



About the author:

KONSTANTIN ZARUBIN is a professor of English language and linguistic studies at Dalarna University in Sweden. He writes fiction and essays, the latter with a focus on gender (female) studies and social issues. He is also a singer and songwriter. He moved to Sweden in 2008, where he now lives with his wife. The author's website — <https://kostia.me>.

Selected Bibliography

2024 — **Our Heart Beats for All**, *novel*

2023 — **New Science Fiction From L.**, *novel*

2021 — **The Red List of Peace Street**, *novella and short stories*

2021 — **Chestnut Freyja**, *novellas*

2021 — **Misha, It's Elephants All Around**, *novel*

2019 — **A Mayfly Walked Along the Shore**, *novel*

Awards

Shortlisted for **the New Horizons Award** 2023



Meduza
Novel, 2024
190 pp

Translation rights
All rights available

Audio rights
Litbuk

English and Swedish
samples available

Our Heart Beats for All

This alarmingly prophetic anti-utopia and bitter social satire by Konstantin Zarubin, a professor at Dalarna University in Sweden, reads unlike any other literary warning. Surgically precise, bold, and insightful, the novel highlights the most painful aspects of the social and political catastrophes affecting Russia and Europe today.

In an alternative 2023, Russia is torn apart by a civil war. European countries struggle to cope with millions of refugees from the collapsed Russian state.

The protagonist of the first part of the novel is Andrey Menyaev, once a bestselling writer with two film adaptations and a leader of Moscow's state propaganda apparatus. Today, Menyaev is a refugee, seeking residency in Scandinavia. Ironically, this leading figure of Moscow's media beau monde — cynical and clever — now fully depends on those he has always despised and mocked: good-hearted idealists. He is introduced to an Icelandic activist, a liberal intellectual, and a member of a covert organization helping refugees with immigration procedures. Will Harpa, his "beautiful Icelander," as Menyaev calls her, succeed in defending their marriage before the experienced migration officials?

The main character of the second part is Danya Svechin, a talented digital artist who created deepfakes under Menyaev's supervision in Moscow. Fortunately, Svechin holds Estonian citizenship, and after the revolt in Moscow, he settles in a low-profile area in Estonia, far from the Russian refugee ghettos. There, alarming news reaches him: former colleagues from the Moscow propaganda factory have been brutally murdered by a lone terrorist or a terrorist group. Svechin receives protection from

the authorities in a new hideout under a false identity. His only connection to the past is Nika, a childhood friend and single mother who writes to him about life in the refugee ghettos. Nika tells Svechin about a group of illegal migrants resisting a local gang that terrorized her family, even though this might compromise their status in Estonia. The police detained the gangsters but deported the Russians back to their home country. Inspired by Nika's story, Svechin creates a comic book that becomes an international sensation. Eventually, he decides to meet Nika in person — and falls victim to the mysterious terrorist avenger.

Mira Iskalieva, from the final part of the novel, is one of the deported refugees and a heroine in Svechin's comic book. Her story follows her deportation to Moscow, where she is forced into sex slavery by local gunmen. Mira manages to escape and, with a group of teenagers, makes another desperate attempt to cross the Russian border.

Darkly humorous and frighteningly true to life, Zarubin's novel is more than a social satire or a warning. He deftly manipulates readers, translating the novel's events into a mirror of current political and social realities. Zarubin shocks with his prophetic insights and paints a vivid, broad picture of Russian-European relations.

Shortlisted for the **New Horizons Award 2023**

Elena Shubina publishing (AST)
Novel, 2023
512 pp

Audio rights
Litbuk

New Science Fiction From L.

A captivating literary odyssey, *New Science Fiction from L.* unveils nothing short of a universe — a world where magic happens, a world we live in, and a world that might have a future.

Helsinki, July 2020. A scientist who fled Russia to escape trumped-up treason charges is found dead outside his apartment. The task of sorting through his home library falls to Darja, a local student helping at a second-hand bookshop. In a huge atlas of Arctica, she discovers notes from a mysterious investigation the deceased had been conducting.

The scientist had searched for people from the former Soviet Union, now scattered across the globe — from Kazakhstan and Georgia, Finland and Italy, to Canada. In the recorded interviews, the subjects are asked to recall an anthology of sci-fi short stories. These stories appear to be written by authors of various origins — Latvia, Lviv (Ukraine), Leningrad, etc. — translated into Russian or published in their original languages. Despite differences in language, publishers, story titles, and author names, the plots and themes are strikingly similar. What's more, every reader describes their experience as nothing short of miraculous and life-changing.

Now Darja is set to continue the dead scientist's investigation, beginning with identifying the NSFL readers' club, whose members, it turns out, hired him in the first place. This decision sets off a breath-taking chain of events that will turn Darja's dreamy pandemic summer upside down — and might change the future of our civilization.

New Science Fiction from L. is a gripping literary quest set on the eve of a new European war and in the twilight years of the Soviet empire. It speaks in many voices and takes the reader to many places — from Kyiv and Tbilisi in the 1980s to Riga, Bologna, and St. Petersburg in the 2010s.

Both a compassionate tale of self-discovery and an unflinching reckoning with toxic nostalgia, *New Science Fiction from L.* offers a glimpse of what Russophone literature can achieve when it moves beyond navel-gazing and engages with the world beyond Russian imperial myths.