



About the author:

**NARINE ABGARYAN** was born in 1971 in Berd, Armenia, in the family of a doctor and a school teacher. She graduated from the State University of Linguistic Studies in Yerevan, with a diploma of a teacher of Russian language and literature. Abgaryan is the internationally bestselling author of a dozen of books, including her nationally bestselling and prize-winning (The Manuscript of the Year 2010 and The Russian Literature Prize 2011) trilogy about Manunia, a busy and troublesome 11-year-old in a small Armenian town Berd. Manunia has been made into a TV series, an Okko platform show, with a premier at Kinotavr Film Festival in 2021. Abgaryan's other book for children, Semyon Andreich, received Baby-NOS from The New Literature Award in 2013, as "the best book for children of the last decade." The author's powerful and moving parable Three Apples Fell From the Sky was translated into 23 languages and became a long seller throughout Europe. In 2016, it won the prestigious Yasnaya Polyana Prize. Since 2022 Narine Abgaryan has moved to her native Armenia, sharing her time between Armenia and Germany.

### *Selected Bibliography*

- 2020 — **Simon**, *novel*
- 2017 — **Go on Living**, *short stories*
- 2016 — **Zulali**, *novel*
- 2015 — **Three Apples Fell from the Sky**, *novel*
- 2014 — **People Who Are Always with Me**, *novel*
- 2012 — **Semyon Andreich. A Story in Scribbles**, *novel*
- 2012 — **Manunia, Gran's Birthday Anniversary and Other Turmoils**, *novel*
- 2011 — **The Migrant**, *novel*
- 2010 — **Manunia Writes a Fantastic Novel**, *novel*
- 2010 — **Manunia**, *novel*

Shortlisted for the **Big Book Award 2021**

**Yasnaya Polyana Prize 2016**

Nominated for the **National Bestseller Prize 2016**

**The Alexander Green Award 2015**

**The New Literature Award 2013** (The Best Book for Children)

**The Russian Literature Prize 2011**

Longlisted for the **Big Book Award 2011**

**Manuscript of the Year 2010**

Over 900,000 copies  
sold worldwide

Nearly 70,000  
 copies  
 sold



## Go on Living

Narine Abgaryan's collection of short stories *Go on Living* poses the simplest yet hardest question about how, in the aftermath of terrible tragedy, people learn to live, love and hope anew, while cherishing the memories of the loved ones lost.

Set in the picturesque village of Berd, the collection traces 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 luscious, 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 in Abgaryan's stories 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 rages largely off the book's pages and appears only in small and fragmented flashbacks, and Abgaryan's stories focus instead 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. Agnesa, 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.

The characters in Abgaryan's book have lived through unimaginable loss, but their sadness is described as cathartic, engendering hope where all hope must be lost. The book, set up as 31 interconnected short stories, has no single protagonist; instead, the book is centered around the resilience of the human spirit and its ability to soar above. Written in Abgaryan's signature prose style that weaves elements of Armenian folkloric tradition into its prose, the book simultaneously mourns and celebrates human life.

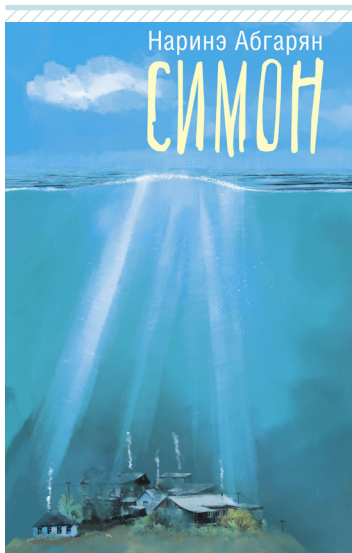
### AST

Novellas, short stories, 2014  
 280 pp

### Translation rights sold

World English Plough  
 Bulgarian Labirint  
 Armenian Newmag Publishing  
 Hungarian Typotex Kiadó  
 Romanian Humanitas  
 Czech Prostor

Complete English  
 translation  
 available

Shortlisted for the **Big Book Award 2021**

## Simon

Nearly  
80,000 copies  
sold

Disguised as the story of a philanderer who “saves” women, Narine Abgaryan’s *Simon* is a powerful tale of four remarkable women finding themselves, written by an artist working at the height of her power. Just like with her nationally awarded bestseller, *Three Apples Fell from the Sky*, Abgaryan invites readers to the Armenian mountain village of Berd, as she depicts — with unflinching honesty, heartfelt warmth and gentle humor — her female characters’ transformation against the twentieth-century social and psychic traumas of Armenia.

Narine Abgaryan’s *Simon* is named for a man, but it tells the stories of four remarkable women. Set in the Armenian mountain village of Berd, *Simon* depicts a generation of women coming of age in the late Soviet period. With unflinching honesty and gentle humor, Abgaryan sets her novel against the twentieth-century traumas of the Armenian genocide, civil war, two world wars, and Soviet power, all of which leave their mark on her characters. Many of the women have lost fathers in the Second World War; their mothers exhibit the scars of war, hunger, and backbreaking labor. Bridal abduction, rape stigma, and other social and legal customs that disenfranchise women further complicate their already-difficult lives. But their community has not lost its humanity: a sympathetic doctor protects a psychiatric patient from her vengeful husband, a neighbor slips desperately needed money into a woman’s pocket, a mother-in-law sides with a daughter-in-law whose husband is having an affair. The townspeople of Berd — from the softhearted and straitlaced policeman Ilya to the ancient Katinka to the village idiot Vardanush, keeper of everyone’s secrets — dispense wisdom and good cheer on matters ranging from swaddling babies to how best to disguise a corpse’s blue ears. The novel begins as guests come to pay their final respects to 79-year-old Simon, known as a hearty drinker and womanizer. Among the mourners are four women with whom Simon has had extramarital affairs. A weak, sensual, but generally kind-hearted man, Simon has crossed paths with all the women at key moments in their lives, offering many of them their first-ever taste of sexual pleasure and desperately needed emotional sustenance. Simon is no saint: his story, which we glimpse in snippets from the tales told by the women, is one of coming to terms with one’s own failings. Despite showing early promise as a draftsman, Simon drops out of architectural school and marries the long-suffering Melania, whom he then torments

with his carousing and affairs. At critical moments of his life, he chooses to sulk rather than act decisively, condemning himself and the women who love him to further misery.

After the other guests leave, the four women join Melania in drinking wine and telling their stories, each of which constitutes a chapter in the novel. Suffering from painful, undiagnosed vaginismus, Silvia endures marriage to a well-connected man who assaults and then institutionalizes her, cutting her off from all contact with their infant daughter. Eliza, unwanted by her own mother, marries a man who is besotted by another woman; he despises Eliza, going so far as to tell her that she even smells disgusting. Sofia, a spoiled girl who willfully marries a man against her family’s wishes, suffers numerous miscarriages and despairs of ever conceiving a longed-for daughter. Susanna, whose impoverished, dysfunctional family stands out even among the general poverty and dysfunction of the time, is abducted and raped on the eve of her high school graduation, ruining her chances for love and a better life.

Abgaryan’s novel is remarkably forthright on subjects traditionally considered taboo in Russophone literature: female sensuality and sexuality, reproductive function (and dysfunction), female body image, and the psychic wounds of war, poverty, and cultural and institutional misogyny.

Despite the brutal nature of some of its subject matter, *Simon* radiates warmth and good nature. Abgaryan is interested not just in women’s individual lives, but in the ways those lives swell together to perpetuate life’s eternal cycle: birth from water, a mother’s voice remembered as the sound of the sea, death as return to the depths of the sea. Disguised as the story of a philanderer who “saves” women, Abgaryan’s *Simon* is a powerful tale of women finding themselves, written by an artist working at the height of her power.

### AST

Novel, 2020  
352 pp

### Translation Rights sold

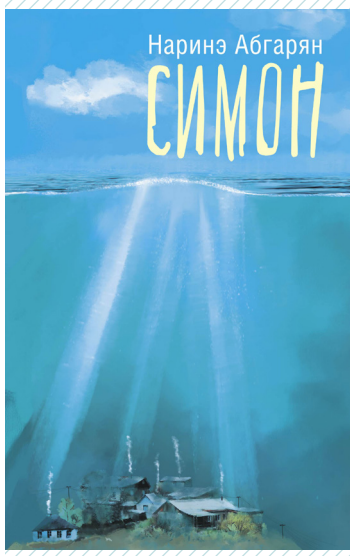
Armenian Antares  
Estonian Tänapäev  
Italian Brioschi  
Bulgarian Labyrinth  
Slovakian Artforum  
Simplified Chinese Rentian Ulus Cultural Media  
Romanian Humanitas  
Lithuanian Balto  
Catalan Comanegra  
Czech Prostor  
Malayalam Green Books  
Hungarian Typotex Kiadó  
Polish Glowbook

### Film rights sold

### Theater rights sold

Mayakovsky Theater  
Sovremennik Theater





## Simon

### Selected quotes

The narration pulls us into a dense whirlpool of human fates leaving readers no space for a judgement. You cannot even condemn Simon whom the author transforms from a lighthearted womanizer into a person helping his beloved ones in their own transformations, even “resurrections” if you like. In the best traditions of Narine Abgaryan’s prose the tragic and the grim interweaves in the text with the funny and light-hearted moments.

*Rossiyskaya gazeta*

In the rich and complex ornament of the text there’s place for an Armenian cultural and national identity, hidden family secrets, a late-night chapel singing, and a scent of honey from the lover’s body. Yet there’s no space for any allegations, a condemnation or a judgement of sorts. Thanks to this generous acceptance, Abgaryan’s novel is wise in a sense that is almost biblical, as it is concocted from stories of people whose hearts beating spins our world.

*Anna Delianidi*  
 a literary critic

An outstanding, heartfelt story about love for a human being .

*Psychologies*

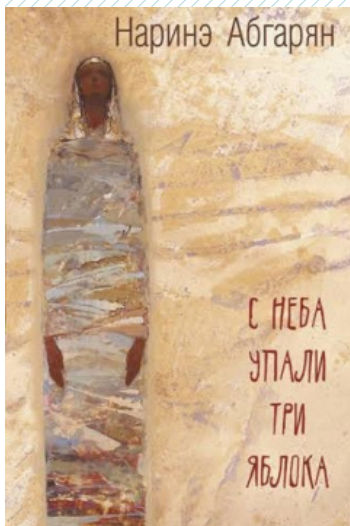
Set in a small old Armenian village, this book is filled with folk lore, intelligence and humor .

*sntat.ru*

Narine Abgaryan is unsurpassed in her transition from humor to earnestness, from tragedy to a meticulous lyricism .

*soyuz.ru*



Winner of the **Yasnaya Polyana Prize 2016**Longlisted for the **National Bestseller Prize 2016**Over  
**150,000 copies**  
sold

## Three Apples Fell from the Sky

Marquez' all times classic epic *One Hundred Years of Solitude* meets Sergei Parajanov's *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* in this memorable fable about a small decaying Armenian village lost on the Manish Kar mountain top.

The title of the novel — *Three Apples Fell from the Sky* — refers to a typical ending of Armenian fairytales: “three apples fell from the sky: an apple for the one who watched, another for the one who told the story, and the third one for the one who listened.” The novel, too, resembles a fable. Its heroes are several families living in a decaying mountain village. The village's only connections with the lowland are an old wire telegraph and a hardly visible road that even cows thread with difficulty. Part weirdoes, part naggers, the village's few remaining inhabitants — a dozen of elderly people — share one thing in common: they believe in magic.

Love and pain, vengeance and forgiveness, friendship and feud tensely knot the lives of the villagers together through generations. There's Anatolia, the last from the village's oldest family, having survived after a great famine. A rare beauty and a book lover, Anatolia would suffer from the ravage attacks of her husband, who fled the village after he nearly beat his wife to death. There's a blacksmith Vasily, a widower, who had lost his three sons and the younger brother in the WWII. The same younger brother, who had saved the village from the imminent destruction in the landslide, thanks to a unique foreseeing girl. There's a healer Yasaman, Anatolia's friend and neighbor, who treats all villagers

with self-prepared herb mixtures. There's even a white peacock whose miraculous appearance in the village in the time of the big famine will only be explained at the novel's end.

Readers follow the mundane routine of the old people's lives — them making baklava, baking cakes, gathering crops, doing house chores — and get familiar with their life stories weaving into a slow-paced yet fascinating fable of a village that faces an imminent ending. When one true miracle changes everything — a 58-year-old Anatolia knows that she bears a child...

Narine Abgaryan brilliantly captures the local life's oddness, its striking beauty and an underlying melancholy. With a sumptuous visual imagery, a close eye for the petty local details, Abgaryan pictures the world where a reader wishes to linger long after the story ends.

### AST

Novel, 2016  
315 pp

### Translation Rights sold

World English Oneworld Publications  
French Macha Publishing  
Italian Brioschi  
Estonian Tänapäev  
Bulgarian Labirint  
Arabic AS Publishers  
Armenian Newmag Publishing  
Hungarian Typotex  
Latvian Janis Roze  
Malayalam (India) Green Books  
Czech Prostor  
Lithuanian Balto  
Romanian Humanitas  
Slovakian Artforum  
Serbian Vulkan  
Catalan Comanegra  
Macedonian Muza  
Simplified Chinese Rentian Ulus Cultural Media  
Korean Eulyoo Publishing  
Spanish Editorial Navona  
Polish Krzysztof Glowinkowski  
Croatian Hena  
Turkish Hippo / Aras Ya  
Portuguese Presenca  
Sinhala (China) Subhavi  
Thai Library House  
German Ullstein List  
Swedish Tranan

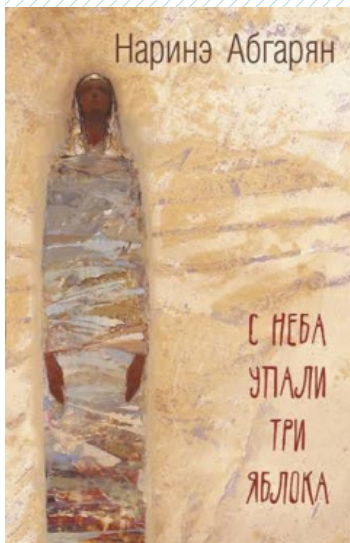
### Theater rights sold

Vedogon Theater, Moscow

Complete  
**English & French**  
translations  
available

Over **30,000 copies**  
sold in UK





## Three Apples Fell from the Sky

### Selected quotes

A magical realist story of friendship and feuds.

*The Guardian*

Abgaryan impresses with finely phrased descriptions of daily activities and homes with “chimneys that clung to the hem of the sky,” and indelible details of complex, humble characters. This magical tale transcends familiar mystical tropes with its fresh reimagining of Armenian folklore.

*Publishers Weekly*

A charming novel... [It] teems with minor characters whose quirks are at times amusing and at times heartbreaking... A warm-hearted story about family, friendship, and community.

*Foreword Reviews*

Abgaryan’s folktale [is] so improbably of the moment... [her] leisurely, painstaking prose — in Hayden’s lyrical translation — is an added gift for readers at the moment, because it prompts us to adjust to the “measured pace of existence” that is now also our own.

*Asymptote Journal*

Suffused with kindness, humour, subtlety and understated finesse.

*Eugene Vodolazkin*  
*author of Laurus*

Read this book. It’s balm for the soul.

*Ludmila Ulitskaya*  
*author of The Big Green Tent*

A superb novel... I urge you to read it.

*Ma Lecturothèque (France)*

Abgaryan’s work conveys a deep belief in the resilience of humanity without glossing over the horrors of human conflict.

*meduza.io*

A poignant, bittersweet, fable-like story... The strongest message that shines through this finely translated novel is that resignation need not lead to cynicism.

*Asian Review of Books*

I loved this! A tender and quirky tale of stoicism, resilience and love... The ultimate feel-good story of an unlikely romance and the warmth of a community, drawn with humour, empathy and an earthy, magical charm.

*Mary Chamberlain*  
*author of The Hidden*

At the charming heart of Three Apples Fell from the Sky, pulses the certain knowledge that “it takes a village” — a village to bleed, to weep, and, finally, to laugh and celebrate as one.

*Faith Sullivan*

*author of The Cape Ann and Goodnight, Mr. Wodehouse*

Abgaryan’s descriptions are beautifully written... I couldn’t put this book down.

*Un Univers de Livres blog (France)*

The novel’s plot consists of multiple stories of very ordinary but bold and beautiful people, with so much love and humour that cannot fail to go away feeling positive and uplifted.

*Russia Beyond*

A quiet song of a novel. A novel that opens and lingers... that sweeps over you like a wave on a beach.

*The Book Trail*

A perfect book for anyone who wants to learn more about Armenia: its customs, its beliefs, traditions and history... A heartfelt, delicate novel.

*La Couleur des Mots blog (France)*

A novel about ordinary life, written with extraordinary sensitivity and tenderness.

*Prestaplume (France)*

A magical novel. It manages to be life-affirming without descending into cheap sentimentality... Abgaryan achieves this challenging balance in part through the beauty of the novel’s prose, which mimics the oral storytelling of myths and legends.

*End of the Word blogspot*

To render the richness of Maran’s culture, translator Lisa C. Hayden confidently navigates the linguistic complexities of this book... Her translation is visual and sensory... Dramatic and humorous.

*The Common*

Abgaryan’s affectionate portrayal of rural rhythms and unlikely romance is an absolute joy.

*New European*

*30 Great European Books for the Beach*

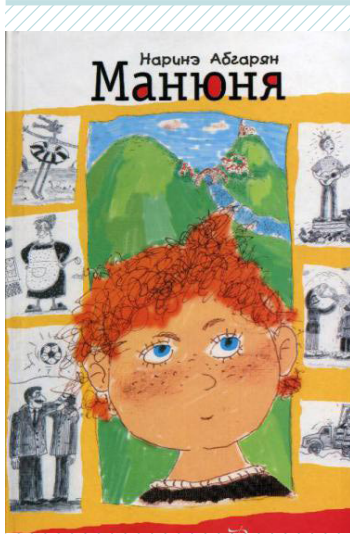


The Alexander Green Award 2015

Longlisted for the Big Book Award 2011

Winner of the Manuscript of the Year 2010

Winner of the Russian Literature Prize 2010



## Manunia

Over 400,000  
copies  
sold

Manunia was the first major work by Narine Abgaryan, named as 'one of Europe's most exciting authors' by The Guardian. Manunia is the first of a prize-winning trilogy, which has enjoyed considerable commercial success — selling over 400 000 copies, topping the bestsellers lists, and — most excitingly — was adapted into a television series, a feature film and is being adapted into an animated series.

Set in the 1980s, Manunia tells the story of two little girls growing up in Soviet Armenia, and the often absurd situations they found themselves in. Manunia is an autobiographical mix of light-hearted anecdotes and heart-breaking lessons retold with compassion, whilst at the same time hinting at the very adult world just on the fringes of the girls' awareness. Manunia is distinctive for its humour, often derived from arguably controversial themes, such as death and religion, yet handled with artistry and sensitivity by the author. Abgaryan's writing is revealing: she doesn't shy away from the grittier aspects of growing up. She writes candidly and irreverently about "that time Manunia and I got head-lice," and "that time Manunia had a crush on the next-door neighbour", not to mention, "that time we nearly shot our PE teacher with a shot-gun."

Most of the narrative unfolds over the course of one long, sumptuous summer, just as the girls are on the cusp of adolescence. The narrator introduces us to the town of Berd, its history and the particularities of its people. We soon meet Ba, the story's unlikely protagonist: a veritable force of nature, the character of Manunia's grandmother is a slow burner. Cantankerous at the best of times, with a unique world view and sense of humour, she has a nature one warms to over the course of the narrative. Each chapter sees the girls embroiled in mishap after mishap: whether its setting Grandma's bloomers on fire, or playing with the rag-and-bone man's kids, who are strictly out of bounds. A bout of head-lice means the girls have their heads

shaved by Ba, who accidentally dyes their scalps blue with her homemade hair-mask — though she'd have you believe it was entirely part of the plan. The girls learn a valuable lesson about life and death when they find a baby bird, fallen from its nest. And again when they play at being snipers — complete with a real shot-gun. While the focus is on the girls' antics and shenanigans, Abgaryan deftly uses the negative spaces to show glimpses of life in the Soviet Union.

The plot is set against a backdrop of characters from various cultures: Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Russians, Georgians, Gypsies, and Jews. All from different walks of life. All inextricably intertwined, as was the norm in the Soviet Union. All thrown together by circumstance, rubbing along with surprising harmony. Set in an unfamiliar for a non-Russian reader cultural landscape, Manunia would appeal to a readership seeking a more nuanced insight into growing up in the Soviet Union.

The story is set in Armenia, which adds a unique cultural element to the narrative, distinguishing it from the majority of books translated from Russian. Manunia was marketed as "a children's book for adults" — an easy read for adult readers, this novel would also be suitable for the young adult market. It is hard to compare Manunia to other books as it feels very contextual. To a certain extent, the colourful characters and distinctive humour are reminiscent of Gerald Durrell's My Family and Other Animals.

### AST

Novel, 2010  
315 pp

### Translation rights sold

Armenian Antares  
Bulgarian Labirint  
Estonian Tänapäev  
Romanian Editura Frontiera  
Arabic Thaqafa  
Polish Glowbook

### Film rights sold

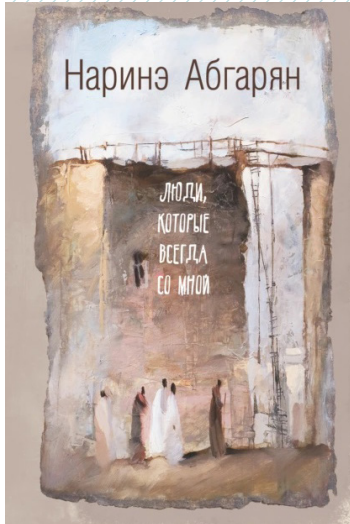
film series Manunia, two seasons  
(directed by Arman Marutyan,  
produced by Andreyasyan brothers, 2021-2022)  
a feature film Manunia in the Movies  
(directed by Arman Marutyan, 2022)

### Theater rights sold

RAMT, Moscow  
Theater For Young Viewers, Ufa

English sample  
available

Nearly 150,000  
copies  
sold



## People Who Are Always with Me

People Who Are Always with Me is a story of several generations of one family told through thirteen novellas through the eyes of a child. This is the story of people who have gone through hardships but managed to preserve kindness, humanity and love in their hearts.

It is not so often that you come across books that give you goosebumps, lulling with a leisurely narration of the simplest things that surround us every day. The novel People Who Are Always with Me is just that, giving a positive charge and faith in the best.

In fact, Narine Abgaryan wrote an autobiography — a story about a little Girl, next to whom there is a large family, close-knit, ready to support and hide from adversity, to point the right way.

The novel People Who Are Always with Me is a world, through the eyes of a child, unclouded by problems and hardships, colorful and bright. This child already knows what life and death are, but perceives it as regularities, knows how cruel human rumor can be, which can easily lead to hatred. But the Girl is in no hurry, because the whole world belongs to her and offers her thousands of roads.

Narine Abgaryan draws touching pictures from childhood: a trip to the mountains, a wedding, admonitions from adults. All these incidents are viewed through the prism of the child's worldview, conclusions are drawn, remembered in order to one day be in demand in a future life.

The narrative sometimes jumps from place to place, returns to continue what was started, but this does not prevent the reader from absorbing the beautiful and warm story of the Girl's life. It is good to read such a novel on a rainy autumn evening, wrapped in a blanket, but to feel a different warmth — the warmth of Narine Abgaryan's soul, the warmth of a long-gone childhood.

This book is infinitely comfortable, able to heal mental wounds, relax and pacify. Such works must be read in order to remember what spiritual beauty is, what the beauty of the world around us is, which we begin to forget about in our endless haste and pursuit of ghosts.

Stop for a moment and plunge into the world of childhood with the novel People Who Are Always with Me. It is addressed to a wide audience of readers, regardless of age and literary preferences.

### AST

Novel/Novellas, 2014  
280 pp

### Translation rights sold

French Macha Publication  
Bulgarian Labirint  
Armenian Oracle  
Lithuanian Balto  
Macedonian Muza

Complete French translation  
& English sample  
available

### Selected quotes

Abgaryan's warmth in portraying everyday twentieth-century reality, such as it is, in Berd, Armenia, feels like a unique form of writerly magic.

*Lizok's Bookshelf*