



About the author:

NARINE ABGARYAN was born in 1971 in Berd, Armenia, to a doctor and a school teacher. She graduated from the State University of Linguistic Studies in Yerevan with a diploma as a teacher of Russian language and literature.

Abgaryan is the internationally bestselling author of a dozen books, including her nationally bestselling and prize-winning trilogy about Manunia, a busy and troublesome 11-year-old in the small Armenian town of Berd. The trilogy received the Manuscript of the Year Award in 2010 and the Russian Literature Prize in 2011. Manunia was adapted into a TV series on the Okko platform, premiering at the Kinotavr Film Festival in 2021, and a number of feature films.

Her other children's book, Semyon Andreich, received the Baby-NOS award from The New Literature Award in 2013, recognized as "the best book for children of the last decade."

Abgaryan's powerful and moving parable Three Apples Fell From the Sky has been translated into 30 languages and became a long seller throughout Europe. In 2016, it won the prestigious Yasnaya Polyana Prize.

Since 2022, Narine Abgaryan has lived in 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*

Awards

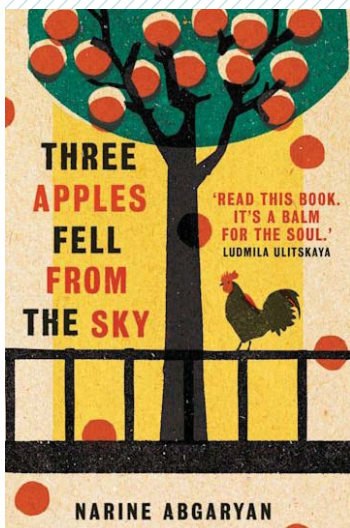
- Shortlisted for the **Big Book Award** 2021
- Yasnaya Polyana Prize** 2016
- Nominated for the **National Bestseller Prize** 2016
- The Alexander Green Award** 2015
- The New Literature Award** 2013 (The Best Book for Children)
- The Russian Literature Prize** 2011
- Longlisted for the **Big Book Award** 2011
- Manuscript of the Year** 2010

Over 1 500 000 copies
sold worldwide

Winner of the **Yasnaya Polyana Prize** 2016

Longlisted for the **National Bestseller Prize** 2016

Over
300 000 copies
sold



Three Apples Fell from the Sky

Marquez's all-time classic epic *One Hundred Years of Solitude* meets Sergei Parajanov's *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors* in this unforgettable fable about a small, decaying Armenian village perched atop Mount Manish Kar.

The title of the novel — *Three Apples Fell from the Sky* — refers to a typical ending of Armenian fairy tales: “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 tread with difficulty. Part weirdoes, part naggers, the village's few remaining inhabitants — a dozen 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 of the village's oldest family, having survived a great famine. A rare beauty and a book lover, Anatolia suffered from the ravages of her husband's attacks, who fled the village after nearly beating her to death. There's Vasily, a blacksmith and widower, who lost his three sons and a younger brother in

WWII. The same younger brother saved the village from imminent destruction in a landslide, thanks to a unique foreseeing gift. There's Yasaman, a healer and 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 during the famine is only explained at the novel's end.

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

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

AST

Novel, 2016
315 pp

Translation rights

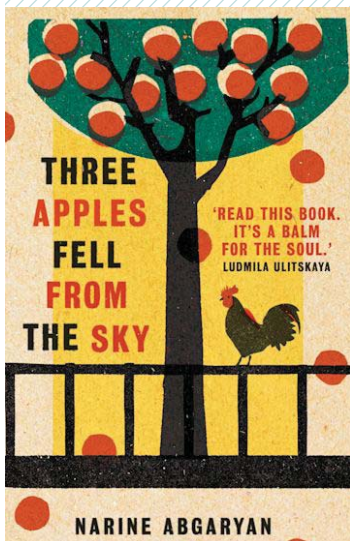
World English Oneworld Publications
German Ullstein
French Macha Publishing
French pocket Univers Poche
German Ullstein List
Italian Einaudi
Estonian Tänapäev
Bulgarian Labirint
Arabic AS Publishers
Armenian Newmag Publishing
Hungarian Typotex
Latvian Janis Roze
Malayalam (India) Green Books
Czech Prostor
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
Swedish Tranan
Amharic Ethiopia Hohe Publishing

Theater rights sold

Vedogon Theater, Moscow

Complete
English & French
translations
available





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.

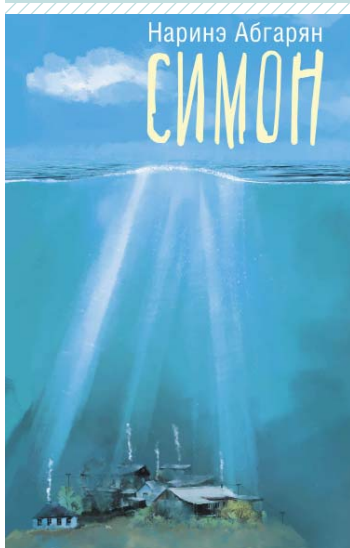
The Common

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

New European

30 Great European Books for the Beach



Shortlisted for the **Big Book Award 2021**
 Over
80 000 copies
sold


Simon

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.

AST

Novel, 2020
352 pp

Translation rights

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
Arabic Hayat

Film rights sold

Theater rights sold

Mayakovsky Theater
Sovremennik Theater
Art Master Finland

Adapted to film

Despite its title, Narine Abgaryan's *Simon* centers not on a man but on 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

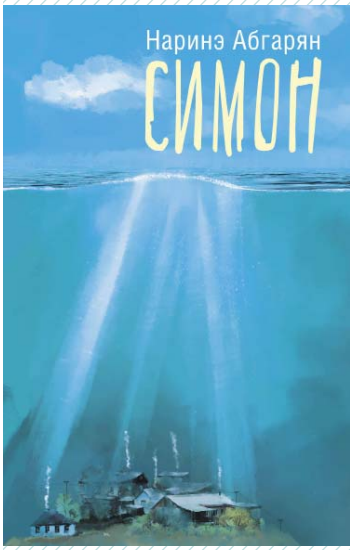
and affairs. At critical moments of his life, he chooses to sulk rather than act decisively, condemning himself and the women who love him to further misery.

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.





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
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



Over 70 000 copies
sold

AST
Novellas, short stories, 2014
280 pp

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

Complete English
translation
available

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.

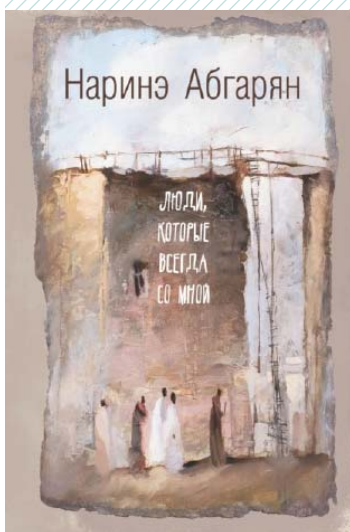
Set in the picturesque village of Berd, the collection traces the interconnected lives of its inhabitants, seemingly unremarkable villagers who go on about their lives, tending to their daily tasks, engaging in their quotidian squabbles, and celebrating small joys amid a luscious, beautiful local landscape. 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. Agnessa, 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.

Nearly 150 000
copies
sold

People Who Are Always with Me

People Who Are Always with Me is the story of several generations of a single family, told through thirteen interconnected novellas from the eyes of a child. It recounts the lives of people who have endured hardships yet managed to preserve kindness, humanity, and love in their hearts.

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

In fact, Narine Abgaryan wrote an autobiography — a story about a little girl surrounded by a large, close-knit family, ready to support her and shield her from adversity, guiding her along the right path.

People Who Are Always with Me is a world seen 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 them as natural occurrences, understanding how cruel human rumor can be and how easily it can lead to hatred. Yet the girl is in no hurry, because the whole world belongs to her and offers countless roads to explore.

Abgaryan draws touching pictures from childhood: a trip to the mountains, a wedding, admonitions from adults. All these incidents are filtered

through the child's worldview, with conclusions drawn and remembered to be of use in the future.

The narrative sometimes jumps from place to place, returning 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 perfect to read on a rainy autumn evening, wrapped in a blanket, yet feeling 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 soothe. Such works must be read to remember what spiritual beauty is, what the beauty of the world around us is — things we begin to forget in our endless haste and pursuit of shadows.

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

AST

Novel/Novellas, 2014
280 pp

Translation rights

French Macha Publication
Bulgarian Labirint
Armenian Oracle
Lithuanian Balto
Romanian Humanitas
Macedonian Muza
Slovak Artforum

Theater rights sold

Lumikello Finland

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

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 “one of Europe’s most exciting authors” by The Guardian. It is the first book of a prize-winning trilogy that has enjoyed considerable commercial success — selling over 400 000 copies, topping bestseller lists, and — most excitingly — being adapted into a television series and feature films, with an animated series in development.

AST

Novel, 2010

315 pp

Translation rights

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 Andreasyan brothers, 2021-2022)

a feature film Manunia in the Movies 2022

a feature film Manunia in the Countryside, 2023

a feature film Manunia and the New Year 2024

a feature film Manunia in Moscow 2024

a feature film Manunia: Ba’s Birthday 2025

Theater rights sold

RAMT, Moscow

Theater For Young Viewers, Ufa

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 shotgun.”

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 particular traits 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 it is 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 shotgun. 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 cultural landscape for a non-Russian reader, 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.

Adapted to film and
TV-series