



The Blizzard: A Novel

By Vladimir Sorokin

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The Blizzard: A Novel By Vladimir Sorokin

A dazzling, utterly distinctive saga from Russia's most celebrated and most controversial novelist

Garin, a district doctor, is desperately trying to reach the village of Dolgoye, where a mysterious epidemic is turning people into zombies. He carries with him a vaccine that will prevent the spread of this terrible disease, but is stymied in his travels by an impenetrable blizzard. A trip that should last no more than a few hours turns into a metaphysical journey, an expedition filled with extraordinary encounters, dangerous escapades, torturous imaginings, and amorous adventures.

Trapped in an existential storm, Vladimir Sorokin's characters fight their way across a landscape that owes as much to Chekhov's Russian countryside as it does to the postapocalyptic terrain of science fiction. Hypnotic, fascinating, and richly drawn, *The Blizzard* is a seminal work from one of the most inventive authors writing today. Sorokin has created yet another boldly original work, which combines an avant-garde sensibility with a taste for the absurd and the grotesque, all while delivering stinging truths about contemporary life and modern-day Russia.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Vladimir Sorokin [is] Russia's most inventive contemporary author . . . Knowing when to pick one's battles is the mark of a great translator, and Gambrell is one. Her translation is as elegant, playful and layered as the original ? and never appears labored." --Masha Gessen, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Following the dystopian nightmare of *Day of the Oprichnik* and the epic, genre-bending *Ice Trilogy* comes *The Blizzard*, a more accessible but no less imaginative novel encompassing a familiar Russian vista with splashy avant-garde flourishes . . . Jamey Gambrell has translated Sorokin before, but she deserves special mention here for her skillful rendering of the book's many voices . . . The colorful language, whether out-loud repartee or inner thoughts, together with several vibrant daydreams and psychedelic hallucinations, provide a neat contrast to the all-engulfing whiteness of the blizzard . . . Sorokin's storytelling is so mesmeric and so richly inventive that being snow-blinded is half the fun." --Malcolm Forbes, *Star Tribune*

"Vladimir Sorokin, the translatosphere's favorite contemporary Russian novelist, writes about, and with the pitilessness of, his country's unremitting cold . . . *The Blizzard* . . . is a crazed fantasia on Tolstoy's tale, with all the moralizing ingeniously whited out." --Joshua Cohen, *Harper's*

"Sorokin's torturous sense of citizenship, which has reached a fascinating impasse in his latest novel, *The Blizzard*, is the key to one of the most transfixing bodies of work in world literature . . . this astonishingly original writer, it seems safe to say, hasn't yet hit the limits of his madcap imagination." --Michael Lapointe, *The New Republic*

"An odyssey through a bizarre, irreverently-conceived world . . . This is a wild quest through both a snowy landscape and the author's imagination." --Heather Scott Partington, *Electric Literature*

"A dangerous and darkly fantastical expedition . . . You'll tear through this one in a thunderous heartbeat." --Melissa Ragsdale, *Bustle*

"Perhaps it's not surprising, given the weather, to find blizzards and snowstorms proliferating throughout Russian literature from Pushkin's magic tales to Vladimir Sorokin's mysterious 2010 novel, *The Blizzard* . . . *The Blizzard* is, for all that, an outwardly gentler novel than *Day of the Oprichnik*; but at its heart it is a chilling vision of Russia's fatally erratic journey." --Phoebe Taplin, *Russia Beyond the Headlines*

About the Author

Vladimir Sorokin is the author of eleven novels, including *Day of the Oprichnik* (FSG, 2011), *Ice Trilogy*, and *The Queue*; thirteen plays, and numerous short stories and screenplays. He wrote the libretto for Leonid Desyatnikov's *The Children of Rosenthal*, the first opera to be commissioned by the Bolshoi Theater in a quarter century. His books have been translated into thirty languages. He has won the Andrei Bely and the Maxim Gorky prizes, and *The Blizzard* was the recipient of both the NOS Literature Prize and the Bolshaya Kniga prize. In 2013, Sorokin was a finalist for the Man Booker International Prize. He lives in Moscow.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelly Neidig:

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Alvin Reed:

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