



About the 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 (Youth) magazine. She has received numerous awards, and is the bestselling author of over 40 titles, including eight 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*. 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 edition 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.

*Selected Bibliography*

- 2021 — **Gurevich, the Maniac**, *novel*
- 2020 — **A Lonely Person Who Writes**, *autobiographical novel*
- 2018-2019 — **Napoleon's Train**, *novels*
- 2017 — **Lady Wind**, *novel*
- 2014-2015 — **The Russian Canary Bird**, *novels*
- 2010 — **The White Dove of Cordoba**, *novel*
- 2010 — **The Petroushka Syndrome**, *novel*
- 2008 — **Leonardo's Handwriting**, *novel*
- 2006 — **On the Sunny Side of the Street**, *novel*
- 2001 — **On Upper Maslovka**, *novel*
- 1996 — **Here Comes the Messiah!**, *novel*

The total printing of  
the author's work is  
over 2 million copies!

Finalist of the **Big Book Award 2020** (2nd prize in Reader's Choice)

Shortlisted for the **Big Book Award 2015**

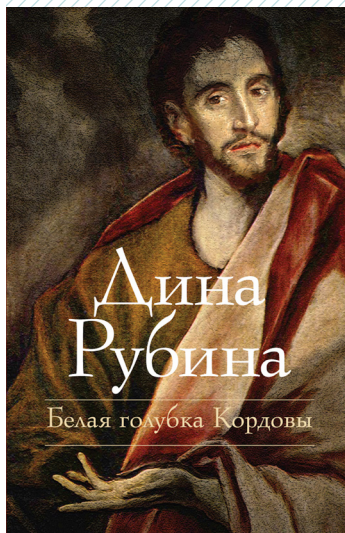
Finalist of the **Russian Prize 2009**

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**

Finalist of the **Russian Prize 2010**
 The total printing of  
the novel is  
**250 000 copies**


## The White Dove of Córdoba

This gripping art forgery crime drama propels through epochs and countries (Spain in the 17th century, Leningrad under siege and in the end of the 1970ies, the Ukrainian pre-war and post-war Vinnitsa, modern Vatican, Jerusalem, Toledo and Córdoba in Spain) to tell a spelling and dramatic story of a genius artist and to make yet another attempt to find an answer to eternal bitter conflicts of destiny vs man's will, a family's history and a person's solitude, the Jewish devotion to land and fascination with the nation's (and a family's) history vs the spacious lavishness and negligence of the Russian soul.

### Eksmo

Novel, 2009

544 pp

### Translation rights sold

German Pereprava

Lithuanian Nordina

Ukrainian Bogdan-Ternopol

Polish Muza

Estonian Tänapäev

Latvian Janis Roze

Albanian Ombra

Czech Republic Columbus

Turkish Alfa Kitap

Bulgarian Labyrinth

Simplified Chinese Shandong Publishing House of

Literature and Art

Hebrew Keter

An unrivalled art forger, touched by a true genius, an engaging intellectual, Zakhar Cordovin is not another hero in the line of greatest perpetrators in the criminal art scene. Impudent and passionate equally about love, life and art, Cordovin has to pay the highest price for his own crimes, but also dramas and mysteries permeating the centuries-long history of the Jewish-Spanish family of the Cordoveras.

Born in the post-war Ukrainian Vinnitsa, Zakhar Cordovin studied art in Leningrad, spent a few years in Stockholm, and now lectures on art in the University of Jerusalem and roams all over Europe chasing obscure art works that he will revive and sell for lavish sums of money, having attributed to the greatest masters of the past. On one of his European trips Cordovin spots an old painting that he immediately identifies as belonging to one of El Greco's pupils. A troubling re-semblance of the artist's name — Zacarias Cordovera — with his own, fascinates Cordovin, but he is also haunted with the image of a saint depicted in the portrait and certain details revealed during the restoration.

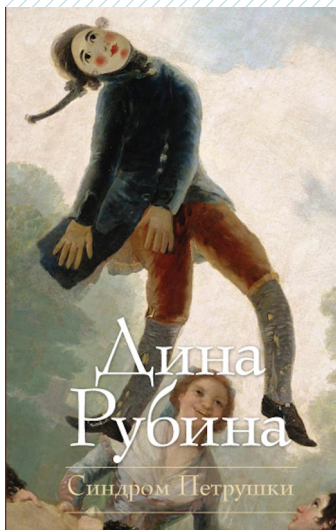
A brilliantly concocted forgery scheme culminates with a millions-worth sale of "a previously unknown El Greco painting" to Vatican. Yet Cordovin sets off on his personal investigation of the true story of the painting that eventually brings him to Córdoba and puts face to face with his family's tragic past. This sweeping chase after phantoms and mysteries of his family intertwines with the criminal story from Cordovin's student years in Leningrad. Back then his involvement into a criminal art

scene resulted in a brutal murder of his close friend, challenging him years later with a no-option choice of a murder in revenge. It is in Córdoba that Zakhar Cordovin pulls all links into one deadly knot and finds the only solution to recoup the tragic mistakes and betrayals that he had once committed.

Dina Rubina does an amazing job of composing a breathtaking thrilling story set against the international shadow world of art forgers, art dealers and gross money deals. With a sure hand she draws a vivid panorama of countries, landscapes and art — to an irrevocable effect: readers immediately fall in love with this finely concocted and re-produced world and with the text itself. In the broadest gallery of genuine characters — immigrants, provincials, weirdos and straightforward lunatics, intellectuals, art experts, poets, criminals of various ranks and sorts, art dealers and artists — there is no chance appearance.

Each character has a unique voice that tells his story — be it a whimsical Cordovin's aunt Zhuka in Leningrad; or a grouchy uncle Sema in the Ukrainian Vinnitsa; or Margo, an uproarious partner in their art scam; or the dearest childhood friend Andryusha, an involuntary victim of Cordovin's bashful art crime... Dina Rubina's prose is unsentimental, but is full of genuine sympathy towards her characters, sympathy and love.

Over 400,000  
 copies  
 sold



## The Petroushka Syndrome

Much like in Lawrence Durrell's enduring classic, *The Alexandria Quartet*, Dina Rubina gives the stage to a diverse cast of voices as she tells the wrenching, enchanted, tragic, somewhat mystical, evocative, and ultimately happy love story of a poignantly flawed puppeteer touched by true genius, and his fragile wife, haunted by the ghosts of her family's dark past. Part impassioned love drama, part evocative family story, part mystical Gothic novel about puppets and puppeteers, and part intellectual examination of history and art, *The Petroushka Syndrome* is a beautifully symbiotic novel about identity and the act of creation, longing, loss and, ultimately, love.

### Eksmo

Novel, 2010  
 428 pp

### Translation rights sold

French Macha Publishing  
 Bulgarian Labyrinth  
 Simplified Chinese Shandong Publishing House of  
 Literature and Art  
 Lithuanian Nordina  
 Czech Omega/Dobrovsky  
 Turkish Alfa Kitap  
 Hungarian Europa

### Film rights

Feature film directed by Elena Khazanova was released  
 in Russia in 2015

When an eight-year-old boy, Petya Uksusov, watches a fiery red-haired lady fall out a window (she falls just like a puppet!), he cannot imagine that this image will trigger the two biggest obsessions of his entire life: puppets and Liza. That same evening, a shut-down, autistic Petya starts playing with fellow kids' puppets, demonstrating unique skills and almost supernatural powers for performance, literally breathing life into dolls. The next day, Petya notices a red-haired baby girl in a buggy at a grocery store, and, smitten by the baby's beauty (she's just like a doll!), decides he absolutely must kidnap the girl. When Liza is returned to her father, Petya discovers she is the daughter of the woman who committed suicide. Petya keeps the girl constant company from then on. When the girl reaches college age, they run away from her father, a lawyer with a repulsive personality and troublingly unhealthy sexual inclinations.

Over the years, Petya becomes an internationally renowned puppeteer who is much in demand; he marries Liza. Together the couple perform a provocative and arresting dance number that wins them vast acclaim. The death of their infant son from a rare and incurable genetic disorder known as the Petroushka Syndrome (male infants in Liza's family have suffered from the syndrome for many generations; the symptoms include a high degree of mental disability, a constant smile on the face, and early death), drives both parents to the verge of despair: Petya, because his wife's life is

falling out of his control, and Liza, because she's failing in the fight with the sinister ghosts of her family's dark past. Liza suffers from a severe mental breakdown, ending up in an Israeli rehab center, under the care of Petya's childhood friend. Liza's rehabilitation is disrupted when she discovers that Petya is creating a new puppet, an exact copy of his wife, a true masterpiece of his genius as a puppeteer, and Ellis will now replace Liza in their famous dancing gig. As Liza frantically attempts to confront her Doppelgänger, her husband's artful creation, Petya is set to find the truth about their families' past, the only truth that could save their marriage, career, and even their life.

Told through multiple narrators' perspectives (Petya's story intersects with that of Boris, Petya's childhood friend and Liza's doctor), this melodramatic story rises to philosophical and psychological levels to reach the depth and electricity of a true tragedy. Dina Rubina exquisitely renders settings of a Polish-Jewish Lviv, a desperately vast Sakhalin, a snowy Prague, and a torrid Jerusalem with rich detail and texture. This becomes the colorful backstage for the author's compelling version of the Pygmalion myth with echoes of a sinister Golem.

Complete  
 French translation  
 available

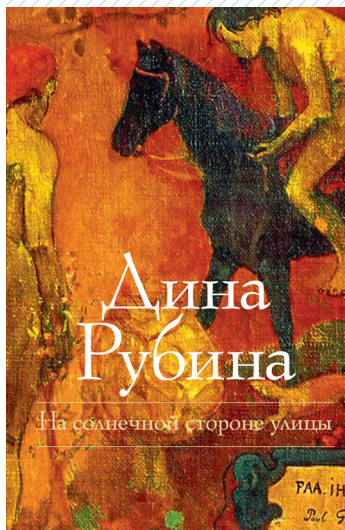
I believe that a person is so multi-dimensional and so complex and excitingly simple, that a so-called author's perspective just isn't enough: the characters should mould images of one other, becoming one other's puppeteers, demiurges, and gods... The reader is free to find their own hero and even their own story within these multiple worlds since the story, too, spins on a revolving stage, revealing new facets with each turn.

**Dina Rubina says**

Winner of the **Big Book Award 2007** (3rd Prize)

Shortlisted for the **Russian Booker Prize 2007**

Longlisted for the **Yasnaya Polyana Award 2007**



**Eksmo**  
Novel, 2006  
432 pp

*Translation rights sold*

Italian Ancora  
Norwegian Cappelen Damm  
Vietnamese Nhanam  
Polish Muza  
Bulgarian Damyan Yakov  
French Macha Publishing  
Croatian Hena  
Simplified Chinese Beijing Qingcheng Culture  
Armenian Vernatun

## On the Sunny Side of the Street

An engrossing love drama, an engaging argument on the nature of art and a grandiose polyphonic ode to Tashkent, *On the Sunny Side of the Street* became a markpoint for Dina Rubina's spectacular literary career, firmly positioning her as one of the most widely read writer in Russia today.

This is a captivating story of two strong female characters. There's Katya, who as a girl escapes from the siege of Leningrad and is evacuated to Tashkent. In the post war city, overcrowded with people from all parts of the country in desperate and greedy need to survive, Katya quickly learns to use her original skill of grasping mere details and a natural talent for mimicry for criminal purpose: a swindler in local markets at first, she grows into a ruthless head of cannabis smuggling net. Her daughter Vera inherits her mother's sharp eye and an ingenious talent, but chooses differently, becoming a true artist with a bright international career. Both mother's and daughter's ways to professional recognition are nothing less but trying, filled with tragic mistakes, unendurable loss(es) and one true love.

The entwining life stories of the novel's two heroines are drawn against a gaudy background of an Oriental city, Tashkent, with its sun-soaked bazaars, crowded yards and a picturesque and engaging cast of characters representing different cultural, ethnical and social backgrounds. This lavishness of the story is masterly

reflected in the novel's complex structure. The drama of a bitter mother and daughter confrontation is intersected with numerous first-person narratives from Tashkent's former residents as they remember the city of their childhood and youth, as well as the author's own colorful childhood memories.

In this novel Rubina succeeds with brilliance in mastering writing skills that make her literary trademarks: the author's juicy Babel-esque language; a gripping narrative's plot; a tender humor, grit and passion in a unanimous accord; a vivid, real-life details and characters.

### Selected quotes

Dina Rubina's *On the Sunny Side of the Street* is the work of a literary magpie: the novel combines a comfortable nest of a story with shiny devices and descriptive passages that attract attention and embellish. Fortunately, the story underlying all the decoration is engrossing, thanks to the situations and city, Tashkent, in which Rubina places her characters.

*Lizok's Bookshelf*

She is perhaps the only modern Russian-language author who manages to combine elements that are often mutually exclusive, such as popular appeal and critical acclaim, thrilling action and rich, expressive language... Rubina is a virtuoso author. She is adept at coming up with gripping storylines, while at the same time filling her books with real-life details, striking metaphors and believable characters.

**RBTH**

Rubina describes Tashkent deliciously, in detail, with its colors, smells, and distinctive speech patterns. Any plot at all could develop amid decorations like these.

*TimeOut*

These are two works (*On Upper Maslovka* and *On the Sunny Side of the Street*) that break out of the format, where good, light fiction rises far above the usual mass level because the literary setting isn't fabricated but 'quilted' with the thread of life, with vitality.

*Voprosy Literaturny*