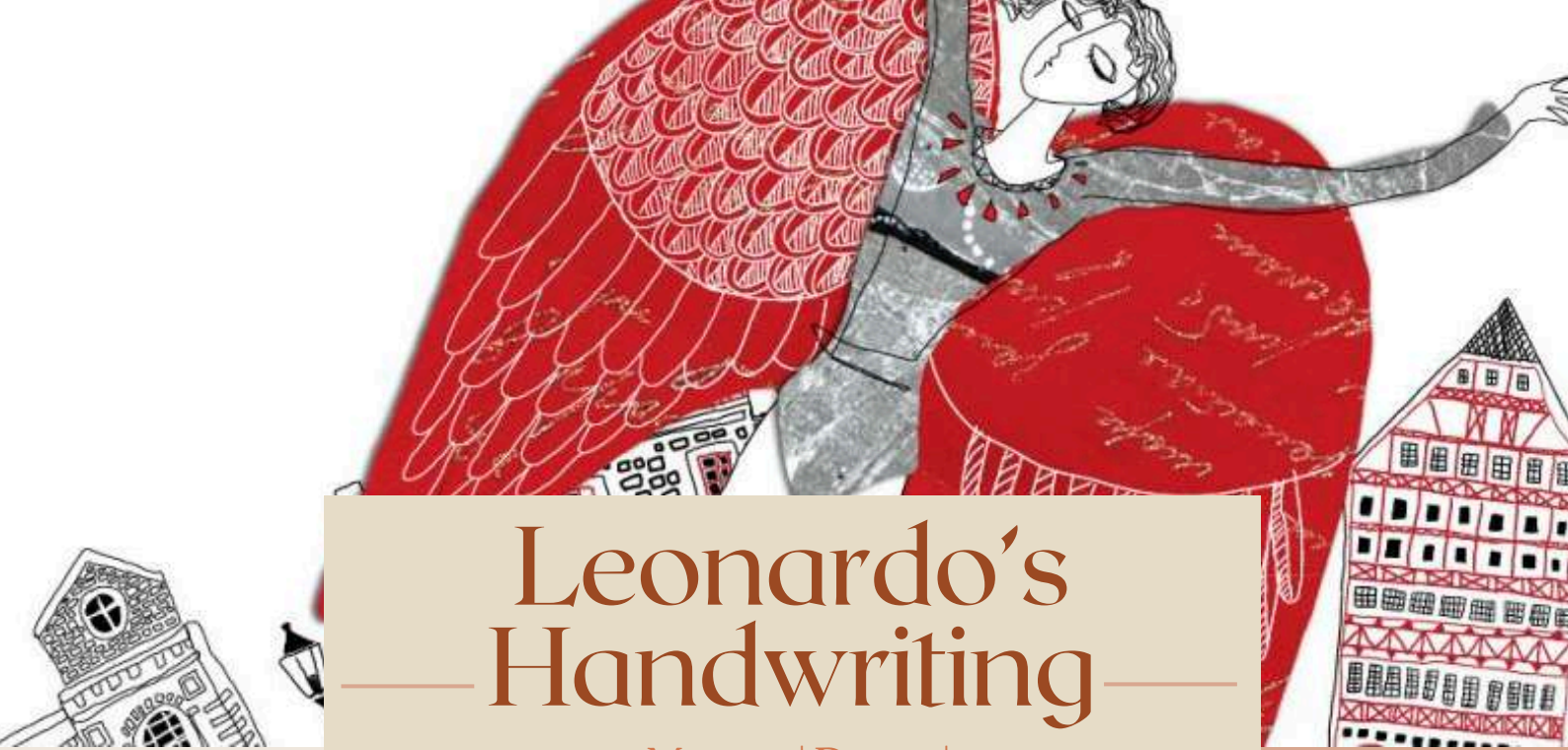
## SELECTED TITLES



- Winner of the International Portal Prize 2009 (Ukraine)
- Winner of the Big Book Award 2007 (3rd Prize)
- Shortlisted for the Russian Booker Prize 2007
- Longlisted for the Yasnaya Polyana Award 2007

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# Leonardo's Handwriting

Mystery | Drama |  
Metaphysical Romance

## PITCH

When your life's gift is a true miracle and death is your greatest stunt.

In a mesmerizing tale spanning decades from the 1960s to the early aughts, Anna, a talented circus stunt artist with the extraordinary ability of mirror handwriting and clairvoyance gift, becomes entangled in a passionate love triangle. But when she vanishes under baffling circumstances, the investigation delves into the secretive world of circus and optical illusions, unraveling Anna's dark family history.

## SYNOPSIS

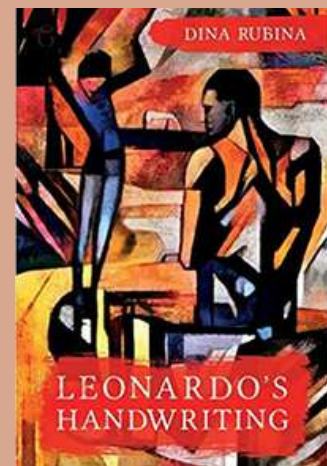
A fascinating journey into the remarkable life of Anna, a gifted circus stunt artist with a unique clairvoyance gift. The narrative unfolds from Anna's birth until her gripping final moments, as an investigation ensues following her inexplicable disappearance during one of her famed mirror paradox performances. Yet, it is through the lens of the men who loved her that we truly come to know Anna: her ex-husband, a childhood acquaintance; her show partner; and her musician lover, each perspective adding depth and complexity to the portrait of this extraordinary woman. We see her as a boyish girl, fit and muscular, like a tightly-wound spring, ready to unleash her fierce talent; or as a musical instrument, perfectly attuned to an intimate melody while making love – a scene that transcends the ordinary.

As Anna embarks on her nomadic lifestyle, perpetually in search of self-discovery or perhaps fleeing her own true nature, we are transported across a tapestry of locations spanning the collapsed Soviet Union to the vast expanse of Western Europe. The story finds depth and vibrancy in Anna's childhood in Kyiv, Ukraine, particularly within the Jewish diaspora.

The circus itself becomes a captivating backdrop, embracing the extraordinary and defying conventions.

Leonardo's Handwriting is a mesmerizing odyssey that explores themes of love, identity, and the pursuit of freedom.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: Leonardo's Handwriting  
Publication date: 2009  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 464 pp

## REFERENCES

The Prestige, Christopher Nolan, 2006  
The Carnivale, Daniel Knauf, 2003-2005  
Big Fish, Tim Burton, 2003  
The Illusionist, Neil Burger, 2006

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# The White Dove of Córdoba

Mystery Thriller | Art Forgery Thriller |  
Crime | Drama

## PITCH

When a renowned art expert comes across an obscure art piece that could be attributed to one of El Greco's pupils, he devises an audacious million-worth art fraud, fueled by a personal revenge, only to uncover the dark secrets of his family's past, linked to the painting.

## SYNOPSIS

Zakhar Cordovin, an art expert, traverses Europe in search of lesser-known artworks attributed to renowned masters. Originally from post-WWII Ukraine, Cordovin pursued art studies in Leningrad, spent several years in Stockholm, and currently lectures on art at the University of Jerusalem.

During one of his journeys, he encounters an aged painting that he believes to be the work of one of El Greco's pupils. Intrigued by the resemblance of the artist's name, Zacarias Cordovera, to his own, he becomes increasingly haunted by the image of a saint depicted within and by certain details that emerge.

Driven by a dark secret of his own and fueled by a thirst for revenge for a friend's murder from his student years he feels responsible for, Cordovin devises an intricate forgery scheme. His ultimate goal is to sell a forged "previously unknown El Greco painting" to the Vatican for a staggering sum. Yet, as he delves deeper into the true history of the painting, his investigation leads him to Córdoba and confronts him with his family's tragic past.

It is in Córdoba that Cordovin unravels the intertwined threads of his life, seeking redemption for his past mistakes and betrayals. This gripping art forgery crime drama delves into the eternal conflicts of fate and personal choices, the weight of family history, and the intersection of Jewish devotion to homeland and a profound fascination with a nation's history.

TRANSLATED INTO 12  
LANGUAGES

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: [The White Dove of Córdoba](#)  
Publication date: 2010  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 544 pp

## REFERENCES

Girl with a Pearl Earring, Peter Webber, 2003  
The Forger, Philip Martin, 2014  
The Burnt Orange Heresy, Giuseppe Capotondi, 2019  
The Best Offer, Giuseppe Tornatore, 2013

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# DENIS BUSHLATOV

UKRAINIAN STEPHEN KING

## ABOUT

Ukrainian author & screenwriter

Denis Bushlatov is a Ukrainian horror writer and screenwriter, known for his gripping storytelling. He has published four novels and two collections of short stories, with several of his works translated into English and featured in *Bewildering Stories* and *Kzine* (UK).

Denis resides in Odessa, Ukraine, where he is currently completing a feature film script for a UK production company.

## SELECTED TITLES



## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Longlisted for Future Time Award

PREVIOUSLY OPTIONED  
FOR FILM

# One Who Never Sleeps

Horror | Thriller | Serial Killer | Supernatural

## PITCH

A small seaside town is shattered with a series of inexplicable gruesome murders. The victims are children. Who will stop the elusive killer? As a local female psychotherapist dives into the investigation, demons of her own past drag her into the heart of the city's old eerie cult.

## SYNOPSIS

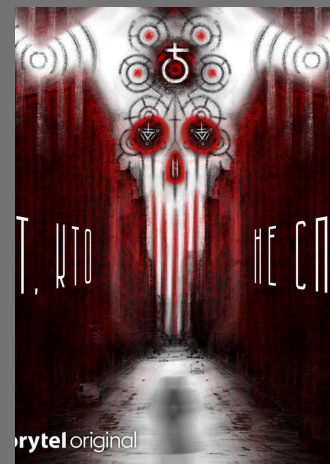
A small seaside town is shattered with a series of inexplicable gruesome murders. Children are found dead, having disappeared from their parents' hold in full sight. All dead bodies bear the same wound – a tiny hole in the ear, inflicted by a sharp object.

Olga, a local psychotherapist specializing in obsessive syndromes, gets approached by her school friend (and a once teenage flame) Andrei, a police officer in charge of the investigation. Andrei asks Olga to compile a psychological profile of the serial killer and to search for possible matches among her patients – the town is small, and Olga is one of the very few practicing specialists. The more Olga learns about the sinister case, the more clues point to a particular patient of hers, a smart but spoiled student brat from a well-to-do family, Vadim Nishenko. Obsessed with violence, he runs a Youtube channel video- documenting eerie tortures of stray animals, and he seems oddly informed about confidential detail pertaining to the murders. Considering the severity of the case and her strong suspicions, Olga reports her client to the police. During the arrest Vadim gets shot by the police, officers later giving a perplexing and hallucinogenic account of the events.

As Olga continues her investigation, she consults with her skeptical boyfriend who refers her to another odd character, apparently the town's criminal authority who links the series of murders with an ancient cult of the local evil demon Sabnach, the demon of graveyards and decay. Local historical archives furnish Olga with proves of similar recurrent cases over years. Andrei is forced to close the case by the town's shadowy moguls – he gets a reward for solving the case and eliminating the serial killer. However, Andrei feels dissatisfied. Just like Olga, he suspects there is more to the case than a sick teenager's rage. His attempts to continue the investigation prompt his suspension.

Olga begins to experience weird hallucinations and horror dreams and is forced to return to the case. A terrifying realization dawns on her – there is in fact someone else linked to all these cases, who knew the families of victims and could be at the crime scene at the time of murders: her own self.

## BOOK



## DETAILS

Title: [One Who Never Sleeps](#)  
Publication date: 2020  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 440 pp

## REFERENCES

In the Mouth of Madness, John Carpenter, 1994  
Heart of an Angel, Alan Parker, 1987  
The Mist, Frank Darabont, 2007  
It, Andres Muschietti, 2017

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# KATERINA GORDEEVA

Geschwister-Scholl-Preis 2024

## ABOUT

### Acclaimed journalist and writer

Katerina Gordeeva (born in 1977) is one of Russia's most famous independent journalists. Until 2012, she worked as a TV reporter for the federal television channel NTV. During her time at NTV, she reported as from the frontlines of Chechnya, Afghanistan, and Iraq as a war correspondent. She later resigned from the channel due to a disagreement with the channel's programming agenda.

Katerina left Moscow out of protest in 2014, after Russia's remorseless annexation of Crimea and seizure of part of Eastern Ukraine. In 2020, she created her own YouTube channel, which today has more than 1.5 million subscribers.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Winner of Geschwister-Scholl Preis 2024
- Winner of Anna Politkovskaya International Journalism Prize 2022
- Longlisted for 2024 Moore Prize for Human Rights Writing
- Shortlisted for Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2024

## SELECTED TITLES



TRANSLATED INTO 14  
LANGUAGES

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# Nimm meinen Schmerz

## Take My Grief Away

Non-fiction | Human Interest |  
War Documentary

### PITCH

Katerina Gordeeva embarked on a mission to bear witness to the untold stories of war by immersing herself in the lives of refugees. She spent months shuttling between refugee centers in Russia and Europe, and visiting Ukraine. The result was *Humans at War*, a 3,5-hour documentary on her YouTube channel, viewed by 2,5 million viewers. The remaining materials were adapted into the compelling book *Take My Grief Away*, published by Ebury/Random House in the UK in June 2024, and translated in 14 countries. The book, endorsed by two Nobel Prize winners, weaves together twenty-four unique narratives, each presenting a deeply personal account of lives shattered by unimaginable circumstances. With its potential for adaptation, the book offers the opportunity to bring these stories to life on the big screen.

### SYNOPSIS

Katerina's book captures 140 hours of interviews, tens of thousands of kilometers spent on the road, and, most importantly, immeasurable grief. In this book you will find first-person accounts that are both chilling narratives and impartial evidence offered by eyewitnesses. "This world has enough provocations and fakes. It is time to slow down and simply listen to the voice of a human being." — Gordeeva says.

These poignant stories capture the profound impact of war on individuals from different walks of life, highlighting their journeys marked by resilience, loss, acts of both humanity and inhumanity, madness, and hope.

### BOOK



### DETAILS

Title: *Take My Grief Away*  
Publication date: 2023  
Publisher: Ebury/Penguin Random House  
Language: English  
Original language: Russian  
Print length: 392 pp

### REFERENCES

No Man's Land, Danis Tanovic, 2001  
Tangerines, Zaza Urushadze, 2013  
Salvador, Oliver Stone, 1986

Winner of Geschwister-  
Scholl-Preis 2024

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