



About the author:

IVAN PHILIPPOV, born in 1982 in Moscow, is a Berlin-based writer, journalist, film executive and co-host of a popular podcast. Ivan graduated from a History Faculty of Moscow State University and for seven years worked as a reporter, starting in the news and graduating to writing about entertainment and media industry for Vedomosti at the time a joint-venture of Wall Street Journal and Financial Times. Among many stories published by Ivan Philippov at that time were one on one interviews with public figures from Sheldon Adelson and Bob Iger to Jerry Bruckheimer.

After leaving Vedomosti Ivan Philippov joined Alexander Rodnyansky's CTC Media as the head of corporate PR. For the past 15 years Ivan worked for Mr. Rodnyansky as a creative executive in his US film company AR Content.

As a journalist Ivan Philippov wrote for many Moscow-based publications, including Forbes, GQ and Esquire. Leaving Russia in the first weeks of war for Tbilisi, now he writes for independent Russian media Holod and his op-eds were published in The Guardian in 2022 and 2023. Philippov uses the Telegram social media app as a platform for critical analysis of the torrents of war commentary and propaganda. In Russian, his own channel is called "Na Zzzzapadnom fronte bez peremen", which means "All quiet on the Wwwwestern front". This is a nod to Erich Maria Remarque's 1929 anti-war novel of that title, as well as to the "Z" symbol of militaristic nationalism that has come to the fore during the war in Ukraine. Currently Philippov's channel has nearly 100 000 subscribers on Telegram.

Ivan Philippov has published three books: a non-fiction work on the golden age of modern television and the best TV shows of the past two decades; his debut novel *The Shadow*, successfully adapted into an audio series by Storytel Original and longlisted for the National Bestseller Prize; and his famous *Mouse*, now banned in Russia and enjoying massive international press coverage.

Selected Bibliography

2023 — **Mouse**, *novel*

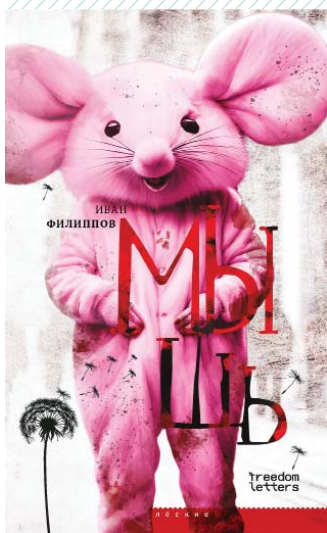
2022 — **The Shadow**, *novel*

2020 — **In the Next Episodes**, *non-fiction*

Awards

Longlisted for the **National Bestseller Prize 2022**

Banned in Russia

**Freedom Letters**

Novel, 2024
78400 words
277 pp

Translation rights

French Editions Blueman
Estonian Sinisukk (auction)
Czech Jota

Audio book rights

Freedom Letters

Complete
English translation
available

Mouse

A blood-curdling quest to escape zombie apocalypse in 2020 Moscow, after Putin's immortality experiment goes awry.

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

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

The three groups set off from different parts of the city, all heading in the same direction while trying to escape. The story unfolds through three parallel narratives, each group facing various dangers and challenges. Along the way, they visit the Pushkin Museum, escape from a deranged cannibal, traverse metro

tunnels, climb rooftops, and hijack a train. Eventually, they converge in the final chapter, where their paths intersect and their fates become intertwined.

The novel explores themes of survival, hope, and human connection in the face of adversity, while offering a sharp social critique of contemporary politics through its satirical portrayal of the brutal deaths of prominent political figures.

Banned in Russia as a threat to national security, *The Mouse* has sparked international attention ever since, fueled by the audacity of the ban and Putin's own statements about the pursuit of eternal life.

A bestseller on the underground book market, the novel spread across the internet, and beyond Russia, Philippov became a symbol of the fight for free speech, drawing widespread global media attention.

Press coverage in
The Times, The Guardian, and
more

Selected quotes

The book is a captivating and uncompromisingly genre-true read that keeps the reader hooked until the very end, while remaining unquestionably authentic in its depiction. From the city's toponymy to restaurant interiors, electric train management technology, and the interior design of the Pushkin Museum's rooms, every detail is precise, true, and recognizable. This authenticity turns reading into a pleasure that rivals watching a blockbuster. A very timely book — I wish millions of fellow citizens could read it. It is an outstanding ingredient in the vaccine against rabies.

Alexander Rodnyansky

Ukrainian producer with four Oscar nominations

Ivan Philippov's *Mouse*: A Masterpiece of Freedom and Reflection. With a story that is both gripping and sharp, Philippov denounces, under the guise of fiction, a regime obsessed with control and immortality. Dive into the world of this novel that shakes up the codes and questions the limits between freedom of expression and censorship. Ivan Philippov's *Mouse* is much

more than a zombie novel: it is an ode to freedom and an uncompromising critique of an oppressive system. By mixing suspense, humor and reflection, the author invites us to question our own society and the limits we impose on artistic creation.

Rainfolk's Diaries
France

This is a right book in these hard times. There's much heroic in the text, as the genre requires. And we need heroism today. Moreover, there are many Dostoevskian descriptions of streets, buildings, and even metro stations in the text. To me, who desperately misses Moscow, it was intriguing to read about the city, even if it is being demolished in the book.

Dmitry Nizovtsev
independent journalist

Longlisted for the **National Bestseller Prize 2022**



Inspiria (Eksmo)
2022

Freedom Letters
Novel, 2025
352 pp

Audio rights
Storytel Original

The Shadow

When death is only the beginning. *The Shadow* blends superhero thrills with the dark, violent history of Russia — in the spirit of Neil Gaiman.

On a hot August night, a girl in downtown Moscow is run over by a car. This is not an ordinary hit-and-run, but a premeditated murder. However, the crime is deemed an accident, and an innocent migrant worker is quickly arrested — he was driving a street-sweeping truck on the same street.

Stepan is a Moscow police detective. Far from a hero, he is just an ordinary Russian cop — a little corrupt, indifferent, not outright evil, though perhaps heading that way. His one redeeming quality is his soft spot for girls who fall victim to violent crimes, a sensitivity shaped by his own past. Stepan will easily take a bribe from a drug dealer, but Lord have mercy on any rapist who crosses his path.

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

This is how the story begins. Stepan finds himself in The Other Moscow — the so-called subMoscow, where all the unclaimed dead of the city's 900-year history reside. 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. Though it does not know its source, it selects a Champion

— someone who will locate and neutralize the threat. The chosen Champion is known as The Shadow. As a reward, the City grants The Shadow a chance at redemption, a chance to avoid hell. It also bestows a superpower — the ability to inhabit shadows.

Stepan soon realizes that death has 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 responsible for his death — and, while he's at it, save the city.

Each chapter of *The Shadow* begins with a brief story of a violent death that occurred in Moscow: a six-year-old Polish girl beheaded during the 1606 Moscow uprising; an elderly man shot and killed by an APC near Ostankinskaya Television Tower in 1993; a wealthy American murdered for disrespecting a Black club owner in 1915; the instigator of a plague riot shot by soldiers in Red Square. Not just people — every building here is part of history, and each will play a role in Stepan's quest to protect the city from the deadly plans of a maniac in power.

While the tone is always gripping and entertaining, the novel addresses important issues of modern Moscow, from racism, discrimination, financial inequality, and gender inequality to domestic violence, police and state corruption — and evil personified ruling the land.

Selected quotes

The author's background in history studies finds its way in the world and heroes of the novel.

Labirinth

There is Mitya, the oracle, who connects the two worlds; a group of subway constructors having grown into one entity; Saint Basil's Cathedral turned into a Gaudi-style utopian building in Other Moscow... Readers find numerous dreamlike visual discoveries in the spirit of Gaiman and Melville in the text.

Afisha Daily

Ivan 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

This novel is written by a Muscovite who loves his city and knows its history very well. Philippov integrates unfamiliar contexts into a swift, modern and daring narrative, and does this with mastery, ease and wit. To read Philippov's *Shadow* is a pure and not useless pleasure.

Alexander Rodnyansky
film producer