

The Free World David Bezmozgis

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The Free World Crown

National Bestseller Globe and Mail Best Book of the Year New York Times Notable Book of the Year Winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (Canada and Caribbean Region) Winner of the Canadian Jewish Book Award, Fiction Category Winner of the Toronto Book Award Winner of the Jewish Quarterly Wingate Literary Prize for Fiction Winner of the Danuta Gleed Literary Award Finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction Finalist for CBC's Canada Reads Finalist for the Guardian First Book Award Finalist for the Borders Books and Music 2004 Original Voices Award Finalist for the LA Times Book Prize The Bermans—Bella, Roman and their son, Mark—are Russian Jews who fled the Riga of Brezhnev for Toronto, the city of their dreams. Natasha and Other Stories is the chronicle of their search for a better life as they struggle to fit into a foreign urban landscape. Told through Mark's eyes, these are stories filled with heart, verve and consequence. In "Tapka," six-year-old Mark's cocky game with a neighbour's beloved dog turns into a tragi-comedy of life lessons learned. In the title story, a teenage Mark faces a stark, comical and ultimately searing

introduction to first love at the experienced hands of his cousin, Natasha, an immigrant from the new Russia. And in "Minyan," Mark and his grandfather watch as the death of an Odessan cab driver sets off a religious controversy among the residents of a Jewish old-people's home. Often funny and always wise, this much-celebrated collection captures the immigrant experience with striking wit and deep sympathy.

The Ever After of Ashwin Rao A&C Black

Elena Gorokhova's *A Mountain of Crumbs* is the moving story of a Soviet girl who discovers the truths adults are hiding from her and the lies her homeland lives by. Elena's country is no longer the majestic Russia of literature or the tsars, but a nation struggling to retain its power and its pride. Born with a desire to explore the world beyond her borders, Elena finds her passion in the complexity of the English language—but in the Soviet Union of the 1960s such a passion verges on the subversive. Elena is controlled by the state the same way she is controlled by her mother, a mirror image of her motherland: overbearing, protective, difficult to leave. In the battle between a strong-willed daughter and her authoritarian mother, the daughter, in the end, must break free and leave in order to survive. Through Elena's captivating voice, we learn not only the stories of Russian family life in the second half of the twentieth century, but also the story of one rebellious citizen whose curiosity and determination finally transport her to a new world. It is an elegy to the lost country of childhood, where those who leave can never return.

Petropolis Random House

A classic of Canadian Jewish literature for over fifty years This new edition of a classic Canadian Jewish novel tells the story of Jacob Grossman, a middle-aged immigrant tailor who travels from Toronto to pre-World War Two Europe. The novel's action opens in 1935, with a striking portrait of Toronto's working-class Spadina Avenue district. Kreisel's narrative leap of genius is his depiction of Grossman's decision to return to acquaint himself with his family and his boyhood home of Vienna. Wearing a new white suit, an extravagance bought especially for the trip, he is mistaken for a rich man, and the charade he undertakes to maintain this image

complicates an already difficult visit. Grossman finds Vienna transformed by the rise of Nazism and the slow, inexorable deterioration of Austria's prominent Jewish community. Kreisel's insights into the forces that would lead the world to war are uniquely revealing. His portrait of prewar Jewish life in Europe and Canada helps us better understand the oncoming Holocaust. Henry Kreisel's *The Rich Man* was among the first books by a Jewish writer on Jewish themes to be published in Canada. With a new introduction by the Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University and editor of Red Deer's Canadian Jewish writing series, Dr. Norman Ravvin.

Siege 13 Penguin

"Absurdistan is not just a hilarious novel, but a record of a particular peak in the history of human folly. No one is more capable of dealing with the transition from the hell of socialism to the hell of capitalism in Eastern Europe than Shteyngart, the great-great grandson of one Nikolai Gogol and the funniest foreigner alive." —Aleksandar Hemon From the critically acclaimed, bestselling author of *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* comes the uproarious and poignant story of one very fat man and one very small country Meet Misha Vainberg, aka Snack Daddy, a 325-pound disaster of a human being, son of the 1,238th-richest man in Russia, proud holder of a degree in multicultural studies from Accidental College, USA (don't even ask), and patriot of no country save the great City of New York. Poor Misha just wants to live in the South Bronx with his hot Latina girlfriend, but after his gangster father murders an Oklahoma businessman in Russia, all hopes of a U.S. visa are lost. Salvation lies in the tiny, oil-rich nation of Absurdistan, where a crooked consular officer will sell Misha a Belgian passport. But after a civil war breaks out between two competing ethnic groups and a local warlord installs hapless Misha as minister of multicultural affairs, our hero soon finds himself covered in oil, fighting for his life, falling in love, and trying to figure out if a normal life is still possible in the twenty-first

century. With the enormous success of *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, Gary Shteyngart established himself as a central figure in today's literary world—“one of the most talented and entertaining writers of his generation,” according to *The New York Observer*. In *Absurdistan*, he delivers an even funnier and wiser literary performance. Misha Vainberg is a hero for the new century, a glimmer of humanity in a world of dashed hopes.

A Replacement Life Anchor

In the wickedly bittersweet and hilarious *You Must Go and Win*, the Ukrainian-born musician Alina Simone traces her bizarre journey through the indie rock world, from disastrous Craigslist auditions with sketchy producers to catching fleas in a Williamsburg sublet. But Simone offers more than down-and-out tales of her time as a struggling musician: she has a rapier wit, slashing and burning her way through the absurdities of life, while offering surprising and poignant insights into the burdens of family expectations and the nature of ambition, the temptations of religion and the lure of a mythical Russian home. Wavering between embracing and fleeing her outsized and nebulous dreams of stardom, Simone confronts her Russian past when she falls in love with the music of Yanka Dyagileva, a Soviet singer who tragically died young; hits the road with her childhood friend who is dead set on becoming an “icon”; and battles male strippers in Siberia. Hailed as “the perfect storm of creative talent” (*USA Today*, *Pop Candy*), Simone is poised to win over readers of David Rakoff and Sarah Vowell with her irresistibly funny and charming literary debut.

Undercard Calgary : Red Deer Press

Marion Molteno is the winner of the 1999 Commonwealth Writers Best Book for Africa award. These poignant stories, based on her experiences of teaching English, are now being re-released.

Imprint.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

From internationally acclaimed *New Face of Fiction* author Padma Viswanathan, a stunning new work set among families of those who lost loved ones in the 1985 Air India bombing, registering the unexpected reverberations of this tragedy in the lives of its survivors. A book of post-9/11 life, *The Ever After* demonstrates that violent politics are all-too-often homegrown in North America but ignored at our peril. In 2004, almost 20 years after the fatal bombing of Air India Flight 182 from Vancouver, two suspects are—finally—on trial for the crime. Ashwin Rao, an Indian psychologist trained in North America, comes back to

do a “study of comparative grief,” interviewing people who lost loved one in the attack. What he neglects to mention is that he, too, had family members who died on the plane. Then, to his delight and fear, he becomes embroiled in the lives of one family that remains unable to escape the undertow of the tragedy. As Ashwin finds himself less and less capable of providing the objective advice this particular family seeks, his surprising emotional connection to them pushes him to face his own losses. *The Ever After* imagines the lasting emotional and political consequences of a real-life act of terror, confronting what we might learn to live with and what we can live without.

Immigrant City Macmillan

A visionary novel from the author of *Super Sad True Love Story* and *Little Failure*. *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* introduces Vladimir Girshkin, one of the most original and unlikely heroes of recent times. The twenty-five-year-old unhappy lover to a fat dungeon mistress, affectionately nicknamed “Little Failure” by his high-achieving mother, Vladimir toils his days away as a lowly clerk at the bureaucratic Emma Lazarus Immigrant Absorption Society. When a wealthy but psychotic old Russian war hero appears, Vladimir embarks on an adventure of unrelenting lunacy that takes us from New York's Lower East Side to the hip frontier wilderness of Prava--the Eastern European Paris of the nineties. With the help of a murderous but fun-loving Russian mafioso, Vladimir infiltrates the Prava expat community and launches a scheme as ridiculous as it is brilliant. Bursting with wit, humor, and rare insight, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* is both a highly imaginative romp and a serious exploration of what it means to be an immigrant in America.

Mwah-Mwah Abrams

Winner of the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award Winner of the American Library Association's Sophie Brody Medal Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award A singularly talented writer makes his literary debut with this provocative, soulful, and sometimes hilarious story of a failed journalist asked to do the unthinkable: Forge Holocaust-restitution claims for old Russian Jews in Brooklyn, New York. Yevgeny Gelman, grandfather of Slava Gelman, “didn't suffer in the exact way” he needs to have suffered to qualify for the restitution the German government has been paying out to Holocaust survivors. But suffer he has—as a Jew in the war; as a second-class citizen in the USSR; as an immigrant to America. So? Isn't his grandson a “writer”? High-minded Slava wants to put all this immigrant scraping behind him. Only the American Dream is not panning out for him—*Century*, the legendary magazine where he works as a researcher, wants nothing greater from him. Slava wants to be a correct, blameless American—but he wants to be a lionized writer even more. Slava's turn as the Forger of South Brooklyn teaches him that not every fact is the truth, and not every lie a falsehood. It takes more than law-abiding to become an American; it takes the same self-reinvention in which his people excel. Intoxicated and unmoored by his inventions, Slava risks exposure. Cornered, he commits an irrevocable act that finally grants him a sense of home in America, but not before collecting a price from his family. *A Replacement Life* is a dark, moving, and beautifully written novel

about family, honor, and justice.

A Door Behind A Door Harper Collins

‘Witty and acerbic...A delight!’ Jen Mann, *New York Times* bestselling author of *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*
‘Hilariously funny, whip-smart and absolutely fascinating...Just amazing.’ Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pictures of You and With or Without You*
‘Laugh-out-loud funny’ NPR Books Buy a pair of *Levi's*, lose the Russian accent, and turn yourself into an American. Really, how difficult could it be? Fake an exit visa, fool the Soviet authorities, pack enough sausage to last through immigration, buy a one-way Aeroflot ticket, and the rest will sort itself out. That was the gist of every Soviet-Jewish immigrant's plan in the 1980s, Margarita's included. Despite her father's protestations that they'd get caught and thrown into a gulag, she convinced her family to follow that plan. When they arrived in the US, Margarita had a clearly defined objective — become fully American as soon as possible, and leave her Soviet past behind. But she soon learned that finding her new voice was harder than escaping the Soviet secret police. She finds herself changing her name to fit in, disappointing her parents who expect her to become a doctor, a lawyer, an investment banker and a classical pianist — all at the same time, learning to date without hang-ups (there is no sex in the Soviet Union), parenting her own daughter ‘while too Russian’, and not being able to let go of old habits (never, ever throw anything away because you might use it again). Most importantly, she finds that no matter how hard you try not to become your parents, you end up just like them anyway. Witty, sharp and unflinching, *I Named My Dog Pushkin* will have fans of David Sedaris and Samantha Irby howling with laughter at Margarita's catastrophes, her victories and her near misses as she learns to grow as both a woman and an immigrant in a world that often doesn't appreciate either. What readers are saying about *I Named My Dog Pushkin*: ‘I thoroughly enjoyed Margarita's witty and acerbic voice. This book was a delight!’ Jen Mann, *New York Times* bestselling author of *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*
‘Hilariously funny, whip-smart and absolutely fascinating...Silver shows that the only person she needs to ever become is herself. Just amazing.’ Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pictures of You and With or Without You*
‘Laugh-out-loud funny... a particular pleasure to see our splintered country through the eyes of this determined and appreciative emigree. Humor, it turns out, opens wide a door to patriotism.’ NPR Books
‘Hilarious immigrant tales. From one USSR immigrant to another...I related a lot.’ Margarita Levieva, HBO's *'The Deuce'*
‘Hilarious and thought-provoking...A fine way of understanding the special challenges of the immigrant experience’ California Bookwatch
‘A memoir like this is so very rare, one in which you learn a great deal, while laughing throughout. Highly, highly

recommended. ' Wandering Educators ' Hysterically funny and thought-provoking...perfect for anyone fascinated with the USSR ' FangirlNation ' Had me laughing and smiling all the way through...a perfect balance of wit and seriousness...Superb and enjoyable ' Goodreads reviewer ' Laughed my socks off! ' Goodreads reviewer ' I loved this book so much...I just could not stop reading. I loved everything in this book. ' NetGalley reviewer ' Hilarious...there was a lot I could deeply relate to. ' Goodreads reviewer ' A sharp, witty memoir...Margarita captured Jewish joy and grief together perfectly ' Goodreads reviewer ' Darkly funny...reminiscent of other acerbic comedian authors like Sara Barron...fascinating ' NetGalley reviewer The Betrayers The Free World

As Russian tanks roll through the cobblestone streets of Budapest and shots ring out, young Robert and Attila Beck, inseparable brothers, peer from the boot of a toppled statue of Stalin at the first grisly signs of revolution. The year is 1956. That October day, Russian soldiers will storm their family home, prompting the boys' hurried escape from the city with their parents, grandmother, and two cousins. Not all will survive. Their immediate destination is Paris, and the town house of Hermina, their great-aunt, once a renowned opera singer, now a recluse who wears long gloves to preserve her dignity against a past scarred by an unspeakable violence. Along the way, these two brothers encounter mysterious fellow travelers, witness the bewildering sights of a nation in transition, and grapple with rivalry and loss, while never losing their capacity for joy or their appreciation of humor, and each other, as they stare down the unaccountable and the absurd. Robert, the younger, idolizes the fiery Attila, whose growing edge of anger and rebellion threatens to endanger them both. As exiles in Paris, they seek adventure and whatever semblance of home they might find, from the unfamiliar streets to the labyrinthine sewers beneath. When the duo uncovers a long-held family secret involving a double agent and a daring Holocaust rescue, this novel hurtles toward its cataclysmic conclusion. A fleeting decision by Attila has consequences that will last a lifetime, and the bond that has proved unbreakable may be the brothers' undoing. With dazzling storytelling and a firm belief in the power of humor in the face of turmoil, Joseph Kertes has crafted a fierce saga of identity and love that resonates through its final page. The Afterlife of Stars is not only a stirring account of one displaced family's possibilities for salvation, but also an extraordinary tale of the singular and enduring ties of brotherhood. "Devastating yet unnervingly funny.... inspired and deeply affecting...a story for the ages."-Julie Orringer, New York Times Book Review "The Afterlife of Stars moved me more than any other novel I've read in recent memory."-Tim O'Brien

How to Read the Air Penguin Paperbacks

Refusing the Kremlin's order to relocate to Israel, the Jewish Krasnasnsky

family of 1978 Russia makes their way across Italy at the sides of thousands of other immigrants over the course of a culturally rich six months. A first novel by the award-winning author of Natasha. Reprint.

I Named My Dog Pushkin (And Other Immigrant Tales) Random House Trade Paperbacks

Shipped off to France for Easter for some continental 'culture', Hannah finds herself staying with her mother's best friend. And her mother's best friend's daughter. Who happens to be tall, horribly stylish and has that irritating way of turning a scarf into the latest fashion accessory. To make matters worse (if possible) the daughter's friend is coming to stay with them. Doubly bad for the ego, twice the competition for the bathroom. But then 'Michel' turns out to be a boy . . . Cue rivalry with a continental flavour in a fantastically scandal-rich and brilliantly compelling teen coming-of-age drama.

The Free World Little, Brown

Set over the course of twenty-four exhilarating hours, Undercard is the story of four childhood friends, now in their early thirties, unexpectedly reunited by a high-profile prizefight in a Las Vegas casino... and an even higher-profile murder. When Tyron Shaw returns to his hometown of Las Vegas after eleven years in the Marines, he ' s surprised to discover that two of his best friends from childhood are all anyone is talking about: Antoine Deco, three years out of prison, hasn ' t lost a boxing match since his release, and tonight is fighting in the undercard to the fight of the decade; and Keenan Quinn, a police officer who killed an unarmed teenager and escaped punishment from the courts, is the subject of a protest tomorrow morning. Tyron has trouble reconciling either story with his memory of these men, and the situation escalates when he runs into the love of his life, Naomi Wilks, a retired WNBA player, basketball coach, and estranged wife of Keenan. As Tyron reconnects with his old community, he will learn over the next twenty-four hours that much has changed since he left Las Vegas... and there is much more that he never understood. The Reef, an aquarium-themed casino and the hottest resort on the Strip, is the backdrop for this bullet-paced narrative, where loyalty to one ' s friends, one ' s family, and one ' s community are ever at odds, and every choice has deadly repercussions.

Rabbit Redux Thread

A "beautifully written"* (New York Times Book Review) novel of redemption by a prize-winning international literary star. From the acclaimed author of The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears comes a heartbreaking literary masterwork about love, family, and the power of imagination. Following the death of his father Yosef, Jonas Woldemariam feels compelled to make sense of the volatile generational and cultural ties that have forged him. Leaving behind his marriage and job in New York, he sets out to retrace his mother

and father's honeymoon as young Ethiopian immigrants and weave together a family history that will take him from the war-torn country of his parents' youth to a brighter vision of his life in America today. In so doing, he crafts a story- real or invented-that holds the possibility of reconciliation and redemption.

The Russian Debutante's Handbook Harper Perennial

When Sadie looks out her window and sees her bother standing on the front lawn she knows he can't bring good news. Fidgeting over coffee with sugar and cream he explains: Their sister is gone. Three days earlier Goldie left to go shopping and she has not returned. With Goldie's disappearance as the catalyst, The First Desire takes us deep into the life of the Cohen family and Buffalo, New York, from the Great Depression to the years immediately following World War II. Shifting perspectives from siblings Sadie, Jo, Goldie, and Irving we learn of the secrets they have managed to keep hidden--and of Lillian, the beautiful woman their father took as a lover while his wife was dying. In this astonishing novel Reisman brings to life the love, grief, and desires that ultimately bind one family together.

Charlotte Bronte's Secret Love U of Nebraska Press

Residents of a thriving port town in Russia's Far East are shaped by regional history and lore throughout the latter half of the 20th century, from a local woman who considers an Italian footballer's proposition to a former Soviet boss' memories about a thorny friendship. A first collection. 35,000 first printing.

The Green Library HMH

In this sequel to Rabbit, Run, John Updike resumes the spiritual quest of his anxious Everyman, Harry " Rabbit " Angstrom. Ten years have passed; the impulsive former athlete has become a paunchy thirty-six-year-old conservative, and Eisenhower ' s becalmed America has become 1969 ' s lurid turmoil of technology, fantasy, drugs, and violence. Rabbit is abandoned by his family, his home invaded by a runaway and a radical, his past reduced to a ruined inner landscape; still he clings to semblances of decency and responsibility, and yearns to belong and to believe.

A Language in Common Farrar, Straus and Giroux

WINNER OF THE QWF FIRST BOOK PRIZE " Alice Petersen writes as eloquently about the natural world as she does about the world of human emotion and desire. This is a wise and impressive collection of stories. " —David Bezmozgis, author of The Free World Alice Petersen's All the Voices Cry is masterful and potent—incredibly satisfying for a reader. — Kathleen Winter, author of Annabel An academic ' s wife, struggling to keep up with her husband ' s quest to find a long-dead author ' s Tahitian love-garden, realizes that her own idea of paradise no longer includes her husband. An architect dreams of slender redheads, Champlain ' s astrolabe, and a brush with

mortality—and finds at least the latter at Danseuses 7 Jours. An elderly man boards a trans-Pacific flight in an attempt to elude the prediction of a psychic, only to understand too late how the prophecy has shaped his actions. In *All the Voices Cry*, modern life collides with all the old pushes and pulls: city and country, the global and the local, the ideal and the real. Petersen's characters chase the mirage of escape, and are brought up hard by reality. This is a book rooted in landscape, tangled in the brambles of personal history, and it introduces in Alice Petersen a wondrous new voice that is yours to discover. Alice Petersen is a writer and critic whose work has been shortlisted for numerous Canadian prizes and awards. She was born in New Zealand and now lives and works in Montreal, Quebec.

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka Macmillan

Abandoned by her father and struggling under the shadow of her overbearing mother, Jewish-Siberian teen Sasha has a baby with a homeless alcoholic and becomes a mail-order bride as part of her quest to find her father in America.