

#### RIGHTS CATALOGUE / 2023



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BESTSELLERS

# Jakub Szamałek

#### HIGHLIGHT

#### BESTSELLERS Jakub Szamałek INNER SPACE Original \_\_\_\_\_\_Stacja Première date \_\_\_\_\_2023 Movie rights \_\_\_\_\_ No Rights sold \_\_\_\_\_ Be the first to buy

#### Four hundred and eight kilometers from Earth there's no one to come to your help.

Ever since Lucy Poplasky came back from her last NASA mission, she's been wanting to go back to the International Space Station. Now, she's finally returning and as the crew's commander no less. However, it quickly becomes clear that this is not going to be a "space business as usual" mission. The tensions between the two host nations, Russia and the United States, deepen with each passing day, affecting everyone onboard. To make matters worse, a sudden and inexplicable rise in ammonia concentration puts the lives of both crews at risk. The six astronauts, packed tightly in cramped, claustrophobic quarters, need to overcome mutual distrust in order to ensure their survival. Soon, however, Lucy starts suspecting that the ammonia leak is no accident but an act of sabotage. Who and why? There are five suspects – and no help on the way.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ The last trilogy has sold about 170 000 copies.
- ★ The novel is set on an international space station, which is about to be closed down in 2024.

#### OTHER TITLES:

The Dark Web series:



2019 2 Whoever You Are A Rights sold to: La France R

2020 Anywhere You Look **Rights sold to:** France

JAKUB SZAMAŁEK A writer, a scriptwriter for computer games (*The Witcher 3, Blood Wars, Cyberpunk 2077*), he graduated from Oxford University and completed a PhD in Mediterranean archaeology at the University of Cambridge. He received the Gates Scholarship.

He's the author of an acclaimed crime series about Leochares, a detective from Athens, and a bestselling cycle of thrillers titled *Hidden Network*. Together with Maria Pawłowska he published a children's story titled *Who is Sam the Snail*?

His stories have been translated into Czech, French, German and Taiwanese Hokkien.

The Dark Web is a crime trilogy written by Polish author Jakub Szamałek. The first two volumes, both published in 2019, are each around 450 pages long and were both nominated for Poland's High Calibre Award for best crime novel. Volume three (published October 2020) is 380 pages long. Impressive sales figures from early 2021 show the separate parts of the trilogy have sold over 71,000 copies in Poland so far. This is the author's second trilogy, following the Leochares detective series set in ancient Greece, for which he won the High Calibre Award in 2011 and 2016. His writing can be likened to the work of Marc Elsberg and Zygmunt Miłoszewski. In terms of themes and style, there are also many similarities between Szamałek's books and TV series such as *Black Mirror* or *Years and Years*.

2019

Choose

Republic

Sold

Whatever You

**Rights sold to:** 

France, Czech

Movie rights:

BESTSELLERS

READ

SAMPLE

#### BESTSELLERS



#### Malcolm XD

#### EMIGRATION





#### Original — Emigracia Première date — 2019 Movie rights \_\_\_\_\_ Sold (Canal + Series) Rights sold \_\_\_\_\_ **Be the first to buy**

The debut novel of the most unknown author in Poland. Over the past few years, Malcolm XD has published dozens of short stories online, which have attracted over 2 million readers. He wrote a nowcult story, The Angler's Father (Ojcu wedkarzu), which was even adapted for the screen (the script for Fanatic (Fanatyka) was written by Malcolm XD himself; the film was directed by Michał Tylka and featured actors including Piotr Cyrwus, Marian Dziędziel, Jan Nowicki and Anna Radwan). It was the world's first full-fledged film adaptation of an online story. Emigration is a book about a young man who, after graduating from a provincial high school, decides to go to the UK to earn some money. In the manner characteristic of an 'online story', it talks about one of the most important Polish social phenomena of recent decades, which has not yet been presented in detail in Polish literature. This is a story about growing up in provincial Poland, an adventure-filled journey to London and the life of an emigrant. About truckers, Gypsy campervan dealers, anarchist squatters, recidivists hiding from the Polish justice system, Russian oligarchs, the impoverished English aristocracy, losers and go-go clubs. Get ready to see the legend of the Polish Internet in analogue version.

**MALCOLM XD** is the most unknown man in Poland and a local internet legend. He has written viral short stories, one of which, about an old fishing fanatic, was even made into a short film. His debut book, Emigration, became an instant bestseller and was met with critical acclaim. Soon after, to honour his most dedicated fans and the lovers of analogue literature, he published his best and most popular online stories in a collection titled Pastrami. In the first phase of lockdown, he embarked on a charity project where he brightened other peoples' isolation with his Covid Chronicles, but he underestimated the scope of the situation and came up with a story too short to last for the duration of the pandemic. During his author meetings, he prefers to remain anonymous, so he sits inside a vending machine, and he does his interviews online. There are people who maliciously insist that Malcolm XD is a hive personality.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- \* 100 000 sold titles in the series.
- A new, fresh story paste style.
- $\star$ A funny, witty, and often caustic account of contemporary London as seen by a Polish emigrant.
- \* Full of familiar street names, monuments, and famous places in London.

#### OTHER TITLES:





2019 Pastrami 2020 Education



#### Marcin Meller

# **RED EARTH**

Original — Czerwona Ziemia Première date — 2022 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy** 

In Africa, the impossible is not only possible. It is also probable and sometimes, a certainty.

In 2020, young Marcin Tilszer - the son of THAT Tilszer, the famous reporter who journeyed all over Africa, sets off to follow his father's footsteps in Uganda.

However, Marcin never makes it to Gulu, the place of his father's most beautiful - and admittedly, the most life-threatening – adventure.

The reporter is forced to drop his most recent investigation and leave his editorial team to look for his son. But in Africa, nothing is quite as it seems: all paths seem to lead nowhere, and some decisions made 25 years ago have unforeseen consequences.

**MARCIN MELLER** is one of the most accomplished Polish journalists. Apart from his years-long experience as the editor-in-chief at Playboy, Meller is known as the TV host at Drugie Śniadanie Mistrzów, co-author of the best-selling book Gaumardzos and the author of essay collections Sprzedawca arbuzów and Nietoperz i suszone cytryny.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ More than 50 000 copies sold in 6 months.
- $\star$ One of the most enthusiastically received premières in Poland in 2022.
- ★ A few months in the Top 10 on the Empik Bestsellers list.
- $\star$ One of the best-selling audiobooks in the Empik Go application.

**OTHER TITLES:** 



A Bat and Dried Lemons



READ SAMPLE

#### BESTSELLERS



#### Zygmunt Miłoszewski

# **HYDROPOLIS**

Original — Uciekaj. Hydropolis tom I. Première date — 2022 Movie rights ——— No Rights sold ——— **Be the first to buy** 

Dive into the underwater riddle of Hydropolis and experience an unforgettable adventure. The first volume of the Hydropolis trilogy titled Run is more than just a page-turner full of twists and turns, which will resonate with young readers from the very beginning. This is a tale of a journey to freedom and a fight for the right to rebel.

Meet Leonard, also known as Elk, an eleven-year-old who lives in the Second Underwater Colony. His world is a place of strict rules, which restrain the people living there but are necessary to make them feel secure, as they want and need to. At first glance, the boy's everyday life seems just like the one we know, but in fact, it's steered by the Universal Security Rules and orchestrated by the omnipotent Engineers. Everybody must observe a specific set of rules, otherwise they will die.

Why then does Elk receive a message telling him to run? Is the colony in danger? Or is he? Who is telling the truth? Will the boy take a risk to learn whether there is an alternative reality, which might be better than the one he grew up in?

This unputdownable humorous story of fantastic worlds and unpredictable events will engage you from page one! It was written for young readers aged 9-12, but it will make an enjoyable read for older teenagers, too. Feisty, visionary, futuristic, with just a pinch of retro vibe - that's what the latest novel by Zygmunt Miłoszewski is like.

ZYGMUNT MIŁOSZEWSKI (b. 1976) is a top-selling Polish novelist and scriptwriter. He achieved international success with his crime trilogy starring Prosecutor Szacki, and his work has been adapted for cinema and television. Miłoszewski is also a screenwriter. As well as coauthoring the screenplay for A Grain of Truth, he co-authored a Polish television series called The Prosecutor.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ The first book for children written by one of the most popular crime story authors in Poland.
- ★ The author became popular and received a number of awards e.g. for a crime trilogy about Teodor Szacki, which was translated into 16 languages.
- ★ A tale of a journey to freedom and a fight for the right to rebel.

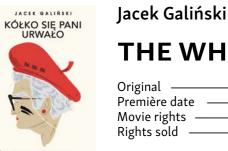


2007





2014 Raae



THE WHEEL IS BROKEN Original — Kółko się Pani urwało Première date — 2019 Movie rights — Option sold Rights sold — Russia (2021)

- KOMEDIA KRYMINALNA

8

First, her flat was broken into. The thieves not only stole money, jewellery and valuable documents, but also desecrated her most cherished memento of her husband - his dress uniform. The police are approaching the investigation with caution, although even a blindman could figure out all the evidence points to the upstairs neighbour, the man without a leg. She won't let him get away with that it, no chance. She decides to get even with him herself. But it turns out that the man without a leg has been murdered, and she is the main suspect. There's nothing else she can do but grab the handle of her faithful shopping trolley and launch her own investigation. Criminals of Warsaw beware! Here comes Zofia Wilkonska, the senior club troublemaker!

IACEK GALIŃSKI - winner of the short story competition in the International Crime Festival Wrocław 2017. The author of the best-selling crime comedies about Zofia Wilkońska. Winner of the 2019 Literary Hultaj title. He was nominated for the Grand Prix of the Warsaw Criminal Festival 2019.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A total of 170 000 books sold titles from the series about Mrs Zofia Wilkońska.
- $\star$ Galiński is the king of Polish comedy-crime fiction.
- He was one of the winners of the story contest at  $\star$ the International Crime Fiction Festival in Wrocław (2019). He was also awarded the title of a 2019 Literary Rascal (Hultaj Literacki) and was shortlisted for the Grand Prix at the Criminal Warsaw Festival in 2019.
- A bitter-sweet comedy that will \* make you laugh and ponder.

#### **OTHER TITLES:**



2019

ma'am

Wrong cell



2021 Your competitors got the better of you



2022 The end is nigh **OTHER TITLES:** The Teodor Szacki series:

**Rights sold to** 17 countries



READ

SAMPLE

#### FICTION



# Wojciech Chamier - Gliszczyński

# **PHANTOM DOSES**



# Original — Dawki Fantomowe Première date — 2022 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy**

When they meet, she's a resident at the Hospital for Children with Neuroses, Speech Impediments and Personality Disorders. He is the hospital's director who also happens to be a nationally famous psychiatrist, known in all of the People's Republic of Poland. They get married; he becomes her mentor and teacher. But over time, Alzheimer's disease begins to gnaw at his mind, and so the tables start to turn.

The book explores issues such as the nature of self and consciousness, but above all, it tells a tale of the loss of identity and escaping another person's dominance. The process - an establishment of the woman's 'self' is presented in opposition to her husband's mental deterioration.

While the subject might be challenging to some, the author presents it in the form of a sophisticated grotesque. The readers will enjoy its intertextuality, the wide scope of contexts and the masterful smokeand-mirrors game of truth and fiction. It is brimming with all kinds of references, from Eastern philosophy to French literature.

#### WOJCIECH CHAMIER-GLISZCZYŃSKI (born 1983)

made his debut in 2004 as a poet in the Szczecin-based journal Artefakt. In 2015, he was nominated in the Henryk Bereza Literary Competition for Read in the typescript. Finalist of the *Pracownia Prozy* project during the Station Literature 23rd Festival in 2018 and the Pracownia Opowieści project during the Station Literature 24<sup>th</sup> Festival in 2019. His short story Forbidden to play football was published in 2019 in the literary magazine biBLioteka and published by Biuro Literackie. For the book Portrait of Dogs, he was nominated for the ArtRage 2020 Literary Award. He is a lawyer, legal advisor by profession.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ An emancipation story of how a woman can break free from an oppressive situation.
- It's written in excellent, fresh language.  $\star$
- An attempt at tackling difficult  $\star$ topics under the guise of a sublime grotesque, which engages the reader and offers loads of fun.
- In 2015 the author was shortlisted \* for the award in the "Reading the Typescript" Henryk Bereza Literary Contest. He also reached the finals of the Prose Workshop project during the 23rd Literature Station festival in 2018, and of the Story Lab project during the 24th Literature Station festival in 2019. He was also shortlisted for the 2020 ArtRage Literary Award for the book titled Portrecista psów [Dog Portraitist].

Movie rights — No Rights sold — Czech Republic, Ukraine The Little Princess is an inspiring and touching book that helps readers to recognise a whole range of

Première date — 2021

Karolina Lewestam

emotions, make their own decisions, listen to their own voice, and choose relationships that are good for them. A book that not only teaches children how to grow up to be smart adults, but also teaches adults how to become smarter adults - for themselves and their children.

LITTLE PRINCESS

Original — Mała Księżniczka

The title character meets Amelia Earhart, the legendary American pilot who disappeared in mysterious circumstances. But before they give each other a mutual lesson in sisterhood, the protagonist takes a trip through space in an attempt to better understand her beloved flower - and encounters many bizarre and beautiful characters along the way. Through the princess's journey, readers experience a wonderful adventure that will give them courage and inspire them to spread their wings. In addition, we finally find out what really happened to Amelia Earhart, who went missing during her pioneering flight over the Pacific...

KAROLINA LEWESTAM is a Polish journalist, writer, and university lecturer. She has a PhD in philosophy from Boston University and has lectured at Northeastern University and the University of Warsaw, among others. She is a prolific opinion writer for the Polish press, including a long-running weekly op-ed column for a leading daily, and is an editor at Pismo, a monthly opinion magazine. She has received five nominations for Grand Press, the leading journalism award in Poland, for her opinion writing. Besides The Little Princess, she has a forthcoming book of quirky philosophical essays on parenting due for release in early 2022. She has previously published academically in English. The main character of The Little Princess bears an eerie resemblance to her middle child, Matylda.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ Full of textual and visual references to The Little Prince.
- ★ 15 000 copies sold.
- $\star$ The book was originally written in English, so no translation is needed. The English text can be directly translated into other languages.

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Mała 🔺

Księżniczka

#### FICTION

#### FICTION



#### Zyta Rudzka

#### ONLY THOSE WITH TEETH CAN SMILE Original \_\_\_\_\_ Ten się śmieje kto ma zęby Première date \_\_\_\_\_ 2022 Movie rights \_\_\_\_\_ No Rights sold \_\_\_\_\_ Czech Republic



13

The new novel by Zyta Rudzka stands out because of its unconventional form. *Only Those With Teeth Can Smile* is a bold linguistic experiment, which will enchant you with its exceptional, uncompromising style. It's a story of a men's hairstylist married to a jockey. Wera and Karol spent their whole lives together. They'd been through rough and smooth. And now Wera is visiting her former lovers to get a pair of coffin

shoes for her late husband. And good coffin shoes are hard to get. Rudzka uses her characteristic blunt language and wit to portray a strong and voracious woman, who never gives up.

"My protagonist lost her love, her husband, and her job. She sold whatever she owned at a flea market. But she's invincible. She doesn't wallow in her loss. She refuses to be a miserable widow or a victim. She loves whoever she wants, and she lives the life she chooses. That's what makes her strong. I keep meeting such women every day – and now I wanted to hear them speak." Zyta Rudzka

MIEKKIE

2020

Soft Tissues

# **ZYTA RUDZKA** is an author and playwright. Her books include *White Negatives, The Mikvach* and *A Brief Exchange of Fire* (W.A.B. 2018). The latter was shortlisted for the Nike Literary Award 2019, recognised as one of the ten best Polish books of the decade by Polityka weekly, and awarded the Gdynia Literary Award. Her latest novel, *Soft Tissues* (W.A.B. 2020), received the Literary Award of the Capital City of Warsaw and was chosen as one of the ten best books of the year by *Książki* bimonthly. Her plays, including *Cold Buffet* and *Sugar Bra*, have won the *Gdynia Drama Award* and the *Gold Remi* at the *Worldfest Independent Film Festival* in Houston.

#### **OTHER TITLES:**



2018

of Fire

Serbia

A Brief Exchange

Rights sold to:

2006 (reissued in 2021) Doctor Josef's Beauty **Rights sold to:** Serbia, USA, Switzerland NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ The book was dubbed the best novel in 2022 by the leading Polish media.
- ★ The novel is witty and uncompromising and was acclaimed by literary critics.
- ★ A story of a contemporary woman, who lives the life she chooses despite poverty and other obstacles.
- Rudzka received a number of awards, e.g. Nagroda Literacka Gdynia[the Gdynia Literary Award], Gdyńska Nagroda Dramaturgiczna [The Gdynia Drama Award], Nagroda Radia Deutsche Welle [The Deutsche Welle Radio Award], Nagroda im. Jarosława Iwaszkiewicza [The Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz Award], Nagroda im. Stanisława Piętaka [The Stanisław Piętak Award], and she was shortlisted for Nagroda Literacka Nike [The Nike Literary Award].

Zyta Rudzka

## HIGHLIGHT

This year in Polish literature belonged to Zyta Rudzka. She published an uncompromising novel, written in what she describes as "military language", and titled "Laugh While You Have Teeth" - a story of Wera, a former men's hairstylist, who is now a widow and hits the town to find an outfit, a pair of shoes and a coffin for her deceased husband, and arrange some vodka for the funeral banquet. An outstanding, engaging trash-odyssey. Gazeta Wyborcza

One of the best books published in 2022 according to onet.pl: The author gives us exactly what we expected of her: wonderfully poignant language used to describe what many believe should remain hidden. Joanna Barańska, Onet

The book by Rudzka is the epitome of the impressions and emotions experienced by the fans of literature. This year we got a number of good stories - fictitious and based on real-life events - but when it comes to our own domestic reality, the story of Wera is the absolute number one. I have no idea whether the author will receive the top awards - as she rightly should - but one thing is for sure: Zyta Rudzka won more than you can see. Her courage, impetus, insight, and ability to follow her path without imitating others. Michał Nogaś, Gazeta Wyborcza/Książki. Magazyn do czytania

> My all-times favourite this year is the novel by Zyta Rudzka. Bernadetta Darska

It's the book of the year! Written by Zyta Rudzka. The title itself is intriguing: "Laugh While You Have Teeth." The story itself is bold, surprising, and engaging. Leszek Bugajski, WPROST

The best Polish book in 2022 according to POLITYKA weekly: Rudzka is an extraordinary phenomenon in Polish literature. The sentences in her latest novel are incredibly sharp. The pace imposed by the author is so engrossing that we find ourselves thrown in the midst of a monologue of a jockey's widow. In her story, Rudzka turns the familiar and well-known inside out and introduces her own order of things. Justyna Sobolewska.

 $\bigcirc$ 

FICTION

READ SAMPLE

GOLEM	
14 No. 1	
MACIEJ PŁAZA	

#### Maciej Płaza

# GOLEM

Original — Golem Première date — 2021 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy** 

The year is 1910. On one crisp morning, a vagabond comes to a small, poor shtetl. Although not old yet, he seems weathered with life and hard work, maimed and deaf. He finds shelter at the home of the local tzaddik, who sees in him something others do not: a 'spark of the ancient light'. The mysterious man's arrival coincides with the events that, once again, will disturb the brittle ethnic balance of the town – the events that accompanied the lives of European Jews for generations, culminating in the 20th century. This time, however, they will end very unexpectedly.

In the Jewish tradition, Golem is a mythical creature bestowed a human shape but no soul – and it has been a fascinating trope for centuries. Maciej Płaza uses it to immerse his readers in the world of a Podolian shtetl of the early 20th century. Here, Kabbalah and messianic themes are counterbalanced with a realistic description of the Chassidic culture and customs. Maciej Płaza, one of the greatest stylists of Polish prose, shows that he is more than capable to breathe new life in the legendary Golem and all that surrounds it.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A vivid story set in a Jewish shtetl. A tale of a fairy-tale world that used to exist right next to ours.
- ★ A portrayal of life in a Jewish village before the war, pictured with magical realism and perfectly described by Maciej Płaza.
- ★ Golem was one of the 7 titles shortlisted for the 2022 Nike Award.

#### **OTHER TITLES:**



Robinson in Bolemchowo

2017

Maciej Płaza

FICTION

**MACIEJ PŁAZA** (born in 1976) is a writer and translator; he holds a PhD in humanities. He wrote a book on Stanisław Lem, and in 2012, he received the *Literatura na Świecie* award for his translations of H.P. Lovecraft's short stories. His debut short story collection *Skoruń* (W.A.B. 2015) earned him the *Gdynia Literary Award 2016* and the *Kościelski Award 2016*. The book was also shortlisted for Nike 2016 award and longlisted for the *Gombrowicz Award*. His novel *Robinson w Bolechowie* [Robinson in Bolechów, W.A.B. 2017] received the *ANGELUS Central European Literature Award 2018*.





# Jacek Dehnel MOTHER MACRINA Original \_\_\_\_\_\_ Matka Makryna Première date \_\_\_\_\_ 2014 Movie rights \_\_\_\_\_ No Rights sold \_\_\_\_\_ Be the first to buy

*Mother Macrina* is the story of an unusual female swindler who became famous throughout Europe in the mid-19th century. Charismatic and graced with the gift of story-telling, she presented herself as a modern-day martyr, tortured by Russians for refusing to convert to Orthodox Christianity. Skillfully playing on people's religious and patriotic emotions, she exerted a great influence on Polish Romantic poets and powers abroad; in France she drove crowds to hysteria, at the Vatican she won over two successive popes, she performed miracles and uttered prophecies, to finally die as a venerable prioress in a convent in Rome.

**JACEK DEHNEL** (b. 1980) – poet, translator, writer and painter. The author of several poetry collections, two collections of short stories: A *Collection* (1999) and *The Marketplace in Smyrna* (W.A.B. 2006), a novel *Lala* (W.A.B. 2006) and the novellas *Balzakiana*. In 2005 Jacek Dehnel received the *Kościelski Award* for the poetry collection *Parallel Lives* and ,in 2006, *Polityka*, the prestigious weekly magazine, awarded *Lala* with a special prize. He has translated poems by Osip Mandelstam and W.H. Auden. In 2008 his translation of Philip Larkin's poetry entitled *Collected* was published. In 2011 W.A.B. published his novel *Saturn* and in 2013 a collection of essays *The Junior Accountant*, *Articles About Books, Reading and Writing. Mother Macrina* was published in 2014.

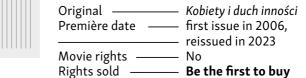
#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ Based on a true story of a false nun, who managed to fool not only Polish emigrants in Paris and Rome, but also Pope Gregory XVI himself.
- ★ Jacek Dehnel won the Kościelski Foundation Award (2005), the 'Polityka' Passport (2007), the Splendor Gedanensis Award (2008), and the Silesian Literary Laurel Award (2009). He received five nominations for the Nike Literary Award, the Wisława Szymborska Award, and the Warsaw Literary Award. In 2020 he was awarded the Golden Distinction as part of the Jerzy Żuławski Awards for his novel titled 'But With Our Dead Ones'.

# COVER IN PROGRESS

#### **Maria Janion**

# WOMEN AND THE SPIRIT OF OTHERNESS



Inspired by feminist criticism, Maria Janion tells her own story of womankind. She wisely chooses her protagonists. They are historical names and symbolic figures, present in cultural texts and in the collective imagination. Meet Maria Komornicka, Lenora, Marianna, Grażyna, Elisabeth Badinter, Izabela Filipiak, or Nicole Müller. Each of them is a distinctive character and an important cultural reference. Janion analyses texts by female, but also male writers (Bürger, Mickiewicz, Kraszewski, Grass) to highlight and describe various forms of 'otherness', often suppressed by culture. "A female hero - a woman, a spokesperson for differences, residing in the outskirts of culture, suppressed and sometimes even mute, now gains a voice of her own and expresses her self-awareness, destroying everything that has so far been taken for granted. Critics commenting on this book agree that a woman should be named as the emblem of postmodernity" (Ewa Nawrocka, "Tygodnik Powszechny").

MARIA TERESA JANION (born on 24 December 1926 in Mońki, died on 23 August 2020 in Warsaw ) – a Polish historian of literature, ideas, and imagination, and a literary critic. She specialised in the history of European Romanticism. She was a professor of humanities, a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Academy of Learning, a holder of an honorary doctorate awarded by the University of Gdansk.

A researcher of 19th- and 20th-century Polish culture. An author of more than twenty books crucial for the reflection on Polish national identity, as well as a few hundred studies, publications, articles, drafts and reviews. A critic of Polish national myths, of the Polish cult of war, soldier, heroism, military upsurges, and martyrdom. A feminist, a philosopher, a critic of racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and misogyny. She worked for The Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the University of Gdańsk, and for the University of Warsaw. She was an academic teacher and a supervisor of twenty doctoral theses.

In 2000–2004 she was the chairperson of the jury of the Nike Literary Award.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ She is one of the most renowned 20th-century Polish intellectuals.
- She received numerous awards e.g.: A. Brückner Award, The Jurzykowski Foundation Award in New York; The Gloria Artis Gold Medal for Merits in Culture, The "Polityka" Passport, The Hyacinth Award (the Foundation for Equality), National Order of Merit (France), Polish PEN Club Award and many others.

#### Barbara Klicka

# SANATORIUM

Original — Zdrój Première date — 2019 Movie rights ——— No Rights sold ——— Sweden, France, Serbia

Facing a rebellion from her own body, Kama ends up at a spa resort in Ciecho¬cinek. The sanatorium turns out to be a place full of traps, rituals and secrets, and despite her best efforts, our heroine can't understand the rules that govern the spa world. Everything in this story takes place in the mysterious space between health and illness, between the spa's daily life and its dark recesses, and between what could happen and what actually happens.

BARBARA KLICKA (born 1981) is a poet. In 2012, she published the volume Same same, which was nominated for the Silesius Wrocław Poetry Award. She received this prize in 2016 for her poetry book Nice, for which she also received the Gdynia Literary Prize in the same year. She is the author of the play Rudiments (Elementarz), directed by Piotr Cieplak at the National Theatre in Warsaw.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

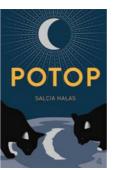
- ★ A dreamy, poetic tale a portrayal of the mythical world of the Polish spa in Ciechocinek.
- Witt, ironic style verging on turpism.  $\star$
- $\star$ It's the author's first attempt at prose - she is otherwise known as an acclaimed poet (The Silesius Wrocław Poetry Award for the volume titled nice, 2015 The Gdynia Literary Award for poetry in 2016).

#### FICTION

FICTION

READ

SAMPLE



# THE FLOOD Original — Potop

Salcia Hałas

Première date — 2019 Movie rights — No Rights sold — Sweden, Serbia

In Gdynia's "Benijing", there are three people who know. One of them even talks. But "Benijing" is falling apart, falling into the ground. There are more and more mysterious craters. Halina predicts a flood. The Beast will awaken and emerge from the depths. Dreamers will have to dream their dreams. The wolf pups have been born.

Anyway, they're trying to close down "Benijing", Zoshka's got depression, and a cat has got stuck in a window.

The flood is coming.

The Flood is a daring prose poem saga about the end of the world. Magical realism from the Polish favelas. It is the story of three women who know more. They're not trying to prevent the world from falling apart, but focusing on what's closer. On Zoshka's depression and their neighbours' problems. However, they can talk about the coming flood – just not on TV, because they'll be called crazy.

SALCIA HAŁAS was born in Przemyśl and lives in Gdynia. She has a partner, a child, a dog and two chinchillas. She spends her time on writing, street art and plants. Her debut novel Roast for Amfa (Pieczeń dla Amfy ) won the Gdynia Literary Award (2017) and was nominated for the Witold Gombrowicz Literary Prize (2017).

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A narrative poem about the least poetic housing estate in Tricity.
- ★ A rare literary form.
- \* Particularly well received in Serbia.

FICTION



#### Maria Karpinska

# SILENT

Original — Ucichło Première date — 2022 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy** 

A jolly youthful summer is coming to an end. Birds take off or lose their minds. Sleepless nights begin. Unexpectedly, time comes to a halt instead of rushing forward. The protagonist is in therapy, trying to come up with a narrative about his life. He is telling a story of friendship and love between siblings, showing us the complex connection between these two feelings. We are about to witness the strangest statement the man is about to make, when he expresses his refusal to accept the inevitability of death. Just like it was the case in Hedges, Karpińska's literary début, also in this book the narrator is entangled in his own words. Is it enough to introduce a few amendments in the narrative of your life to change the course of events? Is it true that you are what you say - no more, no less?

Silent is a book written with utmost sensitivity, a tale of the end of the world - and the end of all worlds. The last glimpse of the microcosms that threaten to collapse when you lose someone dear.

#### ANNA CIARKOWSKA - A Polish Language and Literature graduate, she found her true calling in poetry. She is an avid reader and draughtswoman, a collector of memories and experiences, a hypersensitive and tender gatherer of microstories. She loves long walks, sharks, and sickly-sweet white coffee. Ciarkowska is also an author of the bestselling books Pestki and Chłopcy, których kocham.

than anyone else that every human can become a saint.

Anna Ciarkowska

SANCTIMONIES

Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy** 

Sanctimonies is a confession of one life that, miraculously, begins to encapsulate other lives and the

unconscionable sins that linger at the very bottom of one's conscience. It's a story of guilt, regret, and

fear. This confession doesn't come with a relief brought by full forgiveness; instead, this story shows it's

Welcome to the Provincial Catholic Poland: where there is a cross hanging above the door, bedsheets

are starched and tablecloths white, where there is chicken soup on Sundays and confession on Fridays,

This could have happened anywhere for there are mothers and fathers everywhere, just as there are

shopkeepers, mailwomen, aunt Jadwigas, religious instruction teachers, and balding parsons. And

miracles can also happen everywhere. This could have happened to anyone, but it happened to her,

even though she didn't do anything special to deserve such a miracle. She just kept on living like everyone else in her village, her fate allocated to her fairly by the Providence, observing Sundays and holidays, with the body of Christ and regretting her sins, with soul-refining suffering, and with her God, who punishes all evil. Perhaps all she did was to pray in a more genuine way, perhaps she begged for God's grace more than others did. Maybe she wasn't as frightened of eternity and she believed more

Original — Dewocje

Première date — 2021

not about the one who makes the miracle happens, but for whom it happens.

and there is a Holy Mary figurine behind the glass cupboard panes.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

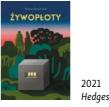
- ★ A portrayal of small-town Poland with its habits and superstitions.
- A story told as a parable.  $\star$
- ★ 10 500 copies sold.

MARIA SOKOŁOWSKA (KARPIŃSKA) was born in 1988. She is an author of numerous articles, short stories, literary and opera reviews. Her texts, signed also under the surname Karpińska, were published in a number of magazines, including Res Publica Nowa, Czas Kultury, Teatr, Mała Kultura Współczesna, Znak, Nowe Książki, Twórczość, and Przekrój. Hedgerows is her first book.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A timely topic of coping with the loss of a loved one.
- A reflective narrative.
- She won the 2021 Norwid Award for her début - a novel titled "Żywopłoty" [Hedges].

#### **OTHER TITLES:**



DEWOCJE

FICTION



#### Sebastian Nowak

# THE STORY YOU ALREADY KNOW

Original ———— Powszednia Historia Première date —— 2022 Movie rights ——— No Rights sold —— **Be the first to buy** 

Can a drunk call to your ex change your life? It surely could, but it doesn't have to. At least this time it doesn't seem to be the case.

Ever since she was a child, Jana has been told she could be whatever she wants to, so she became an architect and chose to live abroad. Louis was a teenager when he lost his father and a sense of financial security. Now he's trying to find his feet at a university, where he's just started his academic career. Chris was fairly young when he realised he was a member of a shunned social group. Nevertheless, he is trying to make a life for himself. It's a jolly group: a woman, a man, and their gay friend. You might say you already know the rest of the story...

*In The Story You Already Know* – the family anti-saga – the simplified course of adventures becomes an excuse for an insight into a history of a few generations. You are going to observe a journey fuelled by a drive for escape, which has led Jana, Louis and Chris to the streets of one of the large cities in post-Communist Europe. And then it's how it usually happens: grand history meets popular culture, and minor promises of good fortunes clash in confrontation with the reality.

SEBASTIAN NOWAK (born 1991) - a boy from Radom, has been living in Krakow for over a decade. A graduate of Polish philology as well as cultural studies and media knowledge. In 2021, he was among three people from around the world selected by Milan City of Literature UNESCO to participate in the residency program for representatives of the book market. *Powszednia Historia* [The story you already know] is his novel debut.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A concise, but unpolished book a good example of 'middle literature.'
- ★ The narrator presents the characters' stories with considerable empathy mixed with a pinch of mockery, which makes the portrayal of human life realistic and tangible.
- ★ The author creates a compelling, linguistically realistic (complete with swear words, feminatives, English loan words) and plausible (online dating services, housing crisis, cronyism, homophobia, soap operas) portrayal of life as experienced by people aged 30+ in contemporary Poland.

# MARCISZ KSIĄŻKA PRZYJAŹNI

Maciej Marcisz A BOOK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

Original ———	Książka o Przyjaźni
Première date ——	2021
Movie rights ———	Option sold
Rights sold	Be the first to buy

Kasia, Michał and Dorota have known each other forever. Their friendship has stood the test of time, surviving relocations to distant cities and even increasingly divergent paths in life. But when a carefully hidden secret is leaked in the group chat, their future relationship hangs in the balance. Should you fight for a waning friendship for the sake of the good old days? Or should certain things be left to die? Were our parents right when they said that by a certain age, we'd be able to count our true friends on one hand?

A Book about Friendship is a novel about bonds stronger than love, vocation and the disappointments of adulthood. About who our nearest and dearest have made us want to be, and about the everyday compromises that distance us from how we think of ourselves, until we become completely unrecognisable. About the great unknown which is our life – until it ceases to be so.

It is a journey through the formative experiences of three friends – first loves, nights spent talking and reading, shame and acceptance, historical events and music festivals. It's a story about the voices of friends that stay in our heads even after they have long since disappeared from our lives.

**MACIEJ MARCISZ** was born in 1988. He has been working in the publishing industry for almost a decade, and at W.A.B. publishing house for two years. Along with his friend, he runs a reading club in Warsaw's Ochota district. He's a member of the *SEXEDPL* foundation board. He didn't finish his master's at the University of Warsaw or the National Film School in Łódź. He comes from a small town and lives in Warsaw.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ Understated humour and wit.
- The author works for Vogue Poland.
- ★ His literary début, a novel titled "Taśmy rodzinne" [Family Tapes] sold 17 500 copie.

OTHER TITLES:



FICTION

**COVER IN** 

PROGRESS



#### Magdalena Kordel

# MIRACULOUS SPRING, PART 1 OF THE SERIES TITLED "THE SLEEPING WINDS HARBOUR"

Original ———	Wiosna Cudów tom 1 serii Przystań śpiących wiatrów
Première date ——	2023
Movie rights ———	
Rights sold	Be the first to buy

This year's spring spells trouble for Stella. Her tidy, orderly world is about to tumble down like a house of cards. If her great-grandmother Marcelina was still alive, she would say somebody put a bad spell on her. A duplicitous friend and associate turned out to be a scheming bitch. Stella lost her job and was left stranded with a staggering bank loan to repay. Plus, she received a letter which brings back the demons of her past. Stella is trying to put a brave face on it, without involving her family, especially her eversuspicious brother Benjamin, and her outspoken son, Frank. She can't breathe a word of it to anyone, at least for the time being. Not just yet.

Meanwhile, the people of Kotkowo, a small town where everybody knows each other and the local bakery functions as a newsroom, seem to know much more than Stella herself. It must be so, because Stella keeps receiving unintelligible signals from them. And when two mysterious men arrive in the local B&B, the town is suddenly abuzz with gossip.

One thing is for sure: Stella and the whole town of Kotkowo are faced with a wind of change.

*Miraculous Spring* is the first part of a warm family saga titled *The Sleeping Winds Harbour*. The protagonist is Stella - the eldest sister, a single mother, and an enthusiast of things and places with a story of their own.

**MAGDALENA KORDEL** started to write to come to terms with her own problems. Back then she didn't realise she would create a number of best-selling titles, which would be a great help also for the readers, who have come to treat these stories like a cosy blanket. The author herself claims she wants to convince people not to give up on hope, and to keep trying. She hopes that having read her books, they find the will to live, to push on, and to make an effort. And most importantly, never ever to give up!

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A contemporary novel by an acclaimed author.
- ★ A lyrical story full of warmth and gentle humour.
- ★ The characters are vivid they take life with a pinch of salt and a large dose of humour. They make us feel as if we were among close friends.
- ★ A celebration of everyday life and "little miracles".

AGNIESZKA FRYCZKOWSKA has won a number of prestigious prizes: she received the Gala Rose for her book titled Sześć kobiet w śniegu, nie licząc suki [Six Women In The Snowa and a Bitch], Grand Prix at the Women's Literature Festival.

#### Agnieszka Fryczkowska

# A SAGA OF THE EARTH PEOPLE. STARING INTO THE SKY

Original ———	W niebo wpatrzeni tom 1 Saga o ludziach ziemi
Première date ——	2023
Movie rights ———	No
Rights sold	Be the first to buy

Year 1816. The region of Kujawy has just experienced an epidemic brought by Russian troops. A local squire urgently brings new labourers to one of the ghost villages. A young married couple named Jóźwiak come to the abandoned place. Antoni and Hanka escaped from their previous landowner in search for a better life. They will have to assert their position in the new community, establish a relationship with the squire, and try to maintain their dignity in a world of serfdom, while doing their best to raise their only child.

A family saga set in a rural, feudal landscape. A story with elements of magical realism, based on actual peasants' diaries.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A multifaceted family saga set in a 19th-century Polish village.
- ★ A description of relationships between a landowner and Polish peasants in the context of serfdom.
- ★ An account of folk customs, superstitions and beliefs.



Małgorzata Oliwia Sobczak	
RED	READ
Original ———— Czerwień. Kolory zła tom I Première date —— 2019 Movie rights ——— Sold (the film will be on screens in Rights sold ——— <b>Be the first to buy</b>	sample 2023)

Two crimes, twenty years apart. One thing in common: Tri-City beach hiding more than one dreadful secret. Parties late into the night in the actors' club, lots of alcohol, drugs, Monte Cassino cemetery at night, the power of romantic love from the past, an unhappy marriage, unsolved family problems, a wish for quick money – what exactly was the story behind the murders of two mysterious women, similar in appearance, whose faces were brutally mutilated by the murderer? This is the mystery that the protagonists are about to probe.

It is a very successful first attempt at a crime story by Małgorzata Oliwia Sobczak. The author aptly portrays the Tri-City milieu of organized crime, lawyers and doctors. We can see great attention to detail when portraying the local environment, perfectly constructed criminal intrigue and a uniquely dark atmosphere.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A portrayal of the Tricity world of mobsters, lawyers and doctors.
- ★ A total of 70 000 copies of the trilogy sold.
- ★ One of the most promising authors of Polish crime fiction.

#### **OTHER TITLES:**



BIEL - SUBCZAK 2021

KOLDRY ZE





2022

Buzz

CRIME / THRILLER Ξ

# Małgorzata Oliwia Sobczak

**HIGHLIGHT** 

**MAŁGORZATA OLIWIA SOBCZAK** is a writer from Gdańsk who lives in Sopot. A cultural specialist and journalist by education, she is the author of the postmodern fairy tale Mali, Boli and the Ice Queen (published in 2015 – her literary debut) and the novel She and the House that Dances (published by Novae Res). She's a member of the Kochamy Żuławy (We Love Żuławy) Association. On a day-to-day basis, she carries out scientific research and development work in the social sciences and humanities. Her creative work combines existential notions with magical realism. She is inspired by Ibero-American literature (Julio Cortázar).





READ

SAMPLE



28

# Joanna Łopusińska

# THE COLLIDER

Original — Zderzacz Première date — 2022 Movie rights — Option sold Rights sold — Be the first to buy

At the Large Hadron Collider, the core of the world's largest nuclear research facility, someone commits a crime that horrifies all of Switzerland and the scientific community. Just one day after presenting the results of the search for the Higgs boson, a discovery expected to become the greatest scientific sensation of the 20th century, Noah Majewski, a brilliant physicist of Polish origin, dies. Majewski's secret project he called the Rule of Coincidence might change the world as we know it forever. On top of it, Majewski's notebook containing the priceless mathematical equation vanishes into thin air. Whoever finds it could have the power to control billions of human lives. Charismatic police inspector Danielle Hauser leads the investigation into Majewski's mysterious death and the disappearance of his notebook. When Noah's sister and his friend also vanish, Danielle sets off to find them. But she's not the only one...

JOANNA ŁOPUSIŃSKA was born in Krakow in 1984. She studied Fine Arts and Egyptology. Joanna now lives in the United Kingdom, where she works as Project Administrator at the University of Oxford. In 2020, she received the Krakow UNESCO City of Literature Award. Her first novel Śmierć i Małgorzata [Death and Margaret, was a well-received debut. The second book, titled Zderzacz [The Collider], was plotted around the unpublished discovery of a Polish scientist. For her research, the author spent several weeks in Switzerland and CERN.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ Modern scientific theories deftly smuggled into the storyline.
- ★ A perfect read for the fans of James Bond and books by Dan Brown.
- ★ An intriguing storyline concept .

CRIME / THRILLER



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#### Igor Brejdygant THE WIND Original — Wiatr Première date — 2021 Movie rights — Option sold Rights sold — Be the first to buy

READ SAMPLE

Early spring in the Tatra Mountains. The speeding foehn wind takes the breath away, knocks people off their feet and blurs the mind. Agnieszka and Piotr Markowski, Zakopane's most famous couple, set off from a hostel at Morskie Oko lake towards the Szpiglasowa pass. An avalanche descending from the Miedzina ridge to the lake shore shrouds the metre-long layer of ice in thousands of tons of snow. Wawrzyniec is almost certain that seconds before the avalanche, he heard a strange, hollow rumble like the sound of an explosion... Meanwhile, the chance of finding the two hikers is decreasing by the minute. Was what happened merely an unfortunate twist of fate?

Igor Brejdygant's The Wind depicts a Zakopane far-removed from the tourist image: murky, on the border of winter and spring, life and death. The mystery of the Markowskis' accident forces Wawrzyniec to confront his own past. An amalgamation of unrest and passion constantly throws spanners in the works and lays false trails.

 $\star$ 

\*

IGOR BREIDYGANT - born in 1971, he is a novelist, screenwriter, director, and photographer. He wrote screenplays for the Polish feature films Palimpsest (dir. Konrad Niewolski), Prosta historia o morderstwie (dir. Arkadiusz Jakubik), and to TV series Paradoks, Zbrodnia, Belle Epoque, Ultraviolet, Szadź, Erynie, Otwórz oczy, Rysa, and Układ. He studied Film Production at the National Film School in Łódź. Brejdygant also directs documentaries and TV series, including Szaleńcy Pana Boga series for Religia TV, Handlarze for TTV, and TVP2 series Paradoks. He wrote several crime novels that were warmly received by readers and critics alike: Paradoks (2016), Szadź (2017), Rysa (2018), and Układ (2019).

#### **OTHER TITLES:**



2019 Scheme **Movie option** sold



NOTABLE INFORMATION

A surprising, unusual ending.

The author also creates screenplays

for crime series and movies. Films

based on his books are sold before

the books are even published.

The air of mystery is amplified

by the descriptions of the

Tatra mountains in winter.

2022 Orphans Movie option sold

CRIME / THRILLER

# MAGDALENA MAJCHER **FINALISTKA**

#### Magdalena Majcher FINALIST

Original — Finalistka Première date — 2022 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy** 

A story of fascination that turned into an obsession and ended in a crime, destroying many lives. A novel inspired by real-life events.

The 1990s. An agitated man bursts in the editorial room of a school paper and demands that one of the journalists get him in touch with Agata Szklarska – Miss Poland, who has just returned to the country, having spent a few years in the USA. Darek claims he must see her. He's been waiting for an opportunity to tell her something very important. And now the time has come ...

MAGDALENA MAJCHER (born September 13, 1990) - author of well-read novels with an extensive social background. She began writing after the birth of her second child, proving to herself and others that motherhood does not interfere with self-realization and making dreams come true. She made her debut in 2016. She is a full-time writer, she has devoted her professional life to books. She believes that the most important question she must answer her readers is not "what happened?" But "why did it happen?". She loves to weave historical and psychological threads into the plot. She likes non-obvious solutions. A graduate of English and Spanish Philology, she is in love with everything that is Spanish: language, culture, monuments, landscapes, weather, literature, series and the soccer team.

**OTHER TITLES:** 

OBC/

**KOBIET**A

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A true story, which shocked Poland. Afterwards, the concept of stalking was included in the Polish criminal law.
- An emotional story of how  $\star$ an obsession unfolds.
- ★ Part of the popular true crime genre.

An intriguing, scary story. Once you read it, you will never say the word 'love' without a shudder. Life has written an incredible story. Magdalena Majcher has put it on paper - and the outcome is excellent. Highly recommended read!

MAX CZORNYJ

2023

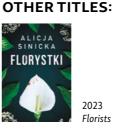
The Lady

Doc from

Silesia

The book is set in the times when stalking was not a crime in the Polish law. The story is all the more scary because it could happen to anyone. **MAGDALENA MAJCHER** 





#### CRIME / THRILLER



#### Alicja Sinicka

#### DORMANT

#### Original — Uśpiona Première date — 2022 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy**

Weronika is a young English teacher seeing her students at home. For years, she's been suffering from narcolepsy, and her daily life is interrupted by two hour-long naps. Without them, she would struggle to function: their purpose is to stop her from falling asleep suddenly, which can be very troublesome. Not wanting anyone to find out, she keeps the details of her condition to herself. Still, someone manages to learn about her weakness and use it against her... One day upon awakening, Weronika discovers the body of a girl in her apartment. Shocked and traumatised, she struggles to recover from that experience. Who is the mysterious guest visiting her home? What is really happening there? And how does it all connect to the death of the young woman Weronika found there?

ALICJA SINICKA is a writer from Oława, a tender and open-minded interlocutor, a mother and a supportive wife facing new challenges. Her work is characterized by brilliant intrigues woven from secrets and symbols. She finds her best in domestic noir novels, which in her performance are an exciting mix of thriller and romance.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- A modern example of noir fiction .
- A surprising ending.
- Storyline built around a rare  $\star$ disease – narcolepsy.

#### CRIME / THRILLER

## Olga Mildyn VILE

Original — Podłość Première date — 2022 Movie rights — No Rights sold — **Be the first to buy** 

On average, 11 people die on the Polish roads daily. But when Franciszek Złotowski and his two children travel in one car, there is a chance for resurrection. They become a posthumous event, a news story that ends up in papers and news outlets where they get to live a whole new life. But first, they have to lose it: just like Andżelika Złotowska, murdered in her bed on the very same day. Suddenly, the family of five is irreparably broken by one vile act and just several kilometres.

This book is a vessel of grief. A story from various parts of Poland – about sorrow, anguish, everyday misfortunes and misery, misplaced trust and chicanery, greed and human malice. Finally, it is a story of goon intentions and honest efforts of Kasia, the journalist, and Mira the policewoman – efforts that are not welcome in the community. Olga Mildyn's debut book is a monumental work of lyrically fictionalised reporting that leaves the reader shaken to the core.

**OLGA MILDYN** is an award-winning reporter and journalist, working with TVN24 and Duży Format. *Vile* is her debut novel.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- The novel was based on a true story of a mysterious death of a married couple and their three children. The author read this account in the local press.
- ★ The author is an acclaimed reporter and journalist; she works for the TVN24 station and for the "Duży Format" magazine.
- ★ A monumental début, a portrayal of contemporary Poland and an account of the everyday struggle with a hard and sometimes shockingly threatening reality. It is also a tale of the immense strength - often destructive - hidden in the media.

**MARCEL MOSS** is the pen name of a mysterious author whose bestselling novels *Nie odpisuj* and *Nie patrz* sparked heated online disputes on important social issues such as physical and psychological abuse, online bullying, digital loneliness and anonymousness.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ Once again the author discusses social issues and depicts people in an extremely difficult situation, under lots of mental strain.
- ★ The theme of fury and burnout is sensationally combined with a dynamic crime action with a classic venegance motif in the background.



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CRIME / THRILLER

Tuesday, 11:45 a.m. In four regions of Poland, four completely unrelated people go on a furious rampage and start killing random strangers in the streets. Later, during the questioning, they are unable to explain why they did it. Uncompromising commissioner Konrad Tajner leads the investigation, trying to discover the links between a corporate worker bullied by her boss, a priest fighting some serious accusations, an overworked doctor and a depressed schoolteacher.



FANTASY

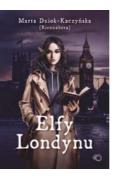
# Marta Dziok--Kaczyńska

MARTA DZIOK-KACZYŃSKA was born in 1987 in Gdansk. She's been living in the United Kingdom since 2006. She used to study history and film at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. She specialised in medieval courtly culture. Since 2013 she's been living in London, and more precisely - Islington. She's living with her husband and two daughters. Since 2008 she's kept a blog called riennahera.com. In the same year she started a podcast channel titled "Correspondence from London", where she talks about

a variety of aspects of life in the UK.

HIGHLIGHT

FANTASY



Marta Dziok-Kaczyńska

#### THE ELVES OF LONDON

Original — Elfy Londynu Première date — 2023 Movie rights ——— No Rights sold ——— **Be the first to buy** 

An alternative vision of contemporary London, where elves and people live side by side. Old, powerful elven families used to wage wars on one another, only to conclude a truce for centuries. But old wounds do not heal. On the contrary, they seem to have festered of late'. The city becomes a setting for a backstage fight of conflicted elven aristocracy. Meanwhile, a radical group emerges to herald the superiority of elves over people. The activity of the group is illegal and its members operate underground, but more and more prominent names have joined the movement. A young female elf named Arianrhod infiltrates the terrorist organisation looking for personal revenge. Little does she know that she's putting herself in a grave danger. The radicals know no mercy. She accidentally lands in the midst of war preparations. The organisation is under close surveillance of elven special forces. What will prevail in the end - social responsibility of the officials, or vested interest of the powerful families?

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- \* An adventurous and multifaceted story of racial conflict, obligations, ambitions and life shaded by centuries of history.
- $\star$ Building a new universe - the reader is bound to feel good there and will long for more of the same.
- $\star$ Dynamic plot in a familiar setting (contemporary London).



Włodzimierz Borodziej and Maciej Górny

# OUR WAR: EMPIRES 1914–1918, NATIONS 1917–1923

Original — Nasza Wojna: Imperia 1914-1918, Narody 1917-1923 Première date — 2021 Movie rights — No Rights sold — Italy, UK, Germany, Czech Republic

In Eastern Europe, the Great War was created by the empires and fought by the people, many of whom lost their lives. The longer it lasted, the harder it was to imagine how it would end and whether peace would come at all. Nobody predicted that almost everything would change. *Our War* describes this huge change in many areas. The authors cover new tactics for conducting military operations, workers' strikes and revolts, women's rights, culture, politics, and the struggle for independence for the nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. All is described in an accessible way – sometimes witty, and always based on rarely utilised sources. In the authors' words, "the book is about a great transformation, about its winners and losers. It visits a mysterious plane crash with a political leader on board and the conspiracy theories surrounding the accident. It also looks at the mechanisms of the brutalisation of political life and the fear of refugees, about the growth of xenophobia, and about scientists eager to get involved in political battles. No, it's not about the Poland and Europe of today. All of this took place exactly 100 years ago..."

WŁODZIMIERZ BORODZIEJ is an eminent historian, a professor at the University of Warsaw, and editor-in-chief of the series "Polish Diplomatic Documents", published by the Polish Institute of International Affairs. He has been connected to the Historical Institute at the University of Warsaw, although he was on leave between 1991 and 1994. In the period 1999–2002, he was Vice-Rector of the University of Warsaw. He was the chairman of the Scientific Council at the Centre for Historical Research in Berlin, as well as units of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), and a member of the Committee of Historical Sciences at PAN.

The emphasis on the overwhelming nature of war places this book within the latest trend in military history, dealing with such problems as gender and the fate of the civilian population. And yet, unlike many contemporary historians working in this field, the authors do not disregard the real acts of war.

Jesse Kauffman, "Contemporary European History" **MACIEJ GÓRNY** has a post-doctoral degree and is a lecturer at the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History at PAN in Warsaw. His books on the Marxist-Leninist historiographies of the region after 1945 have been translated into several languages (including English and German). He also works on the topic of World War I from the history of ideas perspective. His books The Great War of the Professors. Lessons About Man (1912–1923) and Drafters of the Homelands. Geographers and the Borders of Interwar Europe deal with the involvement of scientists in politics. He is editor-in-chief of "Acta Poloniae Historica".

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A revealing story of World War I the book brings back the memories of forgotten developments from the Eastern Front.
- ★ Based on rarely used sources.



Poland with access to the sea and with a number of colonies – that's the vision of a superpower nourished in the 1920s and 1930s. The idea was coined by the Polish Maritime and Colonial League - an organisation which perceived overseas territories as a way to economic benefits and greater prestige. Also, Polish villages were highly overpopulated, especially in Galicia, and as you know, overpopulation goes with extreme poverty. Acquiring overseas territories could help solve this problem, so the concept was seriously debated by the Polish government. Whether or not Poland could have become a superpower, is the question analysed by the Polish Institute for the Study of Emigration and Colonisation.

"The vision offered by colonial activists was clear and enchantingly simple: we need to persist in our demands for an overseas territory with a suitable climate. It could be a colony, a condominium, or a League of Nations mandate. It could also be a territory within a foreign state or colony, with autonomous administration and freedom to pursue any national activities. Then strong groups of relentless Polish peasants would be relocated to such a territory. Retaining their faith, culture and connection to the Homeland, they would provide Poland with local produce at convenient prices, and buy products manufactured in Polish factories."

Negotiations began with French politicians, in order to explore the possibility to purchase Madagascar or lease a part of this territory. Polish officials also addressed Portugal to enquire whether Polish settlers could occupy Angola. Other options were also explored, such as Cameroon, and the Polish Maritime and Colonial League entered an agreement with the authorities of Liberia, thus gaining the right to lease 50 plantations for Polish settlers. None of these plans came true, though.

"September 1939 put an end to the Polish dream of colonisation. The Holocaust, Iron Curtain, the agrarian reform and abolishing landowners as a social class, coupled with strenuous Soviet-style industrialisation eradicated all these dreams, needs and reasons that justified them.

In the historical account titled A *Colonial Craze* Grzegorz Łyś offers a dynamic, lively and colourful story of this part of the Polish interwar period. This is a great opportunity to observe the origins of the Polish statehood and social movements.

**GRZEGORZ ŁYŚ** has nearly 40 years of experience as a journalist, e.g. for "Życie Warszawy" and "Rzeczpospolita". The author of reportage, essays and articles focused on social, economic, historical, and environmental issues, as well as travelling. In 2021 he wrote and published the first Polish biography of a famous anthropologist, Bronisław Malinowski.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A story of colonial aspirations of a country that never had any colonies of its own.
- ★ The catchy theme of colonialism.

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#### Paweł Pieniążek

# RESISTANCE

Original ———	Opór
Première date ——	2023
Movie rights ———	No
Rights sold	Taiwan

The Ukrainian armed resistance against the Russian invasion has been the focus of attention all over the world. But the success of this movement haven't only rely on the military prowess. An important force has been the grassroots initiative, including minor actions by millions of citizens. Resistance often has taken the form of funds donated to the armed forces, tea brought to the outpost, evacuating civilians or arranging help. Sometimes the best resistance has been staying at home. It was virtually overnight that people of culture, sports performers, IT specialists, real estate agents, healthcare professionals and pensioners had to turn their lives upside down and face the reality of the war, which has become one of the greatest challenges experienced by Europe since the end of World War II. The book focuses on those ordinary people, who found themselves in tragic circumstances and despite the fear and against all odds, are trying to save their country.

#### PAWEŁ PIENIĄŻEK (born in 1989) – a journalist working for "Tygodnik Powszechny." He provided an account of the events in Afghanistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Iraq, Syria and Ukraine. He's the author of books titled Pozdrowienia z Noworosji [Greetings from Novorossiya], Wojna, która nas zmieniła [The War That Changed Us] and Po kalifacie. Nowa wojna w Syrii [After the Caliphate. A New War in Syria]. He won the 2019 MediaTory journalist award.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

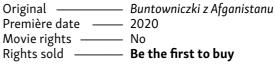
- $\star$ Direct account from the front – Paweł Pieniążek was in Ukraine from January to September 2022.
- ★ Showing the reality of the war from the perspective of civilians - ordinary people.

#### NONFICTION



#### Ludwika Włodek

#### AFGHAN REBEL GIRLS



- I fight at home, at work and with the society - says one of the characters in the book by Ludwika Włodek. – This is energy-consuming. I am hardly 30 and I've already got my first grey hairs. And hair is another thing I had to fight for. When I cropped it short, my father wanted to kick me out of my family home. He couldn't understand why he's not in the position to make me wear my hair long. When I received my first salary, he said he wished my brother made this much money rather than me. But I never gave up. This fight made me strong. Nobody can stop me.

Afghan Rebel Girls tells a story of how Afghan women fought for autonomy. It is an account of the journey they had to make to become well known politicians, artists and activists. Ludwika Włodek talked to women who took active part in the modernisation of their country, because it was their family tradition, and to girls who had to stand up against their parents to overcome stereotypes and limitations imposed by the patriarchal culture and a peculiar approach to tradition.

They paid a high price for their autonomy. They became a target of hate speech and assaults. The Taliban put their names on the black lists of people to be assassinated, and conservative mullahs pointed fingers at them. And it was not only the women, but also their relatives that were subject to persecution. Ludwika Włodek has known these women for years. She's friends with many of them. She has closely followed their careers and witnessed their personal and professional success. She was in touch with them in August 2021, when the Taliban occupied Kabul. She met with some of them in Poland. Her book is a proof that the fight for women's rights in Afghanistan (and elsewhere) is never done, and women's solidarity can work miracles.

LUDWIKA WŁODEK is a sociologist, reporter, and lecturer at the Faculty of the Oriental Studies at the University of Warsaw. She has written several books, including Pra. O rodzinie Iwaszkiewiczów, Wystarczy przejść przez rzekę, Andrzej Mróz. Cudowna, cudowna historia and Cztery sztandary, jeden adres. Historie ze Spisza. Her reportage collection Gorsze dzieci Republiki. O Algierczykach we Francji earned Włodek nominations to the Beata Pawlak Award, to the Grand Press Award, and to the Travelery 2020 Award.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ A story of women fighting for their rightful position in a country where any such initiative is punishable by death.
- Wlodek was nominated for the \* 2013 Polityka History Award in the category of "Diaries, accounts, memoirs" for her book titled Pra O rodzinie Iwaszkiewiczów.
- Her academic experience at the  $\star$ Eastern Europe Centre at University of Warsaw made her a frequently invited guest in the media, where she happily shares her insights on Central Asia.

NONFICTION



#### Michal Wójcik

# LIGHTNING. THE STORY OF WANDA TRACZYK--STAWSKA, THE WARSAW UPRISING SOLDIER

Original ———	
	żołnierza powstania warszawskiego
Première date ——	2022
Movie rights ———	No
Rights sold	Be the first to buy

I was... brave. Still am a bit, I guess. Or maybe, maybe you know what? Maybe I just did not have enough imagination to feel the fear. That's where my bravery came from. When you're fighting for your dignity, for your right to live in dignity – you become invincible.

In 2018, she supported the parents of children with disabilities who protested against the government's neglect. She actively participated in the Women's Strike movement and stood up against the inhumane treatment of refugees trapped at the Polish-Belarusian border. She insists that people who are in danger should never be left to their own devices.

Wanda Traczyk-Stawska is a fighter, a living legend, and a moral authority. During the Warsaw Uprising, she fought as a shooter and liaison officer for the Guarding Units of the Secret Military Printing Works at the Home Army's Bureau of Information and Propaganda. After the war, she studied psychology and devoted all of her professional life to working with children with disabilities. Why does she consider herself a soldier rather than a soldieress? How did the Uprising affect her and her worldview? And why does she keep on fighting?

In a conversation with Michał Wójcik, Wanda Traczyk-Stawska answers those and many other questions. What emerges is a nuanced and colourful portrait of an extraordinary woman.

**MICHAŁ WÓJCIK** Historian, journalist. He worked in Radio Zet, "Przekrój" weekly, and was the editor-in-chief of "Focus" and "Focus History" magazines. He co-created the "Błyskawiczny Program Historyczny" on TVN Warszawa and the series "Was / was not" on Discovery.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ The protagonist is well known and popular. Wanda Traczyk-Stawska is outspoken and active in the media. She's the contemporary voice of the Warsaw Insurgents.
- ★ A valid message, which still rings true.
- ★ The book fits in with the contemporary need for strong female figures and role models.

Marta Grzywacz

# SCARS. THE REAL STORY OF THE 'RABBITS OF RAVENSBRÜCK'

On 23rd September 1941, four hundred young Polish female resistance activists arrive in the Ravensbrück concentration camp, brought here from prisons in Lublin and Warsaw. They have to face the reality of the concentration camp: starvation, pain, fear and death.

Some of them are assigned to be used as subjects in pseudo-medical experiments. They are forced to participate in cruel and dangerous practices, thus becoming laboratory animals for the Nazi doctors. *Scars. The True Story of the Rabbits of Ravensbrück* is a story of Nazi cruelty and physicians working for Hitler. It's a tale of survival, courage and inner strength, which helped the prisoners stand up to their oppressors. It is also the evidence of solidarity of women from different countries and a story of an American philanthropist, who decided to help the victims of medical experiments heal the scars on their bodies and souls.

MARTA GRZYWACZ studied at the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. As a journalist, she worked in the press, radio and television (as a former reporter and TV news anchor). Grzywacz conducted hundreds of interviews with people from the world of science and culture. She also worked as a historical columnist. Since 2012, she's been working with Gazeta Wyborcza and Newsweek. In 2017, she published her first book - a fictionalised historical reportage Obrońca skarbów. Karol Estreicher w poszukiwaniu zagrabionych dzieł sztuki Treasure Protector. Karol Estreicher On the Hunt For the Lost Works of Art], published by PWN. In 2017, it was chosen the Best Historical Book in the vote organised by histmag. org and granice.pl, and in 2018, it was shortlisted in the Best Popular Science Book category at the 22nd Science & Popular Science Book Fair in Poznań.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ It's the first account of a relatively unknown story of female prisoners subject to medical experiments in the Ravensbrück concentration camp and a completely unknown story of their treatment after the war in the USA.
- ★ The author performed thorough research. The book is based not only on preserved documents, but also on numerous accounts and interviews with the former prisoners.

OTHER TITLES:

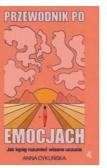


2020 Nasza Pani z Ravensbruk

Marta Grzywacz

NONFICTION

#### NONFICTION



#### Anna Cyklińska

## A GUIDE TO EMOTIONS

ŝ	Original — Przewodnik po emocjach.
	Jak lepiej zrozumieć własne uczucia
	Première date — 2022
1	Movie rights ——— No
	Rights sold — Be the first to buy

A Guide To Emotions is the first such psychological guidebook in Poland - it provides a comprehensive description of the basic twenty emotions we experience in our lives.

The author explains what emotions are and why they are important. On top of this, she shows us what happens when you fail to notice, acknowledge or express your emotions and choose to suppress them. She claims that "this book won't help you learn how to recognise emotions on the faces of other people or match the signs given by your body to specific feelings. Instead, I will try to show you that emotions are relative, individual and rooted in a context. You will discover the importance of a holistic approach to regulating your emotions - for this, you will need not only a set of specific skills, but also the ability to manage your general wellbeing. Let me show you how you can take a step towards containing your emotions by putting an accurate name on them."

The book comes with a set of practical exercises to help you understand how to notice emotions in your body, how to acquire the language to speak about them, and how to practise mindfulness.

**ANNA CYKLIŃSKA** – a psychologist, a cognitive and behavioural psychotherapist, and the author of the @psychoedu Instagram profile. She has her own podcast channel titled "Można zwariować" [You could go insane]. In her first published book she offers guidance to twenty basic emotions all of us experience at some point of our lives.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ 10 000 copies sold in 2 months.
- ★ Wise and reader-friendly.
- ★ Beautiful, modern illustrations.



# LUDOWA HISTORIA POLSKI

# THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF POLAND

Original ———	Ludowa Historia Polski
Première date ——	2020
Movie rights ———	No
Rights sold	Be the first to buy

Adam Leszczyński

The People's History of Poland is about the things repressed from memory – the history written by the 'bottom 90 per cent' of Polish society. It tells the story of the institutions made up by the rich for taking money and resources from the poor, using means both legal and illegal – and the story of the resistance and rebellion of those abused. Leszczyński also tells the story of the Polish elites: the ways in which they justified their power and privilege, and of the violence they commonly incited.

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ The first historical book presenting the perspective of lower social classes.
- ★ A monumental, perfectly written account of an unknown history of Poland.
- ★ Acclaimed author, often invited to the media.

The People's History of Poland is the story of the things lied about or repressed in the collective memory in Poland. It is the story of the bottom '90 per cent' of Polish society, of the poor and uneducated, of those who were expected to work hard and listen to the elites – from the early days of Poland's existence up until today.

The main topic of the book is power – the power of those on top of society – and of the social institutions, serving elites to take over whatever the people have produced. Therefore, it isn't simply the story of serfdom and corvée, but also of the social relationships in the factories and the 19th-century offices. It is the history of the

people, not the history of a nation: the author isn't interested in the wars and uprisings as much as he is in their aftermath – how their successes and failures shaped and changed the relationships between the people who lived in Poland: Poles, Jews, Ukrainians, and other minorities.

It is also the history of ideas – the ideas that justified the power executed by the liege over his subjects, or by the factory-owner over the labourers. The elites conjured up numerous explanations for their status – explanations that changed over time, and so the author examines those changes. At the same time, there was a dispute on emancipation and equality, but the supporters of those ideas in Poland were usually in the minority.

Finally, it is the history of rebellion and resistance – sabotages at work, acts of rebellion against the lieges, factory strikes. There were many such movements in Poland, often carried out with extreme cruelty – as well as the acts of violence executed commonly in everyday life.

ADAM LESZCZYŃSKI Historian, sociologist, and journalist. He is a professor at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. He is the co-founder of the OKO.press platform and a team member of the Krytyka Polityczna. In the years 2005-2017, he wrote regularly for the Gazeta Wyborcza daily newspaper. Leszczyński is the author of several acclaimed non-fiction books, including Naznaczeni. Afryka i AIDS [Stigma. Africa and AIDS (2003)], and Zbawcy mórz [Saviours of the Sea (2013)]. He also wrote a number of academic books on the social history of the People's Republic of Poland and on the problems of peripheral modernisation (Skok w nowoczesność [Leap Into Modernity], 2013) and developmental politics. His articles were published in a number of magazines, Polityka, Newsweek, Krytyka Polityczna, as well as The Guardian and El Pais.



Skrzydłowska-Kalukin Katarzyna Sokolińska Joanna

# **CALL ME THEY – WHY** CHILDREN TODAY KEEP LOOKING FOR GENDER

Original ———	Mów o mnie ono. Dlaczego współczesne dzieci szukają swojej płci
Première date ——	2022
Movie rights ———	No
Rights sold	Be the first to buy

Teenagers - in Utrecht, London, Warsaw and smaller towns - reject gender binarism together with its conventional sexuality. They can see many more options than their parents did. The number of young people who identify as transgender keeps growing - even by a few hundred per cent each year, as is the case in the UK. Parents raised their child as a girl and all of a sudden she announces she's a boy. Or the other way round. Or - as the case may be - the child may be non-binary: neither a boy, nor a girl, or sometimes a boy and at other times a girl. Or they may decide they don't subscribe to any gender whatsoever. Not all of these children insist on a gender confirmation surgery. Most of them just want to be able to express themselves - by choosing another name to go by, different clothes or pronouns. So much for gender. Because there's also the topic of feelings, relationships and sexuality: being heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, panromantic or aromantic. Both transsexual and cisgender teenagers can be queer. They live in big cities and small towns, in Europe and the Americas. What has changed? Has it always been this way, but we only became open-minded enough to see it in the 21st century? Or maybe our children are the pioneers of another sexual revolution?

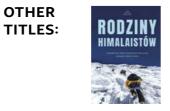
#### KATARZYNA SKRZYDŁOWSKA-KALUKIN

Social journalist, reporter. She has published her texts in "Gazeta Wyborcza", "Newsweek", "Dziennik" and the "Wprost" weekly. She's the author of a book titled "Gajka i Jacek Kuroniowie" and an extended interview with Dorota Zawadzka titled "Jak zostałam nianią Polaków". She's married to Rafał, and has two children, Marta and Julian.

JOANNA SOKOLIŃSKA is a sociologist, reporter and columnist for "Wysokie Obcasy". She loves chablis, secondhand boutiques, American B-class crime series and early crime fiction by Joanna Chmielewska. Her first published crime story is titled "Trzewiczki Matki Boskiej" [Virgin Mary's Shoes].

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ★ The authors rely on the research done by Polish and foreign scientists.
- ★ It's the first book in Poland about sexuality issues experienced by children nowadays.
- ★ A combination of literary reportage with the latest scientific findings.



2020

Families of Himalavan climbers

#### - OUR RECENT ACQUISITIONS - GENERAL FICTION

- Cochrun Alison, Kiss Her Once For Me
- North Lauren, One Step Behind
- Hausmann Romy, Perfect Day
- Smith Ali, Companion Piece, How to be both
- Feeney Alice, Daisy Darker, Rock, Paper, Scissors
- Stevenson Benjamin, Everyone In My Family Has Killed Someone
- Weeda Lisa, Aleksandra
- Hoover Colleen, Slammed Trilogy
- Kundera Milan, Un Occident kidnappe. Ou la tragedie de L'Europe centrale
- Wakatake Chisako. I, I'M GOING ALONE
- Brown Sheryl, The Affair

#### — NEONY SERIES - YA

- Byrne Tanya, Afterlove
- June Jason, Jay's Agenda
- Blau Jessica Anya, Mary Jane
- Shustermann Neal, Challenger Deep

#### - UROBOROS - FANTASY

- Katee Robert, Neon Gods
- Lauren James, The Loneliest Girl in the Universe
- Moon Elizabeth, The Spped of Dark
- Micaiah Johnson, The Space Between Worlds
- El-Mohtar Amal, Gladstone Max, This Is How You Lose The Time War

#### – NON-FICTION

- Natalie Haynes, Pandora's Jar. Women in Greek Myths
- Ashley Ward, The Social Lives of Animals
- Amia Srinivasan, The Right to Sex
- Ferruccio Pinotti, La setta divina. Il Movimento dei Focolari fra misticismo, abusi e potere
- Anelee Newitz, Four Lost Cities. A Secret History of the Urban Age
- Clare Mulley, Agent Zo: Woman on a Mission
- Matthew Perry, Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing
- Mikhai Zygar, The Future will not come
- Mikhail Zygar, Ukraine
- Oliver Bullough, Butler to the World
- Gerard Janssen, Hackers
- Britney Spears, autobiography

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