

# RIGHTS CATALOGUE



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Moscow



# Responsibility of the Elites, or Who got us into this mess

by Aleksandr Ryklin



2022, 216 pages

Hardcover

ISBN978-5-8159-1671-5

One often hears and reads that the path of socio-political development that Russia has taken after getting rid of the communist power has virtually no alternative. Arguments in support of this thesis are serious and undoubtedly worthy of attention. They say no other form of state rule could possibly compete with the authoritarianism that is now firmly entrenched in Russia for a variety of reasons. The main one is that the God-bearing people, thoroughly filtered out by seventy years of Soviet rule, are partly infantile, partly archaic, and incapable of recognizing themselves as a full-fledged political nation, which led to the actual rejection of “people’s sovereignty”. The “people are the only source of power” formula remains on paper and is not filled with any real content.

I defined a problem for myself – that is, trying to analyze the behavior of the Russian elites at the key moments in Russian history. Moreover, long before the summer of 1999, when the personnel decision on Yeltsin’s successor predetermined the development of Russia for at least two decades to come.

*Aleksandr Ryklin*



**Aleksandr Ryklin** is a journalist, editor-in-chief of Yezhednevnyi Zhurnal (Daily Magazine), and a columnist for Radio Liberty and Republic. He worked for many years as a political observer for Itogi magazine. He specializes in domestic politics, election analysis, the setup in the highest echelons of power and the opposition movement..

# My Mom has gone crazy

by Elena Afanasieva



**No.1 on Amazon (2021)**

2021, 256 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-5-8159-1614-2

This book is not about dementia.

This book is about the feelings of whoever is around.

Children. Grandchildren. Family.

First, I wrote my own story, then I began to collect other people's stories. I was amazed to find that we went through the same stages of ignorance, denial and acceptance. And, without collusion, we often describe everything that happens in literally the same words. But I would not edit or change anything. Let it be as it was for each of us.

This book is about what happens to us when our near and dear ones leave us while staying close by. When their bodies are in the room but their minds are already far away.

About how to accept it.

And how to live with it.

And what we can do to live a life that is not so excruciatingly difficult.



**Elena Afanasieva** is a Russian journalist, writer, and director of Channel One's Creative Planning Directorate.

# The Gorenstein Puzzle. Monument to the unknown writer

by Yuri Vexler



2021, 368 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-5-8159-1608-1

Friedrich Gorenstein was a novelist, playwright and screenwriter. He made his living as a screenwriter, however, his name was not always in the film credits when he co-wrote a script. Five of 17 screenplays created by Gorenstein were produced, among them: *Solaris* (directed by Andrei Tarkovsky), *Slave of Love* (directed by Nikita Mikhalkov). Gorenstein's oeuvre was highly appreciated by those whom he trusted to read his unpublished works. This narrow circle included, just to name a few, film directors Andrei Tarkovsky and Andrei Konchalovsky, writer Yuri Trifonov, and playwright and director Mark Rozovsky. All of them considered Gorenstein as a brilliantly gifted master. In 1980, Gorenstein emigrated from the USSR and settled in West Berlin. His works were published in the New York publishing house *Slovo* and in the émigré magazines *Kontinent*, *Sintaksis*, *Grani*, and *Zerkalo Zagadok* (Mirror of Puzzles).

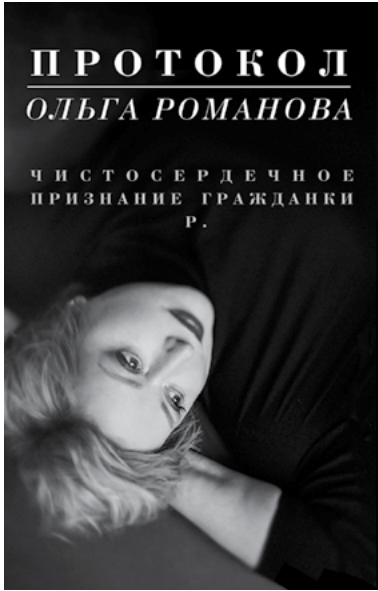
*The Gorenstein Puzzle* put together by Yuri Vexler gives answers to many questions about “Dostoevsky of the twentieth century”. This book is the first in Russia to publish the documents related to the creative relations between Gorenstein and Andrei Tarkovsky, interviews to John Glad, Viktor Yerofeyev, etc. In addition, the book includes memoirs of Friedrich Gorenstein himself, as well as memoirs of Andrei Konchalovsky, Mark Rozovsky, Paola Volkova and many others.



**Yuri Vexler**, born in 1946 in Moscow, graduated from the Economics Faculty of the Novosibirsk University, and then from the Shchukin Theatre College specializing in directing. He has been living in Germany since 1992. For many years now he has devoted most of his time to the study of Friedrich Gorenstein’s oeuvre: he publishes his works, made a documentary film called *Gorenstein’s Place* (2015), which won several awards, and runs web portal *Gorenstein’s Worlds* on Radio Liberty.

# Protocol. Frank Confession of Citizen R.

by Olga Romanova



2020, 348 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-5-8159-1602-9

Olga Romanova's book is an op-ed autobiography, where acute and unadorned memories of the journalist and public figure, the winner of numerous awards and founder of the civil rights organization, *Russia Behind the Bars* (*Rus Sidyashaya*), exist in a rapidly changing landscape of historical events, collisions and farewells with historical figures of the era and with no less colorful and important “supporting characters” as well.

*Olga Romanova lives her life from childhood to the present day before our eyes clean from the trash of questionnaires or popular myths. Yes, not everything is told, and of course, probably not everything is impartial, like in any biography. However, the things that she did decided to tell us, her readers and contemporaries, are told perfectly honest.*

**Olga Romanova** is a journalist, two-time TEFI winner, founder and director of the charitable foundation for aid to convicts and their families, *Russia Behind the Bars*, the winner of the Gerd Bucerius Award (Hamburg), Gaidar Award (Moscow), Sappho Award (Copenhagen), Artyom Borovik Award (Moscow), Moscow Helsinki Group and Liberal Mission Awards.



# No fear!

## How to grow old and not go mad

by Sasha Galitsky



2018, 160 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-5-8159-1518-3

*We all dream of a long life. At the same time, we are afraid of old age. This book is not about the old age. It is about life that is good at any age.*

- What is old age?
- How to live without reproaching oneself?
- How not to give up to the spirit of the body and follow the spirit of heart?
- A few words about love after 90.
- Does old age mean loneliness?
- Where to find a reason for living when everything has been left in the past?
- What helps to feel alive to the last gasp?

Get the answers to these and other questions on the pages of the new book by Sasha Galitsky.

# Everything is Normal:

## The Life and Times of a Soviet Kid

by Sergey Grechishkin



2019, 320 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-5-8159-1576-3

*Everything is Normal* offers a lighthearted worm's-eye-view of the USSR through the middle-class Soviet childhood of a nerdy boy in the 1970s and '80s. A relatable journey into the world of the late-days Soviet Union, *Everything is Normal* is both a memoir and a social history — a reflection on the mundane deprivations and existential terrors of day-to-day life in Leningrad in the decades preceding the collapse of the USSR.

Sergey Grechishkin's world is strikingly different, largely unknown, and fascinatingly unusual, and yet a world that readers who grew up in the United States or Europe during the same period will partly recognize. This is a tale of friendship, school, and growing up — to read *Everything is Normal* is to discover the very foreign way of life behind the Iron Curtain, but also to journey back into a shared past.

*“Like walking through the looking-glass into 1970s-80s Leningrad... funny, shocking and occasionally even tender... prepare to be transported back to the USSR.” — **Lisa Dickey, author of Bears in the Streets***

*“A rare glimpse of life in Soviet Russia before and during perestroika. Everything is Normal is the tender and often funny story of a personal journey paralleled by seismic changes in the country itself. A captivating read.” — **Elena Gorokhova, author of Russian Tattoo***



Life’s journey took **Sergey Grechishkin** from a communal flat in Leningrad, through studies in China and France, and on to top banking jobs in London. Today he splits his time between London and Singapore and juggles his work and three children with teaching, investing into early-stage businesses, and writing.

# Cases, Jokes, Aphorisms

by Faina Ranevskaya



2015, 160 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-5-8159-1246-5

**Rights Sold:** Poland

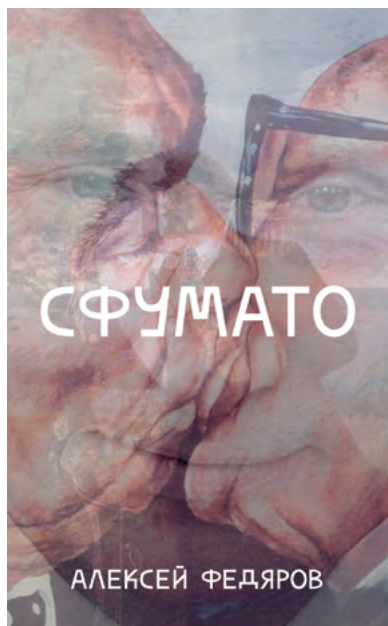
(Европа. RU)

This book includes aphorisms, jokes, anecdotes, everyday stories, the author or main character of which is Faina Ranevskaya. She was an actress capable to replace the whole troupe: a philosopher with the cigarette, scandalous person, acid tongued lady with the rich voice. But for all that, she was extremely lonesome and vulnerable soul. She never minced her words. Many people believed that Ranevskaya thought up jokes or aphorisms, which then scattered around Moscow and moved further. The fact is, she did not need to make up anything. Her wit was like a reflex — it was spontaneous.



# Sfumato

by Alexey Fedyarov



**It's close to Orwell!**

2019, 192 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-5-8159-1562-6

*Sfumato (Italian) — shaded, ad litteram — vanishing like smoke.*

The dystopian novel is set several decades after our present time. The world community, realizing that games with nuclear weapons pose a serious danger to humanity and being truly afraid of this, made a convention with Russia, which allowed its rulers, in exchange for the world's nuclear security and some other bonuses, to do as they like within their own country. And they do: totalitarianism has acquired a perfect form. As a result of the extensive renovation, nothing has been left of Moscow, not even the Kremlin, however, the control center of this very totalitarianism, as well as the center of a relatively acceptable life, is still here.

The country is divided into clusters where the population is settled according to the leaders' instructions. The novel describes with vivid ingenuity and in many details how it all works. The dissenters are to be eliminated or to work at the mine or live in FJL Cluster at Franz Josef Land, the home of those "who were dissatisfied with everything before and quickly became disappointed with the new order after the Convention".

It is impossible to flee abroad because of the Convention. But among the dissenters there are those whom the rulers hold in reserve. Why is a mystery and driving belt of the intrigue.

*"This book is a secret master plan for the development of the country that accidentally fell into the author's hands. Get ready"*



**Alexey Fedyarov**, born in 1976 in Chuvashia, he grew up in a village a hundred kilometers from Cheboksary, the capital city of the region. In 1992 he graduated from school, entered the Chuvash State University, Law Faculty. From the fifth year began working as an investigator in the Public Prosecutor's Office. He left the Prosecutor's Office in 2007, as head of the Investigation Department, Chuvash Prosecutor's office. Since then he has been in business

# Agami

by Alexey Fedyarov



2020, 272 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-5-8159-1603-6

Welcome to Russia of 2044. A land of closed borders and clusters. A land of sfumato. Agami is the place of coveted freedom, the borderline that splits the world into two halves. The place you can only get to by going through Sfumato. Through rebellion. Rebellion is never meaningful or merciful. However, if it is successful, it is called differently.

*“Alexei Fedyarov is a master of narrative tension. The anxious anticipation - the very suspense without which an action-packed work is impossible — would not let you go throughout the entire text he has written. Therefore, it was a pity to turn the last page of his novel Sfumato. However, there was no question of any continuation: the dystopia ended too much darkly. The Russia of the future was not at all beautiful in it, but hopeless, because the best people accepted the omnipotence of totalitarianism, and even the children of those who had died in the struggle against it became its*

*faithful guards, employees of the secret security services, and considered themselves as the people of the future. The rest of the world was simply fenced off by the special convention that reserved for this cave-state the right to do anything with its population as long as nuclear safety was guaranteed. Not a chance for the continuation!.. Dead end.*

*Suddenly Alexei Fedyarov writes a new book called Agami. There are familiar characters in it, and it is about the very Russia of the future — about the year of 2044.” (Anna Berseneva, writer)*



# In the First Person

by Michail Shevelev



2018, 152 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-5-8159-1519-0

**Rights Sold:**

France (Gallimard)

*“This book could be called a detective story by the old standards, but based on the changing formats of the new time it combines sentimental drama, journalistic investigation, social essay and parody.*

*However, this attempt to review does not make much sense.*

*The main thing is that this book is unputdownable until you finish reading the last line”*

***Lyudmila Ulitskaya***

The most logical, consistent and tenacious thing in life is history. It knows no exception to the rule: everything has its roots, nothing comes from nothing. Some people are just lucky and avoid learning this by personal experience. The characters of the first book in this series couldn't escape the encounter with the past. The history of the late Soviet Union, which turned into a post-Soviet something, the world of dirty money flowing from one country to another, and those who manage such “flows” — all this has become their personal drama. They have the only alternative — to give up or to fight. And they will have to be solving this dilemma for quite a long time.

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