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Literary Agency

HIGHLIGHTS

FBF 2026

LITERARY FICTION

QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION

CHILDREN & YA

NON-FICTION

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.

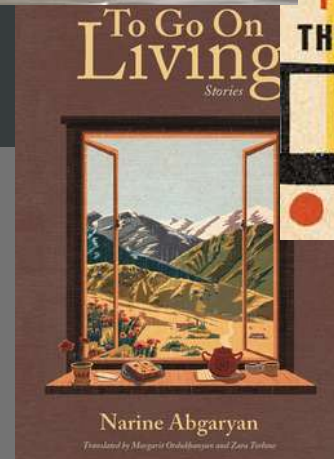
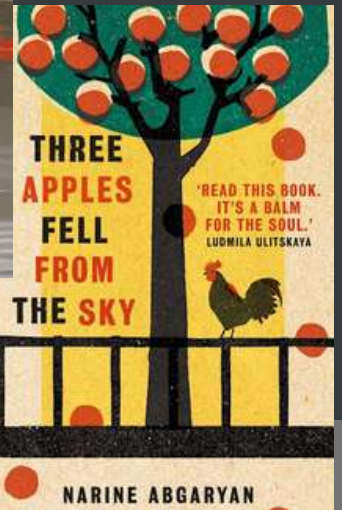
Since 2022 Narine Abgaryan has been sharing her time between Germany and her native Armenia.

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

SELECTED TITLES



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НАРИНЕ АБГАРЯН СОФИЯ СЕ ЗАВРЪЩА

Sofia is Coming Home

Drama | Literary Fiction

A new novel from the bestselling author of *Three Apples Fell from the Sky*, with over 1.5 million copies sold.

PITCH

Against the backdrop of war, revolution, and collapsing empires, a young Armenian woman is swept across continents by tragedy, captivity, and exile as she struggles to survive and find love, peace, and a way back home.

*Ten international translation
deals made prior to original
publication*

*The first printing
30,000 copies*



DETAILS

Title: Sofia is Coming Home
Publisher: Astrel Spf
Publication date: 2026
Original language: Russian
Print length: 416 pp

RIGHTS SOLD

- Italy Einaudi
- Spain Abacus Futur
- Spain Catalan Comanegra
- Slovakia Artforum
- Czech Republic Prostor
- Armenia Vernatun
- Bulgaria Labyrinth
- Estonia Tänapäev
- Croatia Hena
- Hungary Typotex
- Romania Humanitas
- Poland GlowBook

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НАРИНЕ АБГАРЯН СОФИЯ СЕ ЗАВРЪЩА

Sofia is Coming Home

Drama | Literary Fiction

SYNOPSIS

Inspired by an epitaph discovered in the graveyard of her native town of Berd, Narine Abgaryan crafts an epic and deeply moving historical saga of love, exile, survival, and resilience against the violent upheavals of the twentieth century.

The story begins in the early 1900s when the life of fifteen-year-old Sofia, the cherished daughter of a prosperous Armenian family, is shattered by her mother's sudden death. In her grief, Sofia finds comfort and first love in David, her tutor and her older brother's closest friend. Fearing her father's disapproval, the young lovers flee to marry in secret – but tragedy strikes when Sofia's brother intercepts them and accidentally kills David, setting in motion a devastating chain of events that tears Sofia away from everything she has known.

Driven far from home, Sofia is swept across collapsing empires and war-ravaged lands. From a remote mountain village inhabited by exiled Oghuz Turks, to the cosmopolitan streets of tsarist Baku, to the harem of a powerful Turkmen bai during the rise of Soviet rule, Sofia endures kidnapping, captivity, loss, and betrayal. Her exceptional beauty becomes both a blessing and a curse, exposing her to dangers even as her spirit refuses to break.

After a daring escape with her infant son, Sofia journeys through the chaos of revolution and war into Manchuria, where she rebuilds her life from nothing, transforming herself from a humble washwoman into the owner of a drapery shop in a land shaped by Japanese occupation and political turmoil. Yet despite the distance, the years, and the suffering she endures, Sofia never abandons her longing for home and peace.

Sweeping across continents and decades, this unforgettable novel is both an evocative portrait of a century marked by war and displacement and an intimate story of one woman's resilience.

IVAN PHILIPPOV

Writer, journalist
and film producer

ABOUT

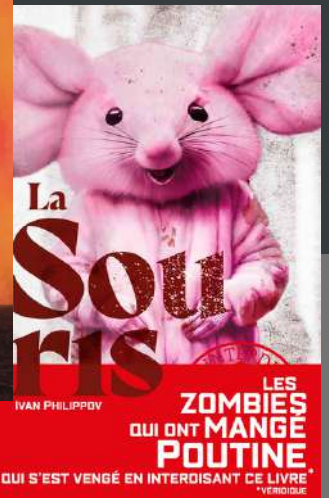
Internationally bestselling author,
journalist and film producer

Ivan Philippov is a Berlin-based Russian journalist, writer, and expert on Russia's pro-war "Z" media ecosystem. Since 2022, he has closely monitored and analysed Russian military bloggers, propagandists, and pro-war Telegram networks, becoming a prominent commentator on the attitudes, narratives, and internal dynamics of this community.

His analysis and commentary have been featured in leading international media, including the French newspaper Le Monde and news agency AFP; the British newspapers Financial Times, The Guardian, and The Times; the German newspaper Die Welt; the Danish newspaper Berlingske and national broadcaster TV 2; the Swedish public broadcasters SVT and Sveriges Radio; the Finnish public broadcaster Yle; and the US newspapers Chicago Tribune and Washington Post. He has also been interviewed and cited extensively by independent Russian media, including Meduza and The Moscow Times.

Ivan is the author of several books, including the novels Shadow and Mouse; Mouse was banned from sale in Russia. In Russia, Philippov was designated a "foreign agent". Philippov regularly comments on Russian propaganda, the war in Ukraine, and the evolution of Russia's pro-war public sphere.

SELECTED TITLES



Featured in:

Le Monde, Financial Times,
The Times, The Guardian, Die Welt,
Berlingske

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НА ЗАПАДНОМ ФРОНТЕ БЕЗ

PUTIN'S RUSSIA AGAINST PUTIN The War According to Z

Non-fiction | Political Non-fiction |
Human Interest

PITCH

Ivan Philippov, an internationally recognised journalist, writer, and expert on Russia's pro-war media channels, analyses a vast archive of pro-war bloggers, deconstructing the myth of Putin's military might and chronicling the decay of the Russian state.

SYNOPSIS

Following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin destroyed what remained of independent journalism inside Russia. Yet the resulting vacuum produced an unexpected alternative: thousands of pro-war Telegram channels whose authors support Putin and the invasion but regularly contradict official propaganda, shedding light on the actual catastrophic conditions and developments of the war.

This unprecedented freedom is explained by the fact that this community is as close as it gets to civil support for the war effort. It is also a major fundraiser for the front, and is thus allowed to exist as long as it remains useful to the state.

Collectively known as the Z-space, these channels provide a unique real-time account of the war and the situation at the front, strikingly different from the official coverage.

Having analysed a massive archive of **40,840 posts** from **1,834 channels**, Philippov deconstructs the myths of Russian war propaganda and presents a much broader portrait of Putin's Russia, paradoxically based on the accounts of Putin's most avid supporters.

Continued



BOOK



DETAILS

Title: Putin's Russia Against Putin: The War
According to Z
Publisher: Freedom Letters
Publication date: 2026
Language: Russian
Print length: 192 pp

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DES

ПЕРЕМЕН

РОССИЯ ПУТИНА ПРОТИВ ПУТИНА

PUTIN'S RUSSIA AGAINST PUTIN The War According to Z

Non-fiction | Political Non-fiction |
Human Interest

SYNOPSIS CONT.

The people behind these channels come from entirely different backgrounds. They include veterans of the so-called “Russian Spring” who have fought in Donbas since 2014, residents of Donetsk and Luhansk, retired officers, military instructors, jet and helicopter pilots, former and serving members of the security services, frontline soldiers, Wagner fighters, military doctors, drone operators and engineers.

The most valuable sources are Z-channels run by civilian volunteers who supply the Russian military, catering to the actual needs that simply don't exist on paper due to the utterly corrupt system based on lies at every possible level of command.

These volunteers remain in constant contact with soldiers at the front and often provide a first-hand account of the real state of affairs.

Essentially, Z-bloggers are not opponents of the regime. They want Russia to win. Yet by describing the war in real, often brutal detail, they inadvertently document the horror, chaos and utter inhumanity of what is happening. And, most importantly, they unveil fundamental flaws in the thoroughly corrupt Russian power structure, where system survival is achieved at the cost of human lives.

Philippov does not simply give these voices a platform. What makes his research unique is his in-depth, systematic analysis of this vast body of data. He collects and deciphers their accounts, then places them in the context of verified facts from the front line, revealing what the raw data alone cannot.

The author devotes a substantial part of the book to the new vocabulary of war coined by Russian Z-bloggers, including terms such as “zeroing”, “pits”, “meat-grinder assaults” and “grinding down”. Meticulously defined and explained by the author, this new lexicon reveals a shocking reality of how the Russian army conducts the war: the extrajudicial execution of servicemen; senseless infantry assaults carried out without artillery support, in which the majority of the attackers are killed; and the systematic destruction of Russian military units through repeated attacks on Ukrainian settlements or fortified positions.

This dictionary of war lays bare the military's deep dysfunction and the systemic problems plaguing what was once widely believed to be Putin's all-powerful army.

Z-bloggers are well aware of these problems, openly and often passionately writing about what official Russian propaganda conceals or distorts. They describe military failures, shortages, corruption, incompetence and the consequences of decisions made by the Russian state. But despite all this understanding, they are unable to reach a logical conclusion from their own observations. Philippov does that for them.

Put in perspective, this thorough analysis of Z-channels produces a raw, unvarnished chronicle not only of the war, but also of the degradation of the Russian state.

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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.

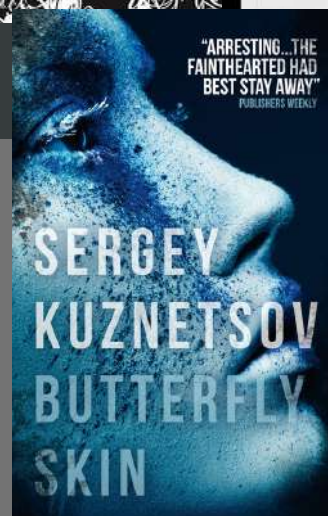
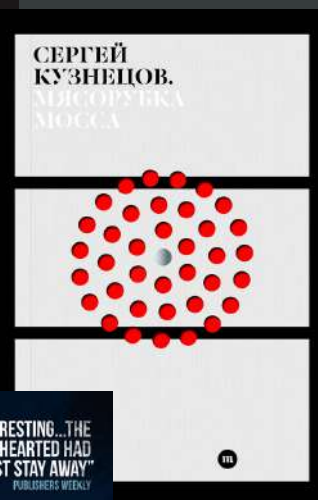
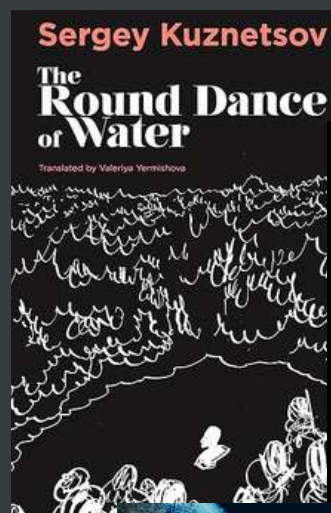
Kuznetsov received numerous nominations to the prestigious literary prizes and was a finalist for the Big Book Award and New Horizons Award, for the best novel in sci-fi and fantasy.

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

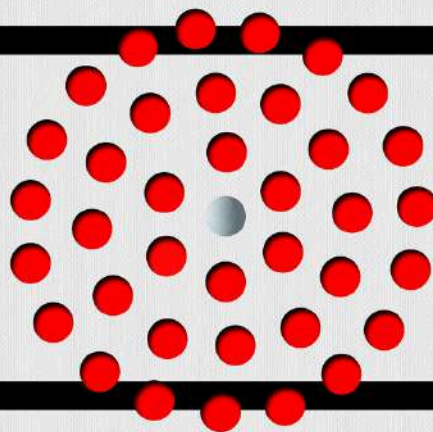
FINALIST OF THE BIG BOOK AWARD
THE KNIGHT FELLOWSHIP FROM STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

SELECTED TITLES



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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

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KARINA SHAINYAN

TV series in development

ABOUT

Karina Shainyan was born in Grozny, Chechnya, in 1976 and grew up in the town of Okha, northern Sakhalin. A graduate of Moscow State University with a degree in social psychology, she has spent more than two decades leading horseback expeditions through the wild landscapes of the Altai Mountains — an experience that infuses her recent novel, *Saspyga*, with raw authenticity and a deep sense of place.

Shainyan is the author of numerous short stories and several acclaimed novels. Her debut, *The Long Road to Bimini*, an urban fantasy laced with absurdist elements, won silver at the Star Bridge convention in Kharkiv and was named Best Debut at Eurocon.

In the past few years, her work has shifted from adventure and science fiction into the realms of magical realism and psychological thriller. Her novel *A Key Around Her Neck* was longlisted for the prestigious National Bestseller Prize and won the “Best Film Pitch” prize at the New Horizons Award in 2022. Shainyan’s recent novel, *Saspyga*, explores haunting folklore and the human psyche. Film adaptation rights to both *A Key Around Her Neck* and *Saspyga* have been sold.

After the publication of *Saspyga* in 2025, Shainyan chose to limit the novel’s promotion and declined nominations for major national awards.

Karina lives with her family in Tomsk, Western Siberia. Whenever she is not leading her next horse riding tour, she works on a new novel.

SELECTED TITLES



SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Longlisted for the National Bestseller Prize 2022
- Best Film Pitch New Horizons Award 2022
- Best Novel (Silver) Star Bridge Award, Kharkiv 2010
- Best Debut Eurocon, Cieszyn 2010

TWO FILM ADAPTATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

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САСПЫГА

роман

Saspyga

Altai Gothic Noir | Mystery |
Magic Realism

PITCH

In the vein of Jim Jarmusch's *The Dead Man*, *Saspyga* takes you on a chilling odyssey of mysticism and transformation through the Altai Mountains, over the ridge to the spirit world. Among towering peaks, pristine valleys, crystal-clear rivers, and herds of horses, there hides a saspyga, whose meat quenches all sorrows.

*Ten international translation
deals made prior to original
publication*

*The first printing
30,000 copies*



DETAILS

Title: *Sofia is Coming Home*
Publisher: Astrel Spf
Publication date: 2026
Original language: Russian
Print length: 416 pp

RIGHTS SOLD

- Italy Einaudi
- Spain Abacus Futur
- Spain Catalan Comanegra
- Slovakia Artforum
- Czech Republic Prostor
- Armenia Vernatun
- Bulgaria Labyrinth
- Estonia Tänapäev
- Croatia Hena
- Hungary Typotex
- Romania Humanitas
- Poland GlowBook

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САСПЫГА

роман

Saspyga

Altai Gothic Noir | Mystery |
Magic Realism

SYNOPSIS

The story unfolds in the Altai Mountains, in the present day, during a trek organized by a local horse-riding tourist camp. What begins as familiar campfire fare — local legends and eerie stories told to spook travelers — slowly entwines with a darker metaphysical drama centered on two women: Asya, who has fled the stifling monotony of her life in a big city (a proofreader's job, an ex-fiancé — mundane, almost laughably so), and Katya, the cook who accompanies the local horse tours.

When Asya breaks away from the main group, Katya is sent to find her. She tracks her down quickly enough, but Asya stubbornly refuses to return. She has chosen her own path — and Katya has no choice but to follow. Alone, the city-bred woman won't survive in the mountains, and Katya hopes she might still persuade her to come back.

But it soon becomes clear that the journey belongs to more than just the two of them. Asya, the land itself, the restless local spirits, even their horses — bearing, in uncanny fashion, the names of stallions torn apart by wolves five years ago — seem to harbor their own visions of what lies ahead.

And so Asya walks a trail once crossed, long ago, by Katya herself. Back then, Katya had joined a group of seasoned hunters in driving a saspyga, an elusive and dexterous inhabitant of the mountains with a seductively sweet meat, into a trap. Katya had nearly managed to banish that memory, to bury the horror — but now the past rises to meet her once more.

The sweet meat of a saspyga, locals believe, can quench all sorrows. One should follow only one rule on the quest — never look into the creature's face. Years ago, Katya broke the rule, so the magic did not work on her. If only Katya can summon the courage to remember, if she resists the temptation to partake of the saspyga, if she looks into the face of the saspyga again — she may yet save Asya from an imminent, grim fate. There are many trails in the mountains to run away on, but only one way to return — by finding your own self.

Karina Shainyan sets her “Altai Gothic thriller” against probably the world's most mesmerizing scenery, where the suspense-drama plot weaves with the local lore and ethnic mythology. Shainyan probes the modern yearning for escape, asking what price one is truly willing to pay for the illusion of a life without troubles — and what it takes to remain human in the wild.



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LITERARY AGENCY



LITERARY FICTION
QUALITY COMMERCIAL FICTION
CHILDREN & YA
NON-FICTION

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