



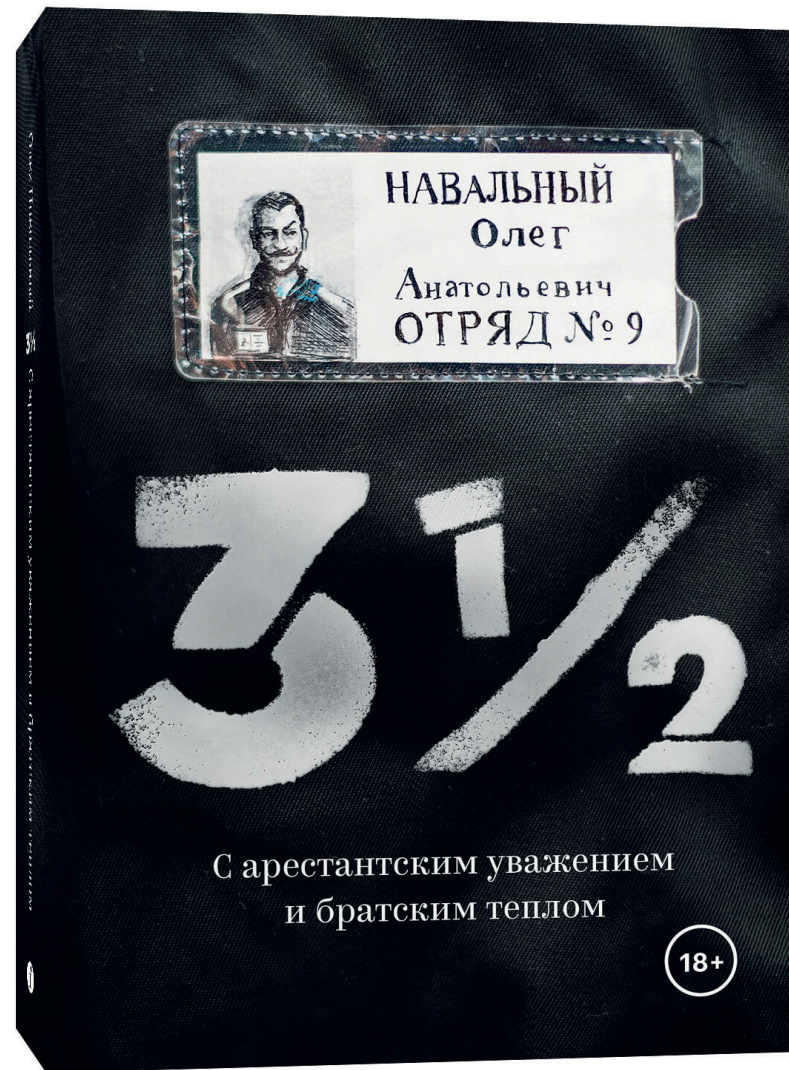
2022

individuum

books

# Oleg Navalny

## 3½. With Prisoner's Respect and Fraternal Warmth



In December 2014, the Navalny brothers, Oleg and Alexei, were convicted in the 'Yves Rocher case'. Alexei got 3½ years of probation, while Oleg was sentenced to 3½ years in prison. Although the European court of human rights ruled that the convictions were arbitrary and unfair, Oleg served the entire term, 1278 days. This book, mostly written in prison, gives an account of everything that happened to him during that time. Plus, the narrative is complemented with detailed drawings. If you read this book, you will find out what is the difference between the red and the black zone, what prison sheets and towels are for, where to hide a sim card during a search and more. But most importantly, this book is about remaining resilient even in the most outrageous, horrible and bizarre circumstances.

Oleg Navalny is a Russian businessman and social activist, the younger brother of Alexei Navalny. He became famous when, together with his brother, he was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 3.5 years of incarceration. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that his conviction was arbitrary and unfair. Oleg wrote his book while in prison. He was released in June 2018.



*“Oleg Navalny’s book continues a huge tradition: prison has always been among the places where the history of literary, religious, philosophic, and political thought was created. Some writers began their literary careers in the solitude of the cell. Prison was not only embarrassing, but also inspiring, demanding not only silence, but also words. Oleg Navalny’s book is an excellent example of such writing.”*

**Kommersant**, Russia’s #1 political and business daily newspaper

*“All stories about prison are to a certain extent similar to each other, like road movies. Therefore, what is important, who talks about the prison and how. Navalny’s book is a book about how not to get lost even in the most wild, terrible and ridiculous circumstances.”*

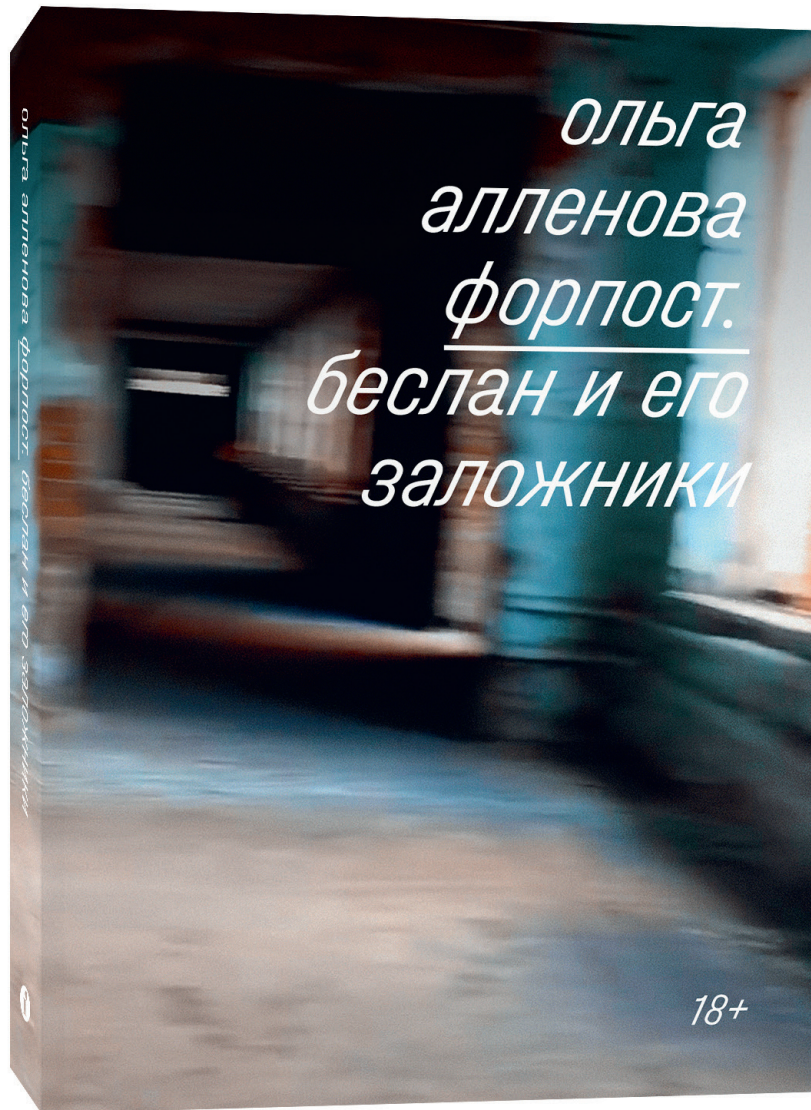
**Afisha Daily**, Russia’s #1 entertainment and lifestyle media



# Olga Allenova

## The Outpost

Beslan and Its Hostages



**I**t's been 17 years since the Beslan tragedy. While the rest of Russia commemorates it only in the first week of September, there is not a single day when Beslan forgets what happened. Olga Allenova, a journalist working for the Kommersant Publishing House, reported from the vicinity of school seized by terrorists and now returns to the town to meet the survivors, relatives of victims and other witnesses, as well as to show what happened and how Beslan lives after the terrorist incident.

Olga worked in Chechnya from the very start of the Second Chechen Campaign. She covered the Nord-Ost siege and Beslan school siege, as well as events in Ingushetia, South Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Georgia, Abkhazia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Literature category winner  
of the 2019 'Made in Russia' Award by Snob Magazine.



© Anna Danilova

*“This is not a memoir. It is also an attempt — unfortunately, they are rather rare — to understand the present day. To understand why so many things in it aren’t all right but are connected— if you take the trouble to build connections — to the Beslan fear.”*

**Kommersant**, Russia’s #1 political and business daily newspaper

*“Every living person should read this.”*

**Snob**, #1 Russian-speaking online discussion platform for talented and knowledgeable people

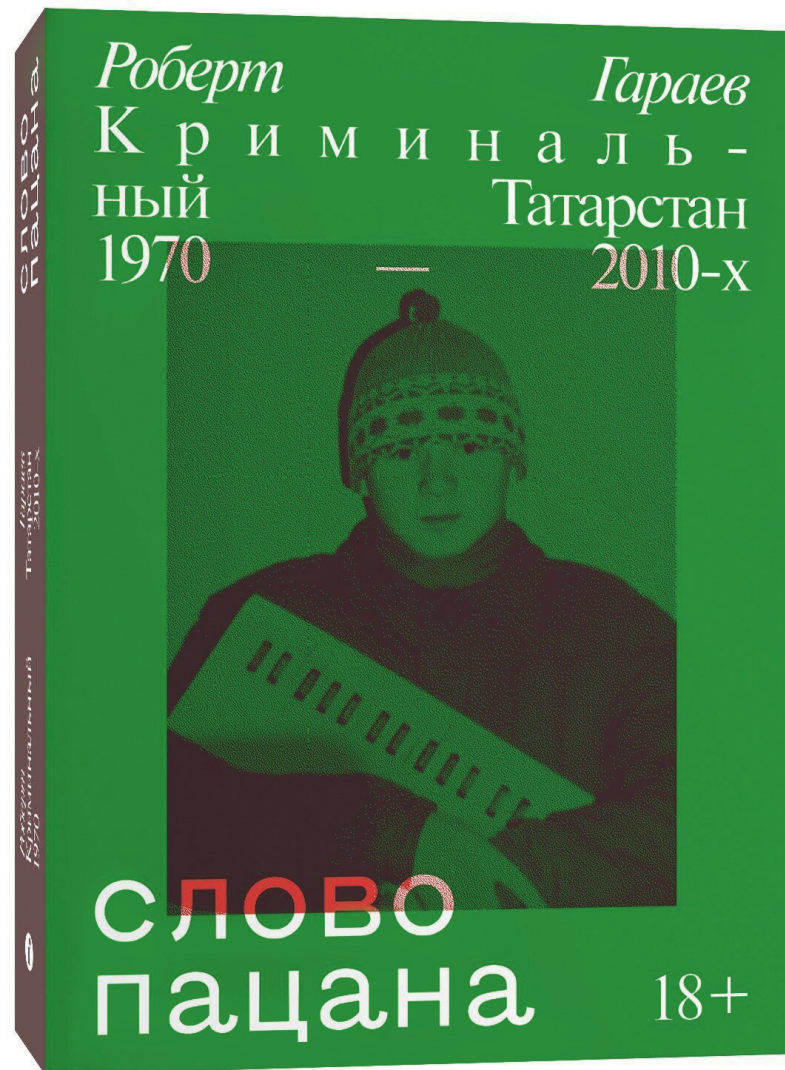


© James Hill

# Robert Garaev

## The Thug's Word

Criminal Tatarstan of the 1970-2010's



This book is about those who made violence their creed, who beat and got beaten – professionally, daily, ruthlessly. They are thugs, members of countless youth gangs that infested the Soviet Union shortly before its collapse. Kazan was the first city where they surfaced on a truly large scale. The author of this book Robert Garaev joined the Bottom, one of the local gangs, when he was a schoolboy. 30 years on, he decided to trace the origin of the Kazan phenomenon where one and a half hundred teenage gangs started from ‘dividing the land’ in district-against-district fights and then moved on to mass exterminating their own kind; and to find out how those grim days are remembered by thugs themselves, former policemen, lawyers and ordinary residents of the town uglified by fear and brutality. This is the only book entirely based on the voices of those who survived and want to tell the truth.

Robert Garaev was born into a cultured family but, in the troubled perestroika period he, as many of his peers, experienced the phenomenon of youth gangs first-hand. Having survived by a miracle and retained some of his former culturedness, he shifted to the Kazan punk community and in 2000 moved to the capital where he was a music columnist, a DJ, a quite popular club personality on the 2000s party scene in Moscow and a member of the project Heavy Metal DJs. Now Robert is a guide in the Jewish Museum. Years later the subject of organized youth crime got into his life again when a former gang member decided to share his disturbing but engrossing experience.



*“The Thug's Word shows crime gangs as a state within a state.”*

**MoskvichMAG**, a leading Moscow online media covering culture, education and literature

*“The Thug's Word is an incredibly riveting book, it's a vivid, powerful and honest story of crime, detachment, fraternity and violence.”*

**Mark Galeotti**, a political analyst, author of the THIEVES book





# Denis Puzyryov

## A Recent History of Russia in 14 Bottles of Vodka

How the Number One Russian Drink Draws Together Business, Corruption and Crime

Vodka is one of the most iconic symbols of Russia, a drink that's synonymous with its people. A drink that is even hard to understand. It's also an incredibly profitable business. Where there is money, there is blood, power, dizzying ups and downs and, of course, silence. This book speaks up about these super-lucrative assets and universally known brands. A Recent History of Russia in 14 Bottles of Vodka opens the public's eyes to the events of the past thirty years and shows them from an unexpected and thrilling point of view.

Denis Puzyryov is an alumnus of the SPbU faculty of journalism. He has been in business journalism since 2010: he was the head of consumer market department and then the investigation department of RBC. Denis focused on professional sports, alcohol beverages and the tobacco market. He works as an editor at Sports.ru.



In 2016, Denis Puzyryov won the Editorial Board journalistic award for his article **Time Is Money: The Underground Economy of Selling Expensive Watches.**

*“Puzyryov’s book is true Russian non-fiction.”*

**Meduza**, Russia’s #1 independent news media

*“It’s a real mine of plots for new movies and TV series. It’s hard to believe that we witnessed such fantastic events.”*

**Mitya Borisov**, a famous Russian publisher



© Stanislava Novgorodtseva



# Sergei Mokhov

## The History of Death

How We Fight and Accept It

**W**e know how it all will end. But what determines our attitude towards our own death and the death of others? Social anthropologist Sergei Mokhov addresses this issue in his new work. Why do we mourn over celebrities we aren't acquainted with? Why does the controversy around euthanasia still persist? How is the 21st century changing our notions about the passing of our loved ones and immortality? These questions are interwoven into the history of ideas – from ancient myths to modern techno utopias and it's high time to try to grasp them because when we talk about death, we actually always talk about living.

Sergei is a social anthropologist, Candidate of Sociological Sciences, associate of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Founder of the journal Archeology of Russian Death, he is one of the most famous death studies specialists in Russia.

Sergei is a winner of the Alexander Pyatigorsky Literary Prize (2019)



*“The author talks to us about ourselves, about what awaits us, about what we all are interested in. This is an absolutely essential book.”*

Esquire

*“This is a history of death that tells about death today for the first time and one of the most prominent 2020 books.”*

TASS, Russia's #1 news agency





## Dmitry Khaustov Burroughs Who Exploded

Beat Generation, Postmodernism,  
Cyberpunk and Other Shards

*“Khaustov is clearly passionate about the subject but his head remains cool: he avoids extremes and the book truly benefits from such rigorous fascination. In recent years, there have been many biographies in which the authors, with or without meaning to, channel the readers’ attention from their characters to themselves, one and only. In contrast, Khaustov carefully wraps Burroughs in a classic philological fabric and is not distracted by anything except for retransmission.”*

**godliteratury.ru**, a special Rossiyskaya Gazeta project about literature and reading

*“Khaustov writes about Burroughs in a way that makes him understandable even to those who are not keen on diving into the depths of literature and philosophy.”*

**The Blueprint**, Russia’s #1 independent media about fashion, beauty and modern culture

320 pages, 75 000 words, 2020  
Materials available: manuscript



## Polina Aronson DIY Love

How We Became Managers of Our Feelings

*“What’s best about Aronson’s book is the ending with the conclusion that doesn’t reduce relationships to algorithms: let’s replace what is built on endless choice options with care and active compassion through which we can be open and honest with each other without the fear of being rejected.”*

**TheCity24**, well known media covering Moscow’s cultural scene

*“This book is an attempt to notice blank spots on the new map of emotions, to figure out what we lose when we begin to treat our own happiness as a subject of deliberate work.”*

**Yuri Saprykin**, journalist, head of the Polka academy, project about the most important works of Russian literature

When it comes to love, words often fail us. But what can we say about it at all? DIY Love is a collection of essays written by the social scientist and publicist Polina Aronson and dedicated to the way our notions about romantic feelings are constructed today. When and why did ‘lovers’ give place to ‘partners’? What determines our ability to find a common language when talking about emotions and desires? How will the coronavirus affect human relationships? Polina answers these and other questions in her book.

192 pages, 36 000 words, 2020  
Materials available: manuscript



## Tamara Eidelman How Propaganda Works

Tamara Eidelman, a history teacher with thirty years of experience and a popular lecturer, explores the origins and the current state of propaganda. By looking at examples from different countries and centuries she demonstrates how agenda-driven media shape public opinion, how typical propaganda techniques work and how to read the news in the post-truth era. “Well-timed news can be helpful to start a war or, on the contrary, to rise the fight for peace, to ruin the reputation of a respected person or bring fame to out-of-nowhere people.”

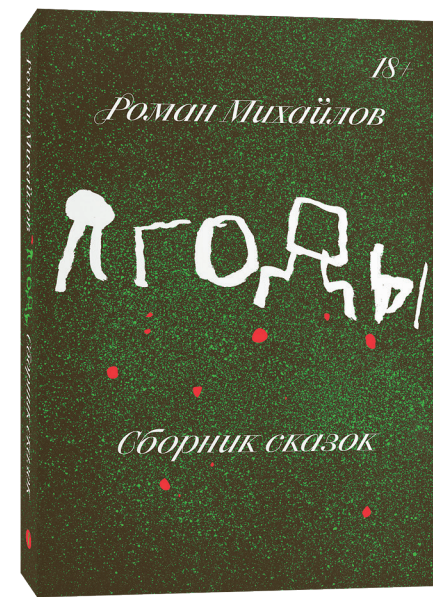
*“Every now and then my colleagues argue that a hard-hitting headline of a made-up news story gets remembered while exposing it as a fake doesn’t. I’m sure that this book will help change the situation.”*

**Echo of Moscow**, Russia’s #2 radio station

*“All books about propaganda should be written the way only Tamara Natanovna can write. Concisely and with irony.”*

**Open Library**, a popular social and cultural project in Russia

216 pages, 50 000 words, 2018  
Materials available: manuscript



## Roman Mikhailov Berries

**B**erries is a book of magic tales written in various years. Some pieces were adapted into movies and stage productions but together they make up a whole world of cross-cutting plots (reclusion, magic transformations, communication between the living and the dead, madness as a way to change reality) and reappearing characters.

312 pages, 68 000 words, 2020  
Materials available: manuscript

*“Berries is a truly dangerous book, working like a virus and invading not so much the imagination as the very consciousness. However, just like Plato’s pharmakon, it is also an antivirus aiming to overcome narrow-mindedness and callosity in readers.”*

**Gorky**, Russia’s #1 online project about books and reading

*“A scary tale based on present-day and familiar material is a very powerful idea.”*

**godliteratury.ru**, a special Rossiyskaya Gazeta project of about literature and reading



## Timur Kibirov The General and His Family

Defined by the author as a historic novel, *The General and His Family* is a family saga unfolding in the late USSR. Kibirov approaches a set of common topics (generational conflict, the problem of emigration, finding the purpose) with irony and a patchwork quilt made up of quotes that defined the perceptions of late Soviet people. Experience and attention to the smallest details that the author puts into the book bring *The General and His Family* to the level of a big Russian novel, both sincere and sarcastic.

Timur Kibirov is a winner of many Russian and international awards, including the Big Book Award (2020) for his novel *The General and His Family*.

*"In fact, this is, of course, a book written by a poet. And, as is always the case, it is about anything and everything: about love, about happiness, about what a human being is... About the author himself; about modern literature, about Russian history... In other words, Kibirov touches upon all the vital topics that a big poet can possibly touch upon."*

**Mikhail Kunin**, a poet, a cultural scientist, associated professor of the Institute for Social Sciences of RANEPA

*"I liked *The General and His Family* tremendously: I haven't read anything that delightful in a long time."*

**Lev Oborin**, a literary critic, an editor of the Polka academy, the project about the most important works of Russian literature

624 pages, 134 000 words, 2020

Rights sold: Theatre (Russia) Materials available: manuscript



## Fyodor Katasonov Fediatics

A Non-Anxious Approach  
to a Child

The Moscow pediatrician Fyodor Katasonov not only treats children but also dispels their parents' worries by explaining in layperson's terms why their children's immunity is much stronger than their own. Katasonov's debut book deals with the matters that bother many mums and dads: how should you prepare for labor? How will you choose a good doctor? How does immunity work? Why is vaccination necessary? This book will be useful to everyone who cares about their well-being, about the well-being of their relatives, and also will help save the money and nerves.

*"Fediatics is a clear instruction for overcoming fears that parents have."*

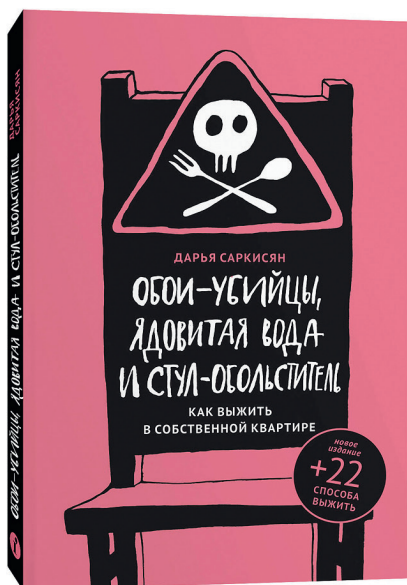
**Evgeny Komarovsky**, a pediatrician, a doctor of the highest category

*"This book is a compass, invaluable work and a gift to the colleagues, parents and our children."*

**Tatiana Drubich**, an actress, a co-chair of the Trustee Board in the Hospice Charity Foundation VERA

304 pages, 62 000 words, 2019

Materials available: manuscript



# Darya Sarkisyan Killer Wallpaper, Poisonous Water and a Chair That Tempts

How to Survive While at Home

*“The book should be read not so much as an instruction but as a therapy against urban fears: turns out, many things we are so hysterically afraid of are actually not scary at all. In a word, read Sarkisyan more and listen to people on the Internet less.”*

**Lisa Birger**, a literary critic, The Village, #1 media about Moscow and Saint-Petersburg news

Every day, we do hundreds of stupid things in the kitchen, in the bathroom and at our work desks. If you read this book, you will find out how to live according to science and avoid dying prematurely. Myths are debunked on every page! Medical journalist Darya Sarkisyan looks at our daily behaviours through the lens of evidence-based medicine: what is good for us, what is absolutely not and what makes no sense whatsoever. Her favourite question is ‘Why do we live the way we do?’

*“Killer Wallpaper, Poisonous Water and a Chair That Tempts. How to Survive While at Home is a collection of tips on how to do basically everything that is part of our daily routine. Sarkisyan just suggests to do that following scientific findings and not questionable pieces of advice that we are bombarded with today.”*

Buro 24/7, an independent online media outlet covering fashion, beauty tips, culture and important trends in modern society

208 pages, 46 000 words, 2018  
Materials available: manuscript

# Mariya Klimova and Julia Sugueva

## Women From The Caucasus

Approx. 70000 words.

Date of publication: October-November 2021



This is a unique project, which aims to track the life of ordinary woman from the Russian Caucasus – a very patriarchal and rural region, consisting of seven republics (some of them are Muslim, and some them ain't), where 15 million people – 10% of the Russian population – live. What does it mean to be raised as a girl here? At what age are you expected to marry? What job and education opportunities exist? Are bride kidnapping, honour killings, and female genital mutilation as widespread as the media claims? What happens when you grow old? Taken from interviews with more than 100 women from across the region, laced with commentary by the prominent historians, social researchers, human rights activists etc, this book will change the perception of the southern parts of Russia forever and help to spread justice in the land of silence and fear.

**Mariya Klimova** and **Julia Sugueva** are journalists working for the Russian website **MediaZona**, founded by Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova of Pussy Riot. MediaZona focuses on the judicial, law enforcement and the penal system in Russia.

# Andrey Zakharov

## CryptoRussia

Approx. 60000 words.

Date of publication: September-October 2021

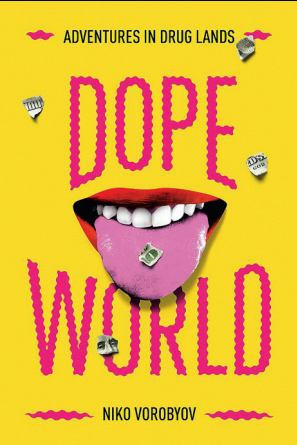
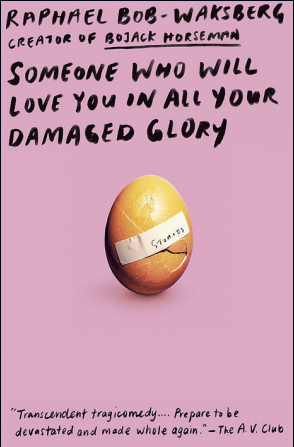
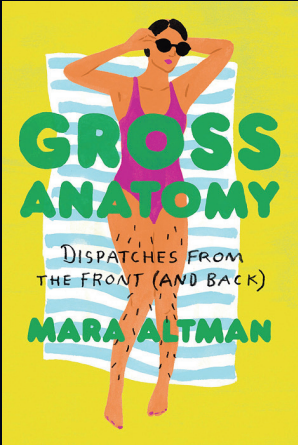
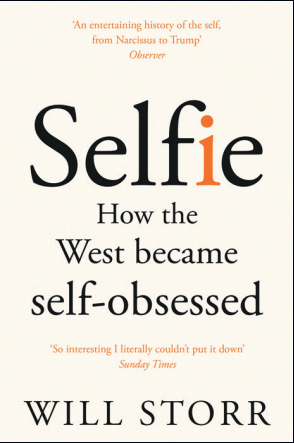
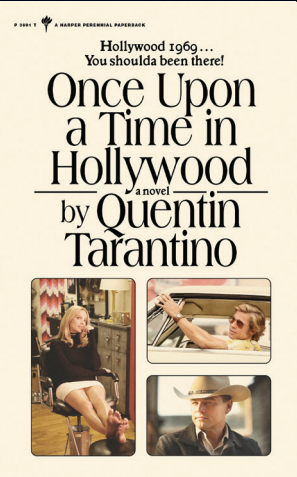
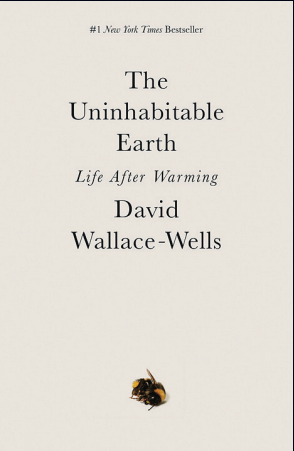
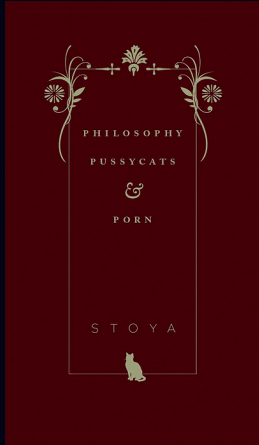


This is the story of the cryptocurrency movement in Russia – with all its glamour, drama, tears and bloodshed. Of course, those things are interconnected with the other parts of the world: the backbone of the narrative is built around the story of the BTC-E – cryptocurrency trading platform, which was seized by the U.S. government. It was founded in July 2011 by Alexander Vinnik and Aleksandr Bilyuchenko, and as of February 2015 handled around 3% of all Bitcoin exchange volume, making their founders extremely rich. When the platform was shut down, around 400 million dollars were hidden somewhere – and the great hunt for them began.

This is the story about the sudden growth of possibilities, about IT-underdogs discovering themselves on the top of the world, about failure and disillusionment – but at the same time, about the technology that is

shaping the radically new world around us right now.

**Andrey Zakharov** worked for a media outlet called Project and is now a journalist for the BBC in Russia. He specializes in investigative journalism and spends a lot of time researching Russian darknet and bitcoin-trading circles.



our foreign highlights  
over the last 3 years

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