

Znak Publishers London'17 Rights Catalogue

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Znak Publishers

London'17 Rights Catalogue

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About us

Established in 1959 ZNAK Publishers ranks as one of the most important Polish publishing houses.

More than just a publishing house, Znak has provided for over 50 years a forum for important debate and thus it made a major contribution to Polish culture.

Znak publishes about 300 new titles per year, in the past three years our yearly sales reached nearly 9 million copies. Our titles were translated into more than 15 languages and sold in more than 20 countries.

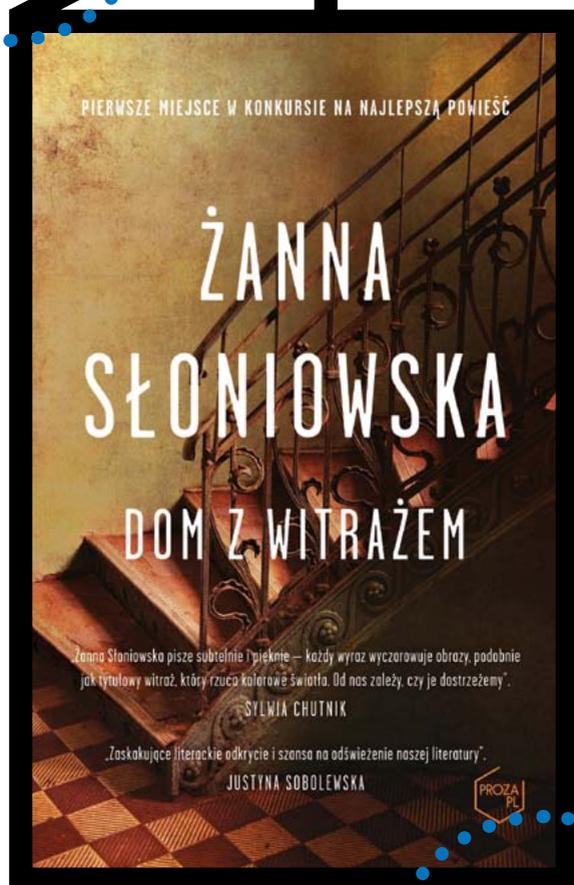
Our list includes Nobel Prize winners like Wisława Szymborska, Czesław Miłosz, J.M. Coetzee, Joseph Brodsky, Mario Vargas Llosa or Patrick Modiano. We also publish such authors as Zadie Smith, Ryszard Kapuściński, Wiesław Myśliwski, Paweł Huelle, Seamus Heaney, Ian McEwan, Malcolm Gladwell, J.K. Rowling, Lauren Groff, Donna Tartt, Lawrence Osborne, Katherine Boo, Andrew Miller, Hanif Kureishi, Jung Chang, Joan Didion.

In order to better communicate with our readers, in 2010 we established four imprints: ZNAK, Znak Horyzont, Znak Literanova and Znak Emotikon. ZNAK provides a unique combination of tradition and change in producing books that deserve classic status. Znak Horyzont provides thoroughly rewarding material to satisfy the most demanding readers. Major topics and leading names, wide-ranging scope and profound analysis. Znak Literanova is focused on contemporary voices, which speak of current events and trends. Znak Emotikon is home to a number of the best children's titles as *Le Petit Nicolas* by R. Goscinny and J-J. Sempé and *The House of Secrets* by Chris Columbus and Ned Vizzini.

We see the future in the light of our basic ideas and our past and consequently we look for ways to further strengthen our position as publisher of the best and the most stimulating books in Poland.



Nike
Award
Nominee



Conrad Award
for the best
literary debut
of 2015

Żanna Słoniowska *The House with a Stained-Glass Window*

About the book

Four generations of women: a greatgrandmother, a grandmother, a daughter and a granddaughter reside in a Lviv house.

Lviv is a city at the crossroads of cultures and nationalities, a city of falling balconies, ornate building façades and vandalized Lenin statues. The men are dead or missing and now the women must fight their wars and stage revolutions. Each of them chooses her own way to confront harsh reality. Marianna, the daughter, an opera singer, is killed by a stray bullet during a riot. When her daughter grows up, she meets Mikołaj, a much older artist who becomes her mentor. The thread of understanding that develops between them is quickly transformed into mutual fascination. Yet it soon turns out that the man was once Marianna's lover. Is this relationship just his way of getting close to his long gone sweetheart?

The House with a Stained-Glass Window is a moving story about women and history, about unpredictable fates and revolution, which takes away loved ones and turns the world upside down.

Rights sold: Ukraine (The Old Lion Publishing House),
UK (MacLehose Press), Russia (Inostrannaya Literatura)
Release date: February 2015
[Translation samples in English, French and German
available](#)

About the author

Żanna Słoniowska was born in 1978 in Lviv and is a journalist and translator. She now lives in Kraków. She is the first winner of the Znak Publishers' Literary Prize and her novel was chosen from among over a thousand entries. She currently works on her new novel.

Słoniowska knows how to tell a fascinating story, and she fully immerses us in the everyday life of Ukraine. A surprising literary discovery, a truly fresh voice.

Justyna Sobolewska, *Polityka*

Surprising and seductive!

Jarosław Czechowicz

- Ryszard Kapuściński
- Award and Gdynia
- Literary Prize
- Nominee for
- *World's*
- *Best*
- *Shoes*



Michał Olszewski

#heat

About the book

Is it still fiction or is it already our reality?

Everything rings, beeps, vibrates. You click, you pick up, you rush. You are drowned by floods of news. You don't remember what you've read, why, where and what for you have read it. Imprisoned in a virtual world, you no longer see the real one, which seems to be light years away. Until, that is, you are painfully reminded about its existence.

#heat is a novel about a trap we can easily fall into online, about the net designed to ensnare us, about presence and absence, workaholism and manipulation. The author, with great linguistic skill and seeming lightness, leads us to the thundering finale.

Rights available: World
Release date: February 2017

About the author

Michał Olszewski is an award-winning journalist for *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a well-known writer and reporter. He won the 2015 Ryszard Kapuściński Award for Literary Reportage for his book *World's Best Shoes*. He was also shortlisted for the Gdynia Literary Prize.

Olszewski has written one the most shattering diagnoses of our civilization.

Piotr Bratkowski, *Newsweek*

The matters it deals with are as serious as the death that comes at the end of the novel, providing a grim punchline.

Dariusz Nowacki, *wyborcza.pl*

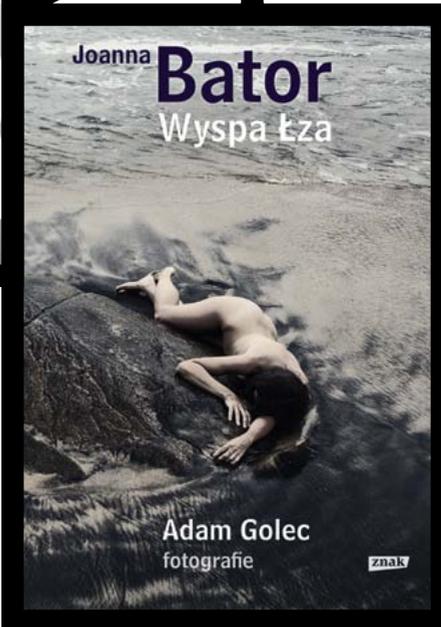
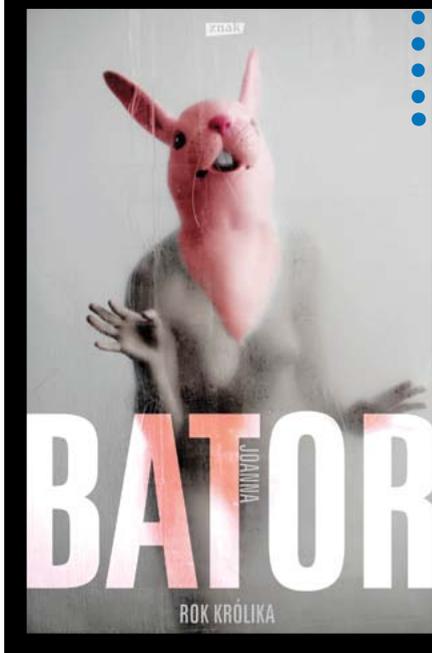
Reading this book is like looking at health warnings on cigarette packets.

Because entering the world of new information technologies can cause diseases and lead to painful death.

Jan Bińczycki, *książki.onet.pl*

**This novel has been
written with a flourish.
It's kitschy.
It's excellent.**

**Eliza Szybowicz,
Gazeta Wyborcza**



**Nike AWARD
WINNER
for *Ciemno,
prawie noc*
(*Dark, Almost
Night*)**

Joanna Bator *Year of the Rabbit*

About the book

A story of a woman who wanted to find pleasure and good story so hard that she had to disappear from her own life and start anew in a murky city once called Frankenstein. Julia Mrok is the author of bestselling historical romance novels and all she strives for is pleasure and storytelling. To find satisfaction she does not care for anything or anyone but finally she goes one step too far and has to disappear from her own life. Julia changes her name and looks, leaves her two lovers. She moves from Warsaw to a small town in Silesia. It was once called Frankenstein, and rightly so. The omnipresent atmosphere of horror is particularly dense in the hotel where she decides to stay. The hotel also has a spa called the Rabbit Spa. The ghastly mystery of the place will make Julia face her past experiences and make decisions which will change her life again.

Rights available: World
Release date: December 2016

Teardrop Island

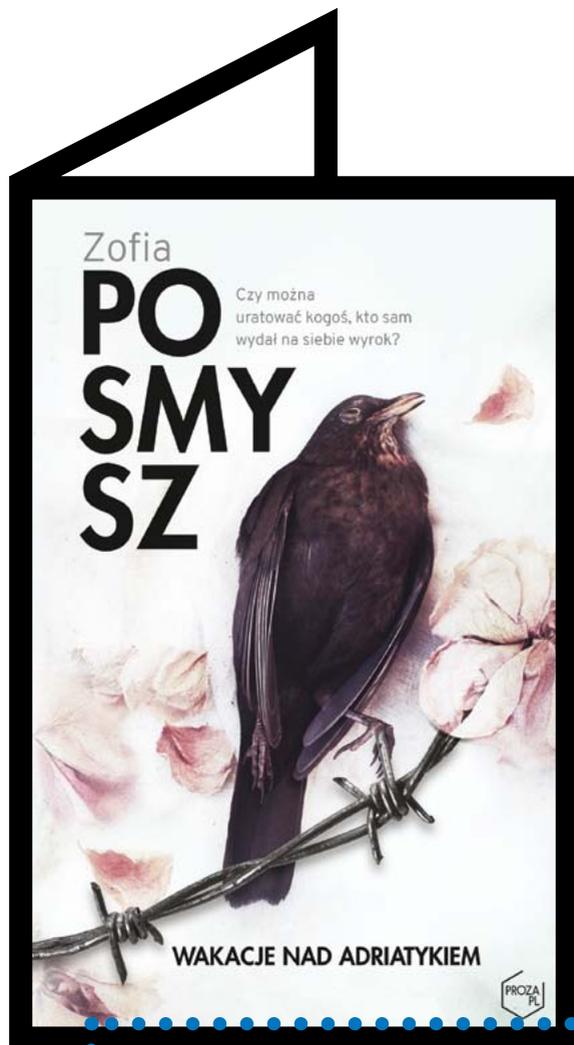
About the book

The phrase “she disappeared without a trace” seems to haunt Joanna Bator. She starts searching for clues without knowing what exactly they are. She looks for a sign. And then she comes across the name: Sandra Valentine, disappeared without a trace in 1989, her body has never been found. This is the trigger. Not long afterwards Bator and photographer Adam Golec set out in the footsteps of the missing woman. Where the trail goes cold, a dark story begins – a story about love, loneliness and writing. A story about a journey to Sri Lanka, the teardrop island, and about the world of Joanna Bator and her doppelganger. Adam Golec has won three Grand Press Photo Awards and his hypnotizing photographs are an exquisite illustration for the story, a real separate world within a world.

Rights available: World
Release date: January 2015

About the author

Joanna Bator, born in 1968, is a Polish novelist, journalist and academic. She received literary scholarships from the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Japanese Ministry of Culture, Cannon Foundation and Japan Foundation. Bator is the author of many works of fiction and non-fiction. *Japoński wachlarz* (*The Japanese Fan*) and *Piaskowa góra* (*Sandy Mountain*) have received wide acclaim in Poland and abroad. The latter was shortlisted for the Gdynia Literary Prize, the German International Buchpreis and *Chmurda* was awarded the Swiss Spycher Prize. In 2013, her novel *Ciemno, prawie noc* (*Dark, Almost Night*) won the Nike Award, Poland's leading literary award. Her books have been translated into German, French, Hebrew, Macedonian, Hungarian and a number of other languages.



Her depiction of Auschwitz is completely different than what we know from Tadeusz Borowski, Imre Kertész or Primo Levi.
Justyna Sobolewska, Polityka

Zofia Posmysz

Holiday on the Adriatic

About the book

How far can one go – in cruelty and in love?

Two women find themselves in hell. The first one believes that she will survive. The second one has no hope. Although they are complete strangers, a special bond develops between them. The stronger one manages to get food, she protects them against the guardians and fights for the weaker one.

Because where they are, only a man can save another man. But can someone who has already sentenced herself to death still be saved?

The novel about an unusual relationship between two women is based on Zofia Posmysz's real story. This surprisingly modern, bold book will haunt you forever.

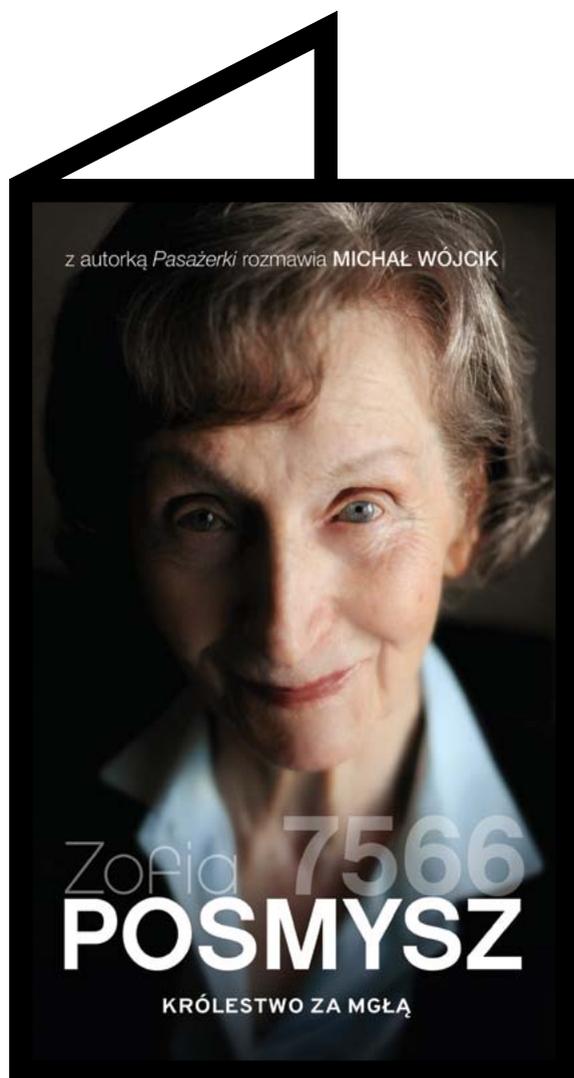
Rights available: World
 Release date: February 2017

About the author

Zofia Posmysz, born 1923, is a novelist and a journalist, a former prisoner of Auschwitz, Ravensbrück and Neustadt-Glewe camps. Her novels offer an innovative take on the death camp history. Her best-known work, *The Passanger* was turned into a movie by Andrzej Munk and Witold Lesiewicz as well as into an internationally acclaimed opera. She is an honorary citizen of Oświęcim. She currently lives in Warsaw.

Michał Wójcik, the author of the extended interview with Posmysz entitled The Kingdom behind the Mist, was right claiming that the slightly forgotten Holiday on the Adriatic is her most important work.

Justyna Sobolewska, Polityka



Michał Wójcik *Zofia Posmysz. The Kingdom behind the Mist.* *The author of The Passenger talks to Michał Wójcik.*

About the book

Imprisoned in Auschwitz when barely nineteen, seventy years after the war Zofia Posmysz decided to tell her entire story.

She talks to Michał Wójcik about the sources of her inner strength, which she did not lose after witnessing the unimaginable, and about how she learnt to trust in life again.

Rights available: World
Release date: February 2017

About the author

Michał Wójcik is a historian, a writer and a journalist. Together with Emil Marat (a journalist and a writer) they wrote two popular extended interviews: *Made in Poland* (a conversation with Stanisław Likiernik, a soldier of the Home Army's special operations unit) for which they won the 2015 Polityka History Award and *Birds of Prey* (an interview with one of the last surviving members of the secret 993/W unit, Lucjan Wiśniewski).

One day she said the word: "kingdom". The camp was supposed to be a fairy tale kingdom. The fairy tale in question was terrible and strange, it was other-worldly. But fairy tales, even the most terrible ones, make real life less scary. They protect you from it. This is why in her novel Posmysz turns her camp story into a fairy tale. And later she uses the same technique to recount her experiences to Michał Wójcik. "She agreed that we also enter into her story like she herself entered into Ptaszka's madness. She wanted both of us, together, to retell Auschwitz once more, just like she wanted it from the beginning," says the author of the extended interview.

Magdalena Kicińska, *Książki. Magazyn do czytania*



Michał Witkowski *Fynfundfancyś*

About the book

Dianka, move on, this job is for tough ones only. What job? Whoredom. Fynfundfancyś and Dianka are male prostitutes. Witkowski does not surprise here because it is a theme he has been exploring for years.

His first, uniquely Polish, gallery of male whores was opened in *Lubiewo (Lovetown)*. This time he goes abroad, to Vienna, Berlin and Zurich of the 1990s. Fynfundfancyś and Dianka are total opposites. The first being really successful in his job, earning money and having fun, the other a permanent maladjusted loser. Witowski's world is really repulsive: train stations, bars, parking lots and public toilets. Sex for sale. No space for feelings because in this world nobody loves and nobody is loved. It is a world of false identities, roles played for the clients. The prize always goes to the one who is a better psychologist and who knows what they want. Fynfundfancyś is perfect in finding his "target". He creates his own grossly hypnotizing version of "Sex and the City" but at the same time sketches an unnerving picture of everyday life of immigrants fighting for survival in an extremely competitive western society.

Rights available: World
Release date: October 2015

It is hard to say whether the world depicted by Witkowski is that of one and thousand nights or rather that of Mordor. It is a contemporary opera buffa where the comedy of recitatives and arias is smoothly transformed into a groan of disappointment and a wail of injustice.

Szymon Kloska, The Book Institute

*It is not only a book about zitty boys who sell their bodies to ich, old geezers.
It is a book about us. Each one of us.*

Piotr Kofta, *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna*



**Witkowski
revisits
his favourite
Lovetown.**

About the author

Michał Witkowski, born in 1975, is one of the most acclaimed Polish authors and an inspiring personality whose creative vision makes him one of the icons of Polish pop culture. Witkowski's most acclaimed novel, *Lubiewo*, was published in 2005 and it has been translated into German, English (*Lovetown*), Spanish, Dutch, Finnish (2007), French, Russian, Czech, Lithuanian, Ukrainian and Hungarian. Witkowski has also published two "queer crime novels", in which a gay writer named Michał Witkowski acts as first-person narrator and detective: *Drwal* (*The Woodcutter*, 2011) and *Zbrodniarz i dziewczyna* (*The Criminal and the Girl*, 2014). Witkowski was listed three times for the Nike Award, Poland's best-known and most prestigious literary award: in 2006 for *Lubiewo* (shortlist), in 2007 for *Barbara Radziwiłłówna z Jaworzna-Szczakowej* (longlist), and in 2012 for *Drwal* (longlist). *Lubiewo* won the Gdynia Literary Prize in 2006, and *Barbara Radziwiłłówna z Jaworzna-Szczakowej* was awarded the Paszport Polityki in 2007. *Lovetown*, the English translation of *Lubiewo* was longlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize in 2011.

Praise for *LOVETOWN*:

This hilarious, scabrous, sharp-eyed, sharp-tongued (and brilliantly translated) novel is essentially and life-enhancingly political - if by politics we mean who gets to live, and how. Treat yourself; buy it!

Guardian

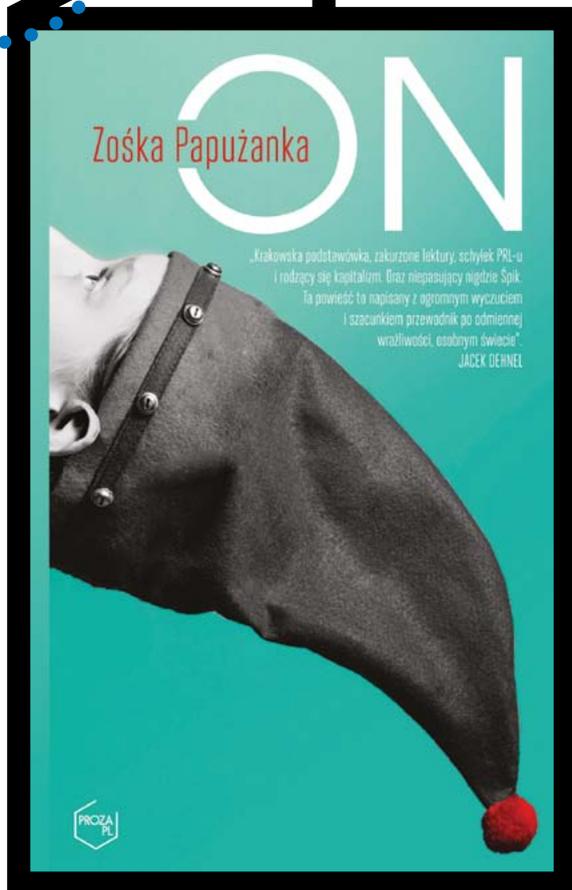
This is also a project of literary reclamation. In everything from his smutty language to his chaotic narrative structure to the lurid detail with which he describes death, sex and shit, Witkowski is challenging inherited notions not only of what it means to be queer but of how a writer should write, and even what it means to tell a story. The outcome is jubilant, subversive and hilarious.

Observer

Witkowski chose to base his novel around the political changes of the 1980s, and their impact on gay men's lives. Instead of merely disinterring a period that seemed crude or repressed, Witkowski allows his dissident voices to challenge the notion that capitalism has benevolently triumphed in Poland, bringing prosperity and also every accompanying gay bauble to a backward people ... a bracing, strident, surprisingly beautiful novel.

Independent

Polityka's
Passport
Nominee
in Literature



Zośka Papużanka

He

About the book

Written with a great tact and respect, *He* is a guide to a different sensibility, a separate world presented against the background of the masterfully recreated realities of late communist Poland and nascent capitalism.

He is mediocre. He does badly at school. He asks no questions. He loses his notebooks and bites his nails. He won't fulfil any ambitions. He won't be anyone of importance. Everybody laughs at him. He is one big disappointment. Snotty. She was supposed to love him and be proud. But she is mostly ashamed of him.

The hero of Papużanka's new novel is not fit to be a hero of any book. How to love someone who embarrasses you? What to do when reality mocks us and our expectations, turning into something we do not want?

Rights available: World
Release date: March 2016

About the author

Zośka Papużanka, born in 1978, is one of the most interesting and original contemporary Polish writers, the author of *Szopka*. She has been shortlisted for the Nike Award and twice for the Polityka's Passport. She holds a PhD in theatre studies and teaches Polish. She lives in Kraków with her husband and two sons.

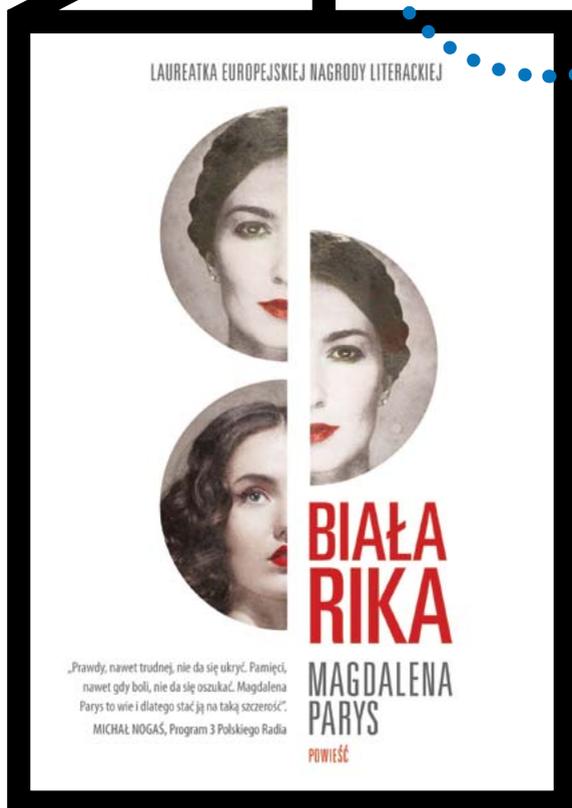
Snotty does not belong anywhere. He suits no one. He does not suit you, me, all of us. He is neither "normal" nor "retarded"; he goes to a regular school but he stands out; he goes to church but there is no place for him. Written with a great tact and respect, "He" is a guide to a different sensibility, a separate world presented against the background of the masterfully recreated realities of late communist Poland and nascent capitalism. The realities in which Snotty does not belong either.

Jacek Dehnel

In Papużanka's books reckless and wise sense of humour accompanies moments in which Polish literature typically becomes either mournful and paternalistic or helpless and grotesque.

Piotr Kofta
in his justification for the Polityka's Passport nomination

Winner
of the EU Prize
for Literature
in 2015 for
The Magician



A moving tale of passion, sin,
alienation and memory.

Magdalena Parys

White Rika

About the book

She did not cry when she was giving birth to her son. She could not utter a single word in German. Not in 1945 among Poles who have just ceased to be German slave labour. Several dozen years later family secrets haunt young Dagmara. Where does her grandmother's strange accent really come from? Why every year the old lady visits a certain church? Has she really never met her twin sister who keeps sending her parcels? The girl does not know that she cannot unveil all these secrets. But when she starts to dig in the past Rika revisits the memories she had long feared to recall. Do we inherit the fate of our ancestors? Is truth really what we have managed to remember? Based on true family story *White Rika* is a truly moving tale of passion, sin, alienation and memory. It is a tale about people who do not belong anywhere because too often have they been leaving and forgetting for good.

Rights available: World
Release date: May 2016
[Translation sample in English available](#)

About the author

Magdalena Parys (born 1971) is a Polish writer and translator, she lives in Germany. She studied at Humboldt University in Berlin. She has written several books, including *Magik* which won the EU Prize for Literature in 2015.

White Rika is fantastic. Wonderful, disciplined writing.

Magdalena Grzebałkowska

Reads in one go, you cannot put it down.

Kinga Dunin, *Krytyka Polityczna*

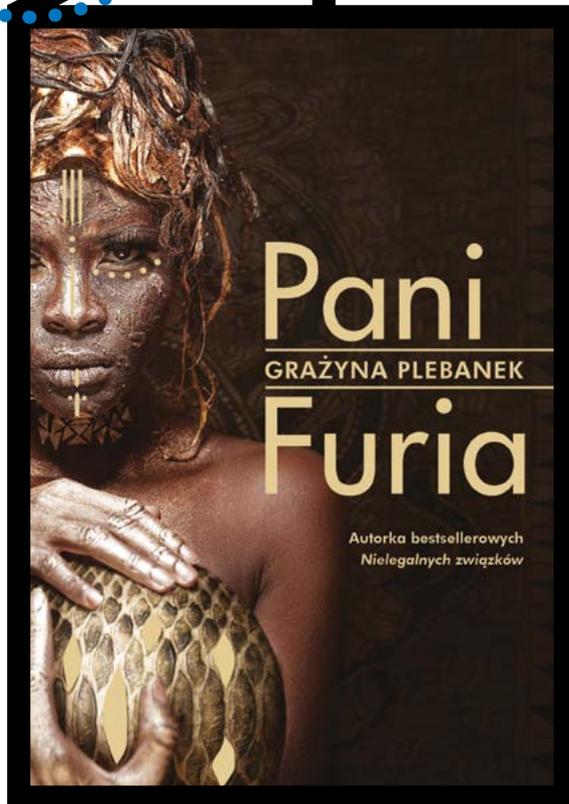
You cannot hide truth, even if it is that difficult. You cannot cheat on memory, even if it hurts. Magdalena Parys knows that very well and thus she can afford to be so honest.

Michał Nogaś, Polish Radio, Programme 3

A piece of great narrative.

Natalia Szostak, *Książki. Magazyn do czytania*

New novel
from the
bestselling
Author



A moving study of alienation
in multicultural Europe

Grażyna Plebanek

Miss Fury

About the book

Not everyone who seems to be a victim really is one. She looks like a pin. Too much hair, too skinny, too tall. She doesn't fit anywhere and doesn't mean anything to anyone. For her mother she is only a helping hand in the house, her boyfriend thinks she is just an entry in his list of girlfriends and marriage nothing more than just a contract. Her anger grows – inside. She knows she can't show it. Not to a strange woman, never. But once it is awakened, fury will always circulate in her body.

The first Polish novel about loneliness in contemporary Europe, written from the perspective of its multicultural center, Brussels. Shocking and bold.

Rights available: World
Release date: August 2016
Translation sample in English,
French and Dutch available

About the author

Grażyna Plebanek is a Polish writer, a columnist and the author of the best-selling novel *Illegal Liaisons* (W.A.B. 2010, English edition Stork Press 2012, U.S. edition New Europe Books 2013). Plebanek also wrote *Girls from Portofino* (W.A.B. 2005) which sold 33,000 copies, as well as *Box of Stilettos* (2002, W.A.B. 2006) which sold 40,000 copies. In 2007 she published *A Girl Called Przystupa* (W.A.B.) in 2007 and *The Boxer* (W.A.B.) in 2014. Plebanek has won the *Złote Sowy* (Golden Owls) award for promoting Poland abroad. A citizen of Warsaw, she lived for five years in Stockholm and since 2005 she has been living in Brussels.

Miss Fury forces you into thinking and divests Europe of its illusory tolerance. A non-compromising work, you either love it or hate.

Varia Czyta

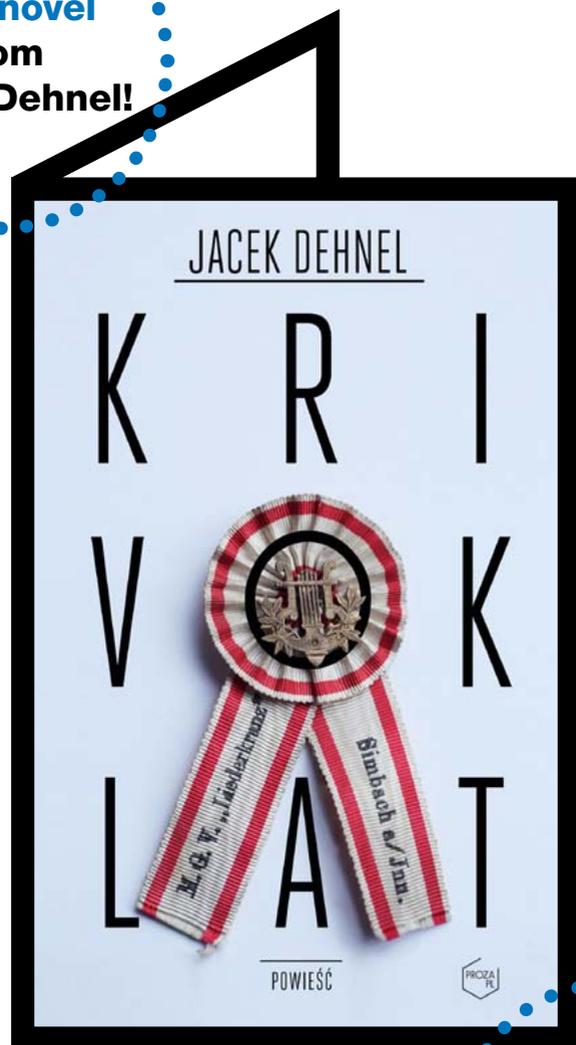
Although the novel may at first remind you of Zadie Smith's White Teeth, it is much darker, more unsettling. It is a study of alienation because happy multi-culti coexistence is nowhere near what we are facing today.

Justyna Sobolewska, *Polityka*

Multicultural Brussels, where Plebanek has been living for over a dozen years, provides inspiration to write about the condition of contemporary Europe. Miss Fury shows acutely that the condition is very poor.

Piotr Gajdowski, *Newsweek*

New novel
from
Jacek Dehnel!



Option for
Film Rights

Jacek Dehnel

Krivoklat

About the book

A well-known patient of several mental hospitals, Krivoklat is a serial vandal who has targeted some of the most famous artworks in the best European museums.

The Austrian press have even nicknamed him “Acid Vandal”. He is still planning his most spectacular attack... Dehnel’s new novel is a pastiche of Thomas Bernhard’s anti middle class. It’s a black comedy about art, love and a man who is not afraid to stand against society’s rigid rules.

Rights sold: France (Noir Sur Blanc)
Ukraine (Komora)
Release date: May 2016

About the author

Jacek Dehnel, born in 1980, is a Polish poet, writer, translator and painter. Dehnel graduated from the Polish Language and Literature Department at the Warsaw University. He is the recipient of many important Polish literary awards (the Koscielski Foundation, Polityka’s Passport) and his novels have been shortlisted for several others. His first collection of poems was the last book recommended by Polish Nobel Prize Laureate, Czesław Miłosz. Dehnel has translated poems by Mandelstam, Auden, Larkin, George Szirtes. He has also rendered in Polish lyrics for songs by Ástor Piazzolla. Dehnel’s novels have been translated into English, Hebrew, Spanish, Dutch, German, Russian, Italian and many other languages.

Praise for *Krivoklat*:

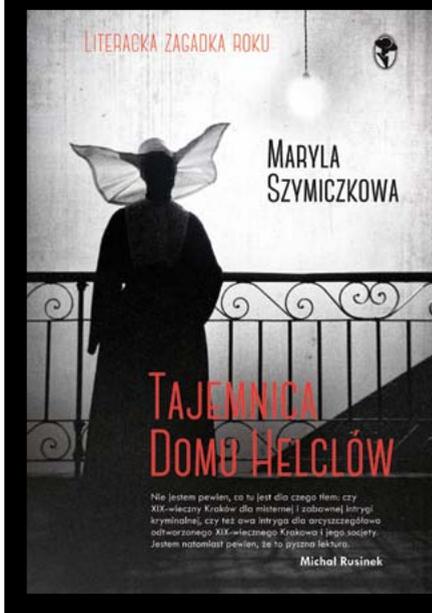
In this elegantly poignant novel Dehnel created the protagonist in his own image in order to ask a few important questions about the current state of art today.

Justyna Sobolewska, *Polityka*

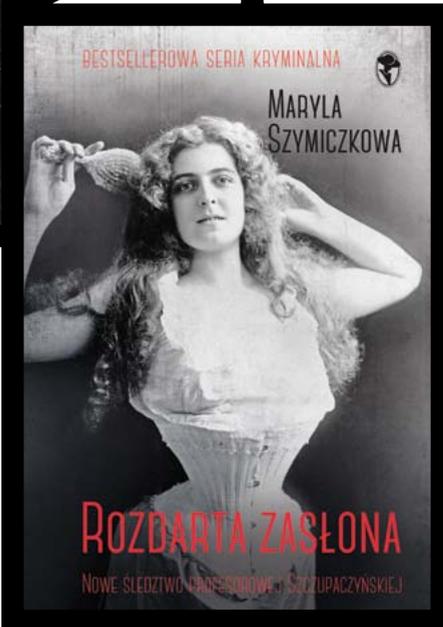
The atmosphere of this novel reminds me very much of One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest.

Sylvia Chutnik

The literary mystery
of the year



A new Maryla
Szymiczkowa
literary mystery.



The best-selling
retro crime
series by one
of Poland's top
novelists.

Maryla Szymiczkowa *Mrs Mohr Goes Missing*

About the book

Mrs Szczupaczyńska, the professor's wife, has a thousand things to do. She must remember about the poussin for dinner, not forget to buy wine to prevent cholera, and check whether the new maid has cleaned the silver properly. But at the same time she's tremendously bored.

Krakow in 1893 does not offer much in the way of entertainment. So when she happens to find out that one of the inmates of the famous Helcel House for retired ladies has gone missing, she goes into action. Mobilizing her innate inquisitiveness – that some might call nosiness – she starts to investigate.

Mrs Mohr Goes Missing is an astonishing pastiche of the literature of the era in which it is set. Here we have a playful game with convention, superb style, clear-cut dialogues and a perverse portrait of Krakow in the late nineteenth century.

Rights available: World
Release date: July 2015

I am sure this book is an absolutely delightful read.

Michał Rusinek

The Torn Curtain

About the book

A young woman's body is found on the Vistula riverbank.

Meanwhile Mrs Szczupaczyńska is devastated by her new maid's resignation.

Easter is so close and Mrs Szczupaczyńska has to take care of all the house with just one maid! She knows though that it is her patriotic duty to find the person who killed the poor girl they just found, even if that makes her look truly controversial. Can she tear down the curtain which hides the dark side of Krakow in 1895?

Maryla Szymiczkowa is back in a new mystery. Humorous, intriguing and even more mysterious *The Torn Curtain* is a perfect read for all those who love cosy mysteries.

Rights available: World
Release date: August 2016

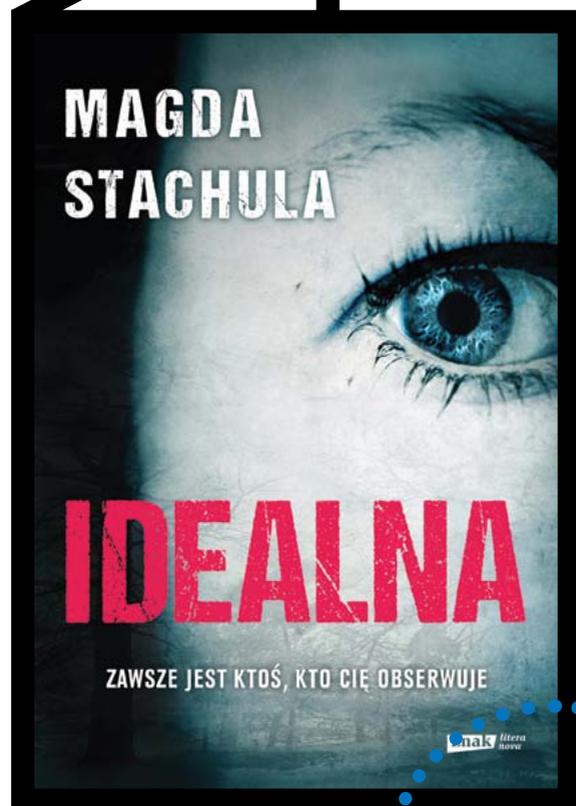
About the authors

Maryla Szymiczkowa was brought to literary life by: Jacek Dehnel (born 1980), novelist, poet and translator. He runs a blog dedicated to the inter-war crime tabloid *The Secret Detective*.

Piotr Tarczyński (born 1983), translator, historian and specialist in American studies. Descended from a long line of Cracovians, for ten years he has been living as an émigré in Warsaw.

The best Polish
psychological thriller.

The debut of
2016



Bestseller:
25 000 copies
sold!

Magdalena Stachula

Perfect

About the book

This book hasn't topped NYT bestsellers list – yet, and hasn't sold a million copies – yet. But no one who starts reading can put it down.

Anita hardly ever leaves her home. She spies on people through city monitoring system. It is her window to the world and it allows her to control everything and everyone. Apart from her marriage. Somewhere deep she is frustrated as her relationship deteriorated and she can only dream of having a baby. One day she finds a dress in her wardrobe. She never bought it. Then there is lipstick she never owned. And then something else happens... Someone knows everything about her. And is patiently getting through with the plan.

Rights sold: Albatros Media (Czech Republic)
Release date: August 2016

About the author

Magda Stachula (born 1982) holds a MA in Jewish Studies from the Jagiellonian University. She has worked as an importer of monitoring devices. She lives in Krakow with her husband and two kids. *Perfect* is her first novel and she is now working on her second.

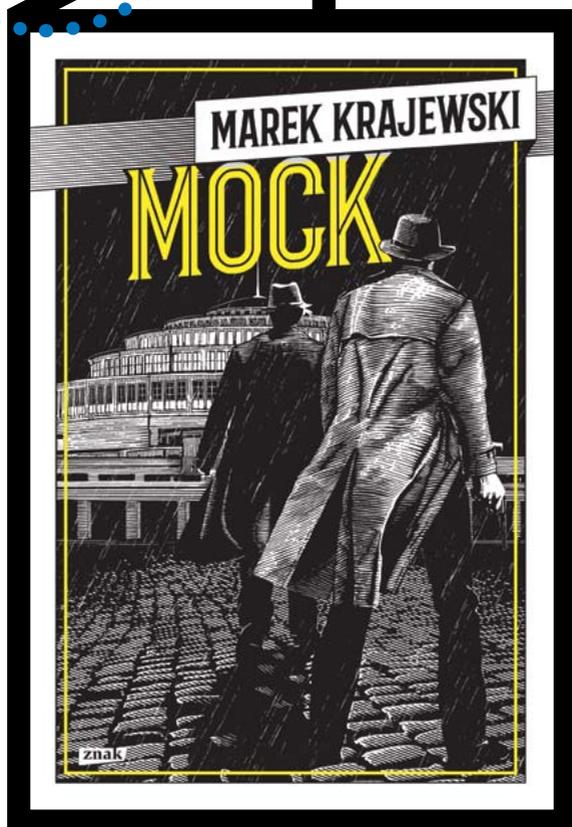
Perfect is a full-bodied thriller, unputdownable from the first page. And what really matters here is the tension not the blood. [...] What makes Perfect so original is the question who the victim is and what their secret is.

Piotr Bratkowski, *Newsweek*

One in a million. Magda Stachula's book is probably the best debut ever in Poland. I do not recommend it but I am saying: YOU HAVE TO READ IT!

Magdalena Majcher, przeglad-czytelniczy.blogspot.com

No 1
bestseller
in Poland!



Marek Krajewski

Mock

About the book

No one is born innocent. The most famous character of Krajewski's bestselling crime novels is back.

Younger, more handsome and uncorrupted but already a lover of ladies of the evening, heavy food and alcohol. Breslau, 1913. The modern world is on the brink of the Great War, secret societies thrive, Pan-Germanism grows stronger and spies are almost everywhere. Meanwhile, in Breslau, a young police officer Eberhard Mock is drawn into a morally risky situation. He can lose everything he has: his job and reputation. Knowing how much is at stake, he throws himself into a most unpredictable investigation. In the Jahrhunderthalle three boys have been found dead, heads broken, teeth scattered and over their corpses a macabre Icarus – a hangman in a winged uniform. Is this a collective suicide or a ritual killing? Who is to blame? Jews? Freemasons? Mock begins to understand that this case will introduce him to the darkest corners of the human psyche. He will also realise that in his profession there is no space for trust or compassion.

Rights available: World
Release date: September 2016

About the author

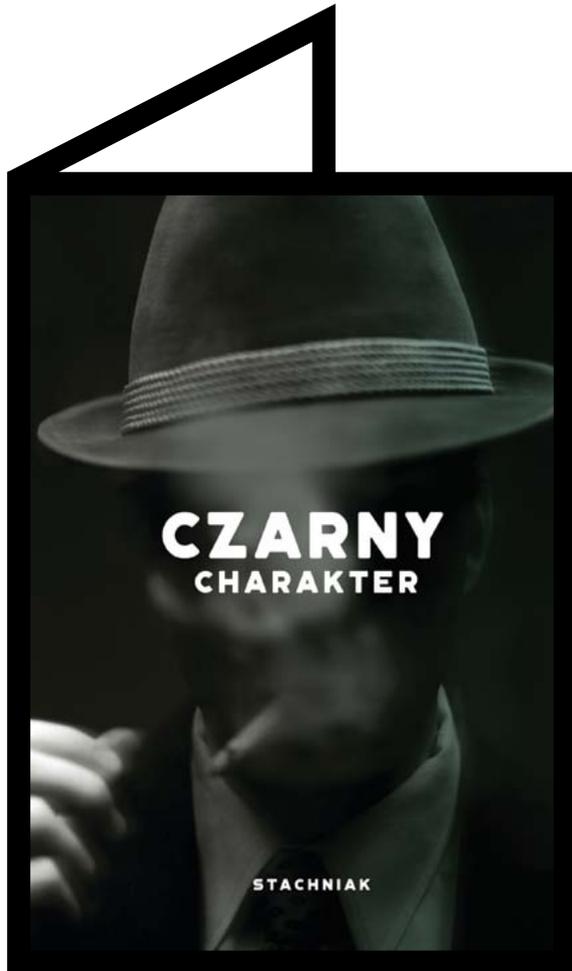
Marek Krajewski is Poland's bestselling author of crime novels. His books have sold in over a million copies in Poland and abroad. Krajewski's debut *Śmierć w Breslau* (*Death in Breslau*) appeared in 1999. This one and the subsequent novels from the Breslau series have been published in 12 countries and the rights to the series have been sold to 18 countries. Marek Krajewski's major awards include: Polityka's Passport, an award given to the author of the best literary achievement in a certain year, the High Calibre Award for the best crime novel of the year and the Wrocław Mayor Award.

Thirty years old Mock is somewhat like James Bond in Casinò Royale.

Łukasz Saturczak, Newsweek

The Eberhard Mock series reminds me of Batman. We start to follow his career right in the middle of it, then we see him get old and die but then it appears that he is actually "forever" because there is still so much to tell... No wonder that it's high time for "Mock. The Beginning."

Monika Frenkiel, onet.pl



Łukasz Stachniak

The Villain

About the book

A crime story about Warsaw street life before World War Two, in occupied Warsaw as well as in the early days of Stalinism.

It is not a stroll on representational boulevards of the capital but a rough journey to its shabby barrelhouses and markets, dilapidated buildings and overcrowded basements. It features criminals, both scoundrel pickpockets and top dogs. All of this is set against the background of turbulent history, with famous historical figures, and described in an amazingly colorful, vivid language. The author spared no effort to recreate the contemporary street jargon, which makes the novel unique.

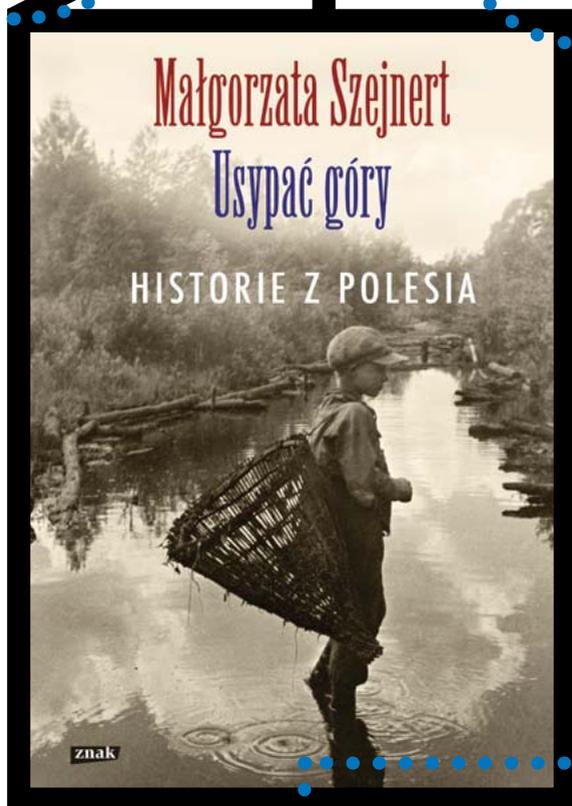
Rights available: World
Release date: March 2017

About the author

Łukasz Stachniak, born in 1983, is a graphic designer, born and bred in Warsaw. In his debut novel *The Villain* he managed to recreate the language and the unique atmosphere of pre-World War Two Warsaw.

A fascinating
journey in time
and space

Nominee
- Ryszard
Kapuściński
Prize



The Empress
of the Polish
Reportage,
Gazeta Wyborcza

Małgorzata Szejnert

Building Mountains: Stories from the Polesie Region

About the book

Building Mountains: Stories from the Polesie Region offers a fascinating closeup of the former “Eastern Borderlands” of Poland.

It’s a gripping tale about a place where Poles, Lithuanians, Belorussians and Jews once lived side by side, along with the Poleszucy – or simply “locals” – for whom a homeland is not about history or politics but simply about one’s place in the universe. The author shows us a world frozen in time – a world of magnates, of lords and peasants, of industrialists and merchants, of tsaddiks – and describes its dramatic end.

Rights sold: Lohvinau (Belarus)
Release date: March 2015
[Translation sample in English available](#)

About the author

Małgorzata Szejnert is a journalist and reporter. She co-founded Poland’s leading newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*, where she has headed the features department section for over a decade, educating and training many reporters. She was a finalist of the Angelus 2008 Central European Literary Prize, the Nike Literary Prize in 2008 and 2012, and the Gdynia Literary Prize 2008.

Małgorzata Szejnert sets out on a fascinating journey in time and space. It’s hard to believe that her destination isn’t that far away. Building Mountains is the best sort of literature; it gives us a broader perspective on our own history and collective identity.

Olga Tokarczuk

Ryszard Kapuściński was planning to write about Polesie, where he was born. So he would be very happy to read this extraordinary book.

Alicja Kapuścińska

Shortlisted
for the Polish
Newsweek
Teresa
Torańska
Prize

Nominated
for the Ryszard
Kapuściński
Prize.



The *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily
hailed *All Lara's Wars*
as one of the 25 notable
books of 2015.

Wojciech Jagielski

All Lara's Wars

About the book

A journey from Georgia via the paradise of Europe to the hell of war-torn Syria.

A unique report on the burning issues of the 21st century.

After *Nocni wędrowcy* (*The Night Wanderers*) and *Wypalanie traw* (*Burning the Grass*), Jagielski delivers another gripping story whose the significance is far deeper than the events it describes, and which once and for all deprives us of the comfort of thinking in stereotypes. Lara is a mother who tells her moving story. She explains how her sons, Shamil and Rashid, Georgians of Chechen descent, went to live in Europe, where they became Europeans and started families of their own. But some years on, the European paradise began to feel shockingly alien to them, a spiritual void. Instead they were drawn to the holy war – a war for the values they believed in. And that was how they ended up in Syria... But Lara had her own war to fight – the battle for them to come home.

Worlds that appear to have nothing in common – the “Russian continent” and its sphere of influences, and the Middle Eastern caliphate – turn out to be closely connected.

Jagielski describes how fundamentalism arises at the point where they meet. This is what the world is like when war comes to our homes.

Rights sold: Slovakia (Absynt), Georgia (Intelekti Publishing)

Release date: September 2015

[Translation sample in English available](#)

About the author

Wojciech Jagielski, born in 1960, is a Polish journalist and correspondent. He has won acclaim for his reports on journeys to the world's worst trouble spots. From 1991 to 2012, he worked for the *Gazeta Wyborcza* leading Polish daily, was a BBC correspondent, and an occasional contributor to *Le Monde*. He reported mainly from conflict zones in the Transcaucasia, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Africa. His writing continues the tradition of reportage of Ryszard Kapuscinski, who was Jagielski's mentor and friend. Jagielski has won a number of major prizes including the Polish Journalists' Association Prize (1995, the “Polish Pulitzer”), the Dariusz Fikus Prize (2002), the PAP's Gold Badge of Merit (2005) and the Italian Literature dal Fronte Award (2009). His books have been translated into English, Spanish, Dutch and Italian.

A most up-to-date story for the time of antiterrorist hysteria and ISIS threat. A story of a single woman's hopeless war to save her sons from the hecatomb of war and hatred. Lara is Jagielski's most fascinating heroine.

Juliusz Kurkiewicz, *Gazeta Wyborcza*



Maciej Zdziarski, Aleksandra Wójcik *Goodnight, Auschwitz!*

About the book

This is the last opportunity to listen to the survivors.

Józef Paczyński, born 1920, inmate number 121, one of the first ones, was the barber of the camp's commandant Rudolf Höss. "Why didn't you slash his throat?" was the question he would have to answer again and again, until the end of his days.

Marceli Godlewski, born 1921, member of the Home Army, executioner for its special operations unit. After many months of interrogations, he is sent to the camp, which he flees at the earliest opportunity.

Lidia Maksymowicz, the youngest of them all, imprisoned at the age of three. A scared child hiding under a bunkbed from doctor Mengele.

Karol Tendera, inmate number 100 430. Intentionally infected with typhus for medical experimentation. He would never come to terms with the phrase "Polish concentration camps", which some use with impunity.

Stefan Lipniak, born 1924, spent 44 months behind barbed wires. His entire youth. He does not talk about it a lot because life is not only about the camp.

Seventy years later former Auschwitz inmates are still alive. We meet them in the street, on a tram, in a pharmacy. We pass them quickly, not paying attention. They still have a lot to tell. Here are their stories.

Rights available: World, Release date: January 2017

About the authors

Aleksandra Wójcik, born in 1987, is a journalist and a reporter, mainly for *Dziennik Polski* and *Świat Problemów*. She works in the Łukasiewicz Institute Foundation.

Maciej Zdziarski, born in 1979, works as a journalist for the Polish national radio (currently Channel 1, formerly Channel 3). He has worked in the Polish TV, sat on the board of Radio Kraków and published articles in *Życie Warszawy* and *Rzeczpospolita*. He serves as the president of the Łukasiewicz Institute Foundation.

The prisoner number 121 comes weekly (not counting the replays in his nightmares) with a straight razor. He shaves Rudolf Höss. "Why didn't you kill him?" He has no answer. Aleksandra Wójcik and Maciej Zdziarski took five camp stories and followed them. I highly recommend their original, moving tale.

Małgorzata Szejnert

Wonderful, fascinating, not easy but extremely enriching – such stories are all around us. It is enough to pay attention in a pharmacy, in the street, on a tram. This is what this book is all about.

Mariusz Nowik, *Polska Newsweek Plus*

Jerzy Illg, Leonard Neuger

Looking Glass.

Artistic Will of Andrei Tarkovsky on the thirtieth anniversary of his death

About the book

Leonard Neuger, Professor of Slavic studies at the Stockholm University and Jerzy Illg, Editor-in-Chief of Znak Publishers were lucky enough to interview Andrei Tarkovsky, one of the most notable film directors in the world.

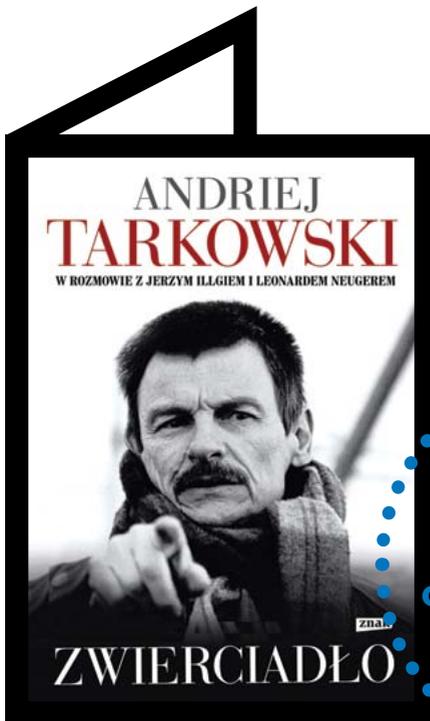
He worked in Stockholm on his last film *The Sacrifice* and was not meeting any journalists at the time. He only agreed to meet Neuger and Illg because he felt alienated in the West and wanted to speak with someone who would understand his position. They met in 1985 and shortly after the world learned that Tarkovsky was dying of stomach cancer. He died in Paris in 1986. This was his last long interview, it was then published in excerpts in several magazines and translated into over a dozen languages. Now, after thirty years, it is finally being published as a book.

Rights available: World
Release date: September 2016

About the authors

Leonard Neuger is a Polish literary critic, translator and Professor of Slavic Studies at the Stockholm University.

Jerzy Illg is the Editor-in-Chief of Znak Publishers, writer, poet and publicist.



**Artistic will
of Andrei
Tarkovsky
on the thirtieth
anniversary
of his death**

Andrzej Wajda

Cinema and the Rest of the World.

An Autobiography

About the book

The only autobiography of the late Andrzej Wajda – one of the most talented and renowned Polish film and theatre directors.

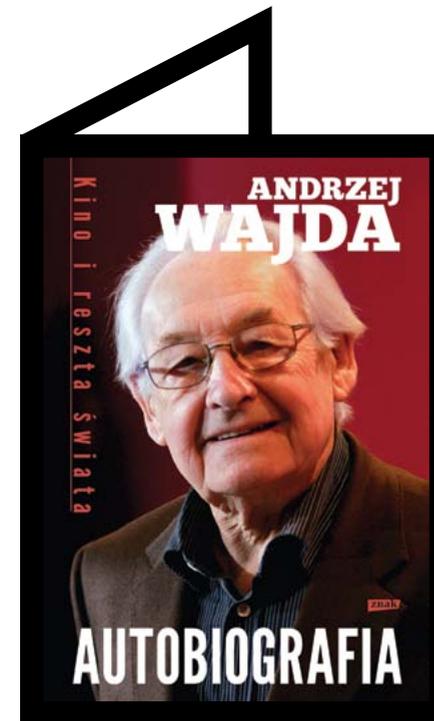
Recipient of an Honorary Oscar and the Palme d'Or, a prominent member of the "Polish Film School". Four of his films have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film: *The Promised Land* (1975), *The Maids of Wilko* (1979), *Man of Iron* (1981), and *Katyni* (2007). He was known especially for his trilogy of war films consisting of *A Generation* (1954), *Kanal* (1956) and *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958).

Rights sold: Croatia (Srednja Europa)

Andrzej Wajda has convinced us many times that he had an important message to convey. He did the same in this book. It is not a "substitute" prepared in a rush to get something published. It is an important book which was created on the basis of his diaries which he had been writing for almost all his life.

It is not an autobiography in the usual sense of the word. Although the fans of biographies will certainly find a lot of very interesting information here, they will also be able to read about the process of Wajda's becoming an artist. He thoughtfully described his gurus, youth fascinations and choices he once made...

Without this book it would be difficult to understand Poland's after-war culture and the way it came into being, as well as the pressures it had to confront and how the best artists of the time managed to work in spite of external difficulties.



Things Will Somehow Work Out

About the book

Learn about the power of Polish optimism and its mantra: *Things Will Somehow Work Out!* Let's be honest: Poles are not in the least *hyggeligt*. Were they to abandon their daily grind and perennial arguments, light some candles and sip cocoa in fluffy socks, they would probably become the happiest nation on the planet. But they do not want that. Polish happiness means a happiness that goes against: against fashions, role models, misfortunes and sometimes even common sense. It means attachment to family and traditions and a rich spiritual life. But it also means hot temper, recklessness which allows them to reach the impossible, and sarcastic, dry sense of humour – the best remedy for difficult times. But first and foremost, the Polish *Things-Will-Somehow-Work-Out* philosophy means the belief that there are no adversities that cannot be overcome.

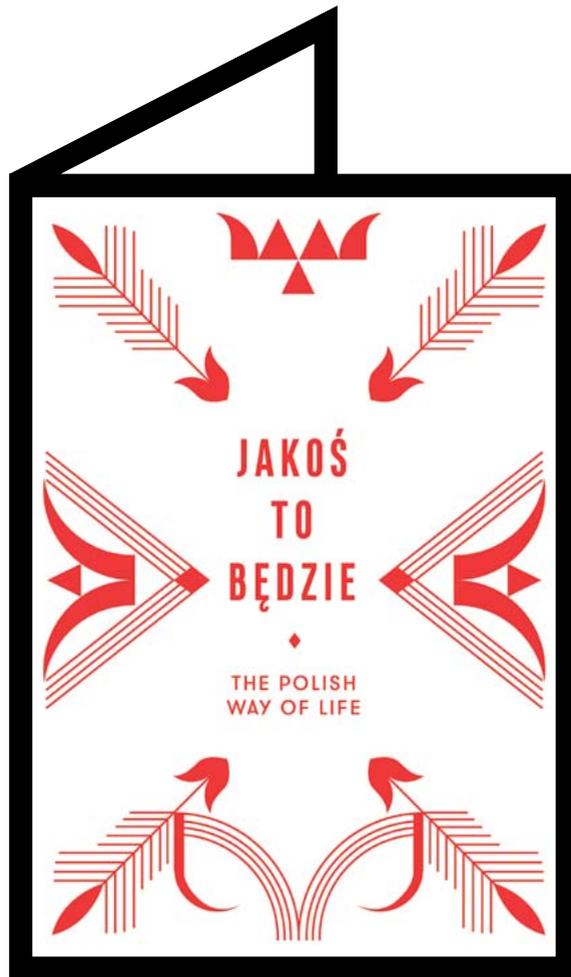
**Learn about
the power
of Polish
optimism!**

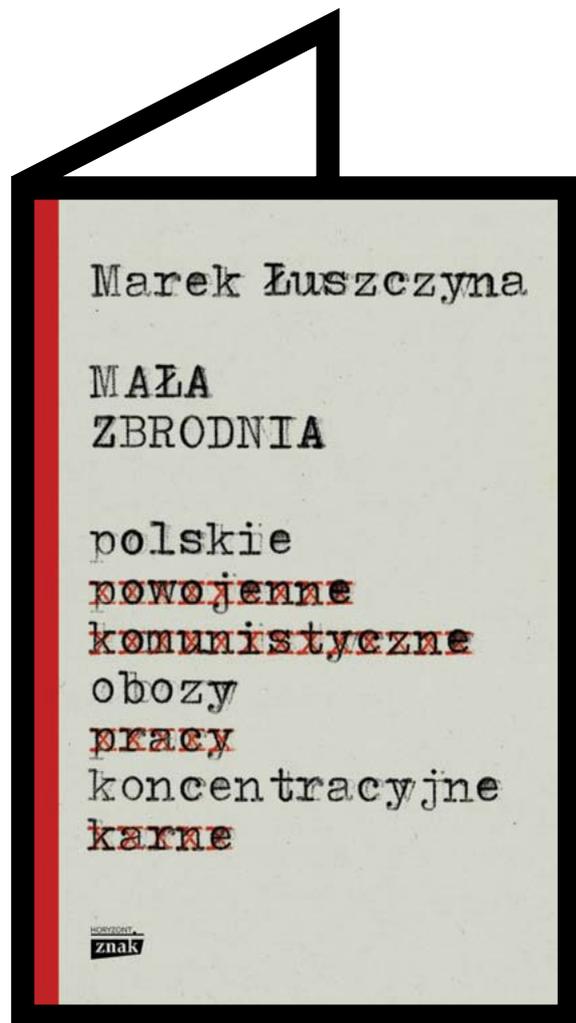
In this beautifully illustrated, inspiring book Poles show their lesser-known side.

They share their heritage shaped in the heart of Europe. They invite you for an unusual journey through (not only)Slavic culture: food, ethno-design and customs. They explain how, in this country full of ideals and values, where the East meets the West, this unique philosophy of life has emerged.

The philosophy which ensures that there are no disputes and problems that cannot be solved together.

Rights available: World
Release date: spring 2017





Marek Łuszczyna

Small Crime. Polish Concentration Camps

About the book

This book should not be published. It is not going to be a nice, easy read.

It does not prove that Polish concentration camps did not exist. It does not deny the bestiality and cruelty of Polish guards. It does not say that the “liberation” of Poland by the Red Army put an end to the barbarous camps here.

Marek Łuszczyna does not shun away from the most difficult issues. He has written a shocking account, revealing the secret pages of Polish history. Soon after World War Two, in former Nazi concentration camps people work and die, suffering inhuman, denigrating conditions. Camps are full of prisoners from Silesia, Germans, Cursed Soldiers and political prisoners who may potentially threaten the new regime.

Their suffering was kept secret for years.

Rights available: World
Release date: January 2017

About the author

Marek Łuszczyna is a journalist and a reporter for, among others, *Życie Warszawy*, *Duży Format* and *Radio 3*. He is also the author of *Needles: Polish Female Agents Who Changed the Course of History* and *Cold*.

The truth about the camps that existed in Poland post-1945 is still little known. Why has this Stalinist crime been kept secret for so long? It is worth reminding ourselves of its victims and considering the impunity of its perpetrators.

Focus Historia

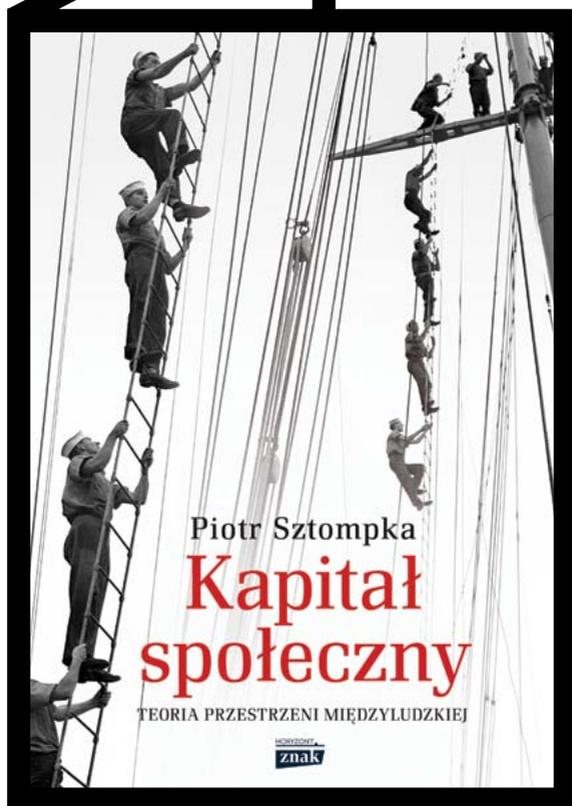
Reportage is an unusual form of showing the past. It does not claim to be exhaustive. It is rather a kind of time travelling: we read criminal files, we go behind barbed wires. Together with Łuszczyna we listen to shocking testimonies of the victims.

Marcin Zaremba, PhD, the author of Great Terror.

It might seem that following the liberation of the last Nazi camp, all these places of terror would become symbols of human degeneration, that they would be turned into shrines reminding future generations about the atrocious past... But no. Not so in Poland. Now the victims were to find out how close they were to becoming the perpetrators.

Michał Wójcik, co-author of Made in Poland and Birds of Prey.

The most eminent Polish sociologist and international specialist on social capital writes about the lesson we have to learn as a society.



Piotr Sztompka *Social Capital*

About the book

The first in-depth analysis of social capital. Piotr Sztompka argues that both economic growth and political efficiency depend largely on the state of human relations, especially moral ones such as: trust, loyalty, reciprocity, solidarity, respect and justice.

The rebuilding of moral capital through a thoughtful organizing and perfecting of human space is the most urgent goal in the coming years. *Social Capital* is an obligatory reading for politicians, journalists and responsible citizens who do not want to be just passers-by but want to actively shape our national community.

Rights available: World, Release date: May 2016

The first
in-depth
analysis of
social capital.

About the author

Piotr Sztompka (born 2 March 1944, in Warsaw) is a Polish sociologist known for his work on the theory of social trust. He works at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where he is professor of sociology, and he has also served frequently as visiting professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and at Columbia University in New York City. He was president of the International Sociological Association from 2002 to 2006.

Ewa K. Czackowska

The Pope Who Believed

About the book

Who knows what could have happened to the cult of the Holy Mercy if not Pope John Paul II. A wonderful story of the spiritual bond between two great Polish saints: a mystic and a pope.

Still half a century ago the Vatican opposed the cult propagated by Sister Faustina. In the 1950s most Polish bishops asked to suppress it. The images of the Divine Mercy were being removed from some of the Polish churches. The fact that Sister Faustina became a saint is largely owed to the late Pope John Paul II. He was persistent in spreading her cult and in convinced millions of people around the world to believe. Ewa K. Czackowska unveils the unknown facts about the Pope's involvement in the cult of the Divine Mercy. She uncovers the correspondence with the Vatican when Wojtyła was still Archbishop of Krakow. She also presents the notion of Divine Mercy in the teaching of John Paul II.

World available: World
Release date: January 2016

Faustina: The Mystic and Her Message

About the book

Follow the path of Faustina on her journey to sainthood. Award-winning author and historian Ewa K. Czackowska PhD tenaciously pursued Faustina to ultimately produce a biography that masterfully tracks this mystic's riveting life and her unique call from Jesus. More than 70,000 copies of the original Polish edition were sold within three months of its release. Now licensed for English distribution exclusively through Marian Press, *Faustina: The Mystic and Her Message* provides new details about this remarkable woman and rare photographs of her. In this biography, you get to know the real Faustina, her message, and her mission.

Rights sold: Lithuania (UAB Kataliku Pasaulio Leidiniai), Slovenia (Druzina), Brasil (Provincia Da Misericordia Divina Da Congregacao Dos Marianos No), Croatia (Kršćanska sadašnjost d.o.o.), France (Yves Briend Editeur), Spain (Ediciones Palabra), Italy (Edizioni San Paolo), Slovakia (Pallotini), USA (Marian Press), Release date: April 2012

About the author

Ewa K. Czackowska PhD is a historian and journalist. She has written three biographies. The biography of Saint Faustina, published in Poland in 2012, was translated into nine languages. The Association of Catholic Publishers awarded her with the prestigious Feniks Prize twice. Ewa K. Czackowska co-operates with a few journals, including the biggest Catholic 'Gość Niedzielny' weekly (The Sunday Guest). She also lectures at the Media Education and Journalism Institute.





Andrzej Maleszka

The Magic Tree

The starting story

One day a terrible storm struck a huge, old oak tree. It wasn't an ordinary oak. It was a Magic Tree.

It possessed an immense, miraculous power, but nobody was aware of it yet. People took it to a sawmill and cut it into boards. Hundreds of different objects were made from the wood, and a small amount of the tree's magic power remained in each object. A force unlike any the world had ever known before hid in these ordinary things. They were sent to shops, and from that day onwards, amazing things began to happen all over the world.

Every volume tells about the events caused by the extraordinary objects: chess pieces which fulfill good or bad wishes. A dice that brings good or bad luck. A wooden figurine which transforms into a child gifted with a supernatural power. A bed which fulfills dreams. The key to *The Magic Tree* great success is the way the books combine fantasy events with a superb description of real children's life. The action involves a cavalcade of unusual magic events, in a real world, familiar to today's children. The heroes are children aged from seven to fourteen.

Each part features the same main characters, but each can be read as a separate story. The novels have a fast-paced narrative, just like modern movies. They also bring up some important social and family topics and show the world from the children's point of view. The author aims to reduce the distance between books and visual media by creating innovative digital illustrations. The children actors take part in the casting to the illustrations organized by the author. The children play the scenes from the book and the photographers make hundreds of pictures which become the part of the fantasy illustrations that look like stills from a movie or computer game. *The Magic Tree* has become a social phenomenon in Poland. There are thousands of fans for whom the heroes of the series are of very important meaning in their lives. So far, Andrzej Maleszka has written eight novels in the Magic Tree series. *The Magic Tree* books are now the most popular children's novels in Poland.

Rights sold: France (Bayard), Japan (Kodansha), South Korea (All 5 Volumes), China, Serbia (Propolis Books), Ukraine (Urbino), Hungary, Slovenia, Lithuania
[Translation samples available!](#)

Polish IBBY award for Children's Fiction!

The New Series
from the
Bestselling
Author



Andrzej Maleszka

Heroes of the Magic Tree. *The Kidnapping*

About the book

The Earth is invaded by the huge beings from the World of Giants. First, only one giant appears, then the whole army of them. Idalia conjures up an Antialarmclock which puts to sleep everybody who hears its sound.

But the device is turned on too early and instead of the giants all the inhabitants of the town are asleep. The three children are alone in the sleeping town and have to fight with the giants. In order to win they have to find the wooden arch and the arrows of unusual power. And first of all, they have to become friends with a huge boy and his enormous dog.

World available: World
Release date: May 2016

About the author

Andrzej Maleszka, born 1955, is one of the most acclaimed Polish film directors and screenwriters. He works for children and with children and his films are enjoyed by audiences around the world. In 2007 he received International EMMY Award in the Children & Young People category (Poland's first ever International Emmy Award) for his Magic Tree fantasy TV series. Apart from that he received several dozen other film awards. His cinema version of The Magic Tree is not a compilation of the TV episodes. It is a supplement, an eighth story expanded to full-length feature format. Maleszka's first novel in the series won the Polish IBBY award for Children's Fiction and the series has become a true publishing phenomenon in Poland.

Joanna Olech

Pompom the Sink Dragon

About the book

Pompom the Sink Dragon is a very relevant history of a certain dragon.

This dragon, named Pompom, appears in the Fis family home through their sink drain and stays with them. He grows quickly and matures intellectually. He becomes a talkative and audacious dragon with creative, yet sometimes dangerous, ideas which he puts into practice. He is the caretaker of Mr. and Mrs. Fis' children, Malwina and Gniewosz, who once even took him to activities at an ecology school. This book is recommended for children from six to ten years of age. It is humorous in tenor, at the same time it makes great observations about family life and on top of that it is a satire of modern life. Joanna Olech is the author of the illustrations as well.

Pompom's Children

About the book

The famous dragon named Pompom who appeared in the Fis family through the sink drain married a pretty dragoness and has two children.

It is a girl and a boy, Prudencja and Pulpet. They go to a normal school with the humans and are very smart students. They make friends with children and love to go to Halloween parties since their costumes are perfect. Together with their human friends they travel to Transylvania to find their relatives. The journey is full of unusual adventures and funny events.

Rights Sold: Slovakia (Slovart),
France (Flammarion)

Pompom on Holiday

About the book

Pompom is the dragon who mysteriously appeared in the Fis family home one fine day, and is now just like a little brother to Marina and Tancred.

This is his first family holiday – and everyone's got problems, that's for sure. For him, packing's a breeze. In only eight minutes, he's on his marks, all ready to go. Isn't that incredible? Pompom has buried his head in his travelling bag and stuffed it full of nothing but ABSOLUTELY VITAL objects. What objects exactly? Hmm... let's see: a concise Chinese dictionary (you never know who you might meet on a walk in the woods); a pair of bathing trunks with a sweet little duckling sewn on the bum; two boxes of live (!) fish food; an old stripy woollen sock – Pompom's cuddly toy (no way will he go to sleep without it); the CD of a fairytale called "Prince Nutty and the Spotty Princess", which Pompom recorded himself (with a little bit of help from his pals in the neighborhood); Is that all? After a bit of thought, Pompom also tossed in: a Harry Potter poster; a "Wisła Kraków" supporter's scarf; and some flypaper. Ready to go!

Rights Sold: France (Flammarion)



About the author

Educated as a graphic designer, Joanna Olech has done numerous illustrations for children's books, and is the laureate of several awards. Her literary debut, *Dynastia Miziołków* (*The Miziolek Dynasty*, 1994), is a realistic and very funny series of tales for ten to twelve year-olds. Her second literary effort is *Gdzie diabeł mówi do usług* (*Where the Devil Speaks: At Your Service!*, 1997).

Contact

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