

PRESS PACK

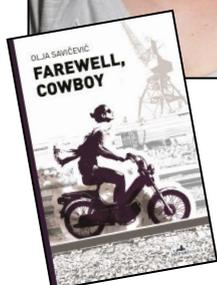
DISCOVER ISTROS BOOKS

(and The Croatian Writers' Society)

STAND NUMBER: 5C131

Meet visiting award-winning authors from Croatia & Turkey now being published in English

You are invited to book launches, receptions & literary events (full diary of events is enclosed)



Preview the best writing from South-East Europe (details of forthcoming 2015 Istros books is enclosed)



an independent London publisher specialising in English translations of *extraordinary writing from unfamiliar places*

Istros Books are available through all good bookshops & internet booksellers or via the Istros website: istrosbooks.com or from InPress inpressbooks.co.uk Connect with Istros: istrosbooks.com Twitter: @Istros_books & on Facebook Book Trade enquiries: please contact wholesaler CentralBooks.com or Istros.com

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INTRODUCING ISTROS BOOKS

Words that really matter will, given time, succeed in crossing all borders

This London-based independent publisher makes available, for the first time in English, some of the most extraordinary writing from exceptional European authors – allowing their words to be discovered, at last, by English-speaking book-lovers.



Istros Books trawl the rich and extensive heritage of Eastern European literature to offer the very best writing (in excellent translations and stylish editions) to delight a new audience of English-speaking readers. Istros Books takes its name from the old Greek and Thracian name for the lower Danube River which runs through the Balkan/European countries that are the homelands of many Istros authors

Istros Books offer English-speaking book-lovers the chance to discover exciting, contemporary new writers and forgotten literary masterpieces from the vast range of diverse traditions in South-Eastern European literature.

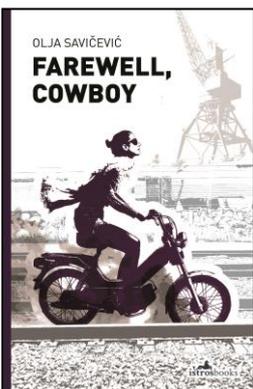
ISTROS BOOKS are the English-language publisher for five books that have recently won the annual European Union Prizes for Literature

MAJOR BOOK LAUNCH AT #LBF15

A truly remarkable novel from one of Croatia's best-known female writers, now in English.

Being launched on 14 April (the first day of The London Book Fair)

Here's your chance to meet the author during her brief visit to London: please join us to celebrate



FAREWELL, COWBOY

by Olja Savičević (translated from the Croatian by Celia Hawkesworth)

"It's a drawing of a young, smiling, freckled cowboy, riding, instead of a bareback thoroughbred mare, an old bike, 50cc, towards the setting sun. Underneath, it says: DANIEL, R.I.P. THAT'S WHERE COWBOYS GO. ..."

What does it take to be a hero in today's world? Challenging our perceptions of heroism by contrasting the idols of the silver-screen with the lives of real people, this is a tough yet poetic novel from the pen of one of Croatia's best-known, award-winning authors.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 48 7 Paperback RRP: £9.99 14 APRIL 2015 Istros Books

About the book: 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, her brother Daniel 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 often have feet of clay. What does it take to be "a hero" in today's world?

Meet the author: Olja Savičević (born in 1974) is an award-winning poet and novelist, who burst on to the literary world with her collection of short stories, *Make the Dog Laugh*, in 2006. She has published six collections of poetry, including *House Rules* which won the Kiklop Award for Best Poetry Collection of 2008 – an annual prize given at the Pula Book Fair. Her best-selling novel, *Farewell, Cowboy*, achieved great success in her native Croatia, and has been adapted into a stage play. Part of the novel was included in Dalkey Archive's *Best European Fiction 2014*.

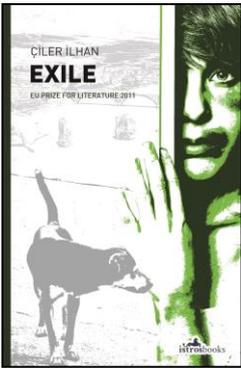


Author Events to mark the UK publication of *FAREWELL, COWBOY* :

- **16:00 on Tues 14 April: celebratory drinks on Stand No. 5C131** London Book Fair, Olympia
- **18:30-21:00 Tues 14 April: a free reception at The Croatian Embassy** (21 Conway Street, London W1T 6BN) generously hosted by His Excellency, The Croatian Ambassador, Dr Ivan Grdešić
- **11:00 on Wed 15 April: poetry reading on Stand No. 5C131** London Book Fair, Olympia: Olja Savičević is joined by other award-winning Croatian poets
- **13:00- 14:30: Thurs 16 April: rehearsed reading at the Tristram Bates Theatre** (1a Tower Street, London WC2H 9NP). This one-off performance brings together the author, the director of the original Croatian theatre adaptation and two of Croatia's leading actors. (Admission £5)

ISTROS BOOKS: MORE TITLES FOR SPRING & SUMMER 2015

Extraordinary, fresh writing from exceptional European authors now, at last, available in English
– includes the books that won The European Union Prize for Literature in 2011 and 2013

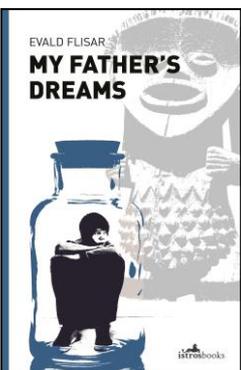


EXILE by Çiler İlhan – Meet this award-winning author from Turkey in London on the evening of Friday 17 April 2015 (see Events Diary on the last page of this press pack)

Winner of The European Prize for Literature 2011

This remarkable collection of short stories share one over-riding theme: the melancholy of those who have been alienated from their homeland, from their families or from society. By offering the reader short, vivid glimpses into the experiences of dispossessed people; be they real or fictional characters, İlhan builds a patchwork of stories which highlight the anguish of those exiled from their homes. A woman writing in modern-day Turkey, İlhan is not afraid to take on controversial themes such as honour killings and US occupation of Iraq. Her stories resonate with empathy and understanding.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 25 8 Paperback RRP: £8.99 MARCH 2015 Istros Books



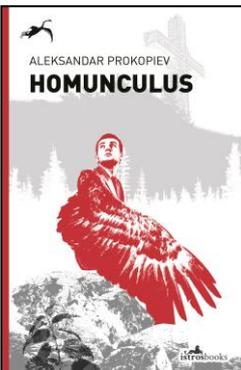
MY FATHER'S DREAMS: A Tale of Innocence Abused

by Evald Flisar (Slovenia's bestselling author)

The controversial, shocking novel that was highly acclaimed as the author's very best work

Spiced with unusual and original grotesque overtones, the story of an insidious deception is revealed, in which an unsuspecting teenager and his mother will be the apparent victims This novel can be read as an off-beat crime story, a psychological horror tale, a dream-like morality fable, or as a dark and ironic account of one man's belief that his personality and his actions are two different things. It can also be read as a story about a boy who has been robbed of his childhood in the cruelest way. It is a story about good and evil, and our inclination to be drawn to the latter.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 22 7 Paperback RRP: £9.99 MAY 2015 Istros Books



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.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 23 4 Paperback RRP: £9.99 MAY 2015 Istros Books



TILL KINGDOM COME

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

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

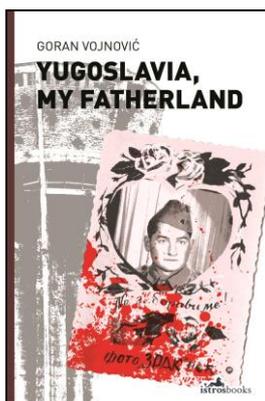
Discovering that the story of his own past is a complete fabrication, a reporter sets of to discover the truth. Was his birth-mother one of an elite band of trained killers employed by the Yugoslav Secret Services? His journey takes him to the sites of wartime atrocities, follows a trail of fake suicides 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.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 24 1 Paperback RRP: £9.99 AUGUST 2015 Istros Books



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ISTROS BOOKS: FORTHCOMING TITLES FOR AUTUMN 2015



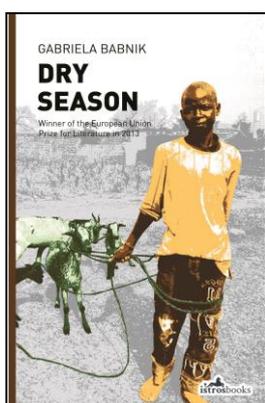
YUGOSLAVIA, MY FATHERLAND

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

Marking the 20th 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 novel examines the tragic fates of people who managed to avoid the bombs, but were unable to escape the war.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 27 2 Paperback RRP: £9.99 OCTOBER 2015 Istros Books



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 colour? Or 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.

ISBN: 978 1 908236 26 5 Paperback RRP: £9.99 OCTOBER 2015 Istros Books

Meet SUSAN CURTIS-KOJAKOVIC, Director of Istros Books Ltd

Susan Curtis-Kojakovic set up Istros Books (publishers and booksellers) in 2011. Since then, she and her colleagues have sourced, translated and publish the first English-language editions of exciting works by acclaimed authors from South Eastern Europe and The Balkans.

Susan says: "Istros Books is the only UK publisher specialising in contemporary literature from SE Europe. We provide a vital link between the literary output of these countries and English-speaking readers who might otherwise miss out on some literary gems. We translate and publish an eclectic mix titles representing the very best in contemporary writing (fiction and non-fiction) from the region."

Cultural events: With contacts throughout the London embassies and tourism offices of SE European countries, Istros organise and coordinate numerous arts/cultural-exchange events in the UK for authors, book reviewers, booksellers and book-lovers. Istros gratefully acknowledge the generous arts funding support they receive.

Susan Curtis-Kojakovic was born and educated in the UK. She holds a Master's Degree in Education (with linguistics), teaching qualifications and a degree in English and Art. As well as posts in publishing and teaching in the UK and abroad) Susan worked for three years with refugees from the tragic Bosnian war. Susan is also a published author and translator. She lives in London with her Croatian husband. Together they look forward to celebrating five successful years of Istros Books in 2016!

SUSAN CURTIS-KOJAKOVIC is available for interviews



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ISTROS BOOKS & LONDON BOOK FAIR WEEK: PRESS RELEASE
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – STAND NUMBER: 5C131

Events at Olympia and other London venues 13–17 April 2015



DISCOVER ISTROS BOOKS

EXCITING EVENTS AROUND THE LONDON BOOK FAIR

You are invited to parties, receptions and book launches by **ISTROS BOOKS** and **The Croatian Writers' Society**

Your chance to meet award-winning, visiting writers from **South-East Europe** who are now, at last, being published in English

You are cordially invited to meet acclaimed authors from Turkey, Bulgaria & Croatia and to celebrate with them at events, parties & receptions around London and on Stand 5C131 (The Croatian Writers' Society stand) at #LBF15

We do hope to meet you at some of these events. We're looking forward to it.



MONDAY 13 APRIL

- **18:30:** at **Daunt Books 158-164 Fulham Road, London SW10 9PR**
ALEK POPOV BOOK LAUNCH: Meet the award-winning Bulgarian author and playwright. *Please RSVP*

TUESDAY 14 APRIL

- **11:00:** **The London Book Fair, Olympia - Stand No. 5C131**
WRITING CROATIA: Books in English for readers interested in knowing more about Croatia.
- **12:00:** **The London Book Fair, Olympia - Stand No. 5C131**
ALEK POPOV: Meet award-winning Bulgarian author and playwright.
- **16:00:** **The London Book Fair, Olympia - Stand No. 5C131**
FAREWELL, COWBOY book release & drinks: Meet author **Olja Savičević**, one of Croatia's most successful writers.
- **18:30-21:00:** **The Croatian Embassy, 21 Conway Street, Bloomsbury, London W1T 6BN**
BOOK LAUNCH RECEPTION for FAREWELL, COWBOY by Olja Savičević: Join the author, translator and publisher for a reception generously hosted by His Excellency, The Croatian Ambassador, Dr Ivan Grdešić.. *Please RSVP.*

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL

- **11:00:** **The London Book Fair, Olympia - Stand No. 5C131**
POETRY READINGS by Olja Savičević: plus other award-winning Croatian poets.
- **15:00:** **The London Book Fair, Olympia - Stand No. 5C131**
REHEARSED READING of FAREWELL, COWBOY by Olja Savičević: Extracts from the stage adaptation of the book.
- **18:30-22:00:** **The Grove Bar & Restaurant, 83 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 0NQ**
THE BILATERAL POETRY PARTY An evening of poetry from renowned poets from Croatia and the UK. *Please RSVP.*

THURSDAY 16 APRIL

- **11:00:** **The London Book Fair, Olympia - Stand No. 5C131**
BOOK LAUNCH for THE SWEET TASTE OF A DALMATIAN LOVE AFFAIR: Mouth-watering recipes from Croatia.
- **13:00-14:30:** **The Tristram Bates Theatre, 1a Tower Street, London WC2H 9NP**
REHEARSED READING/PERFORMANCE of FAREWELL, COWBOY by Olja Savičević: Followed by drinks. This performance brings together the author, the director of the original Croatian theatre adaptation and two of Croatia's leading actors.
NB: Please RSVP for a free press pass.

FRIDAY 17 APRIL

- **18:20-20:30:** **Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU**
Turkish author, ÇILER İLHAN, talking about the stories that make up her collection, EXILE, winner of the European Union Prize for Literature 2011 Hosted by journalist, Rosie Goldsmith; part of a EURO STARS* event. *Please RSVP.*
*EURO STARS are dedicated to introducing the very best contemporary European writers to the UK.



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