Diogenes

Book factsheet

Andrej Kurkow & Tania Goryushina (Ill.)
Why Nobody Strokes Hedgehogs

Published by Diogenes as *Warum den Igel keiner streichelt*
Original title: *Pocemu eschika nikto ne gladit*



The little hedgehog is sad. The other animals are constantly being petted: the dogs, the cats, the hares and the horses. He's the only one that no one strokes. But one day he meets a clever field mouse who shows him that we're all lovable just as we are. And that sometimes it's a wonderful thing to be wild and free.

Children's Books
36 pages
20.5 × 28 cm
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Translation rights currently sold:
Albanian (Onufri)
Chinese/CN (Beijing Cheerful Century)
Croatian (')
Korean (Tembook)
Swedish (')

Awards

2026 Andrej Kurkow erhält den ›Orwell Prize‹ in der Kategorie *Spezial Prize*

for 'one of the finest bodies of work in contemporary literature'
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* nominiert für den ›Prix du meilleur livre étranger‹
2022 *Graue Bienen* auf der Shortlist des ›Prix Fémina‹
2022 ›Prix Médicis étranger‹ für *Graue Bienen*
2022 ›The Halldór Laxness International Literature Prize‹
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 ›Prix des lecteurs‹, Frankreich, für *Der Gärtner von Otschakow*
2012 ›Premio Gogol‹, Rom
2009 Jurymitglied für den ›Man Booker International Prize 2009‹
2008 Writer in Residence in Innsbruck
2005 Nach Einschätzung der Zeitschrift *Lire* ist Andrej Kurkow einer der 50 wichtigsten Schriftsteller der Welt.
2002 Preis ›Schriftsteller des Jahres 2001‹, den Buchhändler anlässlich der Buchmesse in der Ukraine vergeben haben

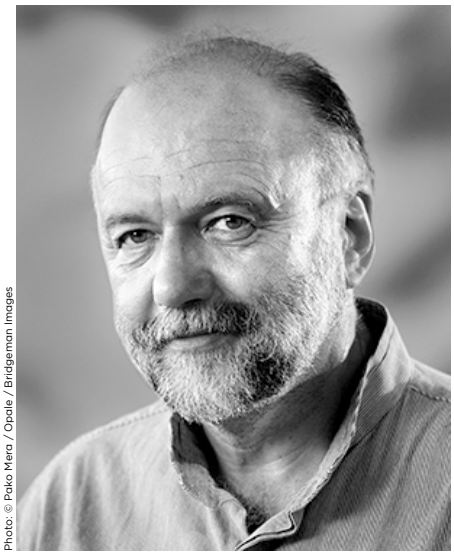


Photo: © Pako Mera / Opale / Bridgeman Images

Andrej Kurkow, born in 1961 in what was then Leningrad, has lived in Kyiv since his childhood. He studied foreign languages and became a newspaper editor and screenwriter. Since his novel *Death and the Penguin*, he has been considered one of the Ukraine's most important contemporary authors. His work has been translated into forty-five languages. Kurkow lives with his family in Ukraine as a freelance writer. In 2023, he was made an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



Photo: © Pierre Helgesson

Tania Goryushina, born in Kyiv in 1978, is an artist, illustrator and teacher. She has received multiple awards for her children's books that she either develops in collaboration with various publishers or which she produces in her own micro publishing house Tyanachu. Tania Goryushina is based in Stockholm.

Awards (cont'd)

2001 In der Ukraine als Künstler des Jahres 2001 mit dem Preis ›Mann des Jahres‹ ausgezeichnet

1997 Sein Drehbuch *Ein Freund des Verblichen*en 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 pokoynik*a wurde 1997 eim Filmfestival in Cannes gezeigt.

1994 Stipendium der Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung für seine Erzählung *Liebeslied eines Kosmopoliten*

1994 Nominierung des Romans *Bikfordov mir* für den Russischen Booker Prize

Praise

Andrej Kurkow

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

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

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

»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, Kurkow 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

»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

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

»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



Hedgehog and the Present Puzzle
36 pages
2022

Praise (cont'd)

»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

»It is no surprise that Kurkov began his literary career as a joke writer during the Soviet era. His humour is sharp and precise, but never cynical. As long as there is laughter, there is also hope, even within a rotten system.« – Tommi Melender / Helsingin Sanomat, Helsinki