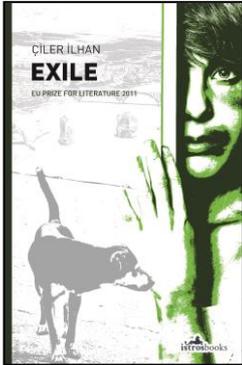


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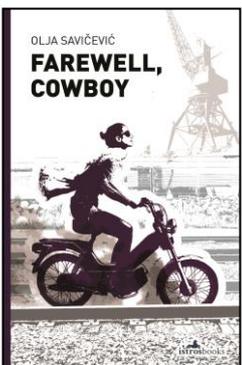
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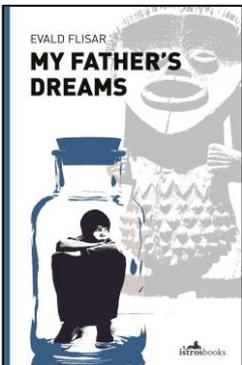
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Dada returns to her shabby hometown on the Adriatic coast hoping to unravel the mystery of her brother's death. Although young, smart and popular, he has apparently thrown himself under a train in mysterious circumstances. In her search for clues, Dada meets an array of eccentric characters and succumbs to the charms of Angelo, a member of the film crew who are shooting a Western on the nearby 'prairie'. Slowly and painfully Dada discovers all there is to know about her brother's death and that – unlike the heroes of the silver screen – contemporary heroes may have feet of clay.

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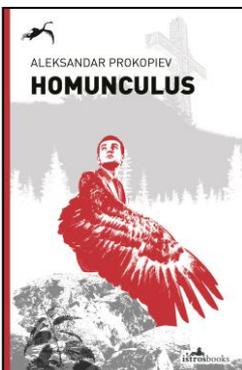
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### HOMUNCULUS

by Aleksandar Prokopiev (Macedonia's most famous writer and musician)

**Haunting short stories – some based on traditional fairy tales – but with very adult themes**

These dark tales for adults offer something for everyone. Despite retaining the traditional fairy tale elements of magic and surprise, these stories are unlikely to end with the words, "happily ever after." The author concocts a potent mix of the erotic and the tragic, of guilt and of longing – and of existential alienation. Some of the stories are based in well-known fairy tales such as "Tom Thumb" and "Snow White"; others have Macedonian folk roots or are composed by Prokopiev himself.

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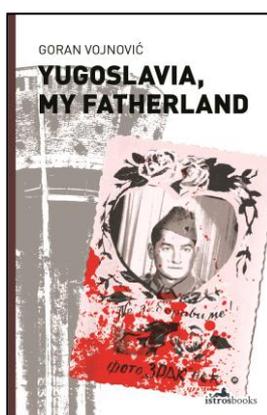
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by Andrej Nikolaidis (the famous novelist and journalist from Montenegro)

**A reporter tackles his most important investigation – to uncover his true identity**

Discovering that the story of his own past is a complete fabrication, a reporter sets of to discover the truth. Was his birth-mother one of an elite band of trained killers employed by the Yugoslav Secret Services? His journey takes him to the sites of wartime atrocities, follows a trail of fake suicides across Europe and to the empty grave of his own mother. In his own unique style, Nikolaidis takes us into a world of criminal intrigue and, in the process, dissects the meaning of identity and the very essence of our human existence.

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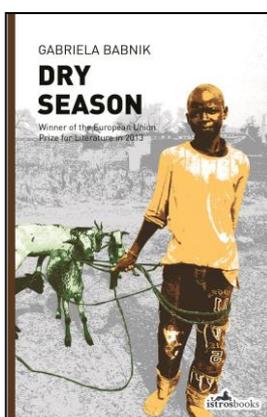
## YUGOSLAVIA, MY FATHERLAND

by Goran Vojnović (The Slovenian author and film-maker)

**Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dayton Agreement that led to peace in Bosnia**

When Vladan googles the name of his father Nedeljko, a former officer in the Yugoslav People's Army, he discovers a dark family secret dating back to the events of 1991 – the year when military conflict had brought his own idyllic childhood to a sudden end. In the course of Vladan's journey through the Balkans in search of his fugitive war-criminal father, he discovers how the falling apart of his own family is closely linked with the disintegration of the world they used to live in. This enthralling novel examines the tragic fates of people who managed to avoid the bombs, but were unable to escape the war.

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## DRY SEASON

by Gabriela Babnik (the award-winning Slovenian author)

**Winner of the European Union Prize for Literature 2013**

The passionate love affair between Anna, a 62-year-old designer from Central Europe, and Ismael a 27-year-old African who was brought up on the street, begins to fade during the dry season – the season when neither nature nor love is able to flourish. Is it because of their differences in skin colour? Or because of the age-gap between them? Or is it because Anna has rejected the traditional female roles of daughter, wife and mother? Cleverly written (with an alternating narrative from both sides of the relationship) the novel interlaces magic realism with African political reality. With a global perspective, Babnik tackles themes of racism, the role of women in modern society and the loneliness of the human condition.

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Istros Books trawl the wealth of Eastern European literature to offer the very best (in excellent translations) to a new audience of English speakers. Istros Books (which takes its name from the old Greek and Thracian name for the lower Danube River) believe that the finest writing transcends national interests because it speaks with the voice of human experience that resonates for us all, whatever our background and where ever we live. Istros Books offer all English-speaking people the chance to discover contemporary new writers and forgotten treasure from the rich and varied array of Eastern European literature.



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