

Sasha Filipenko
Kremulator

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Pyotr Nesterenko is on first-name terms with death. As director of the Moscow Crematorium during the Stalin era, he has reduced them all to ash: the dissidents, the alleged spies, and the former heroes of the Revolution who have fallen victim to the purges. He, on the other hand, is convinced he cannot die. He has narrowly escaped death countless times – until the day he himself is arrested. Will he cheat the gallows one more time?

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
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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

Kremulator

»With his novel on Russia's past, Sasha Filipenko establishes a connection to the present and tells, in a gut-wrenching manner, of life under a dictatorship of despotism and brutality, and of the insanity of war.« – Nora Zukker / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»Sasha Filipenko has mastered the art of drastic change. From comedy to cruel tragedy, from irony to poetry, from metaphorical play to documentary prose. This is what makes the literary appeal and ultimately the tension of the text.« – Hans von Trotha / Deutschlandfunk

»A novel that plays virtuosically with fact and fiction.« – Peter Zander / Berliner Morgenpost



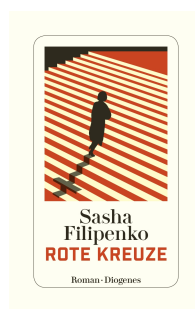
Sasha Filipenko, born in Minsk in 1984, is a Belarusian author who writes in Russian. After leaving his training in classical music, he studied literature in St. Petersburg and worked as a journalist, scriptwriter, television presenter and gag writer for a satirical show. His novels *Red Crosses* and *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



The Hunt
288 pages
2022
🏆 Award winner
📈 Bestseller



Red Crosses
288 pages
2020
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Praise (cont'd)

»The inside view of a society in which total state terror is imposed has oppressive features, yet Filipenko noticeably sets out to present an entertaining novel with downright hilarious passages.« – Karl-Markus Gauss / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»The book is pervaded by a coldness that goes to the core, but its narrator Pyotr is not cold. How the author manages to turn Pyotr Nesterenko into a soldier - a less than well-behaved one - who survives all the horrors while seeing them with brutal clarity is simply breathtaking.« – Peter Helling / NDR Kultur

»A superb book of investigation and imagination.« – Michel Audétat / Le Matin Dimanche, Lausanne

»The book almost casually delivers a pitch-black commentary on today's Russia.« – Peter Helling / NDR Kultur, Hannover

»In the rhythm of terse, cool sentences and with caustic sarcasm, the novel exposes brutalisation and Bolshevik paranoia, in which the Russian war in Ukraine is mirrored as if by itself.« – Sonntag (Wochenendmagazin), Hannover

»Sasha Filipenko stages this with stylistic skill. His interrogation novel reads like a duel – with terse syntax, quick repartee and razor-sharp humour.« – Lena Bopp / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

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)

»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