

# Diogenes

Sasha Filipenko  
*The Hunt*

Published by Diogenes as *Die Jagd*  
Original title: *Trawlja*



A journalist who knows too much. A son who betrays his father. A merciless oligarch. A corrupt, unscrupulous hack. Media that tear down reputations to order.

Sasha Filipenko tells the story of Anton Quint, an idealistic journalist who decides to take on an oligarch. His powerful opponent gives the order to destroy Quint – and so the hunt is on.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Bestseller  
288 pages  
11.6 × 18.4 × 2.3 cm  
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**Translation rights currently sold:**  
Dutch (Meridiaan)

### 📌 Bestseller

#10 Swiss Bestseller  
#19 Spiegel Bestseller

### 🏆 Awards

- 2025 Ruth Altenhofer wurde für ihre Übersetzung des Romans *Der Schatten einer offenen Tür* von Sasha Filipenko aus dem Russischen mit dem ›Sacher-Masoch-Preis‹ ausgezeichnet.
- 2024 ›Prix Transfuge du meilleur roman européen‹ für *Kremulator*
- 2024 ›ProLitteris-Hauptpreis‹ für herausragende Leistungen in der Literatur und Kultur
- 2022 *Rote Kreuze* auf der Shortlist für ›EBRD Literaturpreis‹, vergeben von der Europäischen Bank für Wiederaufbau und Entwicklung für übersetzte Belletristik
- 2021 ›Writer in Residence‹ bis Juli 2021: Fondation Jan Michalski, Montricher, Nähe Genfersee, Schweiz
- 2020 ›Yasnaya Polyana Award‹ des Lev Tolstoy Museum für *Der Schatten einer offenen Tür*
- 2016 *Die Jagd* auf der Shortlist für den russischen ›Big Book Award‹
- 2016 ›Snob Award: Made in Russia‹ für *Die Jagd*
- 2014 ›Znamya Magazine Award‹ für *Der ehemalige Sohn*
- 2014 ›Russian Prize‹ für *Der ehemalige Sohn*

### Praise

#### *The Hunt*

»For all the novel's savagery, this is sophisticated literary fiction, many-voiced and free in its form.« – Erik Lim / Südwest Presse, Ulm

»In a remarkably nimble tone, Filipenko succeeds in portraying the perversities of the Russian state apparatus.« – Lukas Koschyk / Nürnberger Nachrichten, Nürnberg

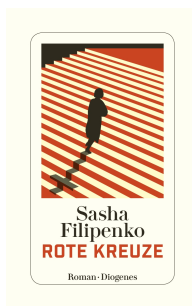
»In this very readable book, Belarusian author Filipenko shows that commercial fiction doesn't have to be apolitical.« – Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf



Sasha Filipenko, born in Minsk in 1984, is a Belarusian author who writes in Russian. After leaving his training in classical music, he studied literature in St. Petersburg and worked as a journalist, scriptwriter, television presenter and gag writer for a satirical show. His novels *Red Crosses* and *The Hunt* were *Spiegel* bestsellers. Filipenko is an ardent football fan and lived in St. Petersburg until 2020. He had to leave Russia with his family and currently lives in Switzerland.



*The Shadow of an Open Door*  
272 pages  
2024  
🏆 Award winner



*Red Crosses*  
288 pages  
2020  
🏆 Award winner  
📈 Bestseller

### Praise (cont'd)

»With his highly literary, sophisticated prose, Filipenko takes us into the heart of the country on several narrative levels.« – Annemarie Stoltenberg / NDR Kultur, Hamburg

»Perhaps not reading from the history books after all. Sadly, this novel has proved to be timeless.« – Wolfgang Koydl / Die Weltwoche, Zurich

»A jumble of voices as chaotic as the country in which moral categories like good and bad seem to have abdicated, and a lack of conscience reigns.« – Lilo Solcher / Augsburgener Allgemeine, Augsburg

»Filipenko has written a brutal, a disillusioned book, that fits today's perception of Russia in a haunting way.« – Johann Michael Möller / Cicero, Berlin

»You're either hunter or hunted. Filipenko paints a terrifying portrait of a society careening towards the abyss.« – Elena Balzamo / Le Monde, Paris

»Using a multitude of forms, Filipenko plays his sentence symphony with virtuosity. But he never forgets to warn. To show how the freedom of the press is being destroyed in Russia.« – Peter Pisa / Kurier, Vienna

»The way Sasha Filipenko writes about violence is of such linguistic beauty that it makes me want to immediately delete this sentence.« – Nora Zukker / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»It's this system of violence and oppression that Filipenko puts under the literary magnifying glass and skilfully dissects, with linguistic and compositional panache.« – Ingo Petz / Der Standard, Vienna

»*The Hunt* is a pageturner.« – Uli Hufen / WDR 3, Cologne

»This is a very intense book, a very hard book, but one that's incredible to read.« – Johannes Kössler / ORF, Vienna

### Sasha Filipenko

»There is something unshakable to Sasha Filipenko's literature – impressive.« – Nora Zukker / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Filipenko is a relatable intellectual and a first-class writer who is gradually becoming known and appreciated in the West.« – Wlodek Goldkorn / L'Espresso, Rome

»Sasha Filipenko is one of those young writers who immediately gained a reputation for being a serious author. If you want to get inside the head of modern, young Russia, read Filipenko.« – Svetlana Alexievich / (Nobel Prize winner 2015)

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### Praise (cont'd)

»Sasha Filipenko's books are based on thorough documental research – material that he turns into fictional literature with linguistic innovation and acumen. Sasha Filipenko possesses the ability to depict dismal circumstances with powerful metaphors, rendering the absurdity of political and existential situations. With satire and finesse, he reconstructs the intimate and the mundane that lets humans persevere – or keeps them caught – in objectively unbearable situations. His humour is brilliant and conveys complex historical contexts to the readers, employing human fates as examples. By bestowing this award on Sasha Filipenko, the jury also wants to honour an author whose career has been marked by substantial personal and political risks. Both of which reflect in his writing. Sasha Filipenko is an invaluable witness who contributes, as an intermediary, to the understanding of the contemporary geopolitical situation.« – Pro Litteris Award Jury