

WYDAWNICTWO
LITERACKIE
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CATALOGUE



LONDON
2023

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ABOUT WYDAWNICTWO LITERACKIE

For 70 years we have been inspiring, creating and publishing: exceptional authors, exceptional books. Founded in 1953, Wydawnictwo Literackie Publishers has been inspiring the most fascinating literary phenomena and publishing the finest names in Polish and world literature for over half a century, including novelists, poets, essayists, historians, and cultural scholars. We are, above all, publishers of literature, particularly of Polish and foreign prose and non-fiction – including important memoirs, history books, popular science titles, and literature for young people. Among the authors affiliated with WL are Polish and foreign Nobel Prize winners, as well as outstanding, admired, and award-winning figures from the worlds of culture, literature, and art. We would not, however, be considered one of the most influential on the market if we did not invite the most interesting young and promising writers to work with us, as well as the leading names in popular literature. Wydawnictwo Literackie Publishers means brilliant writers, the foremost figures in culture, and inspiring personalities.

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JACEK BARTOSIAK

JACEK BARTOSIAK is a lawyer, and an expert in matters of geopolitics and geostrategy. For years he has taken part in the debate on the strategic situation of Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, and also the western Pacific and Eurasia (particularly China). As an expert, he expresses his opinions on those subjects at conferences in Poland and abroad and in the media. He is the author and publisher of many books in this field: *The Pacific and Eurasia. About War* (about the developing rivalry between the “colossi” of USA and China and a potential war in the west Pacific), *A Republic Between Land and Sea. On War and Peace* (an epic story about the geostrategic situation of Poland and Europe in the era of rivalry between the superpowers in Eurasia), *The Past is the Prologue* and *The Third World War is Coming* (with Piotr Zychowicz). The Director of the Kazimierz Pułaski Military Game and Simulation Programme, a Senior Fellow in The Potomac Foundation in Washington. He was also an expert for the Republican Foundation and a member of the Shipbuilding Council. He is the founder and owner of the company Strategy & Future and co-founder of Play of Battle, which creates military simulations.



JACEK BARTOSIAK

THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD. WHERE THE EAST MEETS THE WEST

NAJLEPSZE MIEJSCE NA ŚWIECIE.
GDZIE WSCHÓD ZDERZA SIĘ Z ZACHODEM

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 512

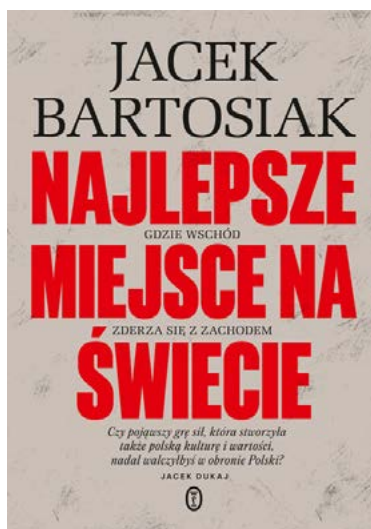
RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

Are Poland and Europe ready for a new world order? The “Polish Harari” explains what we ought to fear in the near future.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A perspicacious study of the geopolitical changes in Europe and Poland.
- ▶ A key text for understanding the complicated history and contemporary state of Poland and the entire region.
- ▶ Brilliantly and comprehensively measures the temperature of the social and political changes in today's Poland.
- ▶ An acute and constructive critique of the current Polish government, which is unable to fully adapt to new realities.
- ▶ An extremely important context for the current war in Ukraine.
- ▶ The author is also an expert in military matters – and explains clearly both technical complexities and military strategies.
- ▶ A readable and accessible book written in the form of a story and not an academic analysis.
- ▶ The author is called the “Polish Harari of geopolitics”.
- ▶ Bartosiak has written multiple bestselling books from the fields of history and geopolitics, and is himself very active on social media where he has a large number of faithful followers.



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DESCRIPTION

The world is rapidly changing in front of our very eyes. Another cold war has arisen, an era of rivalry between the giants: the United States, Russia and China – it's a time for reassessing the world order and economic influences up until the present day. How are we to understand this chaos? In the very heart of this turbulent crucible of interests is Poland, with the war in Ukraine on its doorstep. Where is it, following Russia's attack on Ukraine? And if Putin plans to take Warsaw, will the Americans support Poland as loyally as Ukraine? How will the security architecture in the region change? How did a modern iteration of the New Model Army come about, what does it represent and how did the government react to it? What is public money being spent on and why not on armaments? Jacek Bartosiak – the guru of Polish geopolitical thinking – endeavours to answer these and many other questions.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of history books.

People interested in global and European geopolitics.

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ANNA CIEPLAK

ANNA CIEPLAK (b. 1988) is the most prominent writer of her generation and a social activist, particularly regarded for her longtime work with children and youth. Her debut novel about modern-day teenagers, *Clean It Up* (2016), won two of Poland's the most esteemed prizes for emerging writers: the Conrad Award and the Gombrowicz Prize. Her next book, *Zero-Plus Years* (2017) was nominated for the Nike Award, the country's top literary prize. Her prose is widely recognized as the most important voice of today's thirty-somethings.

fot. Joanna Nowicka

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ANNA CIEPLAK FADE AWAY ROZPŁYWAJ SIĘ

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

PAGES: 320

RIGHTS: World

**NIKE PRIZE 2022 –
SHORTLIST
(BEST BOOK)**
**ART RAGE LITERARY
PRIZE 2021 –
SHORTLIST
(BEST FICTION)**

KEYNOTE

A generational novel about the beauty and bitterness of Europe, as experienced by young Polish emigrants throughout the European Union.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A multi-narrative novel about a generation of young Poles who've emigrated to Western Europe in search of a better life.
- ▶ The first book that thoroughly and uniquely summarizes Polish and Eastern European experiences through the last twenty years of globalization.
- ▶ A portrait of the Western European through run-down neighborhoods, cheap apartments, and the lowest-paid jobs.
- ▶ A brutal and honest story about the Poland of small towns and provincial communities.
- ▶ The 2008 financial crisis from the perspective of low-paid immigrants.
- ▶ Brilliant, sensitive, and honest language – a record of the real experiences of today's thirty-somethings.
- ▶ The author is the most significant and widely awarded writer of her generation.

DESCRIPTION

For the novel's protagonists, modern-day thirty-somethings, life hasn't turned out how they once hoped it would. In the early days of the 21st century, the world seemed



GERMAN
SAMPLE
AVAILABLE

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wide open – happiness was right there, all they had to do was reach out and grab it. Poland had just joined the EU, the global economy was flourishing, and it seemed like if you knew some foreign languages and had a decent education you could conquer the world. But soon enough they were brutally acquainted with reality. Overworked and underpaid, living six to a flat in cramped, dilapidated buildings, and ever homesick – such experiences have left a lasting mark on this generation of EU emigrants. Today, back in Poland and trying to figure out their lives as adults, it's none too easy: Polish provincial life was not especially cushy even before the pandemic. On top of everything, there are family issues. When the person closest to the protagonists suffers a stroke and becomes bedridden, these young adults must redefine their values and return to the ties that bond them – otherwise, they'll fall apart in a cold and hostile world.

PRaise

“Cieplak writes in such a way that we can slip into the hearts of her characters and feel their despair, while at the same time she's able to tell the story without removing all hope”.

Justyna Sobolewska, *Polityka*

“Above all, it's a current and very good story about the mental state of Upper Silesia after years of transformation, horrendous restructuring, and constant doubt about what it means to be a region imprisoned with its language, culture, and society in a country that offers it a worse path for development than any of its other regions”.

Jarosław Czechowicz, *Krytycznym okiem*

“Anna Cieplak has talent for describing everyday life. This story raises a lot of subjects. Here strangers confess to each other that they had a heart attack: «But I still went to work, it was just a small one». As we can see, we're not alone. «We all have our little heart attacks». Reality

is hard to bear, but Cieplak does not leave us feeling hopeless. And this is a story as unpredictable as life itself”.

Justyna Sobolewska

“The strongest aspect of this book is the author's talent for sharp observations of social changes. This «dissolving» include the end of the mining family tradition, the consequences of leaving the country to work, and the opportunity to escape elsewhere in the world, along with an uncertain and equivocal social climb, a precarious existence, a shift in relationship models, and a younger generation that is different once again”.

Kinga Dunin, *Krytyka Polityczna*

“She is one of few contemporary writers who keeps raising social issues yet continues to create excellent literature, not just pseudo-documentary narratives. (...) it is splendid, and once again, Cieplak tries to lay down more periods than question marks, as in her previous novels”.

Jarosław Czechowicz, *Krytycznym okiem*

“A brilliant story about inner demons that arise regardless of our age, or maybe even mature alongside their bearers. Can we pass this test in life? And if so, who gives us our grades? There's lots of Silesia, plenty of separations, but there is also hope that things will improve, though maybe they will only get worse. This book is worth every minute you give it”.

Adam Szaja, *Smak książki*

TARGET MARKET

Readers of novels in translation.

Readers of ambitious contemporary literature.

People interested in the society and culture of contemporary Eastern Europe.

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MIKOŁAJ ŁOZIŃSKI

MIKOŁAJ ŁOZIŃSKI (b. 1980) is a writer of novels and scripts and a photographer; he is among the foremost authors of his generation. He studied in Paris, where he graduated in sociology. For several years he exhibited his photographs and published his short stories in journals. He debuted in 2006 with *Reisefieber*, which brought him international fame, the prestigious Kościelski Proze, and nominations for the Nike Award and the Angelus Central European Literature Award. In 2012 he released *The Book*, for which he received the *Polityka* Passport Award. Both books have entered the canon of contemporary Polish literature.

phot. Julia Staniszevska

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MIKOŁAJ ŁOZIŃSKI

STRAMER

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KEYNOTE

A long-awaited novel by the master of family sagas – the story of a Jewish family in Tarnów at the beginning of the XX century to the Holocaust.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A novel by a highly-esteemed and prize-winning author who rarely publishes, which is why each of his books is a major literary event in Poland.
- ▶ An intimate and complex portrait of a Jewish family in pre-war Poland.
- ▶ A dense saga in which ordinary, everyday life is repeatedly interrupted by the brutality of history.
- ▶ The novel presents, with careful detail, the local colour and unique atmosphere of a small town in Poland, half of the population of which was Jewish before World War II.
- ▶ An intricate family history is the ideal backdrop for presenting the complicated history of Europe.

DESCRIPTION

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Nathan Stramer returns from the United States to his hometown of Tarnów, an industrial town in southern Poland, where half of the population is Jewish. Here he meets his wife, starts a family and becomes the father of six children. We see an ordinary family, quite

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2019

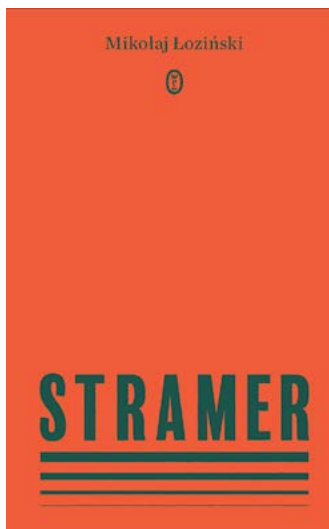
PAGES: 440

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CHOSEN AS THE BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR
BY TWO MAJOR POLISH NEWSPAPERS –
GAZETA WYBORCZA AND POLITYKA

LONGLISTED FOR THE NIKE PRIZE 2020

SHORTLISTED FOR THE ANGELUS CENTRAL
EUROPEAN LITERATURE AWARD



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FRENCH
EDITION
AVAILABLE

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poor, suspended somewhere between the past (tradition), dreams (the United States) and the future (children). Wedged between their dreams of a better future there are numerous everyday problems and conflicts because each member of this large family views the world in a different way. As befits an outstanding chronicler of family life, the author follows his characters, describing their daily choices, successes and setbacks. This intimate but extremely intense story becomes interrupted, with increasing frequency, by the vast and bloody history which will not bypass even this ordinary family living in the countryside. Łoziński also accompanies the Stramer family in the Tarnów ghetto, which is followed by the Holocaust. The lucky ones manage to escape, but they will end up wandering along the peripheries of the Soviet Union. In his simple but disarmingly honest and painfully moving portrait of this family, Łoziński demonstrates simultaneously the beauty and horror of ordinary life in Poland in the first half of the 20th century.

“This story, the tale of a poor Jewish family living in Tarnów in the interwar period, would seem condemned to incurable sadness and the ending we all know. Yet Mikołaj Łoziński has managed to wipe away the blackness that colors our memory of those times. The protagonists have no idea what is in store for them, while we know all too well. The author allows his characters to make mistakes, to commit blunders; he breathes life into them, sometimes trivial, sometimes most significant, sometimes grotesque, joyous and tragic”.

Adam Zagajewski

“Łoziński has managed to write a novel we don't want to finish, we want to keep living in the Stramers' world. The protagonists' fates lead on, into a different Poland. It is marvelous to close the book and feel that the story is still continuing. I was waiting

for a book like this”.

Justyna Sobolewska, *Polityka*

“*Stramer* has a balanced construction and a thoughtful concept. It keeps its distance from tactics that would dramatize the plot in a simple way, it is after something else. It is basically a novel about identity, and not the tides of history”.

Jarosław Czechowicz, *Krytycznym okiem*

“*Stramer* is basically a great, compelling, and beautiful tale of a family, of the bonds that tie brothers and sisters, of support in every situation, no matter how complex. The Stramer family of the title, made up of parents and six children, and their town of Tarnów are painted so vividly that it seems Mikołaj Łoziński has been given the divine talent of time travel”.

Maria Fredro-Boniecka, *Vogue*

“I would call *Stramer* an outstanding novel for several reasons. This is the kind of book people wait to find: wise and brilliantly written. Were it not for the heaviness of the subject, you might call it an easy read. But that would be inappropriate indeed. Or would it be? Łoziński has not written a novel about the Holocaust, but about the life that came before it”.

Piotr Bratkowski, *Newsweek*

“*Stramer* is not a Holocaust novel. Nor is it a nostalgic work of literature about a lost world, captured in the flicker of Shabbat candles. This book sounds so modern that the reader might forget they're not a Jew”.

Tadeusz Sobolewski, *Książki. Magazyn do czytania*

TARGET MARKET

Readers of historical books.

Fans of family sagas.

People interested in the history of Polish Jews.

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MAGDALENA MIECZNICKA

MAGDALENA MIECZNICKA – a writer, playwright and journalist. She has published two novels and two children's books, and written several plays which have been produced for TV and radio and which have won several prizes. Since 2017, she has been living in London, where she contributes to the "Financial Times" and the "LA Review of Books", and is writing plays and fiction in English. Her first English play *Nineteen Gardens* will be staged by the Hampstead Theatre in London in the 2023/2024 season. She has lived in the US and France and speaks fluent English and French, and good Spanish. *Happiness* is her third Polish novel.

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MAGDALENA MIECZNICKA HAPPINESS SZCZĘŚCIE

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: approximately 366

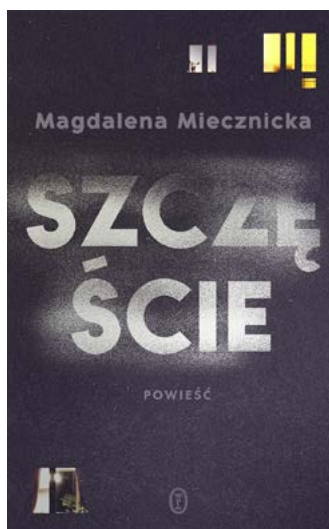
RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A tough and perceptive novel, full of black humour, about the secret emotional and intellectual life of a contemporary woman. A daughter, wife, mother and lover struggles not only with the dramas of her family and love life, but also with financial insecurity.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The comeback novel of an important and respected Polish writer.
- ▶ A brutally frank herstory written from the perspective of a middle-class urbanite, revealing the protagonist's hidden thoughts and feelings.
- ▶ An honest study of a contemporary family, both the one the protagonist was brought up in, and the one she created:
 - Relationships between Agata and her mother and sister and between the daughters and their almost entirely absent, yet abusive, father.
 - A sincere study of a loveless marriage.
- ▶ A frank portrait of contemporary parenthood, which brings to mind the writing of Karl Over Knausgaard and Rachel Cusk.
- ▶ A study of sexual passion.
- ▶ A panorama of Polish society in recent decades.
- ▶ A novel about searching for happiness.



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DESCRIPTION

Agata is 42 and unhappy. Her husband, an unsuccessful lawyer, is abusive. Her life of endless housekeeping drudgery, taking care of her young children and freelancing for a pittance frustrates her. She has a difficult relationship with the family she was born into, tainted by her father's emigration from communist Poland to America when she was a child. The sisters, brought up in the shadow of their father's newly acquired American wealth and their mother's heartbreaks, have grown apart. Agata embarks on an affair with a married man. Aware that the explosive mixture may at any moment destroy the delicate balance of her life, she vacillates between different paths to resolve her situation. In the background, and occasionally in the foreground, is the experience of Poland of recent decades – from the second world war that traumatised an entire generation, through the oppression and poverty of the communist times, the growing inequalities of the noisy 90s to the stark political divides of today. *Happiness* is the story of contemporary forty-somethings. Brought up with inherited trauma, they struggle to align their lives with modern ideals of family warmth, middle-class security, personal fulfilment and happiness.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of contemporary novels and psychological prose.
Readers of feminist prose.
Those interested in Polish and Eastern European culture and society.
Fans of candid literary writing about family, such as that of Karl Ove Knausgaard, Rachel Cusk and Deborah Lévy.

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ROBERT MAŁECKI

ROBERT MAŁECKI (b. 1977) winner of the most important Polish literary crime awards, including the High Calibre Award and the Criminal Saw Award. He won readers' heart with a crime series featuring Police Commissioner Bernard Gross and a subsequent one about the journalist, Marek Bener. He is a political scientist, philosopher, and journalist, and also a teacher of creative writing. Two years ago, he gave up his day job to concentrate solely on writing and promoting his books. He lives in Toruń.



ROBERT MAŁECKI DEADFALL WIATROŁOMY

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 269

RIGHTS: World

16,000
COPIES SOLD

KEYNOTE

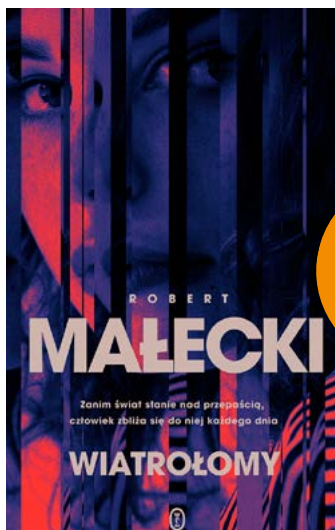
A full-blooded crime story set in a small, provincial town, where historic crimes are embroiled with the dark present. Only the pair of investigators from *The X-Files* could cope with them.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ Małecki is one of the most popular crime writers in Poland, and all his previous books became bestsellers.
- ▶ The first in a new crime series about investigators from a unit dealing with unsolved historic crimes.
- ▶ The author's return to classic, full-blooded crime writing of the best kind.
- ▶ A vivid and fascinating portrait of the Polish provinces where the sleepy atmosphere is only an illusion.
- ▶ Charismatic and well-rounded protagonists, who are also struggling with their own pasts.
- ▶ The author is very well-known and a popular media figure, with tens of thousands of followers on his social media.
- ▶ Rights for film and TV adaptations of his previous books have already been sold.

DESCRIPTION

The 1990s, a small town in northern Poland, where everything is dull, grey, and depressing – a small boy, Filipiek, is kidnapped. His parents receive a letter with ransom demands. His father



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shows up at the agreed location to meet the kidnappers, but he is shot and a bag containing the money disappears. The trail goes cold, the investigation grinds to a halt. Thirty years later, the boy's father contacts Maria Herman and Olgierd Borewicz, police officers from a special unit dealing with unsolved historic crimes. But when the investigators reach the town, Filipek's father is dead – his body is found in woodland, decimated by a recent hurricane. An investigation has begun and soon more and more mysterious threads begin to emerge: a crime from the 1990s is mixed up with what Herman and her partner discover in the present. It also turns out that certain people aren't happy with the fact that the police are snooping in Grudziądz. Things begin to hot up in the town.

TARGET MARKET

Fans of crime fiction.

People interested in Polish culture and history.

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ROBERT MAŁECKI THE CLIFF

URWISKO

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 432

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

The second volume of the wonderfully received crime series by Robert Małecki with the police officers of X Archives, Maria Herman and Olgierd Borewicz. A full-blooded crime story where the police officers also have to face their own demons.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The first part sold over sixteen thousand copies and the film rights have been sold.
- ▶ Małecki is one of the most popular crime writers in Poland, and all his previous books have gone on to become bestsellers.
- ▶ A continuation of the charismatic and expertly drawn protagonists, who have to cope with their own past.
- ▶ Rights for film and TV adaptations of his previous books have already been sold.

DESCRIPTION

There's no darker nightmare than one in which your own child dies. And what if it isn't a dream and you alone are to blame for that death? The day Zuzia died in an overheated car will always leave a mark on the family. Burdened by the responsibility, the little girl's mother has a nervous breakdown, and when it looks like she has overcome the trauma, she vanishes without trace.

Several years later, the Bydgoszcz team X Archives reopen the case files. Everything



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suggests that they're close to wrapping it up. However. The police officers, wearied by unbearably hot weather, suddenly lose the trail, and the truth, concealed in the shadow of those dark events, gets out of hand. Maria Herman and Olgierd Borewicz will have to solve the puzzle of another vicious crime and not be deceived by their own demons...

TARGET MARKET

Fans of crime fiction.

Lovers of classic police procedural stories.

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ROKSANA JĘDRZEJEWSKA- -WRÓBEL

ROKSANA JĘDRZEJEWSKA-WRÓBEL

(b. 1969) a recognised author of children's books and populariser of good children's literature. Her writing has been published in Italy, Germany, Ireland, France, and the Netherlands. She won the Comma and Full Stop competition for the best children's book organized by Empik bookstores and was the winner of the Kornel Makuszyński literary award. Her books feature on the Gold List of the ABCXXI – All Poland Reads to Kids Foundation and the Museum of Children's Books List of Treasures. In 2007 she was awarded a bronze medal of Gloria Artis – Services to Culture. She is a member of the Polish Section of IBBY and the Association of Polish Writers.

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ROKSANA JĘDRZEJEWSKA- WRÓBEL ALL MUDDLED UP STAN SPLATANIA

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 400

RIGHTS: World

**JOURNEY OF
HESTIA PRIZE
2022 – WINNER
(BEST BOOK FOR
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG ADULTS)**

KEYNOTE

One of the most popular Polish writers for young readers returns with a moving and warm story about building intergenerational relationships.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A compelling, wonderfully written portrait of today's teenagers and their everyday problems.
- ▶ A warm – and at the same time profound – story of passing and dying.
- ▶ The author is known for her very insightful, complex psychological portraits of contemporary teenagers.
- ▶ The book is also aimed at teens who will effortlessly identify with the story's protagonists, and at parents who want to understand the world their children occupy.
- ▶ Fascinating and well-drawn stories of the protagonists as they gradually mature and enter adulthood.
- ▶ Very realistically, without needless moralising or patronising, the author shows the world of today's teenagers: their lives in social media, love problems, the search for identity.
- ▶ The author has written over a dozen popular and well-received young adult novels.



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DESCRIPTION

Does grandma know what Instagram is? What can you talk to grandad about if he doesn't know what Facebook is? Three teenagers start working as volunteers in a care home for the elderly. Initially it's only about chalking up extra credits for admission to high school. It quickly turns out, however, that everyday encounters with seniors aren't a disagreeable duty, but a fascinating adventure – a voyage to an unknown world that social media knows little about. *State of Entanglement* is a moving and warm story about building intergenerational relationships, the joy of being together and sharing the discovery of different worlds that aren't so distant from each other.

"I can't imagine this book being different, or any better".

Biserka Ćejović, *Books. A Magazine about Reading*

"The challenge of growing up and the invisibility of old age – the two poles of human life made into one whole that is usually full of holes and space filled with indifference – that's the picture emerging from the newest offering by Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel, a writer until now specialising in literature for younger children".

Hanna Diduszko, *New Books*

"A very interesting offering about intergenerational relationships, which, although difficult and challenging to our comfort zone, can be a hope, a safety valve, and a signpost leading us out of a dangerous labyrinth".

Agnieszka Karp-Szymańska, *Newsweek Extra*

"Oh, did this book charm me... With its story, its language, everything. And how many treasures are to be found here (...). *State of Entanglement* is a book so authentic, so true, so unpretentious that it goes deep into my heart".

Przemek Staroń, psychologist, educator, author, Teacher of the Year 2018

TARGET MARKET

Teens.

Parents of teenagers who want to understand their children's world.

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KRZYSZTOF DOMARADZKI

KRZYSZTOF DOMARADZKI (b. 1989) is a journalist and a writer, the author of the detective trilogy *Detox*, *Trans* and *Reset*, and the thriller *The Salesman*. Since 2013, he has been working with *Forbes* magazine, writing about Poland's leading companies, technology firms and the sports business. He helped to create the list of the 50 Most Influential People in Polish Sports and the "30 under 30" list. His articles have also appeared on *Onet* and in *Newsweek*.

fot. Albert Zawada



KRZYSZTOF DOMARADZKI THE MOUNTAIN PASS PRZEŁĘCZ

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 560

RIGHTS: World

**GRAND PRIX
CRIMINAL WARSAW
PRIZE 2022 –
SHORTLIST
(BEST CRIME NOVEL)**

KEYNOTE

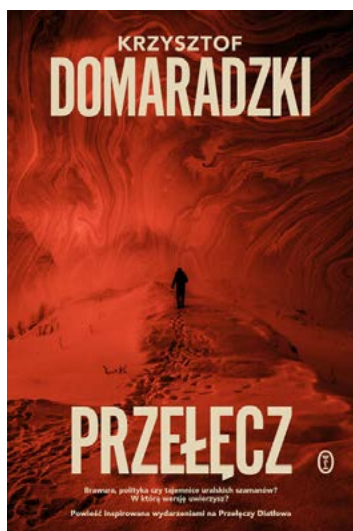
A mysterious death of years gone by, Soviet agents and the rugged Ural mountains – in other words, a full-blooded historical detective novel.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A suspenseful thriller stretching across two time frames.
- ▶ A novel inspired by unexplained tragedy at the Dyatlov Pass in 1959 – one of the great mysteries of the twentieth century.
- ▶ The stifling atmosphere of a small town where everyone knows one another, every step is being watched, and the society is ruled by the local mafia.
- ▶ Unconventional and multifaceted figures – above all, the main protagonist, a former militiaman trying to find his feet in the new Russian reality.
- ▶ An interesting look at service in the Soviet Union, and then in Russia.
- ▶ The gorgeous and rugged landscapes of the Ural.
- ▶ The author uses a fictional plot to try and solve one of the greatest mysteries of the twentieth century, one Russian authorities claim was cleared up long ago.
- ▶ A young author with a promising future.

DESCRIPTION

Winter, 1959. During some excursions into inaccessible regions of the Ural, nine



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students mysteriously die. The Soviet authorities wipe out all traces, the matter is never explained. Sixty years later, Russia's prosecutor general blackmails a private detective into reopening the case, giving him an ambitious lawyer as an assistant. The documentation is extensive, there are several dozen theories on the incident itself, and yet the matter remains unsolved. Even the most insane speculations pale before the truth. Supposing, of course, it can be reached...

"You cannot avoid politics when talking about Russia, and this novel is no exception. Domaradzki wonderfully renders the atmosphere of intimidation and relentless invigilation. Soviet Russia and contemporary Russia turn out to be ominously similar creations, with the same mechanism of government. During our times of Putin's aggression in Ukraine it is particular resonant, lending *The Mountain Pass* yet one more sinister dimension".

Na Szczybie, climbing magazine

"Domaradzki has chosen one of the most mysterious incidents of the twentieth century. And turned it into a dark, passionate thriller in which contemporary politics is interwoven with history and... crime".

Wojciech Chmielarz

"Domaradzki has combined fiction with reality so that events from several decades come alive again".

Adam Szaja, *Smakksiążki.pl*

"Domaradzki has masterfully woven a criminal intrigue, but solving the mystery is only a pretext. *The Mountain Pass* is a universal story about a Russia where fear of the system is so overwhelming that it was better to conceal the truth about the deaths of a group of young people using the legend of the yeti".

Aleksander Hudzik, *Newsweek*

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of detective novels and thrillers.
Readers of prose based on true stories or real mysteries.

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ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER

ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER (b. 1981) is a writer and journalist born in Silesia, and also the lead singer in a rock band. As a writer of opinion pieces, she works with Poland's leading periodicals, such as *Tygodnik Powszechny* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*. She has previously released two celebrated novels: *Disco* (2012) and *Mount Taygetus* (2016). Her latest novel is *All Because of One Lucifer* (2020). It was a finalist in the competition for *The Book of the Year* distinction organized by *Lubimy czytać* (Polish *Good Reads* – a website for book lovers) – nominated fin the category of the the *Best Historical Novel*. She has also earned massive popularity for her children's book series, *Ladies, Lasses, Little Girls*, whose adventure stories mix brilliantly with feminist content for young readers. In 2021 she was made editor-in-chief of a large Polish publishing house, Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal.

fot. Weronika Ławniczak

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ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER THE DISCO

DISKO

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 288

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

The debut novel of a hugely popular and award – winning Polish writer published in 2012. A courageous and difficult story, dealing with complex and important matters: paedophilia, school pathologies, the destructive influence of moral hypocrisy.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A topical novel – despite the era the book is set in – about difficult and extremely important social problems – both in the Polish and the global context.
- ▶ The author has managed to retain lightness of the form and irony in her portrayal of the protagonists, without diminishing the gravity of the issues.
- ▶ Compelling and complex psychological portraits – particularly of women from various generations trying to build family relationships anew.
- ▶ The difficult, controversial topic of paedophilia in schools.
- ▶ An analysis of the toxic influence of devotional religiosity on both children's and adults' lives.
- ▶ The story is set in Silesia, a remarkable, multicultural, and heterogenous region of Poland with a complicated history. The author shows it in a multi-dimensional way, including completely new topics and



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contexts. Silesian identity is still crying out for new stories.

► This is the novel that established the author's place in Polish literature.

► Dziewit-Meller is a well-known and highly-regarded writer in Poland, in addition to being an extremely recognisable media figure – she publishes columns, curates a videoblog about literature, and is also the author of a very popular series of children's books *Ladies and Girls*.

DESCRIPTION

The beginning of the 1990s, Poland begins the complicated process of political transformation after the fall of communism, Ace of Base blasts from speakers and girls find out what love is from the show *Beverly Hills 90 210*. Agnieszka, a year seven schoolgirl, is growing up in Silesia without a mother, with a largely absent father, in the cramped flat of her obsessively religious grandmother. When a new dance instructor, Paweł Koziół, appears, the girl cannot believe at first that this charismatic and mysterious adult man is showing special interest in her, a quite average girl.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of ambitious women's writing.
Lovers of detailed and nuanced psychological novels.
People interested in the twentieth-century history of Poland.

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ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER MOUNT TAJGET GÓRA TAJGET

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

forthcoming in 2024, re-edition

PAGES: approximately 250

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A best-selling novel by one of the most popular Polish writers – the story of gloomy shadows from the past which still haunt our reality today.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A moving and extremely important story about dramatic, but unspoken events from World War II – euthanasia performed by the Nazis on disabled children.
- ▶ A thorny subject – the settling of accounts with dark events from the history of medicine and science.
- ▶ A story about war and fear for one's children – timeless and particularly relevant today.
- ▶ A novel about inheriting trauma and the ways it can be processed down future generations.
- ▶ The novel takes place in Silesia, an unusual, multi-cultural, varied region with a complicated history. The author presents it in a multi-dimensional way, setting in motion completely new threads and contexts. Silesian identity still demands new stories.
- ▶ A novel thanks to which the author finally confirmed her place in Polish literature.
- ▶ Dziewit-Meller is a well-known and highly-regarded writer in Poland, in addition to which she is a media



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figure – she writes think pieces, presents a vlog about literature, and is also the author of a very popular series of children's books *Ladies and Girls*.

DESCRIPTION

Contemporary Silesia. The peaceful everyday life of Sebastian – the father of a two-year-old daughter – is constantly disturbed by anxiety about the safety of his child. He owns a pharmacy near a hospital, but is unaware of the horrifying events that occurred in that place during the Second World War. For there, silently, children were put to death as part of Aktion T4 – a ghoulish eugenic project, aimed at removing people whom the Nazis considered worthless from society. Neither does Sebastian know that beside him are people with baggage of irreparable traumas. Will he learn the secret of his childless aunt Zefa or his introvert grandfather Ryszard? Or will he recognise in the elegant lover of classical music Doctor Luben, a scientist who carried out experiments on children? *Mount Taygetus* is the story of a lack of love and great abandonment, which burdens the lives of future generations. It's also the portrait of fear for one's children and fear of war which are as topical today as they were seventy years ago. And finally – it's a book about the dark face of medicine and a lack of critically reviewing the past.

"You can't forget that book. Ever".

Magdalena Grzebałkowska, journalist and reporter

"Prose dense with emotion. As you read a lump of anxiety grows in your throat. This book will remain in our heads like a splinter".

Sylvia Chutnik, writer and activist

"Anna Dziewit-Meller's story has profound social meaning. It restores that which is important and disturbs our sense of well-being. It is a story of memory, dignity, fear, courage and anxiety".

Michał Nogaś, journalist and literary critic

TARGET MARKET

Readers of ambitious prose.

Lovers of complex and nuanced psychological novels.

People interested in the history of Poland and Europe in the twentieth century.

Readers of ambitious women's writing.

Lovers of detailed and nuanced psychological novels.

People interested in the twentieth-century history of Poland.

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ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER ALL OF ONE LUCIFER

OD JEDNEGO LUCYPERA

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2020

PAGES: 304

RIGHTS SOLD: Italy (La Parlesia)

20,000
COPIES SOLD

KEYNOTE

A subtle, polyphonic novel about trauma and the need for tenderness. The histories of Poland and Silesia from women's perspectives.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The latest book by this widely admired award-winning author, known for addressing difficult and painful topics (her previous novel, *Mount Taygetus*, spoke of Nazi crimes committed on the patients of a Silesian psychiatric hospital).
- ▶ A dense, multi-tiered family saga, with parallel strands in the late 1940s and the present.
- ▶ The history of the twentieth century wholly told by women. Dziewit-Meller gives the floor to the female protagonists who have been silenced for decades.
- ▶ An unusual tale of postwar Poland, of the bright and dark sides of the emerging communist nation.
- ▶ Silesia is an extraordinary, multicultural, and diverse place with a complex history. Dziewit-Meller portrays it in a multidimensional light, introducing whole new motifs and contexts. The Silesian identity is still far from being fully told.
- ▶ A polyphonic tale that tackles the complex history of Poland –



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ENGLISH
SAMPLE
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Dziewit-Meller speaks of the very language women have used to build their stories.

- ▶ An insightful psychological study of mother-daughter relationships.
- ▶ An emotional pursuit of a family mystery – like a detective, step by step, the protagonist gets to the source of the trauma that has been poisoning her family for years.
- ▶ A classical novel, written without unnecessary formal divagations, and with epic sweep.
- ▶ Dziewit-Meller is known and acclaimed in Poland, and a media-friendly figure – she publishes opinion pieces, hosts a videoblog on literature, and is the author of a highly popular book series for children, *Ladies, Lasses, Little Girls*.

DESCRIPTION

Four generations of women, each of them stamped with the same trauma. Though bound by blood ties, there is no closeness between them. It all began in Silesia right after the war. The main protagonist's great-grandmother buried a painful experience deep inside of her, trying to leave past behind. Unfortunately, the past events she once repressed haunt her like ghosts. She cannot cope with them, and thus unconsciously vents her suffering on her child. The intergenerational transmission of trauma thus goes on – it cannot be extinguished, like a blistering sore it radiates pain, stronger and stronger, on and on.

Dziewit-Meller's book is the tale of women who love one another but cannot help but hurt each other. It is also about a burning need for contact and intimacy. And finally, it is a tale of Silesia itself, a place where no identity is simple or straightforward. The youngest woman in this family tree, Katarzyna Twardowska, born in the 1980s, decides to break this cursed cycle of toxic insinuations, wounds, and secrets. She wants to rebuild contact with those around her, especially as she herself is expecting a child. She wants her daughter to grow up in a better world.

"Anna Dziewit-Meller's novel speaks both of issues in bygone times and in the present. *All Because of One Lucifer* is the story of a Silesian family and their painful memories; they are marked by a curse of sorts that makes the men promptly vanish, and the women, left to their own devices, astonish us with their inner strength. This book is also a sharp analysis of what makes many young people like the main protagonist try to leave a country like Poland and find themselves in another part of the world".

Anna Grzybek, *Kulturatka.pl*

"*All Because of One Lucifer* is a bitter tale of Silesia and Silesianness. About how inherited trauma, «passive aggression, silent rage, matters swept under the carpet for years, Gordian knots» (p. 286) can seal the fates of many generations. This is also the story of an internal powerlessness to change, the repetition of old ways of being, and attempts to escape from one's family history and the demons of the past; breaking with the Old Testament wisdom which says that «Mothers eat unripe grapes, and her daughter's teeth tingle» (p. 268), suggesting that children suffer for their parents' sins".

Gaweł Janik, *Artpapier.pl*

"This is marvellous literature – a story which captures you right away and never lets go. Compelling, shattering, at times painful and sad, powerfully authentic, nonetheless it leaves you with a touch of hope".

nakanapie.pl

TARGET MARKET

Readers of ambitious women's prose. Lovers of profound and nuanced psychological novels.

Those interested in the twentieth-century history of Poland.

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DOMINIKA SŁOWIK

DOMINIKA SŁOWIK (b. 1988) is a writer and translator. Her debut novel, *Atlas: Doppelgänger*, was nominated for the Gdynia Literary Prize. Her next book, *The Hibernation of Bees*, was hailed as the literary event of the year and received the prestigious Passport from *Polityka*. Słowik studied Spanish philology and has lived in Spain and Italy; she has also worked as a volunteer in Guatemala.



DOMINIKA SŁOWIK THE WILDFLOWERS SAMOSIEJKI

FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

PAGES: 240

RIGHTS: World

FILM RIGHTS OPTIONED

KEYNOTE

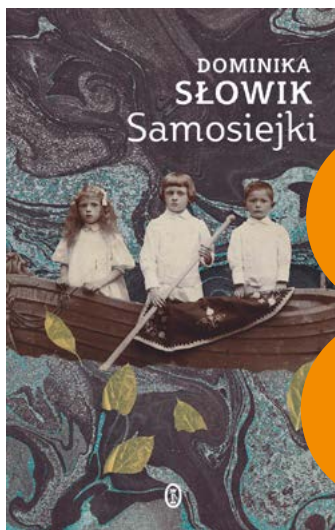
Incredible stories from the era of climate catastrophe. A subtle chronicle of the world ending before our eyes.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A collection of stories from the border of brutal realism and dark dystopia.
- ▶ Stories about a world that, thanks to the harmful actions of humans, is facing its end.
- ▶ Eco-critical, feminist, and political throughlines related in a new, refined literary style.
- ▶ Prose with its finger on the contemporary pulse – a fascinating thread about a pandemic and the fears that come with it.
- ▶ A literary document of the twilight of the Anthropocene and a new voice in the crucial discussion of our time.
- ▶ One of the most compelling figures among the young generation of Polish writers.
- ▶ Słowik has received some of the country's highest literary honors.

DESCRIPTION

Something strange is blowing in the wind: we all sense it, but few among us can capture it and put it into words. Dominika Słowik, a rising star of contemporary Polish literature, is particularly attuned to the awesomeness and the terror of



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the world that surrounds us. Through her stories she has created a record of the twilight of humanity's unlimited domination over the planet. Although the plots of the stories are unrelated, they combine to form a dark panorama of our times, with the traces of decay visible at each step: mold and rot eat away at bread, at everyday objects, and fungal spores rise through the air, though most people live in total ignorance. The world described by Słowik awakens a deep-seated fear within us – likely because we see ourselves so clearly in it.

"The Wildflowers unsettles you and prompts you to think about the world around you, about other creatures that share our space, about the climate. And about the fact that we finally must give in".

Adam Wajrak

*"These are exercises in resignation, tales of concessions and an attempt to imagine a world in which humankind is not at all the first priority. The allusions to Lem's *Solaris* and *The Unvanquished* only confirm the universal message behind *The Wildflowers*: rethink your relationship with your environment".*

Maciej Libich, *Polityka*

*"In her uncanny tales, Dominika Słowik sows a seed of anxiety, which then gradually sprouts in the reader. The words that best describe this collection are: uncertainty, strangeness, anomaly, isolation, but also co-dependence and adaptation. In a conversation about her stories, the author says: «We're a bit afraid. But not too much». Despite the deep-down anxiety we sense while reading, Słowik's tales are meant to amuse and charm us with the abundance of worlds she creates. *The Wildflowers* evokes not only unrest, but also delight".*

Natalia Zając, *ArtPapier*

TARGET MARKET

Readers of contemporary prose.

Fans of dark fiction from the border of sci-fi and dystopia.

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ANNA ARNO

ANNA ARNO (b. 1984) is the pseudonym of an accomplished writer, translator, columnist, and art critic. She has written for some of the prominent media outlets in Poland, including *Gazeta Wyborcza* and *Tygodnik Powszechny*. She is the author of *Windows*, a prose work, and two biographies: *Dangerous Poet*, about Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński, and *What a Pity: The Short Life of Paula Modersohn-Becker*. She also wrote *This Country*, a personal story about Poland and emigration. Arno was born in Lower Silesia, she went to high school in Cracow, and she studied art history at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University.



ANNA ARNO

PAUL CELAN. OVER THERE, BEHIND CHESTNUT TREES, IS A WORLD. BIOGRAPHY

PAUL CELAN. TAM, ZA KASZTANAMI, JEST ŚWIAT.
BIOGRAFIA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

PAGES: 640

RIGHTS: World

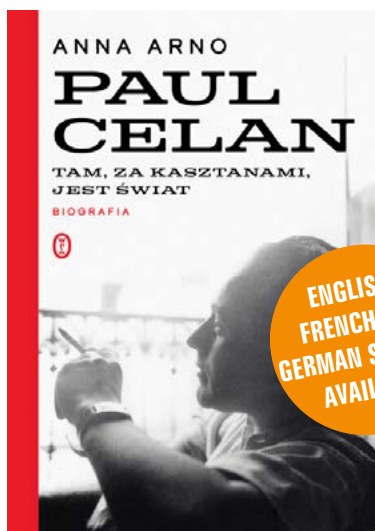
**JULIUSZ LITERARY
PRIZE 2022 –
SHORTLIST
(BEST BIOGRAPHY)**

KEYNOTE

Paul Celan is one of the murkiest and most mysterious poets of the twentieth century. This book is more than a biography: it's a trek through Europe's turbulent history to the rhythm of mesmerizing poetry.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ Celan's biography reads like a twisted thriller with grand events of history unfolding in the background.
- ▶ The story of one of the most significant poets of the twentieth century, written in lively, unpretentious language, free of sterile academic discourse.
- ▶ The author focuses on the least known and most interesting details – the affairs, friendships, and conflicts that Celan and other important figures of the day took part in.
- ▶ A grand panorama of intellectual life in twentieth-century Europe.
- ▶ A tragic story drawn from the darkest cards of history: antisemitism, persecution, and war.
- ▶ A new, original reading of Celan's most significant works.
- ▶ Rather than write a traditional biography, the author tells the story through non-linear events and slices of daily life, creating a multifaceted portrait of Celan the man, and not only the famous poet.



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DESCRIPTION

Celan has captured the European imagination for decades. Dubbed a “poet at the extremity of speech”, he still remains a largely obscure artist, his life veiled by mystery and often darkness is a reflection of the twisted, tragic fate of Europe in the twentieth century. Born in Bukovina, he wandered around the continent, eventually settling in France, which became his second home. There he published his books of poetry and garnered international fame. There he met his wife Gisèle de Lestrange, and there his son Eric was born. And it was there, on the night between April 19 and 20, 1970, that he most likely threw himself into the Seine from the Pont Mirabeau. Arno’s book is not a typical biography. She discards a traditional, linear narrative in favor of a constellation of everyday trifles and moments, thanks to which we can view Celan from many angles. Running in throughout the book are Arno’s interpretations of his poems, which gain new context and meaning through her eye. In this way, Celan’s seemingly inaccessible, radically introverted verse actually encourages an authentic dialogue with the poet.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of the classics of European poetry.
Fans of biographies, especially biographies of artists.
People interested in twentieth-century European history.

ANNA BRZEZIŃSKA

ANNA BRZEZIŃSKA – a respected writer and historian, three-time winner of the Janusz A. Zajdel Award, a prestigious prize for Polish fantasy writers. The author of novels and short stories, a contributor to *Polityka* and a think-piece writer for *Wysokie Obcasy Ekstra*. Her last book, *Daughters of the Wawel* (2017), a monumental novel about the times of the Jagiellonian dynasty, gained the recognition of critics and made it to the bestseller lists.

fot. Andrzej Banaś

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ANNA BRZEZIŃSKA THE TWILIGHT OF THE WORLD OF KNIGHTHOOD ZMIERZCH ŚWIATA RYCERZY

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 760

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A fictionalized historical essay about the end of one and the beginning of another era in European history. The birth of the Renaissance told from the perspective of women.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The story of the Middle Ages in Europe told anew.
- ▶ The twilight of the world of knights, duels and castles presented in a remarkably artistic and intriguing way.
- ▶ The political and cultural history of Europe in the fifteenth and sixteen centuries seen from the perspective of powerful and influential women, who often directed the course of history behind men's backs.
- ▶ An excellent book written with panache about the birth of modern Europe.
- ▶ A lively book written with flair and gusto, without academic jargon.
- ▶ The author of bestselling popular academic books.
- ▶ A master of Polish fantasy and adventure prose – this time writing a historical essay.
- ▶ A feminist story about the decline of a world dominated by men, and at the same time a fascinating commentary on contemporary reality.



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DESCRIPTION

What did the greatest cultural and political transformation in Europe look like? The twilight of the Middle Ages was a time when the old order – in particular the feudal order shaped by knights and other men – was yielded to a totally different reality, known today as the Renaissance. Burgundy, Rome and northern Italy – it was there that a turning point crucial for our civilization occurred in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Though those three countries, full of bizarre places and charismatic individuals, passes the story *The Twilight of the World of Knighthood*, focussing on the lives of the women linked to them – the author leads readers through a tangle of political conflicts in the most important European centres of power. Over 100 years ago the Dutch historian Johan Huizinga wrote *The Autumn of the Middle Ages* – a book which for decades influenced our thinking about that period. Now it's time for a woman to tell that story.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of history books.
Readers interested in feminist perspectives.

ANDRZEJ CHWALBA

ANDRZEJ CHWALBA (b. 1949) outstanding historian, expert in the field of Polish and European history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and an author of over a dozen monographs. Before the political transformations he was an activist in the democratic opposition. A member of multiple commissions and historical institutions, including the Polish Historical Association, the Historical Commission of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), the Commission of Women's History of PAN, the Austrian *Intern. Tagung der Historik*, the Belgian *European Community Liaison Committee of Historians*. He is also a longstanding partner of the French *Centre de recherches d'histoire des mouvement sociaux et du syndicalisme*.

phot. Janusz Jabłoński

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ANDRZEJ CHWAŁBA FESTUNG KRAKAU. CRACOW IN THE SHADOW OF THE FORTRESS

FESTUG KRAKAU. KRAKÓW W CIENIU TWIERDZY

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 440

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

Cracow Fortress – a complex of fortifications built at the beginning of the twentieth century – played a key role not only in the city's history, but also during the First World War. A brilliant monograph about one of the most important historical locations in this part of Europe.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ An insightful and brilliant analysis of the history of Cracow in the context of Polish and European history.
- ▶ A story about a strategically key location in the clash of the Austrian and Russian armies during the First World War.
- ▶ Rare among historical treatments, it offers a social, economic, and urban planning context surrounding the construction of these fortifications in the twentieth century.
- ▶ The history of Cracow Fortress is at once a story of the Polish state's re-appearance on maps of Europe after 1918.
- ▶ The monograph, like all this author's works, wonderfully combines academic erudition with everyday language, making it suitable for a wide range of readers.
- ▶ The author is one of the most popular Polish historians.



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DESCRIPTION

The beginnings of Cracow Fortress go back to the nineteenth century – this complex of fortifications around the city which can still be visited today had key importance for the history of this part of Europe. The last point of defence on the eastern flank of the Habsburg Empire stopped the advance of the Russian army in 1914 during the First World War, which, like the Battle of Marne in the west, had immense influence on how the war proceeded. Andrzej Chwalba, an outstanding historian and populariser of central European history, tells compellingly and interestingly a story all but forgotten today. In this monograph he also presents some little-known aspects of Cracow's history from the beginning of the twentieth century. At that time, it was a city undergoing intense growth which played a huge role in the shaping of the map of Europe following the Great War.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of historical monographs.
Lovers of military and urban planning history.
People interested in Polish and European history and politics.

WOJCIECH HARPULA

WOJCIECH HARPULA – a journalist and feature writer, chief editor of *Gazeta Krakowska*, the winner of the Maciej Szumowski award for press reportage. He spoke with Andrzej Chwalba earlier in the book *Turning Points of History*, which is an alternative history of Poland.

fot. Andrzej Banaś



ANDRZEJ CHWAŁBA WOJCIECH HARPUŁA THE PEASANT AND HIS LORD. AND FOR US SIMPLE FOLK, ONLY MISERY?

CHAM I PAN. A NAM, PROSTYM, ZEWSZĄD NĘDZA?

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 432

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A folk history of Poland – a colourful and comprehensive description of a world in which the majority of Polish society lived for centuries.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ Athorough and brilliant analysis of the centuries-old folk history of Poland.
- ▶ A vivid and accessible reconstruction of the reality in which peasants lived in this part of Europe.
- ▶ An extremely important voice in the discussion which is ongoing today (not only in Poland) about a social and political revision of official historiography.
- ▶ A book written from various perspectives – without previously imposed ideological findings, for which reason readers can make their own minds up on many matters.
- ▶ An attractive form of lexicon – a collection of the most important concepts organizing that reality and expression.
- ▶ A well-known and esteemed duo of historians.

DESCRIPTION

What was the life of a Polish peasant like in centuries gone by? What shaped reality at that time? A duo of well-known Polish historians have prepared a special lexicon of the most important concepts



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without which it is hard to understand Poland's history. Illiteracy, rebellion, boor, Drzymała, Głowacki, Hameryka, tavern, shortages of food before spring, Szela, fights of peasants – these are selected titles of the book's chapters and each of them represents a multi-aspected and compelling story about the history of the land and the everyday existence of people who constituted three quarters of Poland's population. What changes did the Polish peasantry undergo through the ages? What were the everyday challenges for the "peasant" regarding his "lord"? What did peasants eat and drink? Who flogged them and whom did they flog? What did they believe in, whom did they respect, whom did they hold in contempt? What did they put their hopes into?

The history of Poland has up until now been written by the people who governed the country, and later, after losing it, they tried to regain it. It was not, however, the history of peasants. During the Polish People's Republic, but also more recently, academic studies concerning peasants were usually tainted by ideology. Andrzej Chwalba and Wojciech Harpula present their history objectively. They don't come down on one or other side, avoid glib simplifications, and rather than easy answers offer a solid account, based on competently exploited source materials and issues which force one to think and undertake one's own searches.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of history books.

People interested in Polish history and politics.

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ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER

ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER (b. 1981) is a writer and journalist born in Silesia, and also the lead singer in a rock band. As a writer of opinion pieces, she works with Poland's leading periodicals, such as *Tygodnik Powszechny* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*. She has previously released two celebrated novels: *Disco* (2012) and *Mount Taygetus* (2016). Her latest novel is *All Because of One Lucifer* (2020). It was a finalist in the competition for *The Book of the Year* distinction organized by *Lubimy czytać* (Polish *Good Reads* – a website for book lovers) – nominated in the category of the *Best Historical Novel*. She has also earned massive popularity for her children's book series, *Ladies, Lasses, Little Girls*, whose adventure stories mix brilliantly with feminist content for young readers. In 2021 she was made editor-in-chief of a large Polish publishing house, Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal.

fot. Weronika Ławniczak

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ANNA DZIEWIT-MELLER PLUCKING FEATHERS

DARCIE PIERZA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 360

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A collection of think pieces by one of the best known and read Polish women writers – the face of Polish feminism – and at the same time a story about Poland in the last decade.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A collection of think pieces published earlier in the two most important serious Polish periodicals – *Tygodnik Powszechny* and *Polityka*.
- ▶ Readable, sparkling, witty style, and at once serious social and political analyses.
- ▶ Anna Dziewit-Meller has for many years documented and commented on the crises caused by conservative right-wing governments in Poland.
- ▶ The author discusses the key problems of today's world – the rights of women and members of the LGBTQ+ community, climate catastrophes, the crisis of democracy and other burning issues.
- ▶ *Plucking Feathers* is a collection of pieces written both from a Polish and a universal perspective.
- ▶ A compendium of information about contemporary Poland – the key to understanding Polish politics and the social changes of the last decade.
- ▶ The author of multiple novels which immediately became bestsellers.



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► Dziewit-Meller is a well-known and esteemed writer in Poland, as well as being a familiar media figure – she writes think pieces, curates a videoblog about literature, and is also the author of the extremely popular series of children's books *Ladies and Girls*.

DESCRIPTION

What does a woman who has stopped worrying if something is 'decent' or not think about Poland and the world? Dziewit-Meller has come a long way as a columnist – *Plucking Feathers* is a search for her own voice. A search for the courage to talk about important things, but from a woman's perspective. Over several years as a columnist the author has commented on the changes which have occurred in Polish society and politics. The crisis caused by the ruling conservative right wing in Poland has spawned plenty of analysis in Poland, but none of it is so thought-through and comprehensive as Dziewit-Meller's. The texts published in Poland's most important and opinion-forming periodicals make for an acute, but sarcastic and witty account of Poland in the last decade. Compulsory reading for anybody who wants to understand the author's homeland.

TARGET MARKET

Fans of non-fiction, particular social reportage.
People interested in contemporary European and Polish history.
Readers of contemporary essays and think pieces.

AGNIESZKA GAJEWSKA

AGNIESZKA GAJEWSKA (b. 1977) is a literary scholar and an academic lecturer. She took her MA at the Faculty of Polish Philology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, defended her PhD at the same school, and now continues her academic career. She is the head of the Feminist Criticism Workshop. She has written a very well-received title devoted to little-known Jewish motifs in the work of Stanisław Lem: *Annihilation and the Stars: The Past in the Prose of Stanisław Lem* (2016). She is a serious scholar and a widely recognized persona, particularly in Lem studies.

fot. Jakub Włodek

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AGNIESZKA GAJEWSKA

STANISŁAW LEM. BANISHED FROM THE HIGHCASTLE

STANISŁAW LEM. WYPĘDZONY Z WYSOKIEGO ZAMKU

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

PAGES: 712

RIGHTS: World

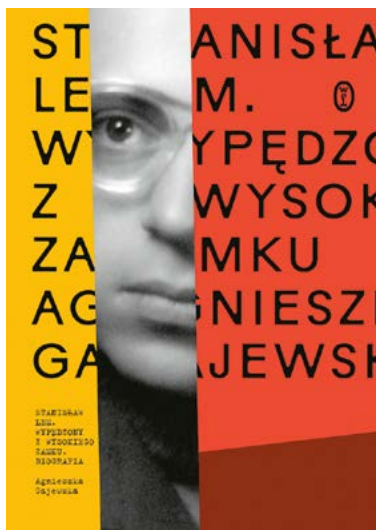
**NIKE LITERARY
PRIZE 2022 -
LOGLIST
(BEST BOOK)**

KEYNOTE

An in-depth and comprehensive biography of one of the twentieth century's most important writers – a visionary, essayist, and prose writer, discovered by generation after generation, and not just by fans of science fiction.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A tale of one of the twentieth century's most fascinating writers.
- ▶ The first comprehensive biography of Stanisław Lem – the author has gained access to his private family archives, documents that have been jealously guarded.
- ▶ The book also explores writer's prewar biography in detail, his life in Lviv, about which little has been told. She also consults records held in the archive of the Polish Secret Services.
- ▶ This book is an interesting tale of Lem's upbringing – the assimilated Jewish intelligentsia, prewar Lviv, and its unique intellectual and cultural atmosphere.
- ▶ The biographer has found an original way of depicting Lem and the people who surrounded and shaped him – his family, friends, and the Polish intellectual elite before and after World War II. This allows her to grasp many important and elusive contexts for his work.



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► Gajewska is an academic scholar who is noted in university circles and among respected authorities on Lem's work.

DESCRIPTION

Stanisław Lem was surely one of the most important and fascinating figures in world twentieth-century literature. A visionary, often called a genius, a penetrating observer of contemporary life, and a sharp essayist. At the same time, he was a mysterious figure who was most reluctant to divulge stories of his life. Scholar Agnieszka Gajewska has, however, managed to create the writer's first complete biography – incorporating not only his remarkable work, but also numerous encrypted (and mostly unfamiliar) contexts, such as his childhood and early youth in Lviv, his complicated family relationships, and his unexpected intellectual friendships in postwar Cracow. The biographer has gained access to never-before-seen archives and documents (including those from his Lviv period and a communist-era Secret-Services report), giving us a multidimensional picture of Lem, a man firmly grounded in his epoch.

"The most comprehensive biography of Stanisław Lem to date. The author has gained access to a great deal of new material. She has managed to make a great many findings in Lem's wartime biography, including where he hid, and where his parents did as well. The author has done a titanic job in recreating Lem's genealogy. As she reconstructs it, the trajectory of his work assembles into a moving sketch of a human life".

Tomasz Fiałkowski, *Tygodnik Powszechny*

"Reading *Banished from the Highcastle* forces the reader to reflect again and again: How is it possible that for so many years we failed to see all the references to the Jews and Lem's wartime experiences, scattered liberally throughout the writer's books?

(...) Gajewska has taken a sensitive and probing perspective, arduously sifting

through the source documents and archives. This is reflected in the size of the book: it contains over 700 pages, the footnotes alone amounting to over fifty pages. This book is monumental not only in size, but also in the scope of the subjects broached".

Anna Michalik, *Histmag.org*

"But she goes with Stanisław, trying to reconstruct his psychological motivations and circumstances, from his school days and his early study passions, the nightmare of the Nazis (even the description of what he endured is hard to bear), studies, and repatriation to Cracow. She outlines the various stages of his writing career: from the first poems, through a few intense years when his best science-fiction novels were written (the turn of the 1950s and 60s), to his futurological essays, of which, as a science enthusiast, he was most proud. And in this book, Gajewska stresses Lem's concealing his Jewish identity, as well as his reasons for doing so, and how this is reflected in his work and personality: this man who had been through hell escaped off to the stars".

Dorota Szwarcman, *Polityka*

"Reading Agnieszka Gajewska's monumental *Stanisław Lem: Banished from the Highcastle* is a transfixing experience. This scholar from Poznań has documented the life of one man in 700 pages, and yet has also managed to depict the mechanisms of repressing post-pogrom trauma and shame at «being a survivor»".

Krzysztof Siwczyk, *Gazeta Wyborcza*

TARGET MARKET

Readers of Lem's novels.

Readers of science-fiction novels.

Those interested in Polish history.

Those who read biographies.

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GAJA GRZEGORZEWSKA

GAJA GRZEGORZEWSKA (b. 1980) is a writer, critic and journalist. She was educated in film, which is clear in how her novels use images. She debuted in 2006 with the novel *The Reaper*, after which she was declared a rising star of the Polish detective novel; yet she swiftly proved that genre prose was far too restricting for her. In 2011 she received the prestigious High Calibre Award for best detective novel in Poland. She is an amateur capoeira fighter. Her most memorable novels have been: *The Reaper* (2006), *The Night from Thursday to Sunday* (2007), *The Drowner* (2010), *The Grave* (2012), *The Concrete Palace* (2014), *Stony Night* (2016) and *Cracow of Woman* (2020).

fot. Ewelina Słowińska

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GAJA GRZEGORZEWSKA SELKIS

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 272

RIGHTS: World

**GRAND PRIX
CRIMINAL WARSAW
PRIZE – SHORTLIST
(BEST CRIME NOVEL)**

KEYNOTE

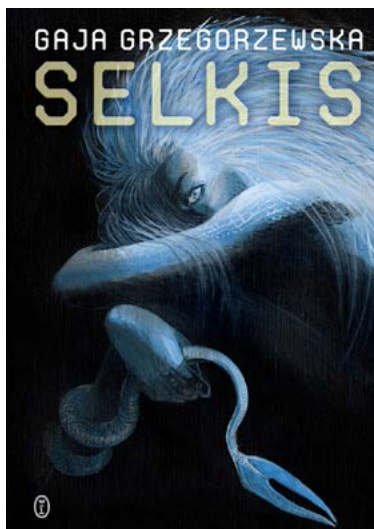
The mistress of the uncompromising detective novel tries her hand at sci-fi: crime, love, power struggles, all in the convention of a space opera.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A brand new take on the best sci-fi traditions.
- ▶ An author who is popular and esteemed by both readers and critics tries her hand at genre fiction.
- ▶ A brilliant juggling act with pop conventions – from space-opera to post-apo and detective fiction.
- ▶ An interesting and unique approach to today's social problems, such as class discrepancies and women's emancipation.
- ▶ A universal tale of good versus evil written into a contemporary context.
- ▶ Pop-culture references that should appeal to many generations – from contemporary games to sci-fi classics, right down to mythology.
- ▶ An author who lends herself brilliantly to film and TV series – TV series was created on the basis of her last book, *The Concrete Palace*, and she works as a scriptwriter for Netflix.

DESCRIPTION

The thirty-first century – a faraway solar system has been colonised by descendents of people who abandoned



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the uninhabitable earth centuries ago. Yet 600 years of travel through the cosmos has meant several dozen generations have passed – each successive one proves itself to be more brutal and ruthless than the one before. Every ship is a separate state organ with its own regime. Society has stratified and various forms have emerged to enslave the weak. People have conquered planet after planet, settled on them and colonised the natives, restricting their freedom and rights... And here begins our tale of Selkis – a heavily wounded humanoid woman of the Scorp race. The fate of all humanity is in her hands.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of detective and crime novels.
Lovers of sci-fi and space operas.

KAMIL JANICKI

KAMIL JANICKI is a writer and feature writer, the author of bestselling books presenting the most fascinating fragments in the history of Poland and Europe. He studied history at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, his passion is the Second Republic of Poland, but also the Middle Ages and the era of the Jagiellonian dynasty. His books have achieved combined sales of over two hundred copies. The author also writes for the most important Polish magazines, including *Fokus Historia*, *Newsweek* and the portal Onet.pl.

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KAMIL JANICKI THE LADIES OF WŁADYSŁAW II JAGIEŁŁO DAMY WŁADYSŁAWA JAGIEŁŁY

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

PAGES: 456

RIGHTS SOLD:

Lithuania (Lithuanian Writers' Union Association)

KEYNOTE

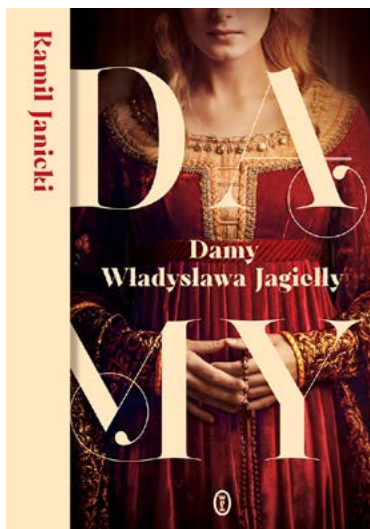
The story of women without whom the course of medieval European history would have gone quite differently. Betrayals, alliances and courtly intrigues – all the best things about history books.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A story about powerful and ambitious women in the late Middle Ages.
- ▶ The birth of modern Europe from a new perspective.
- ▶ The story of the Władysław II Jagiełło and dawn of the Jagiellonian Dynasty – one of the most powerful in the history of Europe.
- ▶ A light reading filled with humour and verve, a history book to read all in one go.
- ▶ Intrigues, betrayals and alliances weave through this book as in the best of novels.

DESCRIPTION

Władysław II Jagiełło was a ruler of Poland and Lithuania who created one of the largest dynasties in modern Europe. His mighty kingdom, which for centuries would be decisive in the fate of the central and eastern parts of our continent, would not have come to be if it wasn't for four incredible women, the king's successive wives. Contrary to popular opinion, women of the late Middle Ages often wielded great power. It was not always official, and yet they made many



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key decisions. The future of the dynasty depended on them. An outstanding historian known for his engaging style, Janicki shows us the fifteenth century from an entirely new angle. His book is a tale of tempestuous, behind-the-scenes politics, where gender ceased to be important – only effectiveness counted. And the women tied to Jagiełło were not to be denied.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of history books.

Readers of the biographies of great politicians and rulers.

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KAMIL JANICKI LADIES OF THE GOLDEN AGE DAMY ZŁOTEGO WIEKU

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

(re-edition)

PAGES: 576

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

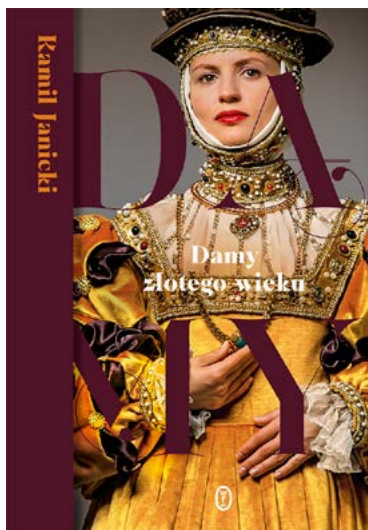
A portrait of the extraordinary women who co-created the Polish-Lithuanian empire at the fall of the Middle Ages and the rise of the Renaissance. Intrigue, romance, and betrayal – behind the scenes at the one of the most significant courts of Europe.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The history of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance told from the perspective of women.
- ▶ The backbone of major political events, often overlooked in the historical narrative.
- ▶ A non-chronological story, free of the stiff language of academia, about extraordinary women and the world in which they lived.
- ▶ A fascinating socio-political panorama of Europe at the fall of the Middle Ages and the early days of modernity.
- ▶ A work of the greatest erudition, while at the same time written in colorful, flowing language, accessible for all readers.
- ▶ The author is a very well-known and celebrated writer whose books popularizing history have sold hundreds of thousands of copies.

DESCRIPTION

The twilight of the Middle Ages: on the Polish throne sits Władysław Jagiełło,



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one of the most powerful European rulers at the time, the creator of a mighty dynasty and an empire that occupied a third of the continent. The rule of his descendants is referred to by Polish historians as the Golden Age. But it's not the lives of the kings that interest Janicki, long an expert in uncovering historical gems. It's the women behind their triumphs who turn out to have much more interesting stories. Subsequent wives, lovers, ladies at court – highly educated, influential, ambitious – shaped the politics of the growing Polish-Lithuanian empire. In his book, Janicki sketches the portraits of these extraordinary figures, resurrecting shadowy machinations and tracking stormy romances. The author's literary talents, combined with his astonishing historical knowledge, mean that *Ladies of the Golden Age* reads like the best novels.

"Ladies of the Golden Age is fantastically written, engaging, and emotionally resonant. Kamil Janicki demonstrates extraordinary attention to detail, and yet his book is not merely a dry collection of facts, devoid of literary imagination. The stories of the women he writes about are ready-made for an engaging and interesting book, but they require a special, mysterious 'something', in order to hone and crystalize the material into a story. Kamil Janicki pulls it off with the skill of a master".

Magdalena Majcher, *Przegląd Czytelniczy*

TARGET MARKET

Fans of historical books and popular history.

Readers looking for biographies of strong women.

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KAMIL JANICKI

THE FIRST LADIES OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PIERWSZE DAMY II RZECZPOSPOLITEJ

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 368

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

Devoted wives, manipulators and the sources of scandals – the bitter-sweet lives of the intriguing first ladies of pre-war Poland, or history writ large, from the perspective of women.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A tale of the great world, full of a glamour and splendour that has passed never to return.
- ▶ The history of Poland told from a completely different perspective.
- ▶ A book about important women who were often sidelined.
- ▶ A panorama of the cultural and political life of the 1920s and 30s in Poland and Europe.
- ▶ The lives of the wives of Polish presidents were full of intrigue and dramatic turnabouts, so the book reads like a thriller.
- ▶ The author is an extremely popular writer, and his books regularly feature in bestseller lists.
- ▶ An unputdownable history book, written with verve and humour.

DESCRIPTION

Behind the success of every man stands an outstanding woman – that can be seen best in the world of high-stakes politics. Kamil Janicki, an outstanding historian, tells the story of the wives



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of Poland's pre-war presidents. Maria Piłsudska, Michalina Mościcka and Maria Wojciechowska – none of the Polish first ladies of the Second Polish Republic had an easy life. In spite of the notorious banquets, balls and a life of glamour, high-stakes politics, the awareness of being in the public eye, and on top of that human jealousy dominated their everyday lives. Did these women – thrown into the world of male conflicts – manage to find a place for authentic passion and deep feelings? What role did they play in history writ large? And what can we learn from them today?

TARGET MARKET

Fans of history books.

Readers interested in biographical literature.

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KAMIL JANICKI THE WAWEL. A BIOGRAPHY

WAWEL. BIOGRAFIA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 624

RIGHTS: World

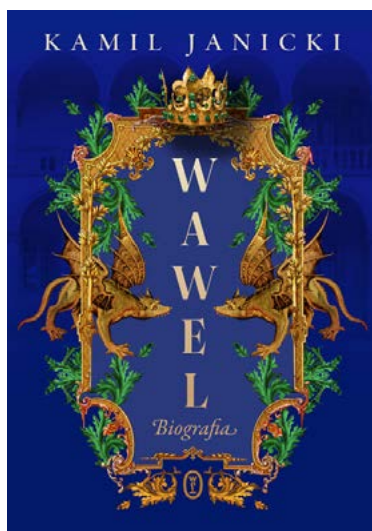
12,000
COPIES SOLD

KEYNOTE

A story about the Wawel – the castle which is the symbolic and spiritual heart of Poland: in Janicki's words it reads like a fine crime story.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The history of the most important place in Poland – the former seat of kings, visited by millions of Poles and foreign tourists every year.
- ▶ The history of the Wawel is the history of Poland in a nutshell – from the early Middle Ages until after the Second World War. The Wawel has always been a place where the great events in the history of Poland and Europe have been played out.
- ▶ The Wawel is an architectural pearl on a European scale, the best example of the northern style of the Renaissance with priceless collections of artworks.
- ▶ Janicki describes this Polish Acropolis as a place full of magical stories, intrigues and drama.
- ▶ The book is extremely important for the understanding of the history of Poland and this part of Europe.
- ▶ The author is a super popular writer, and his books regularly end up on bestseller lists.
- ▶ A light, unputdownable history book, written with gusto and humour.



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DESCRIPTION

The Wawel. The beating heart of Poland: Notre Dame, Versailles and the Pantheon all rolled into one. A mute witness of coronations and collapses, ceremonies and fires, trysts and assassinations – it speaks again thanks to Kamil Janicki. The author of historical bestsellers tells us the history of the most famous Polish hill, from legendary times until the twentieth century. Neither a typical guidebook nor history book, it is actually a dense biography, written in a light, compelling style about the most important place on the map of Poland. Required reading for anybody wanting to understand Poland's history better.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of history books.
Readers interested in historical architecture.

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ANNA KAMIŃSKA

ANNA KAMIŃSKA (b. 1980) is a journalist and a writer, the author of the much-lauded biography of a legend of world Himalaism, Wanda Rutkiewicz (*Wanda: A Tale of the Power of Life and Death*, 2017), and Simona Kossak (*Simona: The Tale of the Unusual Life of Simona Kossak*, 2015), who was Poland's first hippie and environmentalist. She has contributed to many important Polish newspapers, including *Wysokie Obcasy* (*Gazeta Wyborcza*) and *Zwierciadło*. She has also worked as an editor for many television programs. *Simona* brought her a nomination for the prestigious Wiesław Kazanecki Literary Award of the Mayor of the City of Białystok. All of her books become instant bestsellers in Poland.



80,000
COPIES SOLD

ANNA KAMIŃSKA

WANDA. A TALE OF LIFE AND DEATH. THE STORY OF WANDA RUTKIEWICZ

WANDA. OPowieść o sile życia i śmierci.
HISTORIA WANDY RUTKIEWICZ

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2017

PAGES: 480

RIGHTS SOLD:

Spain (Desnivel)

Lithuania (Plunge Municipal
Public Library)

SPANISH
EDITION
AVAILABLE

KEYNOTE

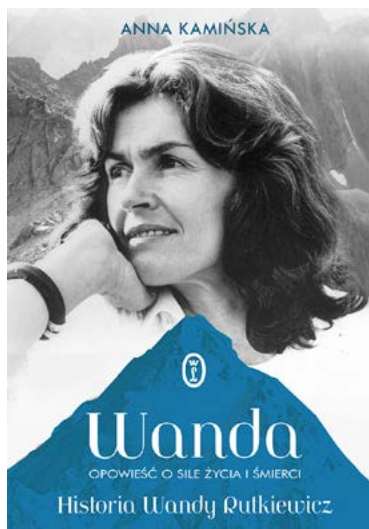
The biography of one of Poland's bravest women, a Himalayist and the first European woman to conquer Mount Everest. Her life is a string of inspirations, while her tragic death in the mountains remains a mystery to this day.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The biography of the most important woman in the world Himalaya climbing.
- ▶ A tale of a powerful, indomitable woman who achieved great success in a male-dominated world.
- ▶ A story full of mysteries, legends, myths, and dramatic twists and turns.
- ▶ This book shows not only a lopsided battle with the elements, but also the complex and challenging male-dominated world of mountain climbing.
- ▶ The author of this biography is one of Poland's most famous journalists of recent years.

DESCRIPTION

A book written by an outstanding Polish biographer, Anna Kamińska, telling the story of Wanda Rutkiewicz, a legend of world Himalayism. Rutkiewicz was the first European woman to conquer Mount Everest. She was also the first woman on K2 – the peak regarded as the most difficult to conquer, one



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which claimed the lives of many climbers. She perished in 1992 while tackling the peak at Kangchenjunga. The last person to see her was the Mexican Himalayist Carlos Carsolio. Descending from the peak, he met Rutkiewicz at an altitude of over 8,200 meters, determined to wait out the night and renew her attack on the summit. Did she make it? This we shall probably never learn. Although she was officially declared dead, many legends grew around her death – some claim that she survived, but decided to spend the rest of her life in a Buddhist monastery.

Rutkiewicz was a colorful figure, a woman of limitless strength and courage, and not only in climbing – in her everyday life she also was independent and indomitable. She managed to achieve great worldwide success in a male-dominated discipline. To this end she had to consciously renounce many things, including a family life. She was famous for her determination and passion, which took precedent over everything else in her life, leaving her vulnerable to criticism from her friends and loved ones.

Kamińska's book is also the tale of Wanda Rutkiewicz's difficult childhood, the tragic death of her brother, her father's abandonment of the family, the cruel crime committed against Wanda's father that cast a shadow over her youth, her love for the mountains, and her uneasy relations and conflicts with the Polish mountain-climbing community. But it also deals with her other passions – her fascination for motor vehicles, her participation in car rallies, and her love for making films and mountain expeditions. Ultimately, it is also the tale of a tragic love for a man who also lost his life in the mountains.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of biographies of athletes and travelers.

Readers of biographies of powerful women.

Lovers of mountain literature.

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AGNIESZKA KRZEMIŃSKA

AGNIESZKA KRZEMIŃSKA is a journalist and an archaeologist. She works from day to day in the science department at Polish largest weekly magazine, *Polityka*. Her passion is Mediterranean archaeology. Ryszard Kapuściński selected her for an Alfred Toepfer Stiftung scholarship, after which she spent two years at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Her books include *Love in Ancient Egypt* and *People Once Lived in the Dirt*.

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AGNIESZKA KRZEMIŃSKA

CASTLES, POTS AND SCHOLARS. ON ARCHEOLOGICAL MYSTERIES OF THE POLISH LAND

GRODY, GARNKI I UCZENI. O ARCHEOLOGICZNYCH
TAJEMNICACH ZIEM POLSKICH

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 360

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A history of the early Slavs based on revolutionary archaeological discoveries, and a tale as compelling as the best historical fiction.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The latest sensational archaeological discoveries explained in light and accessible prose.
- ▶ A new and compelling way of writing about archaeology, an increasingly popular branch of historical science across the world.
- ▶ The most remarkable archaeological discoveries, such as the 'vampire' graves, described in a fascinating way.
- ▶ Popular history at its best.
- ▶ The author works on a daily basis with the science section of Poland's largest weekly magazine, *Polityka*.
- ▶ The book mainly concerns the lands of present-day Poland, but the discoveries it describes are significant for all of Europe.

DESCRIPTION

The twelve chapters of this book are twelve mysteries culled from the earth. We still know very little about the prehistory of the Slavs, which is why new discoveries, both traditional ones made during digs and those using the latest sciences, such as genetics, can truly surprise us. Krzemińska, a journalist and



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archaeologist, reports on the historians' latest finds with verve and a sense of humour, analysing the most interesting examples (such as the 'vampire' graves) to prove that, only a few metres below our feet, there are still a great many secrets to be uncovered about our ancestors. Krzemińska's book is an intriguing tale of the prehistory of Poland and Europe, but also about archaeology itself, which has moved to become one of the most dynamically developing parts of the historical sciences in recent years.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of history books.

Readers of popular science.

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SŁAWOMIR LEŚNIEWSKI

SŁAWOMIR LEŚNIEWSKI (b. 1959) – is a populariser of history, the author of multiple books, including: *A Gallery of Polish and Lithuanian Hetmans* (1992); *A Story of Mysteries* (2007); *The Polish Army in Napoleon's Service* (2008); *Prince Joseph. Military leader and lover* (2012); *Mata Hari. Betrayed by Everyone* (2013); and *The Deluge of 1655–1660. A Time of Shame and Glory* (2017). He has written for important, influential Polish periodicals, such as *Polityka*, *Rzeczpospolita* and *Focus*. He is not a historian who writes academic treatises but is a genuine lover of the past who adores sharing his passion with others. For that reason, his books are read like exciting crime fiction. *The Teutonic Knights* is his latest, exploring the most historically and culturally important periods in Poland's history.

fot. archiwum autora

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**SŁAWOMIR
LEŚNIEWSKI**

THE TEUTONIC KNIGHTS. A BLACK AND WHITE LEGEND

KRZYŻACY. CZARNO-BIAŁA LEGENDA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 480

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A story of faith which turned into an obsession. The story of one of the best-known military orders, which became Poland and Lithuania's deadliest enemy in the Middle Ages.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ An important, comprehensive story about an extremely important period in Polish history, the echoes of which are still present in Polish culture to this day.
- ▶ A suspenseful book, full of legends and myths which occasionally contain more than a little truth.
- ▶ The history of the Teutonic Knights hides no less secrets than that of the Knights Templars.
- ▶ A historical snapshot of medieval Central and Eastern Europe.
- ▶ Leśniewski's books – owing to his vivid language and literary talent – can be read like gripping adventure stories.
- ▶ The author doesn't shy away from controversial, sometimes even revolutionary historical interpretations, thus shining new light on many apparently obvious facts.
- ▶ History told in colourful and vibrant prose, and not using dry, academic facts.
- ▶ The author has multiple bestselling history books to his name.



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DESCRIPTION

The history of the Teutonic Knights begins in the twelfth century, when it was founded in order to protect Christians on pilgrimages to the Holy Land. But following yet another defeated crusade it had to relocate to Europe. In 1226, Polish Duke Conrad of Mazovia, unable to cope with invasions by pagan Prussian tribes, invited them to be his vassals.

That decision is considered one of the worst in Poland's history. The Order quickly subdued Prussia, and then began to build a mighty, military state, with whom Poland waged a bloody war for several centuries. The Teutonic Knights, supported by the Vatican, were a mortal threat to the then young state. To this day, the conflicts between Poland and the Teutonic Knights, including the Battle of Grunwald, the greatest battle of Europe's medieval armies, are a defining part of Polish cultural identity.

In his book, Sławomir Leśniewski compellingly presents an account of the clash between the two civilizations that lasted several centuries. He also explores the many mysteries, legends and myths which sprang up around the Teutonic Knights. And there are no fewer than in the case of the Knights Templar.

TARGET MARKET

Fans of history books, particularly those who that popularize European history e.g. Norman Davies.

Lovers of documentary writing, reportage, and non-fiction.

People interested in the history of Poland and Central Europe.

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ROMA LIGOCKA

ROMA LIGOCKA (b. 1938) a Polish writer and painter of Jewish descent. She was born in Cracow, to the Libing family, and during the war adopted the Ligocka name in the Cracow ghetto. After the war, she lived for many years in Poland, working as a costume and set designer in numerous European theaters and operas, and in film and television, after which she immigrated to the West, where she began a show business career. Watching Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*, she recognized herself as one of the child protagonists – a girl dressed in a red coat. This experience inspired her to write a bestselling autobiographical novel, *The Girl in the Red Coat* (translated into twenty-two languages, film adaptation rights sold to Hollywood), into which she put her memoirs from the war period, but also from the 1950s and 60s in Cracow's artistic milieu. Among the protagonists was her cousin, Roman Polański. She is also the author of novels including *A Woman Traveling* (2002), *Just Me* (2004), and four volumes of articles: *The Acquaintance in the Mirror* (2006), *All for Love* (2007), *Sensitivity and Indifference* (2009), *The Moon over Taormina* (2011), and *The Good Child* (2012). Her *The Rose: Pictures and Words* (2010) is a beautiful guide to her painting, published as an album.

fot. Anna Zemanek

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ROMA LIGOCKA THE GIRL IN THE RED COAT DZIEWCZYŃKA W CZERWONYM PŁASZCZYKU

NON-FICTION

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION:

2002, numerous re-editions

PAGES: 462

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: World, excl. France, Germany, United Kingdom

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ *The Girl in the Red Coat* – Roma Ligocka's world bestseller
- ▶ A book translated into twenty-two languages. Read by over a million people around the world

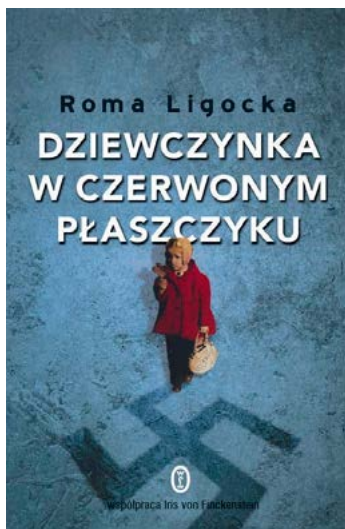
DESCRIPTION

The inspiration to write this brilliantly received book was the girl in the red coat in the film *Schindler's List*, in whom Roma Ligocka recognized herself. She took a child's perspective to describe all the painful experiences she had struggled to forget: her childhood in the ghetto, the fear, humiliation, and the death of loved ones. We also learn about her fate after the war: games with her cousin, Roman Polański, and her friend, Ryszard Horowitz, her fleeting fascination for Communism, the world of Cracow's Bohemia, her friendship with Piotr Skrzynecki, her numerous romances, and finally, her immigration and career in show business.

She reveals her long struggle with the depression resulting from wartime trauma, her addiction to medication, and her long road to rehabilitation.

This book will leave no one indifferent.

In reading it, one would like to have the comforting awareness that this is only literary fiction, yet, unfortunately, it



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is the real tale of a generation broken by the war.

“This marvellous and compelling story is a tribute to all those children overwhelmed by horror, injustice, and politics they cannot understand, and for which they are not responsible”.

Thomas Keanally, author of *Schindler's List*

“In Ligocka’s fascinating book, the recognized artist, and set and costume designer, Roman Polański’s cousin, faces up to her memories, those of a young Polish Jew during World War II (...). A book that became a bestseller abroad, and should be purchased for both public and academic libraries”.

Library Review

“Ligocka’s book is not a simple journal of life in the Krakow ghetto and of hiding outside of the ghetto. It is an astonishing portrait of the girl that remains in the maturing Roma, the little girl who would not leave Roma when she was more grown up. *The Girl in the Red Coat* takes its place among those children of the Holocaust titles as Hanna Krall’s *The Tenant*, and Michał Głowiński’s *Black Seasons* telling us something truly new about the human experience”.

Małgorzata Baranowska, *Gazeta Wyborcza*

“A moving document. These childhood memories pack a real punch”.

Glamour, Favourite Books 2001

TARGET MARKET

For readers of memoirs, for those interested in the Holocaust experience.

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RENATA LIS

RENATA LIS – essayist, author and translator, author of multiple books devoted to culture, society and politics, including *Flaubert's Hand* (2013), *In the Ices of Provence*, *Bunin in Exile* (2015), and *Lesbos* (2017). She has been nominated for numerous significant Polish awards, including the Nike and the Angelus Literary Award of Central Europe.



RENATA LIS MY DARLING AND I

MOJA UKOCHANA I JA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 320

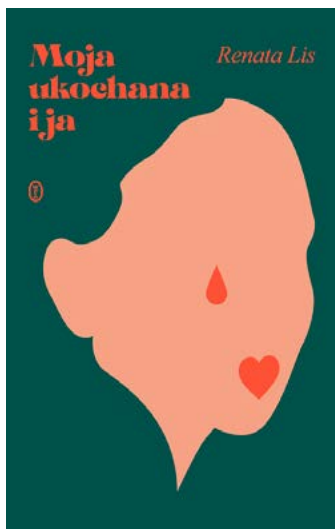
RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

An intimate autobiography of the well-known Polish intellectual, and at once a story of the life of women in the patriarchal reality of contemporary Poland.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A very powerful and important voice in the Polish public debate concerning the rights of women and non-heteronormative people.
- ▶ The author is a well-known and respected essayist (nominated among others to the most important Polish literary award: the Nike).
- ▶ Lis has lived in a relationship with a woman for many years and talks from that perspective about the patriarchal-conversative realities of life in Poland in recent decades.
- ▶ A profound and original study of depression.
- ▶ Part of the book is a diary; a record of the struggle for women's rights in Poland in recent years.
- ▶ The book is a cultural-political panorama of Polish reality – both contemporarily and over the last few decades.
- ▶ The author is a very visible media figure in Poland, writing for multiple Polish newspapers, and also very active on social media.



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DESCRIPTION

What is life like in today's Poland when you are 52 and for 27 years have been in a relationship with a woman? Renata Lis, respected essayist and feature writer, paints a painfully honest cultural and political portrait of her homeland, which year by year is becoming a more and more closed country and more hostile towards people living beyond the narrow confines of a Catholic-conservative vision of the world. In the first part, the author describes – on the basis of family recollections – the patriarchal mechanisms that impact on many areas of life. She finds evidence of them in the opinions of people close to her, but also in language – both official and private. The second part, meanwhile, is an extended 'note from participating observation', a testimony of intimate experience: of the illness and death of her mother, of the beginnings of her relationship and homophobic reactions to it. She writes about living with her beloved and their cats, everyday life, and depression. She doesn't shy away from issues such as the menopause or in vitro, and her relationship to the Church and the Catholic religion. She devotes plenty of space to the so-called *Black Protests* – the demonstrations in Poland in defence of women's rights.

TARGET MARKET

Fans of essay collections.

Readers interested in Polish society and Polish politics today.

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GRZEGORZ MOTYKA

GRZEGORZ MOTYKA is a professor at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Science, and also teaches at the Jagiellonian University. He is an outstanding expert on the contemporary history of the Polish eastern territories, and also the author of the successful books: *From the Volhynian Massacre to Operation Vistula and Volhyn 1943*.

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GRZEGORZ MOTYKA

OPERATION VISTULA 1947.

A COMMUNIST ETHNIC CLEANSING

AKCJA „WISŁA” ’47.
KOMUNISTYCZNA CZYSTKA ETNICZNA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 480

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A story about the largest forced re-settlement operation in post-war Europe – the deportation of Ukrainians, Boykos and Lemkos from the south-east of Poland and their dispersal over the entire country.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ The story of Operation Vistula is still today a painfully sensitive subject in Polish-Ukrainian relations, and the book – in the context of the present war – assumes special significance.
- ▶ The dramatic events of 1947 are still poorly known and are seldom mentioned in Polish public debates.
- ▶ Operation Vistula was one of the largest acts of re-settlement in post-war Europe and was carried out in an extremely dramatic way.
- ▶ The book is written in a compelling, readable way.
- ▶ A historical and social panorama of post-war Poland and Europe.
- ▶ The author is a well-known and celebrated historian in Poland, and an expert in matters of the East.

DESCRIPTION

In 1947, the communist government, exploiting Polish-Ukrainian tensions, decided to carry out a mass deportation of Ukrainians, Boykos and Lemkos from what is today the south-eastern corner



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of Poland. Over one hundred and forty thousand people were taken from their family homes and relocated in distant parts of Poland. The operation, whose aim was to ethnically unify the territory of the newly-formed Poland, represented a tragedy for many people, and their suffering has still never been appropriately dealt with. Grzegorz Motyka's book talks about these events, which are still a sensitive issue in the relationship between Poland and Ukraine. The time is right for an honest reassessment.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of history books.

Readers interested in Central European history.

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MARCIN NAPIÓRKOWSKI

MARCIN NAPIÓRKOWSKI (b. 1985)
a philosopher, sociologist, cultural anthropologist. He examines the most pressing and fascinating challenges of the contemporary world. The author of many bestsellers, including *Contemporary Mythology* (2018), *The Code of Capitalism* (2019) and *Turbopatriotism* (2019). He often contributes to leading Polish magazines, e.g. *Tygodnik Powszechny*, *Krytyka Polityczna* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*. He curates the hugely popular Facebook Fan Page Contemporary Mythology.



MARCIN NAPIÓRKOWSKI

**FIXING THE FUTURE. WHY WE NEED
BETTER STORIES TO SAVE THE WORLD**
NAPRAWIĆ PRZYSZŁOŚĆ. DLACZEGO POTRZEBUJEMY
LEPSZYCH OPowieści, ŻEBY URATOWAĆ ŚWIAT

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 472

RIGHTS: World

**SHORTLISTED
FOR MACIEL KRÓL
PRIZE**

KEYNOTE

A many-stranded, incisive, and witty book about why we need big new stories to enable us to understand today's world. A critical – but not pessimistic – analysis of the problems that beset us all.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A compelling and readable analysis of the most pressing contemporary social challenges.
- ▶ A reflection – based on familiar examples – on where Western civilisation finds itself today.
- ▶ An answer to many uncomfortable questions regarding the relentless march of science and the global economy that benefits from it.
- ▶ The author wittily and accessibly uses the tools of contemporary philosophy, sociology, and anthropology.
- ▶ Napiórkowski is the Polish Yuval Harari; an extremely popular writer who discusses the most important trends and phenomena.
- ▶ The author curates an extremely popular Facebook fanpage – *Contemporary Mythology*.

DESCRIPTION

We live in such a complex world it's increasingly difficult to even understand the most basic processes occurring in it. Once upon a time, stories helped us with



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that: great narrations, religion, mythology, faith in progress. Sadly, the people who told them have fallen by the wayside. Or gone over to the dark side. Technology and the humanities developed side by side for centuries – they complemented each other and built a relatively coherent and comprehensible picture of the world. Unfortunately, several decades ago their paths divided. Unfortunately, the consequences of that are lamentable – anxiety, an ocean of fake news and a lack of control over aggressively galloping capitalism are only some of them. In his brilliant analysis at the boundaries of sociology, anthropology, and political science, Napiórkowski shows us it doesn't have to be like this at all. However, in order to correct this universally dangerous trend, we need a new narrative: bold, and ambitious in scope, which will make many of these phenomena more comprehensible. Only in this way can we restore control over our increasingly chaotic reality.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of popular literature at the meeting points of philosophy, sociology, and anthropology.
People interested in contemporary culture.
Readers of books of a similar style and energy to those of Yuval Harari.

EMILIA PADOŁ

EMILIA PADOŁ (b. 1985) a graduate in Polish Literature from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, won the second edition of the competition of the Institute of Literary Research for the best MA dissertation about gender.

A journalist, the author of many conversations with the most important figures of Polish culture. A finalist in the Grand Press award for 2020 in the interview category. A winner and multiple nominee to the Małopolska Journalism Award – also in the interview category.

The author of four books about entertainment and cultural life in the communist Polish People's Republic, co-author of the book *An Instruction Manual for the Future*. The writer of the screenplay to the film *Literary Worlds: Magdalena Tulli*.

She was born in Tarnowskie Góry, formerly lived in Cracow and is now based in Warsaw.

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EMILIA PADOŁ RODZIEWICZÓWNA. A FEVERED SOUL

RODZIEWICZÓWNA. GORĄCA DUSZA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 528

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

The biography of an exceptionally original and widely-read Polish writer, and at once a panorama of the pre-war cultural and intellectual life of central-eastern Europe.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A biography of one of the most important and unfairly forgotten Polish women writers of the twentieth century.
- ▶ A multi-layered portrait of the period – pre-war Poland, rocked by political, social, and ethnic conflicts.
- ▶ A panorama of the literary and cultural life of the first half of the twentieth century in central and eastern Europe.
- ▶ Padoł's biography allows us to see Rodziewiczówna in quite a new light – the author points up previously ignored gender and feminist motifs.
- ▶ The writer was descended from the Polish gentry of Poland's eastern borderlands – a complex and colourful world that vanished after the Second World War, and her life story is one of the passing of that cultural and social universe.
- ▶ Owing to her excellent interpretations of the author's novels, Padoł uncovers numerous forgotten literary pearls for today's readers.
- ▶ The author is a dynamic and well-known journalist.



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DESCRIPTION

Maria Rodziewiczówna was in every sense a remarkable individual. She came from a landowning family with strong patriotic traditions. The world of the “Kresy”, the eastern marches of pre-war Poland vanished before her very eyes, and her novels are a peculiar chronicle of their demise. She was very popular during her lifetime, though unappreciated by critics and in literary circles. Her lively plots and love stories, the intense political and social background – all mean that new generations of readers can find something for themselves in her writings. Nonetheless, *Rodziewiczówna. A Fevered Soul* is not just a key text for the Polish-language literature about the author, but also about a strong, unconventional woman who didn't fit into the narrow mores of her times. She dressed like a man and had intimate relationships with other women. Thanks to Emilia Padoł, she is becoming an important figure for contemporary feminism. The author presents her multi-dimensionally, without avoiding uncomfortable parts of her biography, such as her chauvinism and anti-Semitism. Thus emerges a complex and fascinating story of a complicated woman and the era that shaped her.

TARGET MARKET

Fans of biographies.

People interested in Polish twentieth century culture.

Readers of feminist and gender-themed literature.

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JUSTYNA PIEKARCZYK

JUSTYNA PIEKARCZYK – a dog behaviourist who works from Monday to Friday as an HR manager and has a post-graduate degree in animal psychology. She specializes in therapy for anxious dogs with behavioural problems connected with a change of environment and the loss of a sense of security. In practice that mainly means dogs from shelters or puppy mill. Cofounder and owner of Nie Kupuj – Adoptuj (Don't Buy – Adopt, since 2016), a webpage dedicated to promoting the responsible adoption of dogs from shelters, functioning as a charitable organisation. Her Fanpage on Facebook has 80 000 observers and the website has had over one and a half million views.



JUSTYNA PIEKARCZYK MAKING ADOPTION A HOWLING SUCCESS ADOPCJA NA CZTERY ŁAPY

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 248

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

What's the right way to adopt a dog?
This for everyone searching doggedly for
a four-legged friend – and doesn't plan to
buy one.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A charismatic and highly-esteemed journalist, well-known for her gift for constructing compelling stories from the world of animals.
- ▶ The author is a canine influencer with a powerful presence on social media.
- ▶ A how-to book for people planning to adopt a dog, written in simple, down-to-earth language.
- ▶ Many fascinating and useful examples taken from life.
- ▶ A beginner's guide to animal psychology and canine behaviour.
- ▶ A book that helps people to consciously take the decision to welcome a dog with emotional issues into their family.
- ▶ After reading this book no one will ever choose to buy a pet again.

DESCRIPTION

How should we prepare ourselves for adopting a dog? The author – an extremely popular canine influencer gives plenty of valuable advice and very practical tips. What formalities are essential? What is the best kind of dog for us, taking into consideration our circumstances and

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available time? What kind of equipment and accessories does a dog need? How to play with dogs, how to introduce them into our home lives. Justyna Piekarczyk also gives a lot of behavioural advice, thanks to which we will better cope in difficult and stressful situations. She shares her knowledge about the world of dogs with a sense of humour, in an accessible and no-nonsense way. For that reason, there's no shortage of examples taken from her personal experience. An essential book for anybody who is looking for a four-legged friend.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of animals and books about animals.

People searching for information about dog training.

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ULA RYCIAK

URSZULA RYCIAK – a writer and screenwriter popular in Poland. The winner of the feminist Gryfia Literary Award, and also the author of several bestselling books – the story of Agnieszka Osiecka in *Torn in Love*, of Kalina Jędrusik in *Immoral. Kalina*, and also the biography *Nela and Arthur. An Intimate Concert of the Rubinsteins*, and *The Women Pearl Fishers*. She published several dozen reportages from five continents. She made her debut with the book *Clitoris erectus* about a solo trip through Latin America.



ULA RYCIĄK PHOTOSENSITIVE. FRAMES FROM THE LIFE OF ZOFIA CHOMĘTOWSKA

ŚWIATŁOCZUŁA. KADRY Z ŻYCIA ZOFII CHOMĘTOWSKIEJ

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 272

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

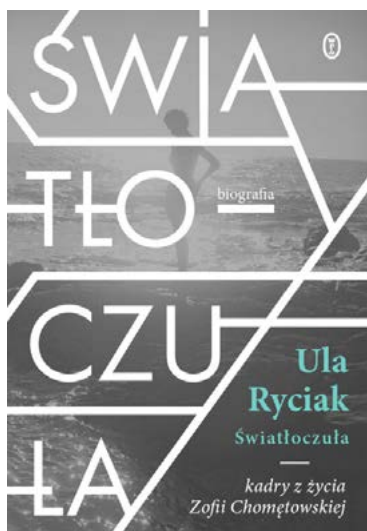
An unusual biography of a photographer who was a witness to key events in the twentieth century. A story of a woman who saw more than others did.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A story about the remarkable artist Zofia Chomętowska, whose photography earned its place in the canon of world photography.
- ▶ The book's protagonist saw with her own eyes key events in the history of Europe – the collapse of the pre-war world, the threat of war, and the birth of modern western societies.
- ▶ The biography isn't just limited to the photographer's life – it's also a socio-political panorama of her times.
- ▶ A feminist story about a female artist who had to fight for her position in a world dominated by men.
- ▶ A remarkable and unique biography, written in an experimental way using the language and metaphors offered by photography.
- ▶ The author has already written several bestselling biographies of other female artists, including Agnieszka Osiecka and Kalina Jędrusik.

DESCRIPTION

Zofia Chomętowska was born in 1902 in the region of Polesie and



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died in 1991 in Buenos Aires. During her lifetime the world changed its character several times – and she documented those metamorphoses. She came from a landowning family, and grew up in a bourgeois-intellectual environment, attended literary salons in between-the-wars Warsaw and supported her family with her own photographic studio. She was an enthusiastic motorist, studied in Paris and travelled through between-the-wars Europe. In her early youth she documented Polesie peasants using photography, and later – now with her ever-present Leica – portrayed Vienna after the fall of the empire, Italy before the outbreak of World War Two, Warsaw in the process of modernization when Starzyński was mayor, and finally – Warsaw destroyed and then rebuilt after the war, contributing to a priceless archive of life at the beginning of the communist Polish People's Republic. Then she documented Argentina, where she spent the second half of her life in emigration. The work of Chomętowska is a unique chronicle of the last century – and now, thanks to Urszula Ryciak, we can see it in a completely new iteration.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of biographies about female artists.

Readers interested in photography and the history of photography.

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RUSLAN SHOSHIN

RUSLAN SHOSHIN is a Belarusian journalist who writes for the most important Polish print media, including the international news section of *Rzeczpospolita*, and also the weekly *Plus Minus*. He is the author of several thousand publications, feature articles, interviews, and reportage devoted to the countries of the former USSR. He is a graduate of the Department of Journalism and Political Science of the University of Warsaw, where he was also awarded a PhD. Originally from Belarus, Shoshin had to leave the country owing to his opposition and journalistic activities. He has lived in Poland for over ten years.

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RUSLAN SHOSHIN THE ICEBREAKER. SVIATLANA TSIKHANOUSKAYA LODOŁAMACZKA. SWIATŁANA CICHANOUSKA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 256

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

The first comprehensive book about Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the politician who had the courage to oppose Alexander Lukashenko's dictatorship.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A thoroughgoing portrait of one of the most extraordinary people in European politics.
- ▶ The story of a woman who suddenly found herself immersed in politics and had to learn everything from scratch.
- ▶ A book about Belarus – one of the last dictatorships on the planet.
- ▶ A penetrating examination of Belarusian history over the last 20 years.
- ▶ A reportage key to understanding Eastern Europe's most recent history.
- ▶ The author is himself a dissident fighting for a free and democratic Belarus.
- ▶ Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya has given the author exclusive authorisation for the book.

DESCRIPTION

Almost from one day to the next Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya became one of the most important politicians in Europe. When her husband was arrested by Lukashenko's regime, she decided without hesitation to challenge the brutal dictator. Unofficial data suggest that she won a landslide victory in the election, although the results



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were rigged in favour of Lukashenko. From that time onwards she has had to live in exile, and is treated by the democratic West as the real head of state. This book by Ruslan Shoshin, a journalist from the opposition underground, is the first comprehensive and honest story of this remarkable individual – about her sudden appearance in politics, about the phenomenon of her popularity and her strategy for bringing independence to Belarus. It is no hagiography, however; the author closely examines her decisions and points out the errors she has committed while carrying out that incredibly difficult task. A moving book about the fight for democracy and the price that has to be paid for it.

TARGET MARKET

Readers of historical literature.

People interested in contemporary politics, specifically in Eastern Europe.

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TOMASZ P. TERLIKOWSKI

TOMASZ TERLIKOWSKI – writer, translator and Catholic activist. In 2021 he headed up a commission to investigate the case of Father Paweł M. of the Dominican Order, who was accused of multiple sexual crimes. He was also the chief editor of the online portal Fronda.pl and chief editor and programme director of the Republika Television channel. For many years he has brought the sins of the Polish Church to light.

fot. Mikołaj Starzyński

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TOMASZ P. TERLIKOWSKI EXPIRY. THE TWILIGHT OF MY CHURCH

WYGASANIE. ZMIERZCH MOJEGO KOŚCIOŁA

NON-FICTION

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 368

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

Poland is one of the fastest secularising countries in the world – a Catholic intellectual searches for an explanation of that phenomenon.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ An important and excellent diagnosis of the image of the contemporary Catholic Church in Poland.
- ▶ An attempt to bring to light the crimes and errors of the representatives of the Polish clergy in recent decades.
- ▶ A political-social panorama of the dynamically changing Polish reality.
- ▶ The book challenges stereotypes about Polish religiosity, particularly about how widespread it is.
- ▶ An essential work for understanding the current political situation in Poland.
- ▶ A unique perspective – the author is a zealously active Catholic, who is trying to make the church accountable for its actions from within, for which reason he often offers examples from his own life.
- ▶ The author is a respected writer who is also no stranger to controversy.

DESCRIPTION

Tomasz Terlikowski, one of the best known but also controversial commentators about the life of the Church writes about its decline – about how the most enduring institution in the entire history



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of Poland is descending into impotence and stagnation; is losing its significance. He points to the causes of this rapid secularisation, including the alliance between throne and altar, the collapse of authority, inability to cope with scandals of a sexual nature, turning a blind eye to bullying and cult-like behaviour; in short: Terlikowski talks openly about what is wrong with the Church. He systematically leads readers through successive stages of the most recent history of the Church in Poland, and also explores what will be left of Catholicism, what its new forms will be and what will post-Catholic Poland be like.

TARGET MARKET

Fans of collections of essays.
Readers interested in contemporary Polish politics and society.
Indivuas interested in religion and the history of the Church.

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EWA LIPSKA

EWA LIPSKA – one of the most important Polish female poets of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She made her debut in 1967 with the volume *Poems*. From that time, she has published over a dozen others, recently *A Fingerprint Scanner* (2015) and *Operating Memory* (2017). In 1989 she co-founded the Association of Polish Writers, and she also belongs to the Polish and Austrian PEN Clubs (for years she worked and wrote in Vienna). The winner of all the most important literary awards, including the Kościelski Award in Geneva (1973) and the Gdynia Literary Award (2011). Also nominated for the Wrocław *Silesius* Poetry Award and the Nike Award. Her poetry has been translated into over forty languages.

fot. Danuta Węgiel

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EWA LIPSKA THE GELDBERG VARIATIONS

WARIACJE GOLDBERGOWSKIE

POETRY

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 56

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

This outstanding poet – a master of allusion, acute observations and unique sense of humour – returns with a book of poetic prose.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ One of the most important female Polish poets of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- ▶ Sophisticated and remarkably mature poetic prose.
- ▶ A suspicious approach to language like Szymborska's, and an acuity in making diagnoses worthy of Miłosz.
- ▶ Cloaked in a historical costume, a reflection on the spiritual condition of contemporariness.
- ▶ A remarkably compelling and original transposition into literary language of Bach's brilliant work.

DESCRIPTION

It is said Johann Sebastian Bach wrote the *Goldberg Variations* as a remedy for Count von Keyserling's insomnia. Paraphrasing the composer, Ewa Lipska here creates her own *Geldberg Variations*, which differ from the original by just one letter, whose central motif is the eponymous character of Geldberg. It is also subjected to a host of equally enchanting poetic variations, and in addition, following in Count von



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Keyserling's footsteps, confronts the "breathlessness of the night". It is often said of Lipska that she is the "twentieth century's last great female poet". That is doubtless true – she made her debut in the nineteen-sixties with the New Wave generation and followed with attention and anxiety the turbulent socio-political transformations of subsequent decades. But anyone who thinks she has nothing left to say about contemporary times would be in error.

The new book by the inestimable Ewa Lipska presents us with a very unlikely literary character, who loves his homeland, is fascinated by the world and likes to read unwritten books. Geldberg muses about the Church and the Edenic Diet he has begun, and also about royal funerals, which in unabashed fantasy he experiments with in front of the mirror. Each subsequent "variation" about him, occasionally astonishing and impacting on the reader with extraordinary force, remains endearingly honest, and the protagonist gains our sympathy, although actually we don't learn anything certain about him. For the question of who Geldberg is, is an open existential and philosophical question.

TARGET MARKET

Lovers of poetry and poetic prose.
People interested in ambitious literature,
in particular Polish literature.

SASZA HADY

SASZA HADY (b. 1985) is the author of several crime novels, including *Murder in the Wetlands* (2012) and *The Corpse from Nottingham* (2013), and the novel *At the End Enter the Ninjas* (2015). She worked on creating the game *The Witcher 3*. A translator (of books including *The Dark Tower* and C.S. Lewis's *Reflections on the Psalms*) and reviewer, her day job is at CD Projekt (producer of video games such as *The Witcher*). She lives in Cracow.

fot. Mer Elfin



SASZA HADY ZEPHYRINE AND THE BOOK OF SPELLS

ZEFIRYNA I KSIĘGA UROKÓW

YOUNG ADULT

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2021

PAGES: 400

RIGHTS: World

JOURNEY OF
HESTIA PRIZE
2022 – SHORTLIST
(BEST BOOK FOR
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG ADULTS)

KEYNOTE

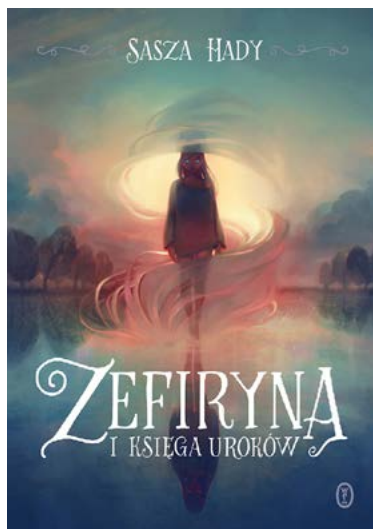
A detective novel for young readers set in a dark fantasy world. Magic, love, and intrigue – impossible to put down!

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ Wonderful, written with panache and a fully realized fantasy world.
- ▶ Excellent, dynamic dialogue.
- ▶ Knowledge and intuition about the worlds in which children live, whether through reading or playing games (with experience from working for Poland's largest producer of video games).
- ▶ Diverse, interesting, and engaging female characters.
- ▶ Many fascinating reference to the classics of the genre and to fairytales.
- ▶ Political intrigue, betrayal, and grand love – in other words, everything that teenagers look for in a book.
- ▶ A rich, vivid tale from an author thoroughly familiar with the current world of video games.

DESCRIPTION

Sarbantia is one of the Seven Kingdoms allied with the mighty Handaharu Empire. Princess Zephyrine arrives at the Sarbantian court at the invitation of Linnea, an old friend from childhood. A pure courtesy visit turns into a covert investigation, when this bright and inquisitive teenager discovers that



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Linnea may have fallen victim to an evil spell. Everything seems to indicate that the recent death of Linnea's father and the mysterious disappearance of her guardian, the sorceress D'ara Romania, are connected to the rapidly deteriorating condition of the Sarbantian princess. Zephyrine must uncover the truth, without subjecting Linnea to the intervention of the Magical Inquisition. Will she succeed? Whom can she trust, and whom should she fear? And will she find time for the great love that waits just around the corner? *Zephyrine and the Book of Spells* is a captivating detective novel for young readers, set in a beautiful yet dark fantasy world. Magic, love, and intrigue – mixed together in the best possible way!

"I had a great time reading this light novel – the smile didn't leave my face, even when things got darker and more serious in the second half".

fantastycznie_zaczytana

"I wasn't expecting this book to be THAT good. Without hesitation you could rank it alongside the Harry Potter books, the Demon Cycle, the Ranger's Apprentice, and the work of Rick Riordan".

Klaudia Sowa, *blog-selkar.pl*

"Such a pleasure to read, always wanting to know what happens next – it wasn't until I finished reading that I realized just how much I enjoyed it. The story pulls you in from the first page to the last, and the fast-paced action makes it impossible to get bored. *Zephyrine* stole my heart and I strongly recommend it to teenage readers".

Jelenka.pl

TARGET MARKET

Young readers over 12.

People interested in YA novels.

Readers of fantasy for teenagers.

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LUDWIK JERZY KERN

LUDWIK JERZY Kern (1920–2010) – Polish poet, satirist, journalist, translator of English and French literature, lyricist. He was awarded multiple prizes for his writing, including the most important national accolades in Poland. During his life he was an important figure in Polish culture, writing lyrics for the songs of Polish performing stars, and writing in magazines. He authored over twenty children's books, including the series about Ferdinand the Magnificent, which is still part of the canon of Polish children's literature.

KAZIMIERZ MIKULSKI (1918–1998) – painter, scenographer, a member of the Polish surrealist and poetic painting community.



Portrait of a Man
**FERNAND
ESPANLEY**



LUDWIK JERZY KERN ALL THE ADVENTURES OF FERDINAND THE MAGNIFICENT

WSZYSTKIE PRZYGODY FERDYNANDA WSPANIAŁEGO

CHILDREN'S BOOK

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 340

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A wonderfully illustrated classic of Polish children's literature, read by four generations. Full of absurdist humour, but also convictions that if you believe in something enough you can achieve anything you want.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ One of the most important classics of Polish children's literature.
- ▶ The book has educated many generations and is still in the canon of books in Polish schools.
- ▶ Wonderful illustrations by an important Polish painter and illustrator.
- ▶ Wonderful sense of humour.
- ▶ Jerzy Ludwik Kern's books have been screened, adapted for the theatre and translated into over a dozen languages.
- ▶ The first re-edition of all the adventures of one of the most famous dogs in Polish literature.

DESCRIPTION

Ferdinand is a well-trained dog. He is a member of a bourgeois family, happiest spending his afternoons on an old sofa with a Ferdinand-shaped hollow on one side. He shares it with his master who quickly drops off, so the dog also feels sleepy. And when he's asleep he imagines he is going out into the corridor, stands



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up on his back legs, puts on a bowler hat and can do anything he wishes. He can be a human being and has all sorts of incredible adventures. That's why Ferdinand likes to sleep and is so proud of his dreams he calls himself Ferdinand the Magnificent. For he visits tailors, restaurants, sleeps in hotels, and also flies in a balloon. During these adventures his canine identity is always just about to be uncovered, but owing to coincidences and surreal humour he always emerges from them "top dog". Make the acquaintance of the most stylish gent in the city – Ferdinand the Magnificent.

TARGET MARKET

Children from six to ten.

Lovers of beautiful editions.

Fans of children's literature.

Anyone with a surreal sense of humour.

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DOROTA TERAKOWSKA

DOROTA TERAKOWSKA (1938–2004) was born in Krakow. She studied sociology and was an academic worker at the Cultural Sociology Studio from 1965–1968. She was also a well-known Cracovian journalist. She has belonged to the Polish Journalists' Association (1971–1981), the Polish Writers' Association (since 1989) and the Writers' and Stage Composers' Union (since 1982).

Since the publication of *Chewing Gum* (1986), she has devoted herself entirely to literature. She has written fantasy books for children and young people, and is also eagerly read by adults. Terakowska has received many prestigious awards, including three from the Polish section of the IBBY. Her book entitled *The Witch's Daughter* was inscribed in 1994 on the Hans Christian Andersen Honorary List, and It has been taught in schools. Each of Terakowska's books has made a big impact, not only among the critics, but among readers in particular – and those of every age. Moreover, her books' popularity has not subsided, and are found on the bestseller list for years, and even more importantly – are counted among the classics of Polish literature.

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DOROTA TERAKOWSKA THE WITCH'S DAUGHTER CÓRKA CZAROWNIC

YOUNG ADULT

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 359

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A new edition of the fantasy classic by the remarkable Dorota Terakowska. A work of art about coming of age, freedom and learning about real life, by a young girl in a mysterious kingdom full of magic and invaders.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ One of the most important Polish fantasy writers.
- ▶ The 1992 book of the year of the Polish Section of IBBY included on the Hans Christian Andersen List.
- ▶ Written from the perspective of a young girl who – unbeknownst to her – will become the ruler in the future.
- ▶ A deliberately ecologically-focussed book – drawing attention to the need for harmony between the world of human beings and nature.
- ▶ Much more to offer than simple a fight between good and evil – it shows us that the world is full of many shades of grey.

DESCRIPTION

In a forest, far from other people, under the wise care of five powerful Witches a golden-haired little girl is growing up. She doesn't know her own name, her past or her future. Although she is enthusiastically reading magic books, is learning to mindread and talk to the stars, she could never imagine what



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the aim of her learning and the perilous journey through the four regions of the Great Kingdom might be... Centuries before, her land was occupied by the cruel Invaders. According to the words of the mysterious One Song, now after seven hundred and seventy-seven years, the end of their rule is nigh. Will a just ruler ascend to the throne at last? Will our heroine grow up to fulfil her destiny? Will the five Witches suitably prepare her to make those prophecies come true? Full of twists and turns, a wonderfully wise book that shows us the world isn't always black and white but full of shades of grey. An excellent book both for older children and young adults who love fantasy.

TARGET MARKET

Young adults.

Parents of teenage children.

Fans of fantasy.

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DOROTA TERAKOWSKA WHERE THE ANGELS FALL

TAM GDZIE SPADAJĄ ANIOŁY

YOUNG ADULT

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2022

PAGES: 312

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

A warm and wise story of the complicated relationship between Good and Evil, faith and knowledge, about love, the sacred nature of the family and the need of magic in everyday life.

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ Awarded Best Book of the Year in 1999 by the Polish section of IBBY.
- ▶ Beautifully written, dealing with universal subject.
- ▶ One of the most important Polish writers of fantasy.
- ▶ A book about illness and finding meaning suffering.
- ▶ Two points of view – written from both a human and angelic perspective.

DESCRIPTION

What happens when you watch your guardian angel battle a black angel and then fall from the sky? If you're five-year-old Ewa, the protagonist of *Where the Angels Fall*, you fail to convince your parents of what you saw, and then watch your life fall apart, as one piece of bad luck after another comes your way. And only when you've hit rock bottom, infected by a serious case of leukaemia, do your parents believe you, and join you in the search for a feather dropped by your angel. If you're Dorota Terakowska, one of Poland's most beloved popular



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literary writers, you use this remarkable premise as an occasion to tackle some very large questions about the nature of Good and Evil, the distance between heaven and earth, and the depth of family love. You manage to suspend ambiguity for the course of the novel as to whether the angels and magical events are meant to be understood metaphorically, or whether we are to believe the world is a place where fantastical things happen. And as if this were somehow insufficient, you add a profound knowledge of angel lore and tie the whole thing in to Bulgakov's *The Master and Margerita* through direct quotes and a thematic crossover. Ten years later, *Where the Angels Fall* seems fresher and more intriguing than ever.

"Dorota Terakowska falls into that rare and admirable category of writers who smuggle contents of real importance in their chosen convention". Ewa Nowacka, *Nowe Książki*, 7/99

"Where the Angels Fall is literature of the highest calibre. It may even be the finest work in Terakowska's enormously appreciated oeuvre". Michał Zając, *Guliwer* 6/1999

TARGET MARKET

Young adult readers.
Parents of teenagers.

JAN WILKANOWSKI

JAN WILKANOWSKI – a teacher, ecology activist and tourist guide. He comes from Łódź, but his entire life has been linked to the Baltic Sea. Since 1998 he has lived in the village of Stegna on the Vistula Spit. He teaches physical education and recently also biology. This contributed to him becoming a volunteer in the international ecological organisation World Wildlife Fund and the Blue Patrol which functions under its auspices and protects natural habitats of sea mammals and birds. Jan Wilkanowski still volunteers for them. In his private life he's a husband and a dad – natural and foster – of two (now) adult sons. He loves physical activity in all forms: he runs (he's completed six marathons!), rides a bike, paddles a kayak, sails, hikes (the Bieszczady mountains are his second favourite place on Earth!). he's also interested in photography, birdwatching, music, architecture and history. He is the author of the book *Blue Tales* (2021), in which he describes his voluntary work in the Blue Patrol. He was a finalist in the 2018 Best Teacher in Pomerania competition.

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JAN WILKANOWSKI THE BALTIC SEA. A GUIDEBOOK FOR THE BIG AND SMALL BAŁTYK

CHILDREN'S BOOK

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 2023

PAGES: 88

RIGHTS: World

KEYNOTE

After the bestselling children's book about the Tatra mountains comes a book for sea dogs and beach lovers! Everything you'd like to know about the Baltic but were too afraid to ask!

SELLING POINTS

- ▶ A fascinating book for the entire family.
- ▶ Sure to fuel a love of nature in children.
- ▶ Continuation of the bestselling book *The Tatra Mountains. A Guidebook for Young and Old*.
- ▶ The author is a volunteer for the World Wildlife Fund Blue Patrol and knows the Baltic region like the back of his hand.
- ▶ The book teaches respect for plants and animals, and an environmental approach to the world.
- ▶ Gorgeous illustrations.
- ▶ Accessible form.
- ▶ The perfect book for the school holidays.

DESCRIPTION

After an expedition to the Tatra mountains, it's time for a sea adventure. We'll be taken for a walk along the Polish coast by Jan Wilkanowski, a resident of the Vistula Spit, a tourist guide and volunteer of the Blue Patrol of the World Wildlife Fund, who has spent the last dozen years of his life taken care of the safety of seals, helping porpoises and protecting the natural habitats of



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sea birdlife. You have to have plenty of stamina to keep up with him, because he's also an experienced sportsman!

We invite you to the Baltic – the 'youngest', least saline, and shallowest sea on the planet! You'll get to know the residents – the ones from ages ago and those that live here now. You'll find out about a certain Celebrity who preferred the beach in Krynica Morska to the pier in Sopot. You can sample the Kashubian Strawberry. You'll meet a master of sea camouflage. And you'll learn to tell the difference between the goddess Jūratė's tears (amber) and other, ordinary sea pebbles.

TARGET MARKET

Children aged 6–12.

And their parents as well.

Lovers of beautifully designed books.

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