

# SOFIA LITERARY AGENCY

## RIGHTS GUIDE — 2026/2027



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## RIGHTS GUIDE

Sofia Literary Agency is the only one of its kind in Bulgaria, aiming to promote and distribute Bulgarian authors' works abroad, making Bulgarian literature accessible to global audiences. The Agency represents 25 writers and their titles in the fields of literary and historic fiction, non-fiction, poetry and children's books. SLA has also been actively working to provide international visibility for Bulgarian authors through all possible channels by supporting them through residencies, festivals, publishing excerpts, organizing programs, taking care of their tours, collaborating with embassies and cultural institutes.

Since its establishment in 2022, Sofia Literary has managed to bring over 200 titles in translation to foreign languages, including the first Bulgarian novels translated in Brazilian Portuguese, Swedish, some Indian languages like Tamil and Telugu, but also the first children's books in Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Iran and Turkey after decades of silence.

As of February 2026, Sofia Literary is the first and only Bulgarian literary agency to have in its portfolio an International Booker Prize shortlisted novel — *She Who Remains* by Rene Karabash as the title is published or in the works for more than 26 languages.

Sofia Literary Agency also partnered with the Ministry of Culture and the Bulgarian Book Association for the last three years in numerous projects with regard to international bookfairs and worked on the literary program of the Bulgarian participation at the book fairs in London, Frankfurt, Bologna, Leipzig and the Guest of Honour Projects during the 22nd Book Fair in Thessaloniki in 2026 and the 19th edition of Bookfest in Bucharest, 2026.

The Agency also coordinates three successful editions of the Sofia International Literary Fellowship in Bulgaria which have welcomed nearly a hundred publishing professionals from more than 25 countries.

# REDISCOVERED CLASSICS





## VERA MUTAFCHIEVA

**Vera Mutařchieva** (1929 – 2009) was an Ottoman scholar of international renown and one of the founders of the Institute of Balkan Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her academic achievements include being a Head of the Centre for Ancient Languages and Cultures and Director of the Bulgarian Research Institute in Austria.

Mutařchieva wrote 35 novels, most of them on various historical topics, which have undergone multiple editions and turned her into a household name in her native country.

She authored numerous articles in the fields of Ottoman and Balkan studies and a multitude of

popular essays. Among other achievements, she was the screenwriter of the three-part Bulgarian historical super production *Khan Asparuh* (1981).

Mutařchieva was conferred Doctor Honoris Causa degree by Sofia University in 1999 and by New Bulgarian University in 2000. In 2004 she was elected Academician at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

For her creative work, as well as for her academic research, Vera Mutařchieva was the recipient of numerous national and international accolades. Her literary works have been previously translated into 11 languages.

# I, ANNA KOMNENE

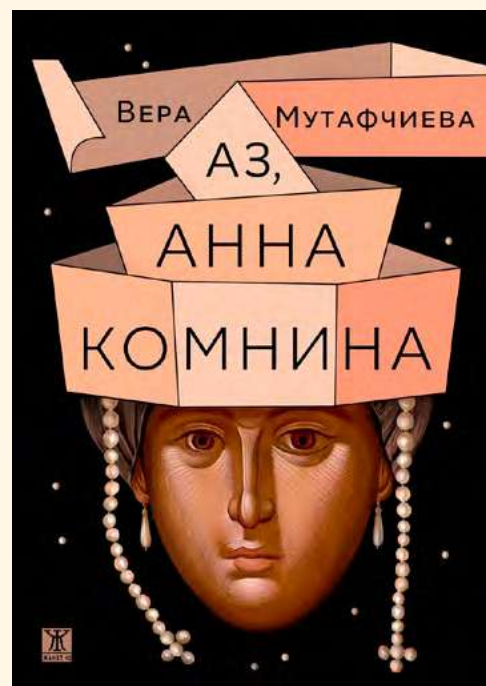
Novel, 420 pages, 1991

**M**utafchieva boldly revisits Anna Komnene's life rather in a work of fiction than academic study. The novel tells the story of this remarkable woman's life through the eyes of the women who shaped her: her wily and emotional mother Irene Doukaina and her sternly majestic grandmother Anna Dalassene. A polymath famed for her encyclopedic erudition, Anna Komnene was a philosopher, historian, and the author of the medieval literary masterpiece, *The Alexiad*. Through her sharp-tongued female narrators, Mutafchieva uses Anna's story to deconstruct medieval tropes of masculinity and paint what literary critic Katya Kuzmova-Zografova calls "a panorama of the implicit struggles and wars" between women in the imperial court, full of whispers and subterfuge, not only different from but more dangerous than the men's battles.

***I, Anna Komnene is above all a novel written by a woman and dedicated to a woman. If the term hadn't been so polemic, we would have called it "feminist" — that's how pale, cowardly, conceited, belligerent and incapable of ruling the male characters in the text are in comparison to Anna Dalassini or Anna Komnene. Mutafchieva manages to stay at arm's length from all the conflicts, intrigues, and political games of the era; here power is presented as an insatiable monster, ripping apart and corrupting everyone, unlucky enough to step near it or trod in its vicinity.***

— Marie Vrinat-Nikolov

Rights sold: French (**Editions Faustine**),  
Polish (**Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza Czytelnik**)  
Full French translation available



# THE CASE OF CEM

Novel, 410 pages, 1967

**T**he Case of Cem tells a straightforward tale: upon the death of Ottoman Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror in 1481, his eldest son Bayezid takes the throne. Discontented factions within the Ottoman army urge Mehmed's second son Cem, a well-educated and experienced soldier, to oppose his brother's ascension and to suggest the two split the empire. Bayezid refuses, setting off a ruthless power struggle. Cem is forced into long years of exile and finds himself essentially a hostage, a pawn for European powers as they try to slow the Ottoman Empire's expansion. Cem dies in Naples in 1495 under mysterious circumstances. The story is presented as a series of depositions by historical figures before a court, bringing medieval history and modern "courtroom drama" together in a way that is extremely experimental for Bulgarian literature of the time. The one character who never speaks directly to the court is Cem himself – he remains silent. The closest we get to Cem is through the Persian poet Saadi, Cem's companion and erstwhile lover. Saadi is hands down the most sympathetic character in the book, leading to wonder how Mutaфchieva managed to get such positive queer representation past the communist censors of that era. Perhaps because Saadi was Persian and not Bulgarian?

*If there is one thing that history has "taught" the novel to see, it is how great things can come from small; The Case of Cem returns the favor, then, by demonstrating just how insignificant the vast majority of our grand conceits appear when viewed through the turned-around telescope of history. Mutaфchieva understands our venial helplessness to be one of the tragedies of human life. She uses the frog-boiling form of the novel to show us a world full of people being gradually deformed into something they never thought they'd be.*

— Josh Billings, Los Angeles Review of Books

Rights sold: Croatian (**Sandorf**), Greek (**Historical Quest**), Serbian (**Laguna**), Slovenian (**Založba Goga**), Spanish (**Automática Editorial**), Tamil (**Aazhi Publishers**), Worldwide English (**Sandorf Passage**)

Full English translation available

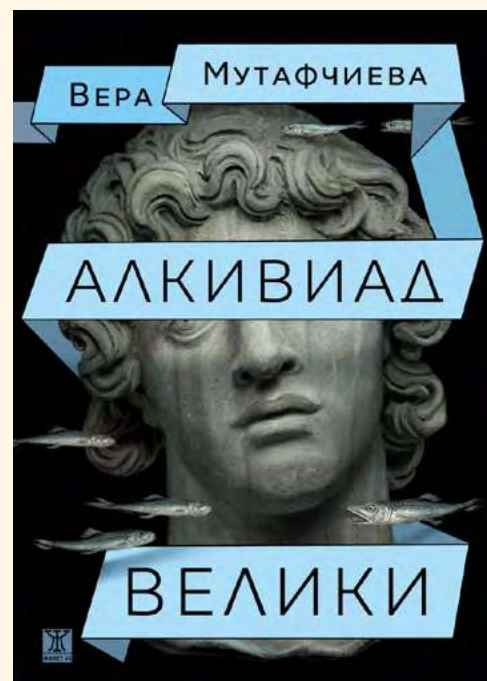


# ALCIBIADES THE GREAT

Novel, 396 pages, 1975

**M**utafchieva offers a vibrant depiction of the charismatic military and political leader's life. She traces his rise to power in Athens, where, as a beloved student of Socrates, he learns the rhetorical skills he later channels into warmongering that nearly destroys the polis' fragile democracy. After his brazen behavior leads to charges of sacrilege, Alcibiades switches his allegiance to Sparta, treacherously using his insider knowledge to all but strangling his former home—until his seduction of the Spartan queen forces him to flee to Persia. More than a millennium later, even Macchiavelli himself would point to Alcibiades as a cautionary tale of how demagoguery and ruthless ambition can lead a state, an individual and even an entire civilization to ruin. Mutafchieva's masterful depiction of the Hellenic world will resonate with readers intrigued by Madeleine Miller's work or Hollywood Odysseys; however, the book can also be read as a critical commentary on the communist dictatorship Mutafchieva was living and working under—she grasped firsthand the dangers of both unchecked “people's power,” as well as the allure of a cult of personality.

In the novel's Socratic debates, we see the author wrestling with key questions of her own era: are intellectuals and artists obligated to engage in civic action rather than simply retreating into the life of the mind? How can a state strike the delicate balance between a just distribution of wealth and power while still motivating talented individuals? How can a society be resilient against sophistry (and its modern descendant, propaganda), since such demagoguery can easily lead to violence and war? Indeed, these themes are every bit as relevant fifty years later in our era of resurgent populism, disinformation and charismatic strongmen. Using her trademark kaleidoscope of viewpoints and voices, Mutafchieva paints a psychologically gripping portrait of both the historical figure of Alcibiades as well as homo politicus more generally, in all his tragic complexity.



***Vera Mutafchieva was the last great Bulgarian historical fiction writer. She leaves us — and especially today's young people who wish to pursue a career in literature — with an enormous task. She demonstrated that it is possible to be a Bulgarian intellectual writer.***

— Ani Ilkov

World rights available



## VIKTOR PASKOV

**Viktor Paskov** (1949–2009) belonged to a generation of writers deeply marked by the Communist era, the post-Stalinist period, and the year 1968, which brought a fleeting breath of hope for freedom that was quickly crushed in Prague by Soviet tanks. Expelled from the Bulgarian high school system for his rebellious spirit, Paskov joined his father in East Germany to study at the Leipzig Conservatory. Paskov began a career as an opera singer in the GDR, then returned to Bulgaria in 1981 where he initially worked as a music critic. Paskov's first novel, *Ballad for Georg Henig* (1987), later translated into

multiple languages, brought him success: the national *Novel of the Year* award and an invitation to join the Bulgarian Writers' Union. Between 1989 and 1993, he lived in Paris where he wrote his second novel – *Germany, a Dirty Tale*, first published in French (1992). He was later appointed a cultural attaché in Berlin and in Bern, where he spent the last days of his life. He also authored two short story collections, his third and last novel *Autopsy of a Love* (1995), and several screenplays.

# BALLAD FOR GEORG HENIG

Novel, 190 pages, 1987

**B**allad for Georg Henig is a deeply moving novel in which Viktor Paskov recounts his childhood in communist Bulgaria during the 1950s. The main character is a young boy raised in a family where love and understanding are absent. One day, an old Czech violin maker, Georg Henig, enters his life – poor, forgotten, and lonely, yet possessing a noble spirit and genuine kindness. Through his encounter with Henig, the boy discovers not only the value of music and art, but also the meaning of humanity, sacrifice, and love. This novel, both autobiographical and symbolic, is a tribute to lost values and to the power of human kindness in a time marked by harshness.

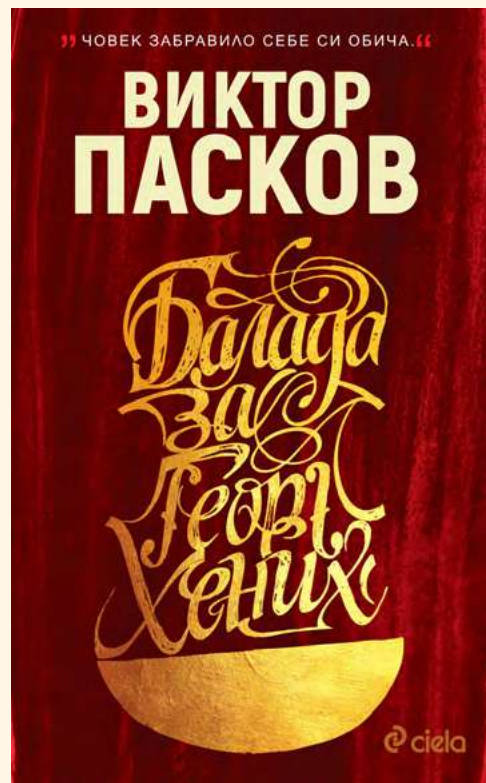
The title won the literary prize of the Bulgarian Writers' Union in 1988. The French edition was awarded the prestigious *Le prix Ecureuil* au salon du livre de Bordeaux in 1989.

***This largely autobiographical novel tells the story of the deep bond that forms between an old Czech luthier, who had come to Bulgaria at the beginning of the century and little Viktor, the son of a musician, living in a poor district of Sofia during the darkest years of Totalitarianism. Thanks to the sick and abandoned old man, who would end his days in a home for the elderly, the child learns the meaning of true art, despite the mediocrity, poverty, and despair that surround him.***

— Marie Vrinat-Nikolov

Rights sold: Arabic (**Mamdouh Adwan**), Brazilian Portuguese (**Editora Rua do Sabão**), French (**Éditions de l'Aube**), Greek (**Metaichmio Publications**), Polish (**Wydawnictwo Poznanskie**), Slovenian (**Družina**), Spanish (**Acantilado**)

Full English and French translations available



# GERMANY, A DIRTY TALE

Novel, 344 pages, 1993

**V**iktor is invited by his father to join him in East Germany. His deep dislike of the rigid discipline imposed at school, combined with his rebellious spirit, leaves him with no future in Communist Bulgaria.

After a series of adventures, the novel ends as the hero – having toiled as a Gastarbeiter, endured both xenophobia and the surveillance of the Stasi – is hired as the guitarist for a rock band. Paskov's writing displays a profound sense of tragedy while avoiding sentimentality through irony and self-mockery. The prologue, which recalls friends who disappeared under a regime that crushed individuals like a steamroller; the portrayal of the narrator's father sacrificing all dignity in order to keep his job and remain in East Germany; the depiction of artists who became economic migrants from the "fraternal countries," confronted with contempt and xenophobia; and the acts of both cowardice and heroism displayed by different characters in extreme circumstances – all of these elements continue to resonate deeply with today's reader.

***An electrifying, dizzying, gripping, heart-wrenching novel that tells the story of the trials and tribulations of a nineteen-year-old Bulgarian behind the scenes of East Germany. With a nervous, colloquial and often expressive style, the author weaves together numerous dialogues, he leaps in time... This novel simply brims with life, humour and music, but also with despair and cruelty.***

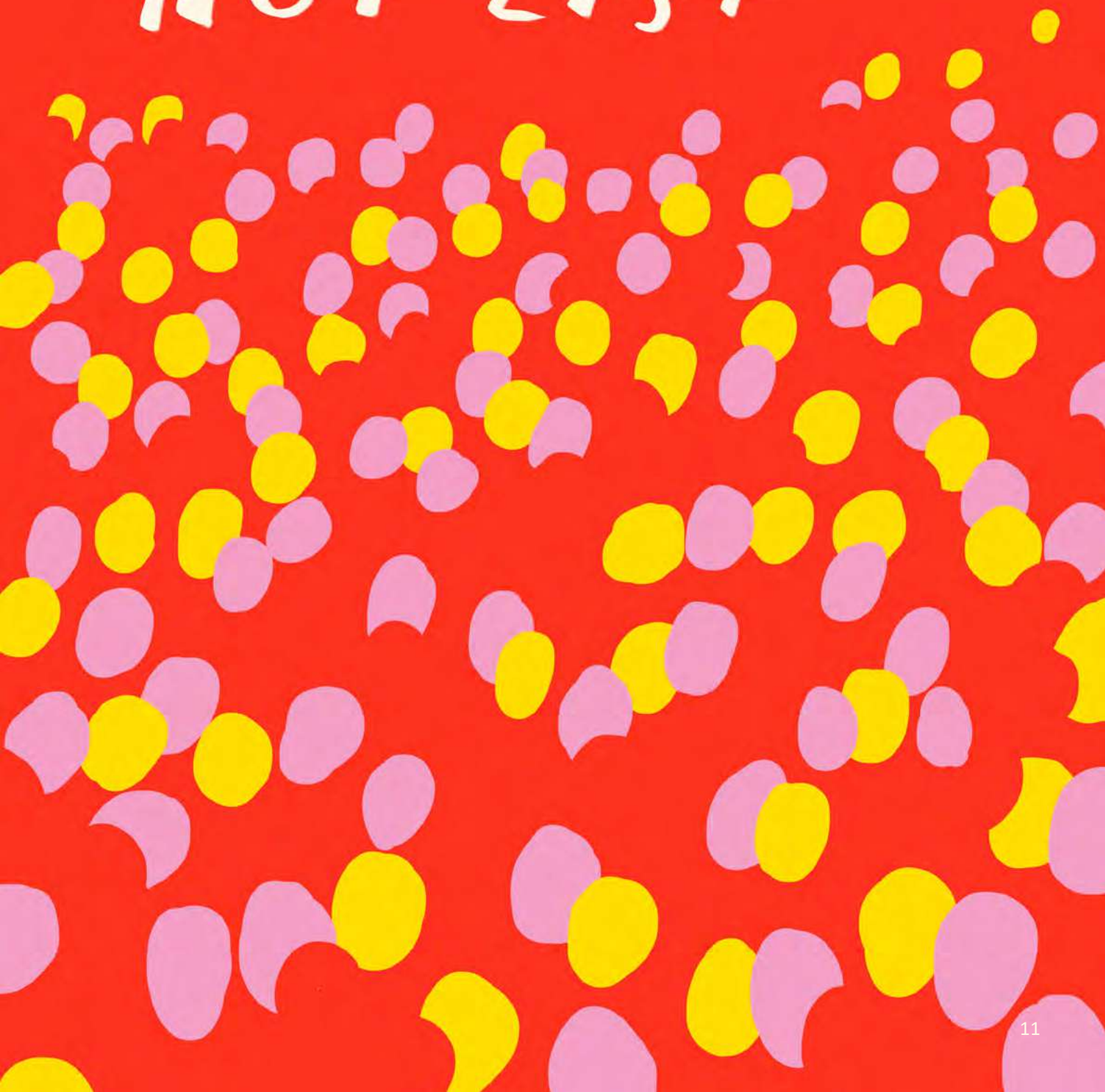
— **Librairie Nouvelle Aquitaine**

Rights sold: French (**Les éditions du Typhon**)

Full French translation available



# HOT LIST





## NATALIYA DELEVA

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**Nataliya Deleva** (1978) is a Bulgarian-born writer living in London. Her debut novel, *Four Minutes*, was originally published in Bulgaria (**Janet 45 Print and Publishing**, 2017), where the book received the most prestigious Bulgarian prize for emerging literature in 2018 and was shortlisted for several other national literary awards. It has since been translated in English (**Open Letter Books**, 2021), German (**eta Verlag**, 2018) and Polish (**Wydawnictwo EZOP**, 2021). *Four Minutes* is also forthcoming in Spanish (**Automática Editorial**) by the end

of 2026. Deleva's second novel, *Arrival*, written originally in English, was published by **The Indigo Press**, UK (2022), and it has been translated into Bulgarian as *Пътна връв* (**Janet 45 Print and Publishing**, 2025). Deleva's short fiction, non-fiction and critique have appeared in literary journals and anthologies, such as the anthology *Stories from the 90s* (**ICU Publishing**, 2019), *Words Without Borders*, *Fence*, *Psyche*, *Asymptote*, *Lunate*, *Review31* and *Granta*.

# ARRIVAL

Novel, 268 pages, 2022

**A**n exploration of the ripple effects of domestic abuse, the story follows a young woman fleeing her home country and trying to rebuild her life abroad, after she has suffered violence at the hands of an alcoholic father. Prompted by her therapist, the unnamed protagonist starts processing the abuse experienced in her childhood while also pondering what it means to be a mother when consumed by trauma. The book bends form to accommodate the narrator's scattered mind and her attempt to assemble a version of herself through fragments and stitches of memories, borrowed conversations and minutiae that linger and haunt. Despite grappling with heavy themes – trauma, rejection, cultural identity – the narrative is infused with love and determination and is interwoven with folk tales and rituals. It depicts the ways in which we are resilient, capable of carving our own paths and reimagining our lives.

*Nataliya Deleva demonstrates a remarkable talent for conjuring place and moment. It sits the reader beside her unnamed narrator. Whether in the Bulgarian valleys of her childhood or inhabiting the trauma-induced void that's replaced any semblance of home, we are beside her.*

— Harriet Mercer

Rights sold: Bulgarian (**Janet 45 Print and Publishing**)

Originally written and published in English by **The Indigo Press** (2022)





## DEJAN ENEV

**Dejan Enev** (1960) has authored twenty-four books. He is the recipient of multiple major national literary prizes like the *Chudomir* award for a humorous short story (2015), the *Yordan Radichkov* award twice – for *Lala Bosa* (2020) and *Sixty Stories* (2024), the *Aleko* award from the International Humorous Short Story Competition (2025), the *Yordan Yovkov* award (2020), the *Order of Saints Cyril and Methodius, First Class* (2016).

In 2008, the Austrian publishing house **Deuticke** published a German-language collection of his selected stories under the title *Zirkus Bulgarien*. In 2010, the Lon-

don-based publishing house **Portobello Books** released the English edition of *Circus Bulgaria* as the book was included in the longlist of the *Frank O'Connor* International Short Story award for two consecutive years (2010 and 2011). In September 2023, the Italian publishing house **Bottega Errante** published *Everyone on the Bow of the Boat* in Italian translation under the title *Circo Bulgaria*. The book won the *Polski Kot* award for best Italian translation of a book originally written in a Slavic language.

# LONGING FOR KYOTO

Short stories, 136 pages, 2025

This seemingly small book contains a multitude of micro-worlds, in which opposing aspects of the human soul stand out. The minimalist works, written in an unusually concise, yet powerful language, are divided into two sections. The first section is imbued with military themes, while the second presents various philosophies of life through the chronic grayness of everyday existence.

Empathy is the invisible thread uniting these stories, weaving them into an inseparable whole. At the same time, the author has also embedded symbolism in the title, which lends itself to different interpretations. On the one hand, judging by the first section, Kyoto symbolizes the unattainable longing to return to times of peace – a nostalgic yearning that remains unheard, as though it were only whispered quietly to the wind. If we broaden the scope of our interpretation by considering both sections together, Kyoto comes to embody the sorrow for what has been lost.

**Dejan Enev can fit the long life of humanity into a short story. There are very few writers like him, both in Bulgarian and in world literature. With biblical energy, Enev creates hundreds of small worlds. His writing is like pieces of a puzzle that form his greater world — one in which we discover guilt, justification, and the meaning of our existence.**

— Krasimir Dimovski

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## ZDRAVKA EVTIMOVA

**Zdravka Evtimova** (1959) is a Bulgarian writer and translator, winner of numerous literary accolades, including *Bulgaria's Favourite Writer* at the eponymous show on Bulgarian TV in 2021. Her novels and short story collections have been published in Bosnia, Canada, China, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Iran, Italy, Spain, North Macedonia, Serbia, UK, and the USA. Her short story *Vassil* was one of the award winners in the BBC international short story competition. The short story *Blood of a Mole* is included in a literary anthology for middle school education in the USA as well as in Danish high school textbooks.

Evtimova's novel *Thursday* was published in Serbia in 2023 (**Arhipelag**), North Macedonia (**Antolog**, 2021), Croatia (**Neolit**, 2026) and is in the works for Czech. The novel *The Same River* hit the shelves in Bosnia in early 2024 (**BuyBook**), Italy in 2025 (**Besa Mucci Editore**), it is also forthcoming in Polish (**Grupa Wydawnicza Relacja**) and Spanish (**Baile del Sol**). Her latest novel *The Wolves of Staro Selo*, recipient of the UK PEN Translates Award, was published by **Héloïse Press** in 2025 and is forthcoming in Hungarian (**Fekete Sas Kiadó**) and Polish (**Grupa Wydawnicza Relacja**).

# STORIES FROM KAVARNA

Short stories, 276 pages, 2026

**Z**dravka Evtimova's talent to present us with incredible but entirely realistic situations, full of unexpected plot twists and to craft vivid dialogue with a subtle flair for the aphoristic, is unrivalled and lies at the heart of her success as a recognizable and much-loved storyteller to thousands of readers at home and abroad. The themes she deals with are important and relevant not only to the Bulgarian society – preserving the human in inhuman situations, living and surviving in a toxic family and work environment, overcoming socially deviant practices as they are always presented with impressive empathy and humor.

*Evtimova is a master of storytelling and manages, in just a few sentences, to draw the reader into a character's fate, most often with what is left unsaid and omitted. Her language is poetic and rich in imagery, clearly influenced by the microcosm of authors such as Alice Munro.*

— Olga Hochweis,  
Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Studio 9

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## YORDANKA BELEVA

**Yordanka Beleva** (1977) is considered one of the most distinctive female voices in contemporary Bulgarian literature. A short story writer and a poet, she has authored four poetry collections: *Peignoirs and Boats* (2002), *Her* (2012), *The Missed Moment* (2017), *Evening News* (2024), and five short story collections: *The Sea Level of Love* (2011), *Keys* (2015), *Keder* (2018), *Hedgehogs Come out at Night* (2022), *God's Mercy* (2025). She has won national awards for both poetry and prose and her short stories and poems have been translated into Arabic, English, French, German, Polish, Spanish, Ukrainian and published in numerous anthologies. Beleva's short story collection *Keder*, won the *National Endowment for the*

*Art prose award* in the USA at the end of 2022. *Keder* was published in Macedonian (**Blesok**, 2019), Turkish (**Metis**, 2024) and in Czech (**Runa**, 2025). It is forthcoming in Arabic (**Al-fouad Publishing**) and Tamil (**Discovery Publications**). Beleva's poetry collection *The Missed Moment* was published in German by **eta Verlag** in 2021. Many of her short stories have been filmed and awarded at international festivals (*His Cannibal Granny*, *Family Portrait of the Black Earth* and others). Beleva's short story collection *Hedgehogs Come Out at Night* is already published in Spanish (**La Tortuga Búlgara**, 2025) and is in the works for Macedonian (**ILI-ILI**).

# GOD'S MERCY

Short stories, 100 pages, 2025

**G**od's Mercy is Yordanka Beleva's fifth short story collection. It contains 17 new stories in which nostalgia and longing, loss and tenderness, childhood and immortality do not alternate but move in parallel.

If we had to sum up the distinctive quality of these stories in a single word, that word would be restraint – this is how Rositsa Chernokozheva from the Institute for Literature at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences defines Yordanka Beleva's writing.

"Yordanka Beleva's talent lies precisely in this measure, so difficult for a creator to achieve. Indeed, to take nothing away, yet to add nothing either."

The meaningful title of the collection— *God's Mercy*—as well as the story of the same name, suggest the idea of an antidote. The overall message of Yordanka Beleva's writing lies in this: storytelling as an antidote.

***Nostalgic yet ironic; cruel yet merciful, most of the stories bring the reader to a childhood in a small town, where emptiness either presses in on you and pulls you back, or walks ahead of you, making you hurry to overtake its steps and keep moving forward.***

— Marta Radeva, Portal Cultura

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## DIMANA YORDANOVA

With her first poetry book, *The Woman and Men I Used To Be*, **Dimana Yordanova** (1986) became a first-prize winner at the international literary contest *Alda Merini* and the national competition for debut literature *Yuzhna Prolet*. She is also the author of the poetry book *Down the Spine* and the children's book *What a Surprise!*. Yordanova's prose poem *Letters to Niya, My Unborn Child* has been universally hailed as an important achievement and was nominated for the national poetry

award *Ivan Nikolov*. Dimana has worked as an editor for various websites, as a copywriter and screenwriter. In 2023 the Bulgarian National Television broadcasted a documentary for Dimana (*If There Was a Film About Me*) which explored her poetic voice in depth. The production was funded by the National Culture Fund of Bulgaria.

# DEATH ALWAYS HAPPENS TO OTHERS

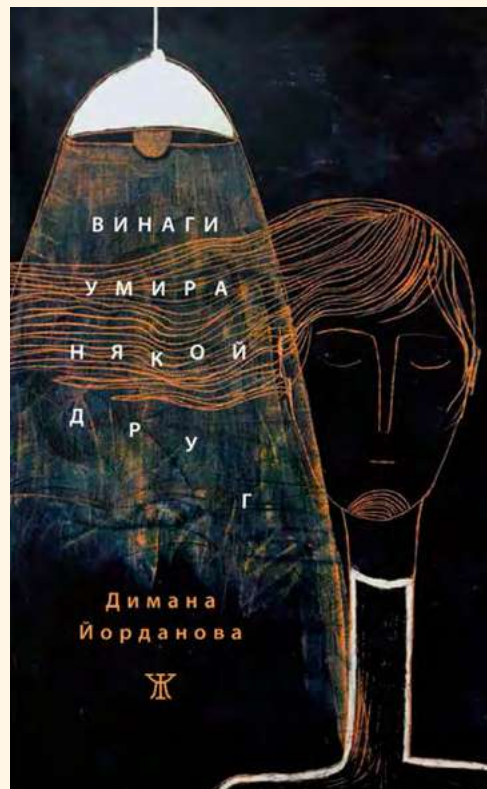
*Poetry collection, 100 pages, 2026*

**D**imana Yordanova's voice calls out to the woman that is late coming home from play, while the body itself crouches in the bushes, dribbling a leather ball, sweaty, frantic for more. This voice shrinks beneath the body's weight in a chair, trying to bargain, to make promises, to coax it into staying. This book seethes with fury, and its language is not the language of "the veiled moon"; there are no hazy outlines here for the reader to complete. Ambiguity is a form of hesitation, and this book is driven by resolve. The resolve to pour the grey, soapy liquid of anger out before everyone; to accompany the body through all its incarnations until it stands before God, who will ask: "What did you do with My anger?"

***Dimana Yordanova's poetry is pure passion in the biblical sense: redeeming the mediocrity of our lives, undeserving as we are.***

**— Dimitar Stoyanovich,  
Bulgarian National Television**

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# CURRENT LIST



## THE PAIN COMES LATER

Novel, 528 pages, 2025

Ilan is a middle-aged man immune to pain and loss. Or so he claims. Composed as a letter to the young son he has fully cut ties with *The Pain Comes Later* offers Ilan's boldly intimate, linguistically sensuous, philosophically provocative confession. A life story spanning over countries, generations and the four relationships in his life, its key one – a taboo. The retrospective monologue of this modern-day father fills one of the fundamental gaps in Abraham and Isaac's story: the missing account of what a man goes through before sacrificing his own son, and of the way he justifies it. Rewriting archetypal narratives, this monumental saga draws on Apostolova's experience in both Israeli and Bulgarian cultures and traces migration routes from Romania, Egypt, Cyprus and Ukraine to craft a world both deeply rooted in the local, yet universally resonant. *The Pain Comes Later* follows the unpredictable currents of memory and self-reflection into a disturbingly honest exploration of family dynamics, parenthood, and sexuality. The novel was shortlisted for the *Novel of the Year* award by the National Endowment Fund 13 Centuries Bulgaria, the *Peroto* award by the National Book Centre of Bulgaria and the *Helikon* award.

**The Pain Comes Later belongs to the tradition of the great European novel – complex and tense, attentive to detail and metaphorical, relying on the rhythm of language and recurring motifs, mapping the hidden structures of memory. At once sensory and conceptual, sensual yet intellectually reflective, superimposing various micro-stories, Ilan's personal narrative becomes a metaphor for universal human problems.**

— Kristina Yordanova, *Literary Newspaper*

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## ANTONIA APOSTOLOVA

(1977) is an award-winning writer, literary critic and editor, whose voice has become indispensable to Bulgaria's contemporary literary discourse. She published her first book of poetry, *Salty Apple*, at only 17. *Sinking in the Dead Sea* (2019) marked her transition to prose – the collection of short stories won the Yordan Yovkov award in the debut category and was shortlisted for the *Portal Kultura* award. It was followed by *We, Who Are Not Here* (2021) – a coming-of-age novel that received the *Portal Kultura* and the *Burgas Prose* awards and was shortlisted for the *Peroto*. The story was adapted into a short film and is in the works for a full-length movie adaptation. *The Pain Comes Later* (2025), her latest novel, is an intimate multigenerational saga that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. Besides working as a publishing editor, Apostolova is also engaged in contributing to major literary outlets, translating, teaching creative writing and maintaining a popular book website, launched by her.





## SHE WHO REMAINS

*Novel, 165 pages, 2018*

**S**he Who Remains is a meditation on womanhood, love, family and honor, written almost entirely in a non-linear stream of consciousness. The primary setting is a remote village in the Albanian mountains ruled by the Kanun where a woman's worth is measured in oxen while men settle scores with shotguns. Bekija, whose gender fluidity is rooted deep into her being, is secretly in love with a Bulgarian girl, but is arranged to marry a man. Her only way of escaping the marriage is to take a vow of chastity and become a man in the eyes of the law – a so-called sworn virgin. In a matter of hours, Bekija becomes Matija. This is a powerful, lyrical work that approaches the concept of gender in visceral, almost primal ways and inevitably discusses the consequences, stemming from deeply-rooted patriarchal traditions.

**Brutal and incisive novel... power of the language, and the vivid portrayal of these wild, remote and "hallowed lands of the Kanun", prove incredibly hard to shake...**

— Lucy Scholes, *The Telegraph*

Rights sold: Albanian (**Toena Publications**), Arabic (**Sefsafa Publishing**), Armenian (**Antares**), Bosnian (**BuyBook**), Brazilian Portuguese (**Editora Ercolano**), Croatian (**Neolit**), English NA (**Sandorf Passage**), English UK & the Commonwealth (**Peirene Press**), Danish (**Palomar**), Dutch (**Kopernik**), German (**Mauke**), Greek (**Metaichmio Publications**), Hungarian (**Europa Editions**), Italian (**Bottega Errante**), Korean (**Marco Polo Books**), Macedonian (**Vostok Publishing**), Polish (**Wydawnictwo Poznanskie**), Romanian (**Alice Books**), Serbian (**Heliks**), Slovenian (**Beletrina**), Spanish (**Itineraria Editorial**), Swedish (**Ersatz**), Tamil (**Zero Degree Publications**), Turkish (**İthaki Yayınları**), Telugu (**Chaaya Publications**), Ukrainian (**The Black Sheep**)

## RENE KARABASH

(Irena Ivanova, 1989) is a writer, screenwriter and playwright. She is the recipient of several Best Actress awards for her leading role in the film *Godless*, including the *Silver Leopard* at Locarno and the *Bronze Horse* at Stockholm.

In 2026 her debut novel, *She Who Remains*, translated by Izidora Angel, was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. The novel was awarded with the *Elias Canetti* award. Currently it is translated or published in 26 languages. The novel's French translation by Marie-Vrinat Nikolov was awarded the French PEN. A movie based on the book, adapted for the big screen by the author, will be premiered in 2026. Rene's short prose collection *Omar's Letters to His Future Wife* has been published in Greek (**Metaichmio Publications**, 2026). Her latest poetry collection *Someone Calls Me by My Name* is in the works for Greek (**Metaichmio Publications**) and Macedonian (**Art Konekt**).





## SOMEONE CALLS ME BY MY NAME

Poetry collection, 80 pages, 2026

**S**omeone Calls Me by My Name by Rene Karabash is a poetry collection about the attempt to merge with another person while remaining true to yourself. To warm the cold half of the bed yet also be careful not to burn your own fire meant for two. It is a book about the fear that you can find yourself only if you lose yourself in the one you love. And when that person leaves, do we leave with them too? You remain abandoned by two people, and you call yourself by name, but the only answer comes from the pain "that you yourself invented."

**Noisy and quiet, grounded and soaring.**

— Tina Filosofova, [Impressio.bg](http://Impressio.bg)

Rights sold: Greek (**Metaichmio Publications**), Macedonian (**Art Konekt**)



## OMAR'S LETTERS TO HIS FUTURE WIFE

Short prose, 49 pages, 2021

**O**mar's Letters to His Future Wife contains pieces of epistolary and poetic prose, boldly trying to dilute the realms between Beloved and God, between Lover and Self. Omar writes and sends eleven letters to his imaginary future wife. The protagonist has no idea whether she will ever appear in his life. With every next letter, the readers start questioning themselves if Omar is really writing to his future love or to his long-lost God? Rene Karabash has hidden the answers to fundamental Sufi questions in these 10 poetic letters, but something unusual happens with the eleventh piece. The reader realizes that it was not actually written by Omar. Then who is the author of the 11th love letter?

**An extraordinary book about one's quest for true love!**

— Petya Yanakieva, Bulgarian National Radio

Right sold: Greek (**Metaichmio Publications**)



## STARS UNDER THE EYELIDS

Novel, 330 pages, 2022

**S**tars Under the Eyelids tells the story of three generations of men who fall in love with younger women, masterfully involving the recurring topics of art, politics and a bit of mystery, as it stretches the plot almost a century back in time. Terziyski's usual topics are love and destiny, and his ability to intertwine family histories spanning several hundred years – and eventually returning to their beginnings – is unsurpassed. *Stars Under the Eyelids* is a carefully constructed novel; the narrative builds a number of solid parallel structures, and, as the story unfolds, each of them evolves into a convincing, wholesome world. Critics have called it a tale about *immortality, and a journey to the very essence of things* (Zdravka Evtimova). The novel was awarded the prestigious *Hristo G. Danov* prize by the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture in 2023 and was nominated for every possible national literary prize.

**A story about freedom, passion, separation, and love — love that knows no boundaries, love beyond the fragile limitations of time and space.**

— Desislava Zheleva, GoGuide Magazine

Rights sold: Arabic (**Jusur Publication**), Croatian (**Neolit**), Macedonian (**TRI Publishing Centre**)

## NIKOLAY TERZIYSKI

(1983) is a screenwriter and co-host of a popular TV show about politics and literature. His debut novel *Excommunication* (2017) gained a huge fanbase as the book's first edition sold out in less than six months. *Excommunication* won first prize in the *Prose* category at the national competition for debut *Yuzhna Prolet*. It was also shortlisted for the *Peroto* award for its contribution to the Bulgarian literary context. With his second book *Chronicles of the Unknown* (2019), Terziyski firmly established himself as a novelist with deep interest in family histories with their roots and branches deep into the past, the inevitability of destiny, love and hatred, war and compassion. *Stars Under the Eyelids* is Terziyski's third novel, published in 2022 which hit the shelves in Macedonian in 2025 (**Tri Publishing Centre**) and is in the works for Arabic and Croatian. *Rodinia* is Nikolay's latest title which was warmly received by both critics and audiences.





## VULCAN

*Novel, 540 pages, 2023*

**V**ulcan is a novel of multiple storylines coming together to build an image of Bulgaria's surrealist and fantastic present, from within and from without. Ultimately, it is also a dream seen by Klaus Schimmelhoff, a demented former pop-art celebrity with Alzheimer, now mostly forgotten and living in his penthouse studio with his Bulgarian nurse Magda. Magda's daughter, suffering from a rare and curious condition, encounters an elderly businessman whose latest ambition is to produce green energy out of cow dung. This is how a plot develops into a grimly ironic but also hilarious tale of contemporary society marked by the diverse absurdities of human existence.

***A masterpiece of grotesque! A novel posing fundamental questions for our whole contemporary civilization.***

— Nikolay Kolev, Bulgarian National TV

Rights sold: Romanian (**Editura Trei**)

## ELENA ALEXIEVA

(1975) is one of the most emblematic contemporary Bulgarian writers and playwrights. Her works have appeared in periodical publications and anthologies in English, German, French, Polish, Russian and Spanish. Her short story collection *Who* was published in Spain (**Nocturna Ediciones**, 2010), followed by *The Knight, the Devil and Death* in Montenegro (**Octoix**, 2012) and *The Nobel Laureate* in France (**Actes Sud**, 2015). Elena's novel *Saint Wolf* (2018) is the winner of the national *Novel of the Year* award (2019) and the *Peroto* for contemporary Bulgarian fiction (2019). The title has been translated in Macedonian (**Prozart**, 2022), Arabic (**Mamdouh Adwan**, 2024) and is forthcoming in Serbian (**Blum**). Elena's latest short story collection – *The Breaking of Samsara* (2021) is already translated and warmly welcomed in Greek (**Vakxikon Publications**, 2026) and is forthcoming in French (**Grassroots Publishing**, 2026), Italian (**Keller Editore**, 2026) and Slovenian (**Založba Goga**). Elena's latest novel *Vulcan* was published in Romanian (**Editura Trei**, 2026) and listed among the 10 best-selling translated fiction titles during Bookfest 2026 in Bucharest.





## HOME FOR BEGINNERS

*Novel, 413 pages, 2023*

A teenage boy starts his life anew at a Catholic boarding school in the city of Calbe/Saale, Germany while his father is a fellow at the famous Martin-Luther University. The country has been unified for less than a year, and in the streets of some cities, neo-Nazi groups march, attacking foreigners, punks, or anyone who dares to look them straight in the eye. The boy will end up in the Home and will immediately be captivated by its magical atmosphere. He will learn German, and through the language, he will gradually discover more about himself and the world around him. He will fall in love for the first time, he will start questioning his own moral purity, and encounter both true friendship and true evil. This novel is a tale about friendship, honor, love and loneliness, that gradually reveals many answers to adulthood trauma. The fascinating adventure of a young, delicate soul.

Shortly after its publication, the novel was longlisted for the Peroto national literary award for contemporary Bulgarian prose and shortlisted for the national readers' *Helikon* award. Later in the year it won Portal Culture's literary award, it was shortlisted at the *Novel of the Year* award of the National Endowment Fund 13 Centuries Bulgaria and for the European Literary Prize (by the Bulgarian committee).

***A brilliant novel, delicately revealing the beauty of youth and the beauty of language; an exciting story about personal growth, cultural differences and universal values.***

— **Antonia Apostolova, Literary Conversations**

Rights sold: Armenian (**Edge Publishing**),  
Romanian (**Editura Vellant**)

Rights blocked: Italian, Polish, Slovak,  
Slovenian, Spanish

## EMANUIL A. VIDINSKI

(1978) has authored the short story collection *Cartographies of Escape* (2005), followed by the novel *Places to Breathe* (2008), the poetry collection *Par Avion* (2011) and the short story collection *Egon and the Silence* (2015), with his most recent work being the novel *Home for Beginners*, published in 2023. In 2017 *Par Avion* was published in German by **eta Verlag**. Vidinski is the creator and editor of the *Global Novels* series at **Altera Publishing** (2007-2010). Between 2008 and 2012 he was editor at the Bulgarian section of Deutsche Welle radio in Bonn, Germany, and between 2013 and 2016 he was an editor-in-chief at **Panorama Publishing**. Vidinski plays in the Bulgarian *Par Avion Band*, he has worked at radio programs and mentored numerous creative writing courses and workshops. His poems and short stories have been prolifically published in Arabic, Croatian, English, German, Hungarian and Bengali. Emanuil's latest novel *Home for Beginners* is forthcoming in Armenian (**Edge Publishing**, 2026) and Romanian (**Vellant**, 2027).





## YOZHI LIVES HERE

Novel, 184 pages, 2023

**Y**ozhi is a child, a mother, a (great)grandmother, a speck of dust in the universe. She's been around forever... for more than 100 years: from the 1970s in communist Bulgaria to the end of the 21st century. Post-war traumas, immigrant stories, domestic abuse, the climate crisis, and humanity's uncertain future are among the many overarching topics weaving through the novel. Dark yet exuberant, Yozhi's story combines fairy tales, autofiction, and dystopia in a complex and gripping narrative. Alongside the dominant story of a girl as she grows up and grows old, runs another micro-plot, which is composed of short punchy dialogues between the "eternal child" Yozhi and a parent that seem to be happening as though outside of time. These lapidary interludes constantly challenge the rules of reality and the principles of linear narration.

**This novel's voice contains both the beautiful and the terrible, although it is far from innocent. Here darkness and light are constantly trading places, the stories start from the end and go to the beginning, and neither time nor human age follow their usual course. That, in part, is what makes this book so beautiful — the fairytale dwelling right beside us, making our skin crawl.**

— Georgi Gospodinov

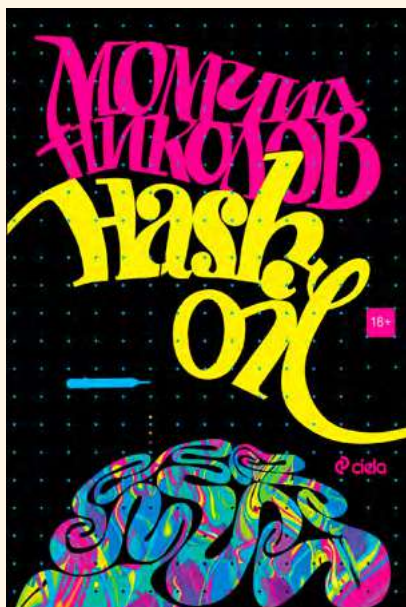
Rights sold: Arabic (**Al-Arabi Publishing and Distribution**), German (**eta Verlag**), Greek (**Vakxikon Publications**), Italian (**BARTA Edizioni**), Turkish (**Nara Kitap**)

Full Polish translation available

## NADYA RADULOVA

(1975) is a poet, fiction author, literary translator, and editor. She has authored six poetry books, including *Tongue Tied Name* (1996), *Albas* (2000), *Cotton, Glass And Electricity* (2004), *Bandoneon* (2008), *When They Fall Asleep* (2015) and *Little World, Big World* (2020). Radulova has been awarded the *Ivan Nikolov* (2000, 2020) and the *Nikolay Kanchev* national poetry prizes (2015), the *Krastan Dyankov* Translation award (2009), and the Union of Translators in Bulgaria award (2021). An anthology of her poetry under the title *The Woman from the Corner House* was translated into Romanian by Lora Nenkovska and Claudiu Komartin and published in 2022 by **Max Blecher**. The German translation of her poetry book *Little World, Big World* (translated by Henrike Schmidt, **eta Verlag**) received the Hamburg Literary Prize in 2023. Translations of her work into English, Spanish, Turkish, Greek, and Ukrainian have also appeared in a number of magazines and periodicals. The novel *Yozhi Lives Here* (2023) is her most recent title which hit the shelves in Turkey in 2026 by **Nara Kitap** and received warm welcome and high critical praise.





## HASH OIL

Novel, 180 pages, 2005

**H**ash Oil is a hilarious, fresh and stunningly contemporary novel. It tells a story of the incredible oil produced by Father Angelarius in a remote monastery. *Hash Oil* is a journey through the one-off dose, written with empathy and brilliant humor. This is a mockery at the heroics originating out of sheer boredom as the plot develops far from drug addiction and big deals. With this title Momchil Nikolov stirs up a Balkan, hallucinogenic textual cocktail that perhaps references the ideas of Irwin Welsh. The novel is extremely readable as you will laugh out loud at times. *Hash Oil* was published in its third edition in 2017 and was shortlisted at the *Helikon* readers' award in 2005.

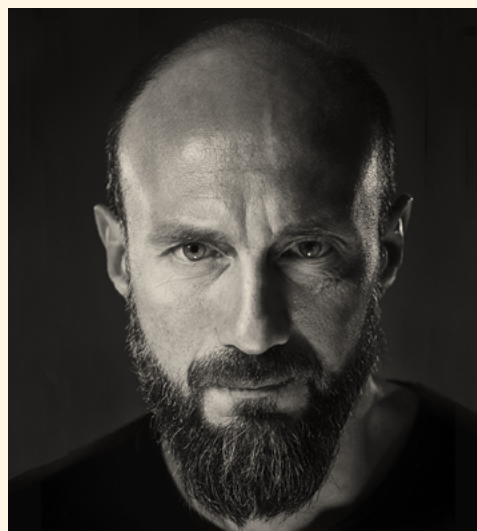
**Emblematic title for a whole generation that grew up at the beginning of the new century!**

— Georgi Valkov, Goodreads

World rights available

## MOMCHIL NIKOLOV

(1970) is not only a well-known screenwriter, but also an important voice in contemporary Bulgarian prose. He graduated with a degree in medicine but is dedicated primarily to writing. He has authored several short story collections: *Travelers*, *Short Stories*, *Fragments of a Room*, and *Mad Doris*, as well as the novels *Hash Oil*, *The Top Floor*, *The Spherical Fish*, *Machinery for Love*, and *The Last Territory*. In 2008, *The Spherical Fish* won the national readers' *Helikon* award for fiction. His novel *The Last Territory* (2016), was nominated for every significant Bulgarian prize and won the most prestigious ones: the *Bulgarian Novel of the Year* award of the National Endowment Fund 13 Centuries Bulgaria – 2017 and the *Peroto* national award for contemporary Bulgarian fiction. After the success of *Chekmo* (2019), highly appreciated by both critics and readers, a sequel to the book – *Chekmo-2* was published in 2022.





## KAMELIA PANAYOTOVA

(1999) has authored the novel *Anne* (2023) and the poetry collection *The Man Who Leaves* (2021). Her poetic debut was shortlisted for the *Peroto* national award for contemporary poetry. She is a winner of numerous literary accolades as well as awards for children's literature and translations from English. Kamelia has been honored with significant awards from the national poetry competitions *Dobromir Tonev* and *Sea*. She was the very first prizewinner of the *Aleksandar Vutimski* competition and her poetry collection *Ausencias* was published in Spanish by **La Tortuga Búlgara** (2024). She is part of the LOOK AT ME: Strong and Free Campaign, supporting women who have survived violence. Kamelia's poems have been featured in *The Literary Journal*, *Tounges*, *one*, *Ninth Letter*, *Círculo de Poesía*, and various newspapers and online magazines in Bulgaria, USA, Lithuania, Spain and Mexico. She also contributed to the *Poetry Against the War* anthology (2022) supporting the Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation. Panayotova's debut novel *Anne* is in the works for Italian (**Ischìre**), Macedonian (**Bata Press**), Spanish (**Caleidoscopio de libros**) and Turkish (**Kaplumbaa**). *Anne* was shortlisted for *Queen Mary Wasafiri New Writing Prize* in 2025.



### ANNE

*Novel, 193 pages, 2023*

**H**ow can a girl cope with the trauma of unloving parents who practically abandoned her at the age of eight? Or with her strict grandmother who is trying to convince her that she doesn't need her parents? These questions have been chasing Anne for her entire life. At the age of 26, she recalls every detail from her childhood, fears it as she did when she was little. Anne can still hear the screaming of her mother confronting her drunk father, she can feel the touch of her uncle sliding his hand over her leg. She's trying to satisfy her grandmother's desires and find her way back to her mother despite the numerous rejections in the past. But with the painful, unexpected death of the only person who has never hurt her, she finds herself heading back home – to the same small village and the same people she was trying so hard to escape from. Despite its intense grief, this novel is a poetic and lively attempt to deal with one's own destructive drive. It aims to plant the seed of belief in the possibility of transformation.

***Kamelia Panayotova's debut novel is a painful auto-fictional rumination on the trail of a lost home and failed parenthood. A beautiful story about abandonment and the abuse of mind and body. It will continue to be eerily relevant as long as the world continues to view women as "pieces of meat".***

— **Antonia Apostolova, Literary Conversations**

Rights sold: Italian (**Ischìre**), Macedonian (**Bata Press**), Spanish (**Caleidoscopio de libros**), Turkish (**Kaplumbaa**)



## THE GALLERY OF THE HEART

*Poetry collection, 190 pages, 2022*

**T**his collection pulls poems from Bodakov's various books to give us a portrait of a poet over the course of a life in writing, a portrait that is also an elegy for a man who cataloged longing and grief, loneliness and loss like few others. And though these poems circle around loss, absence, and failure more than any other feeling, they are not poems that give up in despair. No, a macabre, self-deprecating humor and wit enlivens them. And even more, the voice of these poems is tinged with compassion. Bodakov sings of a body that longs to forgive and be forgiven, "to make peace while we're still here". He sings of a man that seeks friendship and communion, of a son who mourns the death of his father. His poetry is like the "Guileless sky" he writes about, one that "turns sins into mistakes, wine into water".

**Marin Bodakov's book launches a battle with small, powerful poems that span a lifetime. Desire for love, a parent, lost home, yearning in chaos of destruction. This book supplies the light, as it traces the evolution of a man facing mortality, seeking inner children, reconciling loss and love. A glorious collection. Poems to be cherished.**

— B. Elizabeth Beck, *Dancing on the Page*

Rights sold: Worldwide English (**Accents Publishing**)

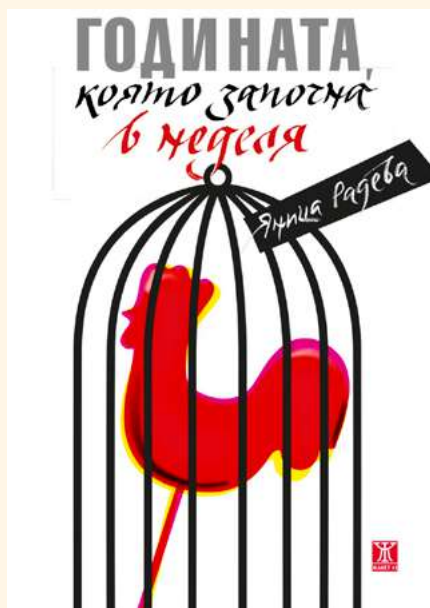
Full English translation available

Croatian sample translation available

## MARIN BODAKOV

(1971–2021) was a Bulgarian poet, essayist, critic, journalist and editor, a key figure in the literary life of the country. Delicate and sublime, his short poems can be painfully beautiful and blunt, casually classical, lucid like a song by Arvo Pärt or full of dark wit. Bodakov authored eight volumes of poetry and five volumes of literary criticism, most recently *The Gallery of the Heart: Collected Poems*, published jointly by DA and Tochitza in 2022. His book, *Naïve Art* won the Ivan Nikolov national literary award in 2012. In 2014 he received the *Knight of the Book* award from the Bulgarian Book Association. In 2021 and 2022 he was given two posthumous national literary awards for his cumulative contributions to the Bulgarian literary environment (*Peroto* and *Hristo G. Danov*). His poetry has been translated and published in Bengali, Croatian, English, Polish, Macedonian. *The Chaos of Desire* (**Accents Publishing**), a volume of Bodakov's selected and translated poems, was published in the United States in 2024.





## THE YEAR THAT BEGAN ON SUNDAY

Novel, 188 pages, 2024

During the 60's of the previous century, in a small provincial town in Bulgaria, the seven-year-old Yoanna lives on a street named "Dream" with her grandma – a lonely woman who is trying to preserve her childhood in a world of ideological bans. Yoanna's mother passed away while giving birth to the family's second child, and her father – a poet – was slandered, sentenced, and disappeared behind prison walls. The child's world is constructed of tales, imaginary conversations with an angel brother and imperceptibly collecting knowledge about the adult world. The year begins with an incident – during a game of snowball, a kid injures badly another one, a close friend of Yoanna's. For the first time, fear enters the girl's life as something real, brighter than the memory of the loss of her mother...

The novel was shortlisted for the *Peroto* national literary award for contemporary Bulgarian prose and for the national readers' *Helikon* award and the *Hristo. G Danov* award by the Ministry of Culture.

**This is a book about possible futures {...} and the mundanely heroic in a time when nobody knows what it means to be a hero...**

— **Antonia Apostolova, Literary Newspaper**

Rights sold: Macedonian (**Vostok Publishing**)

## YANITSA RADEVA

(1977) made her debut with the poetry book *Other Rhythms* (2003). In 2011 she published her first novel, *The Bonbonnière*, based on a true story, which was noted with a young author's diploma from the Ministry of Culture. Her second poetry book, *The Hive of Words* (2012), was nominated for the *Nikolay Kanchev* national poetry award. In the following years she published the novels *The Season of Yoana* (2015), *The Road to Thebes* (2017), and *Hades Sends His Regards* (2020). Yanitsa Radeva's writings have been published prolifically in the foreign literary press, including the Croatian magazine *Poezija* (2009, 2024), the New York based *Absinthe* magazine (2012), the Iranian collection *Post Soviet* (2020). Her works have been translated into English, Korean, Macedonian, Romanian, Croatian, and Farsi. In 2024 four of her poems were published in *Exchanges*, The University of Iowa's Journal of Literary Translation. The Macedonian edition of her latest novel – *The Year That Began on Sunday* (**Vostok Publishing**, 2026) was warmly welcomed by readers and has achieved high critical acclaim.





## OVERWINDING

*Novel, 390 pages, 2021*

**O**verwinding is a novel about the cultural and political codes that define the Balkan mindset. It is also a book about consumerism as the fundamental ideology of our present. A novel that questions the moral grounds of our very existence in this time and age. Overwinding tells a story about a lady who transports herself from the body of an elderly woman into a young politician. The main character wrecks political havoc as the narration discusses the painful topic of social and political manipulations. The novel speaks about the trauma of younger generations inflicted by growing up in an early post-communist age. Denchev is a careful explorer of the human psyche and masterfully depicts how the socio-cultural environment on the Balkans influences one's ability to love, analyze, even tell good from bad.

**Overwinding is a horror story written with the ironic tone of a close observer with huge imagination. A plot skillfully built by this promising author!**

— Vladislav Hristov, Culture Weekly Magazine

World rights available

## PETAR DENCHEV

(1986) is a Bulgarian writer and stage director. He has received numerous awards and nominations from various prose and poetry competitions (*Razvitie*, *Svetlostruy*, *Vesselin Hanchev*, *Altera* magazine's *Extaz*). His novel *Just Like a Man Kisses a Woman He Loves* was chosen by the *Razvitie* contest as Best New Bulgarian Novel of 2007. His novels *The Small God of Earthquakes* (2019) and *Overwinding* (2021) were nominated for the national readers' *Helikon* award. Petar's short stories have been published in Serbian, Macedonian, Slovenian, German (**eta Verlag**), English and Farsi. His *Stories from The Past* collection was published by **Partizanska Knjiga** in Serbian (2022). *The Small God of Earthquakes* was published in Macedonian by **Antolog** in 2024.





## THE LAST STEP

Novel, 130 pages, 2015

**Y**ordan Slaveykov's debut novel *The Last Step* is a compelling read, setting the life of a family from rural Bulgaria against the backdrop of the last years of communism, the police state, the Juvenile Labour and Education Detention Schools, and the early years of "democracy" that came after the fall of the Berlin Wall bringing with them the opportunity for criminal enrichment. *The Last Step* goes beyond the stereotypical notions of good and evil and becomes a novel about the impossibility of emotional connection between people who find themselves torn between a desire to be faithful to who they are and a desire to be loved. And whilst searching for a way forward through this impossible situation, ideas are raised that many would find unacceptable. An acclaimed theatre director, playwright and writer, Slaveykov compassionately dissects life on the margins of society in a book that offers parallels with Emanuele Pagano's *Faces on the Tip of my Tongue*.

**If you have read Michael Cunningham's "A Home at the End of the World" you may remember the deep, icy feeling of hopelessness that the novel leaves behind. Something similar awaits readers of "The Last Step" — Slaveykov revolves his novel around the eternal quest for intimacy, the eternal reaching to the hand of the other.**

— Tsvetelina Vateva, [Webcafe.bg](http://Webcafe.bg)

Rights sold: German (**Mauke**), Spanish (**La Tortuga Búlgara**)

## YORDAN SLAVEYKOV

(1976) is a theatre director and writer. In 2013 Slaveykov led a directing workshop on plays by Tennessee Williams in Massachusetts, USA, by invitation of The Drama League of New York. His monodrama *Victoria* has been translated into Ukrainian, Serbian, Macedonian, Russian and English. In 2021 *Victoria* was staged in North Macedonia. *The Last Step* (2015) is Yordan's first published novel. It received the big award at the international competition for debut literature *Yuzhna Prolet* (2016) as well as *Pencho's Oak* prose award. The novel was also shortlisted for the *Peroto* national award for contemporary Bulgarian fiction. In 2020, *The Last Step* went through a second edition. The book was also staged and played at the Bulgarian National Theatre in 2025 and was warmly welcomed by both critics and audiences. Yordan's second published title, the short story collection *The Holiday Family*, hit the shelves in Czech (**Runa**, 2026). His novel *The Last Step* is forthcoming in German (**Mauke**) and was published in Spanish by **La Tortuga Búlgara** in 2026 as it already receives glowing reviews.





## THE SAME NIGHT AWAITS US ALL

Novel, 310 pages, 2014

In June of 1923, a military coup established Aleksandar Tsankov as the new leader of Bulgaria. His fascist policies—especially aimed at the Bulgarian Communist Party—led to the failed September Uprising and an extended period of martial law. At that same time, Geo Milev—one of Bulgaria’s most beloved poets—started a politically charged literary magazine with Georgi Sheytanov, a notorious anarchist on the run. Eighteen months later, the government assassinated both of them, although Milev’s body wouldn’t be found for another thirty years. In this multilayered historical novel Hristo Karastoyanov deconstructs this period, blending this adventurous tale of resistance with current-day reflections on what this period meant to Bulgaria and the world.

*The Same Night Awaits Us All* by Hristo Karastoyanov is a winner of the Helikon award, the Bulgarian *Novel of the Year* and was shortlisted at the Peroto national award for contemporary Bulgarian prose. The novel also won the *Pencho’s Oak* award in 2014, as well as the *Elías Canetti* national literary award in 2015.

**Karastoyanov’s novel is set in Bulgaria in the 1920s, but also invokes the spirit of John Lennon, and brings to mind Dostoevsky’s *Demons* with its anarchists and assassins, lighthouses, zeppelins, and synthesis of modernist narrative techniques and Balkan storytelling.**

— **Berliner Zeitung**

Rights sold: Arabic (**Al-Arabi Publishing and Distribution**), French (**Editions Faustine**), Worldwide English (**Open Letter Books**), Macedonian (**Prozart Media**)

Full English translation available

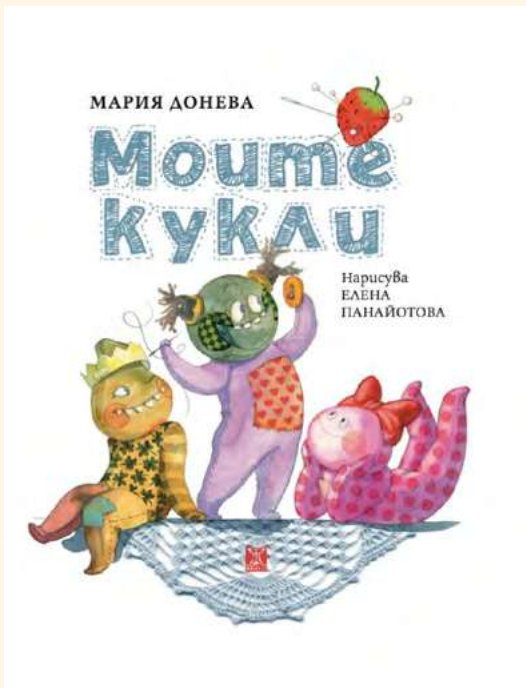
## HRISTO KARASTOYANOV

(1950 – 2024) was one of the most prominent authors of his generation. In 2012, his *Cuscuta Trilogy* was published in German by **Dittrich Verlag**. His novel *The Name* won the prestigious Helikon award in December of the same year. In 2014, his next novel *The Same Night Awaits Us All* was awarded Bulgaria’s *Novel of the Year* award and a *Helikon*, as it went on to become one of the most celebrated Bulgarian books of that decade. It was published in English in the US by **Open Letter Books** in 2018. The book was also staged as Geo and played at the Bulgarian National Theatre. *The Same Night Awaits Us All* also won the *Pencho’s Oak* award (2014) and the *Elías Canetti National Literary Award* (2015). Karastoyanov’s work has been published in nearly a dozen languages, including English, German, Turkish, Russian, Arabic, and Macedonian, and has been included in various Bulgarian and foreign anthologies. *The Same Night Awaits Us All* just hit the shelves in Arabic (**Al-Arabi Publishing and Distribution**) and is forthcoming in French (**Editions Faustine**).



# CHILDREN'S BOOKS





## MY DOLLS

Children's poetry, 36 pages, 2025

**M**y Dolls is the latest poetry book by Mariya Doneva, aimed at very young readers. This time, her main characters are the dolls, the ones who show understanding, offer courage and comfort, and act as mediators between the innocent reality of children and the challenge-filled world of adults. Despite its short length, the book covers an impressive range of themes. With an excellent understanding of children's emotional worlds and lived experiences, Doneva portrays various situations that may feel troubled to children, as well as important changes in their lives. With tenderness and empathy, she addresses topics such as moving to a new home, midnight nightmares, visits to the doctor, and welcoming a new member of the family.

The book has been illustrated by Elena Panayotova.

*My Dolls* was awarded the *Hristo G. Danov* award for a children's book by the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture in 2026.

**The book offers delicate and playfully presented messages, free of moralizing; it speaks in a child's voice and communicates with children as equals.**

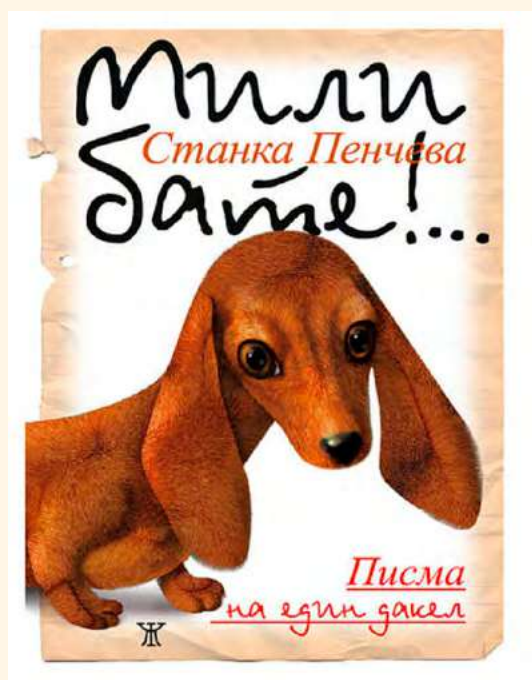
— Gergana Dimitrova, Janet 45 Print and Publishing

World rights available

## MARIYA DONEVA

(1974) is a highly acclaimed and beloved Bulgarian poet and author of children's books. With a remarkable career, she has published more than twenty titles, including poetry collections, short stories and children's books. In addition to her writing, Mariya has translated over 80 titles from English to Bulgarian, with a significant contribution to introducing Julia Donaldson's works to the Bulgarian readership. In recognition of her exceptional achievements, she was honored with the *Knight of the Book* award by the Bulgarian Book Association in 2022. Her work, *Mice Visit the Opera*, was shortlisted for the *Peroto* award for contemporary children's literature and was published in Albanian in 2026 (**Shkupi**). Adding to her accolades, Mariya was named the most read children's author by the Sofia City Library in January 2024. Her poems have been translated into English, Russian, Farsi. In 2005 the poetry collection *The Emptiness Between Us* was published in Macedonian (**Macedonia Prima**). Her children's poetry collection *Impatience in a Box* is forthcoming in Polish (**Biuro Literackie**).





## DEAR BUDDY!... LETTERS FROM A DACHSHUND

Children's book, 95 pages, 2002

A favorite title for generations of children in Bulgaria who grew up reading the little dog's captivating letters. The book is included in the mandatory literature program for primary school students. *Letters from a Dachshund* has been a bestseller for more than 20 years already. The book contains the charming and exciting stories, told by a puppy who is sent to the countryside for the summer holiday. He writes letters to his human friend to tell him adventures and curious events from his life far from home. Funny, empathetic and full of love, this narrative teaches children how to react naturally when facing the challenges of a new environment and the inevitable process of growing up. Beautifully illustrated by Kostadin Kostadinov.

**One of the best gifts for a young reader!**

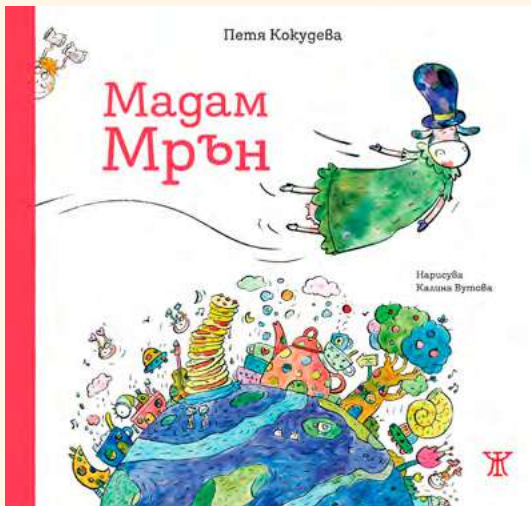
— Mariya Yankova, *Dnevnik Newspaper*

World rights available

## STANKA PENCHEVA

(1929 – 2014) authored 27 poetry collections, she was also a publicist and an editor for Radio Sofia, at *Narodna Mladezh* and *Septemvri* journals. Pencheva worked also as a correspondent for *Narodna Kultura* newspaper. Her poems have been translated into English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Romanian, Italian and Hindi. She was awarded the Bulgarian Writers' Association big poetry awards twice in 1970 and 2002 as well as the *Dobri Chintulov* (1996), *Peyo Yavorov* (2000) and the national *Ivan Nikolov* awards for her special contribution to contemporary poetry. Stanka Pencheva was one of the most vivid, beloved and distinguished voices at the 20<sup>th</sup> century Bulgarian poetic scene.





## MISS GRUMBLE

Children's book, 55 pages, 2025

**H**as there been a lot of grumble-grumble lately? And how many times have you heard the line: "Stop the Earth, I want to get off!" Well, now there's finally a place to do so. Welcome to the planet Hrumeya! Unlike us, its inhabitants adore problems and even import them, because they never seem to have enough. Hrumeya supposedly looks like Earth, but most things will surprise you: cakes have ears, ambulances are sea snail shells, and the locals have as many as three noses – one for colds, one for pleasant smells, and one... with no purpose at all.

A breathless adventure through laughter and storms! The grumpiest cow in the world discovers that every GRUMBLE can become a GAME.

The book has been illustrated by Kalina Vutova.

**Petya Kokudeva reverses the perspective, creating a marvelous world where problems are welcomed with joy, because they are an opportunity to let one's imagination run free.**

— Olya Stoyanova, Portal Kultura

World rights available

Full English translation available

## PETYA KOKUDEVA

(1982) is a globe-trotter, a journalist by training, an author of nine children's books and two collections of travel stories. One of her most beloved miniseries – *Lupo and Tumba* – is for all ages and has been published in Croatian (**Kreativna Mreža**), Farsi (**Mehrsa Publications**), German (**eta Verlag**), Hungarian (**Pro Schola Bulgarica**), Romanian (**Editura Arthur**) and Turkish (**Nar Publications**). *Lupo and Tumba's* Romanian edition was listed among the 10 best-selling translated titles during Bookfest 2026 in Bucharest. Petya is a recipient of multiple awards such as the national debut award *Yuzhna Prolet* as she is also a winner of the *Peroto, Konstantin Konstantinov, Hristo G. Danov* national literary awards. A poem from her book *Yoho Woho Fantasohoo* was chosen to represent Bulgaria in The International Youth Library's calendar (2025). In 2026, her latest book, *Miss Grumble*, won the Children's Jury Prize at Bulgaria's oldest children's book award. In recent years Petya has been among the 10 most read Bulgarian authors in various libraries around the country.





## ZORNITSA HRISTOVA

(1974) is a children books writer, literary translator, journalist, and editor-in-chief of a children's news media. She is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Tochitza Publishers. Zornitsa has authored numerous books, including *When I Want to Be Silent*, *Sweet Pet Mosquito*, *Short Tales to Finish in Your Dreams*, *A Taste of Geography*, *Urban Geography*, *Vacation in the Middle Ages*, *The King and the Rain*, *A Day at the Museum*, *Another Day at the Museum*, *The Eagle, the Sparrow and the Eaves*, etc. Zornitsa Hristova is a laureate of the *Hristo G. Danov* award (2014 for *A Taste of Geography* and in 2015 for *When I Want to Be Silent*), the *Peroto* award (for her book on Vadim Lazarkevich), and the *Golden Lion* award (for *A Day at the Museum*). As a translator, she has received the *Krastan Dyankov Translation* award (2019) and the *Union of Translators in Bulgaria* award (2012). Her books, *Urban Geography* and *Another Day at the Museum* were also included in the **White Raven** catalogues for 2017 and 2022. Zornitsa's emblematic book *When I Want to Be Silent*, illustrated by Kiril Zlatkov has been published in Croatian (**Kreativna Mreža**), French (**Six Citrones Acides**), Italian, (**Orecchio Acerbo**), Polish (**Mamania**), Russian (**Popurri**) and is forthcoming in English (**HelvetiQ**), Farsi (**Neweeh Publications**) and Turkish (**Literatür Yayınları**).



## SWEET PET MOSQUITO

Children's poetry, 36 pages, 2024

There was a mosquito who lived in a pet shop. Did he believe he could be a pet? Oh yes! It was only bad salesmanship that stopped him from finding an owner. So, he went on a quest for one. Mosquitoes are best if you need a bloodthirsty, ferocious animal to guard you. Or if you need a nanny to sing lullabies to your baby. Or... hm, why didn't it go well? And when the mosquito meets someone, could it really go wrong because of one single mistake? Can the melody of friendship be sustained even if you go off tune? And turn into a real symphony for a mosquito and an orchestra?

The book has been illustrated by Yassen Grigorov.

**A story about the music of friendship. This book turns upside down our ideas about who we want to live with, why, and what it means to be a friend — one who might even sting. All of this is written in verse, with melody and fresh humor. And Yassen Grigorov spins our imagination as he follows the flight of the mosquito!**

— Silvia Choleva, Bulgarian National Radio

Rights sold: Armenian (**Newmag**), Croatian (**Antipod**), Turkish (**Megaz Çocuk**)

Full English translation available



## GERGANA PANCHEVA

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Gergana Pancheva is a philologist, translator and editor. She writes poetry in Bulgarian.

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The background of the entire image is a dense, abstract pattern of overlapping oval shapes in three colors: red, yellow, and pink. The ovals are scattered across the white background, creating a vibrant, textured effect. Some ovals are solid, while others are partially cut off by the edges of the frame.

*Design and illustration  
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