



Stalins kossor

Sofi Oksanen , Janina Orlov (Translator)

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Annas liv bygger på två stora konflikter. Den ena rör hennes förhållande till sin kropp den andra hennes förhållande till sitt estniska ursprung. I nuet tar Annas ätstörningar allt mer kontrollen över hennes liv, skolan, kärleken och vännerna. När hon träffar Hukka, hennes stora kärlek, vågar hon inte blotta sina känslor för honom. Hon är besatt av sitt matschema och kämpar samtidigt med sin kluvna identitet. Redan tidigt förstod Anna att hon inte duger som hon är. Nu förnekar hon sin kropp och sitt estniska påbrå som hon aldrig har avslöjat för någon. Finns det ingen man kan lita på?

Detta är en pulserande berättelse om en ung kvinnas utveckling och strävan efter självständighet, och kärlek. Berättelsen utmärker sig genom det episodiska och dramatiska upplägget, den oförskräckta öppenheten och nya grepp när det gäller att behandla frågor som sexualitet, kvinnobild och ätstörningar, vad det innebär att vara finsk och estnisk, liksom de tabun som kännetecknar respektive kultur. Indirekt återger berättelsen också ett sovjetiskt sönderfall som symboliskt återspeglas i de enskilda personernas öden.

Stalins kossor Details

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From Reader Review *Stalins kossor* for online ebook

Anna says

An enjoyable read all in all, but some of the "oh look at me I am so artsy-fartsy" things managed to annoy me a tad too much. But the depictions of eating disorder did feel to me, as someone with probably healthier-than-average approach to food, as real, and that is worth quite a lot.

The main character was flawed, sure, but that was the whole point, wasn't it? And I found myself relating to her in a few places. Probably not a good thing, that... Actually, DEFINITELY not a good thing, that. Not about the food, but about all the other crap she was dealing with inside her poor own head. I mean, I too have my excuses to be a bit effed up, but don't we all?

I did not really understand why the history segments were here. I could understand the story of the main character's mum, but not really all that about the grandmother. It was interesting, sure, but it did not really bring much to the story, in my opinion. I guess it is just Oksanen's thing, adding a World War or two into most stories she writes.

Baby Jane was the exception to this "rule" (and I have not read Norma... yet). It is sort of nice, but it gets a bit boring after a while. Or rather it becomes something you expect, and then go all "told you so!" when you get to the wars and that somehow partly ruins the experience. Or at least it does for me, being a bit crappy at immersing myself in books anyway. I love reading but I don't really feel books. I might relate to characters, but I rarely feel angry/sad/happy/whatever because of something that happened in a book.

Interesting read, but somehow I had my hopes too high. That happens to me way too often nowadays, I guess. Maybe I should just read books I have no expectations of (as if I'd have any, there is always a reason why I buy a book anyway...).

Ronja says

Sofi Oksasen esikoisromaani *Stalinin lehmät* oli ilmestyessään kirjallinen tapaus. Se on kestänyt hyvin aikaa. Ihmettelen, miksi luin tämän teoksen vasta nyt.

Tarinassa on monta teemaa ja aikatasoa. Teoksen nykyhetkessä on suomalaisen ja virolaisen äidin tytär Anna, jolla on vaikea syömishäiriö. Kaikki vaiheet elämässä kiertyvät syömishäiriön ympärille. Syömishäiriö ei silti ole irrallinen ilmiö. Historialliset tapahtumat saavat pohtimaan, paljonko Annan perheen ja suvun lähihistoria vaikuttaa niin Annan kuin kaikkien muittenkin mielenterveyteen. Oksanen ei osoittele tai selittele, vaan jättää lukijalle tilaa ajatella.

Tämän teoksen sivuhenkilöiden eli Annan virolaisten sukulaisten vaiheiden tietäminen ja ymmärtäminen antaa pohjan Kvartetti -sarjan muiden kirjojen lukemiselle. Siksi on hyvä keskittyä myös Viron sota-aikaa kuvaaviin takautumiin.

Ida says

Sofi Oksanen altså... Så vondt, men så godt skrevet.

Ghilimei says

O lectură surprinzătoare, nu a fost deloc în stilul obișnuitelor culegeri de amintiri din comunism, cu accent pe opresiunea venit? „de sus,, ci a ales s? se concentreze pe diver?ii opresori din rând cu noi, fie ei informatori KGB, rude geloase sau propriul psihic care te tr?deaz?.

Tot din surpriza plăcut? face parte faptul c? jum?tate din carte este ocupat?, în alternan?? cu amintirile unei copil?rii marcate de bipolaritatea dublei origini a Annei, de descrierea deregl?rilor ei alimentare - un adev?rat manual de „bulimarexie,,. Evident c? nu te-ai a?tepta la a?a ceva din descrierea c?r?ii, sau cel pu?in eu, ca cititor de c?r?i despre comunismul din România ?i despre Holocaust, nu m? a?teptam la asta. Totul este cu atât mai interesant cu cât cartea nu este fic?iune - Sofi Oksanen î?i descrie propria copil?rie ?i propria bulimarexie.

Mi s-a părut extrem de interesant? ?i descrierea rela?iilor dintre Estonia ?i Finlanda din perioada respectiv?, nu atât din punct de vedere politic, cât din perspectiva oamenilor obi?nui?i, ceea ce face din această carte un adev?rat exerci?iu de percep?ie.

Din categoria „cronici,, mi-a plăcut mult acest comentariu:

„Sofi Oksanen descrie utopiile tocmai prin ceea ce vor s? t?inuiasc?, fie c? e vorba de mesele sovietice supraînc?rcate pentru a masca lipsurile sau de farfuriile aproape goale pe care occidentalii le servesc convivilor pentru a uita c? se ghiftuiesc în serile de singuratate.” (Le Nouvel Observateur) Citind asta, mi-a venit în minte c? dac? bulimarexia Annei/Sofi nu ar fi fost real?, ea ar fi fost oricum metafora perfect? pentru a descrie rela?ia dintre blocul sovietic ?i Occident, precum ?i expresia psihosomatic? perfect? a comunismului.

Juan Carlos says

Aparecida en Finlandia en 2003 -en España no se publicó hasta 2008- es la primera incursión de la autora en el campo literario. Fue muy bien recibida en su país así como en el de su madre, Estonia.

Sinopsis (proporcionada por la propia editorial)

La joven y bella Anna no está dispuesta a creer en las malas consecuencias de la bulimia salvaje que padece. ¿Qué puede tener de malo algo que le proporciona un placer comparable al sexo y hace que se sienta divina? Pero se ha perdido en sus obsesiones: necesita controlar su destino y no quiere repetir los errores de su madre, Katariina, que huyó desde la Estonia soviética a Finlandia, y allí, tras ocultar su identidad, tuvo a Anna de un matrimonio con un borracho que desapareció sin dejar rastro. Anna tiene grabada a fuego en su memoria una visita clandestina a Estonia para ver a su abuela Sofia, víctima del régimen estalinista. Tal vez ahí se encuentre la clave de todo.

La forma

Decía muy atinadamente Amando Carabias María, allá por el año 2013 , en la reseña que hacía de "Purga" en el blog "El Club de los 1001 Lectores" que "una novela no es la historia que se escribe, sino cómo se escribe esa historia". Si esto siempre es verdad, no siempre es factible comprobarlo in situ. En Sofi Oksanen esta verdad se evidencia, se consolida y se eleva a categoría.

Al igual que a Amando, cuando en mayo de 2012 leí "Purga" me sorprendió muchísimo la estructura utilizada en la misma a base de varias historias o momentos de una historia presentados en contrapunto y en desorden temporal. Bien es cierto que [leer reseña completa en mi blog:
<http://elblogdejcg.c.blogspot.com/2018...>]

Julie G says

A really beautiful book written well - even when translated.

We meet Anna, her mother Katariina and her grandmother. Anna has been struggling with extreme eating disorders since she was about 11, and we follow her through her fights with the disorder, the changes in both Finland and Estonia during the Cold War and the Soviet times, and her struggle with figuring out who she is - Finnish or Estonian? It is very hard for her to handle the stereotyping and prejudice of having a Finnish father and Estonian mother.

At the same time we follow a parallel story about her mother Katariina, and how it was for her to escape from Estonia to Finland, in hope for a better future. She is labeled as an Estonian whore who marries a Finn only for the money, a battle which she without really intending to hands over to her daughter Anna.

I'd recommend this book to anyone who's into historical, but fictional novels and just generally a book you'll remember for more than one day after finishing it.

Triin says

I have read this book twice, I liked the Finland parts of the book. I was a child in soviet Estonia. It wasn't miserable, people were having a lot of fun. Oksanen sees it as a Finnish tourist, tourists don't get much about any country. Even Oksanen is better than an average tourist, her description of Estonian life is weird. Oksanen is quite materialistic in this book, talks a lot about things you buy. We had very happy childhoods in Soviet Estonia and I can't remember any adults suffering.

laura says

~3,5

Alise Kitija says

man joproj?m ir gr?ti apvert, ka padomju laik? tr?ka s?rkoci?i. bija j?iztieks ar piec?m k?rbi??m tr?s m?nešos.

un nemaz nerun?jot par p?r?jo. atceros, ka šo gr?matu nopirku un ies?ku las?t pirms gadiem trijiem, ?etriem. ies?ku un nepabeidzu. tagad las?ju un dom?ju, k?p?c toreiz man nepatika? k??! jo man pat grib?tos šo gr?matu ierindot savu m???ko gr?matu plaukt?.

Anda says

Stalin's cow is a goat! The Danish title of the debut novel "Stalins Køer", by Finnish writer Sofi Oksanen, is fantastic. It both means "Stalins' cows", but also "Stalin's queues" - those famous queues in front of the socialist stores, to which Oksanen makes frequent references. Those queues where did not matter what was sold, because anything was sold, everybody needed it. Otherwise, "Stalin's cow is a goat" is the sentence that actually refers to the essence of the novel: the depersonalization and dissimulation of him/herself.

As in *Purge* (the book with which Oksanen won in 2010 the Nordic Council Prize for Literature), "Stalin's Cows" episodically describes the lives of three generations of Estonian women. The grandmother - survivor of the Stalinist nightmare from '40s-'50s, the mother - who, being raised in the full soviet era, succeeded to marry and escape in the neighboring, "enemy and capitalist country", Finland and finally the daughter - half western, half eastern, lost somewhere in between two worlds. Three generations of women who became traumatized by changes that more or less they could not control. Women who lost their individual freedom, but by dissimulation they did sharpen their self-preservation instinct. And loss of freedom seemed to evolve hereditary from the obligation, to the option.

In "Stalin's Cows" grandmother, Sofia, became kholhosnic and stahanovist because she had no choice. Mother, Katriina, had a choice and married a Finn, and became more Finnish than the Finn. Daughter, Anna, had apparently no choice since her mother forced her to hide their origin, because only like that she could avoid the "whore" label, which all Estonian and Russian women in Finland bore. And Anna ate, ate, ate and vomited, lied, and stole and hid from herself in a shrinking 50 kilograms body. The self-retrieval is the chance only for Anna, and it occurs with the return "home", return to the roots...

Oksanen is a gifted writer with a great force of evocation. She is honest, sometimes rough honest, brutal, and melancholic. Her prose ranges from the upper lyrical and naturalistic poetry to the most grotesque nostalgia. "Stalin's Cows" is worth reading, though the "Purge" is with one star atop.

rameau says

[I wanted her to die in the end instead of the turning out to be a medical miracle. (hide spoiler

Mirela Popescu says

4,5 p

"Totu?i am îndoieli. Chiar dac? sunt în siguran??, la fel ?i Domnul meu. Când încerci s? ?ii anumite u?i închise, altele pot fi larg deschise. Oare m? l?sasem prins? în cârlig de mâna care m? hr?nea, mâna lui Hukka, din care ciuguleam firimituri de pâine cu unt? Oare îl l?sasem s? m? ating? pu?in prea mult ?i prea blând, astfel încât u?ile închise se deschideau scâr?âind, în ciuda hot?rârii mele?"

Susa says

Stalinin lehmät on vähän sellainen *kaikki tässä nyt heti* -oksennus. Asiaa on paljon: Viron historiaa lomitetaan yhteen syömishäiriötarinan kanssa. Asiat varmasti toimisi paremmin omissa romaaneissaan, nyt kaikkea on jotenkin ihan liikaa samalla kertaa omaksuttavaksi. Oksasen kirjoitustyyli on miellyttävä, helposti ja nopeasti seurattava, mutta kaunis ja omaperäinen.

Susie says

"La grand-mère soupçonnait tour à tour Linda et Maria, la mère soupçonnait n'importe qui, moi je me taisais et j'écoutais comment on se méfiait des uns après les autres, chacun étaient accusés de tous les maux, car l'être humain est fondamentalement mauvais. Et, avant tout, égoïste. Le socialisme ne réussissait jamais ailleurs que sur le papier pour la simple raison que les doigts de tout le monde ne se tendent que vers soi, vers l'intérieur, même quand la main s'avance pour donner," nous dit Anna dans ce livre. Je soupçonne que c'est la philosophie de Sofi Oksanen qui est ici exprimée.

Ce livre porte surtout sur la boulimie dont souffre Anna, une jeune dans la vingtaine qui a grandi en Finlande, mais dont la mère, Katarina, vient d'Estonie. En arrière-plan, le livre nous raconte l'histoire de la famille de Katarina durant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale et la période communiste. Le livre est divisé en courts chapitres qui sautent entre les différentes périodes de temps. Les sections sur Anne nous parlent soit au présent, soit des années de son enfance. D'autres sections décrivent les années 70s quand Katarina rencontre son futur mari et durant ses premières années de mariage. Finalement, d'autres sections relatent des faits arrivés entre 1940 et 1960. Non seulement on saute d'une période à l'autre, mais en plus les sections sur chaque période de temps ne sont pas présentées en ordre chronologique de sorte qu'on lira quelque chose qui s'est passé en 1970, au présent, en 1977, dans la jeunesse d'Anna, en 1974, etc. C'est plutôt mêlant. Une grosse partie du livre nous parle d'Anna qui, il faut l'admettre, n'est pas un personnage très attachant. On ne peut s'empêcher d'admirer la façon dont l'auteure a décrit les troubles alimentaires d'Anna. C'est tellement vivide et détaillé! Par contre, ça devient un peu trop long, et aussi, on a de la misère à ressentir de la pitié ou de la sympathie pour Anna. C'est une personne tellement dure! C'est très différent de la façon dont Delphine De Vigan a décrit la même maladie. J'ai préféré le livre *Purge* de la même auteure que j'ai trouvé beaucoup plus poignant.

Sophie says

Après avoir lu *Purge*, j'avais de très grandes attentes envers cette écrivaine qui m'avait vraiment impressionnée pour sa rigueur, son originalité et sa façon poétique de raconter les plus horribles événements.

Les Vaches de Staline raconte l'histoire de deux jeunes femmes, une mère et une fille, qui tentent tant bien que mal de vivre à travers le Rideau de fer entre la Finlande et l'Estonie. Pendant les décennies que couvre le roman, on découvre petit à petit la réalité à la fois de la vie en URSS, mais aussi celle des gens qui l'ont quittée pour aller vivre ailleurs, et qui souhaitent y retourner, que ce soit pour visiter ou pour s'y réinstaller. Le personnage d'Ana est particulièrement touchant dans sa complexité, et son trouble alimentaire (parmi ses autres troubles psychologiques) choque et déçoit, transforme la perception du lecteur sur la nourriture, mais aussi sur l'existence en général. Comment exister quand on doit renier qui on est ? Comment ne pas vouloir

disparaître quand notre existence est en danger ?

Très très bon !

Ingalill says

20 stjerner...

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Tittirossa says

nessuna motivazione a procedere nella lettura. La storia oggettivamente non mi coinvolge, lo stile è nullo, la struttura mi disorienta e non capisco mai di chi si sta parlando. ergo, nonostante un titolo incuriosente mollo qui in nome di "So many books, so little life".

César Lasso says

It took me nearly two weeks to read this book, but I liked it. If we could think of a new ‘genre’, we might call the novel ‘bulimarectic literature’, as well as there is romance, travel lit, and gay.

But the novel is much more than that. It is a revolt of the author against the world she sees. It is a search of a personality and a revolutionary reply to the answers other give.

It is a philosophical book, but not just that.

The story sets roots between three countries and three histories. You can feel the confrontation between the former Soviet Union and the capitalist world.

You can feel melancholy from something you don't know what.

What, the whores? The look of something? Vomiting? The relax after sex? (a partial relax, since sex is not completed before smoking a cigarette).

You'll have to forgive this humble review, since I finished the read a few minutes ago and I have not actually had time to digest the story.

Sergiu Pop says

I guess this book was ok. To make it a great one, I would take a pair of scissors and cut all of Anna's pages reserved to her medical condition. It was agonizingly repetitive and boring. At one point I was very much tempted to skip them, although I never do that. If the author left only the parts about life in Estonia before and after communism it would be a great book.
