

PROMETEJ

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**Fiction Autumn
2023**



Fiction, Literary Fiction

Publishing House: Prometej
Edition: Reka
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 127 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Original title: *Lacrimarium*

ALEKSANDAR TANURDŽIĆ

Lacrimarium

NOVEL

Date of publication January 2023

Ana does not cry – she is lacrimarium in entirety

She is a lacrimarium filled to the brim, an exhausted look, an unfulfilled desire, an unfulfilled vow. She is Ana Katić – a barren woman. Building the inner world of the main character, the author, in this short novel charged with the deepest emotions, introduces a topic that is still considered taboo in our surroundings and reminds us that we live in a society where childbirth is seen as a natural necessity of every woman, and any absence of offspring is met with contempt. At the same time, that society remains blind to internal turmoil and struggles, so often even the ones closest to someone do not see how much strength is needed for new attempts and new disappointments.

This exactly is a story about that daily struggle; this is support to every woman who is searching in vain for the answer to the question why me; these are words of understanding for those who look down before every pregnant belly; this is a novel about her, whose longing for a child causes compassion and anguish in her chest. Ana Katić poured a whole range of infertile women into herself and, encouraging herself, through the pages of this novel, she encourages them too.

The pain of all those who, on their own, bear the fate of not being able to give birth was poured into this living lacrimarium, leaving us with the question: does one's soul still have some room left for hope even when everything seems to be lost?

Aleksandar Tanurdžić was born on December 7th, 1988 in Sombor, where he graduated high school and the Drama Studio at the National Theater in Sombor. He continued his education at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad at the Department of Serbian Language and Literature, and obtained his master's degree at the Department of Comparative Literature with Literary Theory. He published his first short story called Terevenka in 2013 in the culture magazine Avangrad, and after that, in 2018, in the Croatian magazine Zvona i nari he published two stories: The Principle of the Circle and Never and Now. The story Line of the Circle is represented in the collection The Last Atari Generation: Panorama of Novi Sad Prosaists. The story has been translated into English.

He published his first novel A mouth full of cherries in the Reka edition of Prometej publishing house in 2020. The novel was shortlisted for the Golden Sunflower award, Biljana Jovanović award and received a critic's nomination for the Meša Selimović award. The second edition of the novel was printed in 2021. As the winner of the contest of the Sombor library Karlo Bjelicki and the Sombor Literary Festival, he published the collection of stories named Osma in 2022.



Fiction, Literary Fiction

Publishing House: Prometej
Edition: Reka
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 205 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Original title: *Usta mi puna višanja*

ALEKSANDAR TANURDŽIĆ

A mouth full of cherries

NOVEL

Date of publication December 2020

A haunting journey from innocence to introspection

Stefan and Jakov, bound as brothers through a shared agony, find themselves forever entwined by the haunting echoes of their upbringing in the dwelling of the village priest, Father Ljuba. Within the confines of their childhood home, a crucible of both harrowing initiations into adulthood and unyielding religious fervor orchestrated by Father Ljuba, their lives unfold.

In this narrative of contrasts, Father Ljuba emerges as the embodiment of malevolence veiled in the vestments of faith, wielding dominion as the ultimate authority within the village. His intentions, draped in a guise of piety, are but a cloak for his unscrupulous machinations—a puppeteer tirelessly orchestrating his sinister ambitions. Yet, amid their uncorrupted innocence, Stefan and Jakov stand as stark counterpoints to his maleficence, their spirits untainted by his malevolent grasp.

As they grapple with the cruelties imposed upon them in the sanctum of their home, the boys also bear witness to the tableau unfolding around them—a tableau that mirrors the intricate tapestry of a patriarchal Serbian village. Through the lens of Stefan's introspective consciousness, akin to the protagonists sculpted by Lawrence Durrell, the reader is ushered into a realm of obscurity and agitated breaths. Here, the chasms within the human psyche unravel, laid bare in moments when reality's weight becomes insurmountable for a solitary soul. Within whose silhouette do we discover the essence of liberation? Can the reflection in another's eyes offer solace, but only if they retain the fragments of what predates?

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Edition: Reka
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 153 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Original title: *Kratki rezovi*

NATAŠA SMIRNOV

Short cuts

NOVEL

Date of publication July 2023

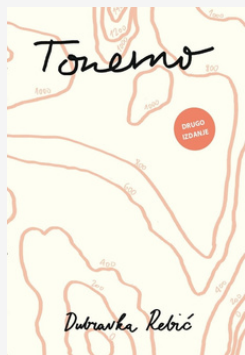
How far are we from someone's everyday struggle, how much do we know about them?

Short cuts by Natasha Smirnov is a sobering novel. By presenting the problem of teenage suicide, Nataša Smirnov engages in a long and hard struggle, in which time itself takes on different dimensions – a second lasts for hours, and a second is long enough to end everything. This temporal illogicality, yet comprehensiveness, will be filled with lines written by the hand of a mother who feels every movement of a clock pointer on her skin. The relationship between parents and children, cause and effect, error and guilt, are intertwined in an unpretentious style, because there is no opportunity left for linguistic figuration. Thoughts are clear, thoughts are concise, thoughts are dangerous. Who are we in an internal conflict?

Life is a cut marked by a scar on the skin. The scar heals, leaves a mark, threatens us, checks up on us, reminds us – it reminds us that the institutions do not care, that they are complicated and dilapidated and that there are only a few people, who do not play God, but come to help as man to a man. In the end, children are people, and the desire to not exist follows each and every one of us; nihilism is inevitable, but it should be prolonged.

This debut novel will make us take a look at the person next to us, especially if it is someone who has just started to grow up.

Natasa Smirnov was born in 1982 in Novi Sad, where she still lives with her children. She majored in English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. She has been engaged in translating for almost two decades, and in 2015 she has become a court interpreter. Since 2017, working as an associate of a publishing house from America, she has edited over a hundred bestsellers that are sold on the Amazon platform. This is her first novel as a writer. Nataša sees writing and publishing stories as a remedy for today's ubiquitous feeling of alienation and loneliness among people and as her contribution to strengthening the sense of community. In her free time, you can find her with her hands in fresh dough or walking through Novi Sad, which she adores and perceives as a place neither too big nor too small for a moderately quiet life.



Fiction, Literary Fiction

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Pages & Size: 165 | 13,5x21,5 cm
Original title: *Tonemo*

DUBRAVKA REBIĆ

We are sinking

NOVEL

Date of publication June 2022

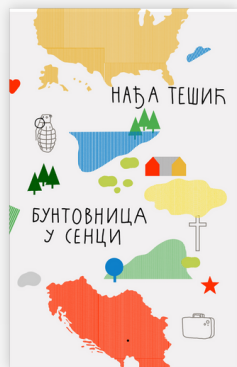
Journey through intertwined stories of sinking souls, where self-discovery becomes the lifebuoy

The destinies we share with strangers easily pass us by, without realizing that we share the same pain. We are sinking together, striving for Oz, in pursuit of a great wizard to remind us that everything we are searching for already exists within. We are already brave, already smart, it is just that we had lost our self somewhere along the way and can find it only by sinking, for it is hidden in the depths. Or perhaps it is at the surface?

Dubravka Rebić is an author whose voice will touch the readers and at the same time shake them down to the core with her poignancy and her ability to look deep into the darkest parts of human relationships. Her style is simple, her narration precise, carrying an inexplicable amount of sorrow dragging one to the bottom.

The stories of four protagonists, although seemingly unrelated, pass each other by out in the open, just like we pass by people screaming for help yet we don't hear them. Each of them sinking in their own way, inevitably, in silence. A Croatian woman who moved to Serbia for love having a hard time fitting in faced with prejudice and hate. A young woman suffering psychological abuse of her partner. A young man who through his battles with panic and anxiety attacks, reveals secrets from his childhood which he hid from himself. The author guides us through these stories and reminds us that it is crucial to gather the courage and love yourself despite everything, so we don't sink too.

Dubravka Rebić, was born and raised in Novi Sad where she currently resides. She finished her bachelor studies in journalism at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Novi Sad, and her master studies in marketing management at the Faculty of Organisational Sciences at the University of Belgrade. Rebić has also done modern ballet, although unsuccessfully, written movie and music reviews and worked as a copywriter.



Fiction, Literary Fiction

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Original title: *Buntovnica u senci*

English PDF available

NAĐA TEŠIĆ

Shadow partisan

NOVEL

Date of publication December 2022

A poignant story of growing up after the war as a Yugoslav and female.

Ideologies sweep across post-war Europe and clash when a new Marxist regime confronts Church and the Old Ways in a small Yugoslav village.

"Children have no choice anywhere except in their heads," laments Anna, who narrates a bildungsroman set in post-WW II Yugoslavia. Anna's uneasy relationship with a mother who favors her younger brother, her yearning for an absent father and affinity for a grandmother, and her molestation by the family physician are familiar motifs in this genre. But playwright and actress Tesich apparently draws upon her own childhood experiences to limn an authentic, copiously detailed portrait of a backward Eastern European village in the first awkward throes of Communism. Anna's language is as raw and artless as her hamlet, whose progress is impeded by "reactionary" superstition, ignorance and poverty.

A evocative first novel about growing up female in a small Yugoslavian village that tells a familiar story from a fresh perspective: it's part memoir, part docudrama and part Grimm's fairy tale. Altogether, the leisurely narrative wonderfully evokes a bittersweet lost world, full of carefully drawn characters who would be at home in a Chagall painting, where family gossip and myth collaborate with political rumor and petty social conflict.

Nađa Tešić (Užice, July 8, 1939 – New York, February 20, 2014) spent the first fifteen years of her life in her native Užice, where she graduated from junior high school. In 1954, with her mother Gospava and brother Stojana (later, better known as Steve Tešić), she moved to America, to Chicago, where her father Radiša lived, an escaped royal officer who did not return to socialist Yugoslavia after the Second World War. After graduating from high school in Chicago, Nađa Tešić studied French and Russian literature, as well as film, in Wisconsin (Indiana). She continued her postgraduate studies in France, at the Sorbonne, where she received her doctorate with a thesis on Marcel Proust.

During her studies in Paris, where she stayed for seven years (supporting herself first on a scholarship, and then by doing various jobs), she met the French director Eric Romero, who in 1964 made the film *Nadia in Paris*, with her in the lead role. However, she refused the offered career on the screen.