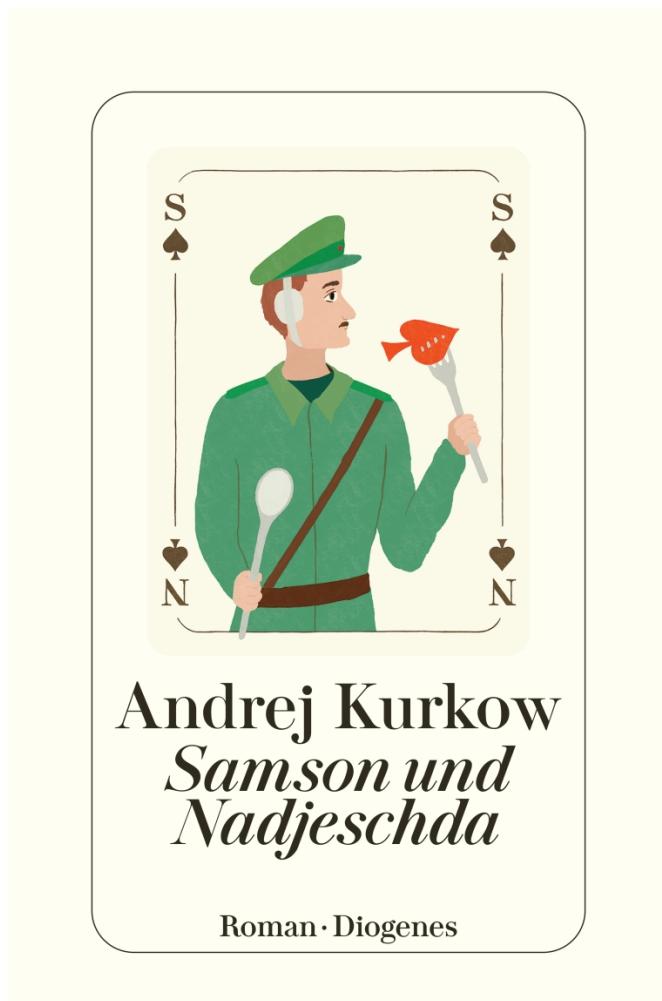


# Diogenes

Andrey Kurkow & Jurij Nikitin (III.)  
*Samson und Nadezhda*

Published by Diogenes as *Samson und Nadjeschda*  
Original title: *Samson i Nadežda*



Andrey Kurkow  
*Samson und  
Nadjeschda*

Roman · Diogenes

In the tumultuous wake of the Russian Revolution, the young, recently orphaned Samson finds himself almost accidentally signed up to the new Soviet police force in Kyiv. His first case is a perplexing mystery involving a severed ear, a bone made of pure silver and a decidedly unusual suit tailored from fine English cloth. Luckily, Samson meets the ingenious Nadezhda, who aids him in his investigation.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction, Crime fiction

368 pages

11.6 x 18.4 x 2.5 cm

August 2022

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### Translation rights currently sold:

Arabic (Sefsafa)  
Croatian (Božicevic)  
Dutch (Borgerhoff & Lamberigts)  
English/world (MacLehose)  
Estonian (Tännapäev)  
French (Liana Levi)  
Greek (Kastaniotis)  
Italian (Marsilio)  
Polish (Noir sur Blanc)  
Romanian (Paralela 45)  
Spanish/world (PRH Grupo (Salamandra,  
Lumen, etc))  
Turkish (Siren)

### Bestseller

Spiegel Bestseller

### Awards

- 2024 englische Übersetzung von *Samson und Nadjeschda* auf der Longlist des »International Booker Prize«
- 2023 Italienische Übersetzung von *Samson und Nadjeschda* für den »Premio Strega Europeo« nominiert
- 2023 englische Übersetzung von *Jimi Hendrix live in Lemberg* auf der Longlist des »International Booker Prize«
- 2023 Als ausländisches Ehrenmitglied (Foreign Honorary Membership) in die »American Academy of Arts and Letters« aufgenommen
- 2022 »Geschwister Scholl Preis« für *Tagebuch einer Invasion*
- 2022 *Graue Bienen* auf der Shortlist des »Prix Fémina«
- 2022 »The Halldór Laxness International Literature Prize«
- 2022 »Prix Médicis étranger« für *Graue Bienen*
- 2022 *Graue Bienen* nominiert für den »Prix du meilleur livre étranger«
- 2021 »Fulbright Visiting Scholar-Stipendium« in San Diego, Kalifornien, USA
- 2014 Ernennung zum »Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur« durch den französischen Präsidenten François Hollande
- 2012 »Premio Gogol«, Rom
- 2012 »Prix des lecteurs«, Frankreich, für *Der Gärtner von Otschakow*
- 2009 Jurymitglied für den »Man Booker International Prize 2009«
- 2008 Writer in Residence in Innsbruck
- 2005 Nach Einschätzung der Zeitschrift *Lire* ist Andrey Kurkow einer der 50 wichtigsten Schriftsteller der Welt.

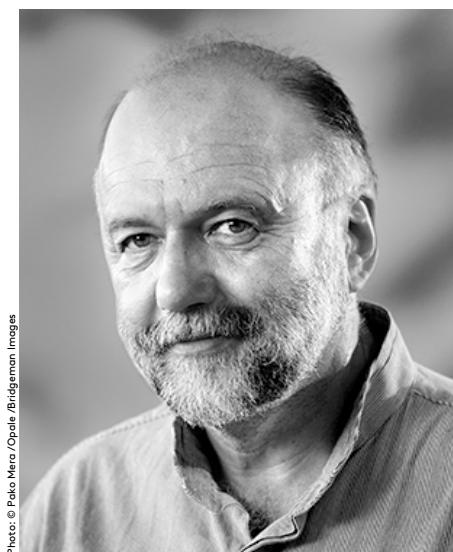


Photo: © Polko Mera / Opale / Bridgeman Images

Andrej Kurkow, born in St. Petersburg in 1961, has lived in Kyiv since childhood and writes in Russian. He studied foreign languages, was a newspaper editor and, during his military service, a prison guard, and wrote numerous screenplays. He is considered to be one of Ukraine's most important contemporary writers and is nominated for the »International Booker Prize« 2023 with *Jimi Hendrix Live in Lviv*. Andrej Kurkow's works have been published in 42 languages. He has been a freelance author since 1996 and lives in Ukraine with his family.

## ❖ Awards (cont'd)

- 2002 Preis »Schriftsteller des Jahres 2001«, den Buchhändler anlässlich der Buchmesse in der Ukraine vergeben haben
- 2001 In der Ukraine als Künstler des Jahres 2001 mit dem Preis »Mann des Jahres« ausgezeichnet
- 1997 Sein Drehbuch *Ein Freund des Verblichenen* wird für den »Felix«-Preis in der Kategorie »Bester Europäischer Drehbuchautor des Jahres« nominiert.
- 1996 Das Drehbuch, basierend auf Kurkows Erzählung *Ein Freund des Verblichenen*, erhielt ein Stipendium vom französischen Kultusministerium, wodurch der Film teilfinanziert werden konnte. *Priyatel pokonyika* wurde 1997 eim Filmfestival in Cannes gezeigt.
- 1994 Nominierung des Romans *Bikfordov mir* für den Russischen Booker Prize
- 1994 Stipendium der Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung für seine Erzählung *Liebeslied eines Kosmopoliten*

## Praise

### *Samson and Nadezhda*

»Andrey Kurkov unites realism and imaginary elements with ease and creates a veritable undertow in this book.« – Peter Mohr / *Abendzeitung München*, Munich

»Andrey Kurkov, who wrote this picaresque novel, is said to be one of the best authors in Ukraine – and rightly so!« – *Freundin*, Munich

»Andrey Kurkov's novel *Samson and Nadezhda* reads like a parable on the current situation in Ukraine and yet is a look into the past.« – Sabine Tholund / *Kieler Nachrichten*, Kiel

»A page-turner that has you hoping the author will swiftly write more.«

– Joachanan Shelliem / *NDR Kultur*, Hannover

»One thing is for sure: Kurkov is being read, and popular historical tales are far more influential than the studies of academic historians.« – Uli Hufn / *WDR3*, Cologne

»Kurkov has written a true pageturner.« – Stephan Ozsváth / *Inforadio rbb*, Berlin

»Kurkov finished the book before the war, reading it now induces a double bellyache.« – Meike Schnitzler / *Brigitte*, Hamburg

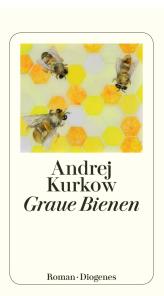
»This is a trippy, funny, very absurd novel, and one that's a great deal of fun.« – Johannes Kössler / *ORF*, Vienna

»He proves that satire must be written and also read, most importantly in times of war.« – Cornelius Wüllenkemper / *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Frankfurt

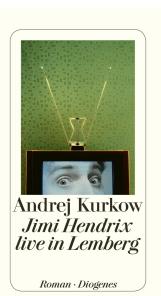
»Kurkov paints vivid pictures of the characters in his novel. First and foremost honest Samson, who believes in a better future.« – Johannes Alles / *Nürnberger Nachrichten*, Nuremberg



*Samson and the Stolen Heart*  
432 pages  
2023



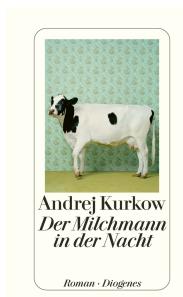
*Grey Bees*  
448 pages  
2019  
❖ Award winner



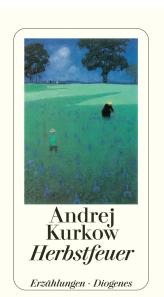
*Jimi Hendrix Live in Lviv*  
416 pages  
2014  
❖ Award winner



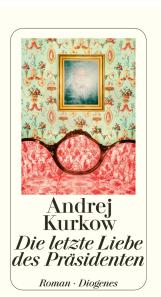
*The Gardener of Ochakov*  
352 pages  
2012  
❖ Award winner



*The Milkman in the Night*  
544 pages  
2009



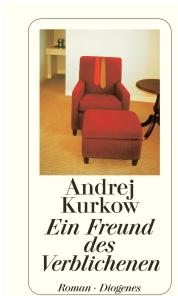
*Bonfire*  
240 pages  
2007



*The President's Last Love*  
704 pages  
2005

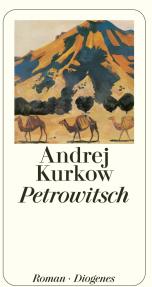


*Penguin Lost*  
544 pages  
2003

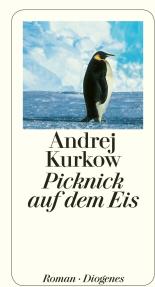


*A Matter of Death and Life*  
144 pages  
2001

Award winner



*The Good Angel of Death*  
448 pages  
2000



*Death and the Penguin*  
288 pages  
1999

### Praise (cont'd)

»Samson deserves a sequel.« – Christian Schröder / *Der Tagesspiegel*, Berlin

»Reactionary and progressive things are inseparably intertwined —an incredible, sometimes even fairytale-like composite characterizes the people, with whom Samson interacts.« – Fritz Göttler / *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Munich

»As you read this novel, magic prevails over sorrow and anger.« – Wolfgang Schütz / *Augsburger Allgemeine*, Augsburg

»A historical thriller, yet one that also brings the reader closer to understanding modern-day Ukraine.« – Kristina Toussaint / *Aachener Zeitung*, Aachen

»With its earthy prose and stunning attention to detail, this stands apart.« – *Publishers Weekly*, New York

### Andrej Kurkow

»Andrej Kurkows knows how to make a story entertaining and amusing.« – *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

»Andrey Kurkov is a master of grotesque humour.« – Brigitte, Hamburg

»With Kurkov, one is guaranteed entertainment of the highest order.« – *Wiener Zeitung*

»Kurkov's style is spare and effective, drawing us with deception ease into a dense, complex world full of wonderful characters.« – Michael Palin / (author)

»A latter-day Bulgakov [...] A Ukrainian Murakami.« – Phoebe Taplin / *The Guardian*, London

»A post-Soviet Kafka.« – Colin Freeman / *The Daily Telegraph*, London

»A kind of Ukrainian Kurt Vonnegut.« – Ian Sansom / *The Spectator*, London

»Kurkov writes short, sly, page-turners that specialize in what we might call absurdist noir.« – John Powers / *NPR's Fresh Air*, Washington D.C.

»Armed with the hilarious animal metaphors that populate his books, Kurkov depicts a humorous and scathing satire of the post-Soviet world, and of a Ukrainian society rediscovering itself, independent and riven by mafia, chaos and corruption.« – Laurent Rigoulet / *La Chronique*, Brussels

»His prose marked by humour and a contagious humanity evokes magical realism and the absurd.« – Jorge Ferrer / *El Mundo*, Madrid

»Andrey Kurkov's writing style moves between the unexpected, the beautiful and the hilarious — a tone that permits him to tell a tragedy without renouncing the paradox and the satire.« – Karina Sainz Borgo / *ABC*, Madrid

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**Praise (cont'd)**

»He works with such imaginative power, which nothing seems to be able to quench, with a humorous and tender tone, with protagonists who don't have their fate in their hands, yet are saved by goodness and kindness.« – Alain Guillemoles / *La Croix*, Montrouge

»Andrey Kurkov connects the absurd with the ordinary, the comic with the sordid.« – Isabelle Mandraud / *Le Monde*, Paris