

# DISCOVER NEW RUSSIAN WRITING

LOVE, DEATH,  
DRAMA,  
ADVENTURE

50 WRITERS FROM  
RUSSIA IN LONDON  
11 – 15 APRIL

A few highlights of the  
greatest celebration  
of Russian literature  
London has ever seen:

## Nostalgia for Censorship

Dmitry Bykov, Polina  
Dashkova, Vladimir  
Makanin  
Waterstones Piccadilly,  
11 April, 7pm

## The Soviet Dream

Orlando Figes,  
Lev Danilkin, Francis  
Spufford  
Queen Elizabeth Hall,  
South Bank, 13 April, 7.45pm

## Spy Wars – The Fiction behind the Truth

Henry Porter, Boris  
Akunin, Christopher  
Andrew, Sergei Kostin  
Courtauld Institute,  
Somerset House  
14 April, 7pm

## Video Poetry with Andrei Rodionov

Poetry Society,  
14 April, 6.30pm

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ROSSICA.ORG

This event is Book Fair's Market Forging programme for Russia  
2011 in partnership with the British Council's Book Exchange  
programme and The Russian Federal Agency for Press and Mass  
Communications and supports Russia's public affairs official partner.

**AR** Federal Agency for Press  
and Mass Communications  
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COUNCIL**

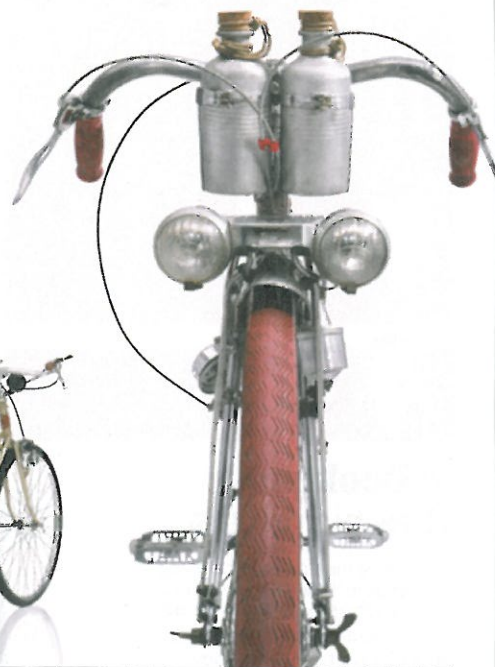


## \* How I write Chrissie Manby

People always ask writers: 'What's your daily routine?' I wish I had anything like one, but I never seem to be in the same place for more than two weeks. Take my most recent book. I wrote the synopsis at my friend Anna's kitchen table, and the first chapter on the train from St Neots to King's Cross. The next three chapters were written in bed in another friend's spare room. After that I had a month of rare stability, writing at my kitchen table, but the first draft was finished at a writer's retreat in Brittany and the final tweaks were made sitting on the sofa in my parents' flat.

I use three different laptops: my Mac, a feather-light Vaio and a tiny Toshiba – which one I use is based on how far I'm going to have to carry the damn thing. It makes for frustration as I switch between machines without always making sure I'm working on the most up-to-date file. Still, losing 3,000 words can often be a blessing in disguise. The half-remembered rewrite is usually so much better.

There's room in my house for a proper office and I often promise myself that I'm going to buy a proper desk and a proper chair and line the walls with bookshelves as a proper writer would. Perhaps then I could write a proper book. Because that's the other question most often asked now I have 24 so-called commercial novels: 'Have you ever thought about writing a proper book?' One day... *Chrissie (aka Chris) Manby aka Stephanie Ash aka Chris Byman aka Olivia Darling writes romances, comedies and chicklit novels. Her next book, 'Kate's Wedding' is published on Thur Mar 31 by Hodder and Stoughton, priced at £6.99.*



## Cyclepedia: A Tour of Iconic Bicycle Designs Michael Embacher \*

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**



Thames & Hudson £19.95

There's an introduction, a potted history of the bicycle and a glossary that top and tail this coffee table tome, but none of this will interest the cycling cognoscenti, at whom the book is squarely thrust. What certainly will interest them, though, are the one hundred studio-photographed collectors' bicycles. Each two-wheel treasure gets a double-page spread, a 200-word biography and a brief specification. It is a sumptuous collection of machines that powerfully illustrates not only the engineering precision man has poured into the bicycle in the last century and a quarter, but also the design and artistry.

'The bicycle is an infinite project,'

Antonio Colombo, scion of the Columbus dynasty and boss of Cinelli once told me. 'Cyclepedia' illustrates this sentiment. There are featherweight racing bikes by Masi and Bob Jackson, roadsters by Mercier and bespoke touring machines by René Herse on the pages, just as you would expect. But there are also examples of the earliest carbon monocoque frames, racing tricycles, chainless bikes, folding bicycles, reclining bikes and even an ice bike. The beautiful machine in all its manifestations is here.

Anyone who respects the lore, history and beauty of bicycles needs a copy of this book. You'll return to it again and again, for ideas, for fun and for moments of illicit pleasure.

Robert Penn  
*Robert Penn is the author of 'It's All About the Bike', published by Penguin at £8.99.*

## The Last Werewolf Glen Duncan

*The Last  
Werewolf  
Glen  
Duncan*

Glen Duncan's eighth novel peddles a contemporary world inhabited by ageless werewolves and vampires. However, his narrator, Jacob, is no tween

'Twilight' creature. Readers will find no rippling six-pack, team-living, or warm tenderness with this nihilistic loner. His story is an edgy, masculine, grab-you-by-the-gonads, rip-through horror.

For 200 years, driven by a lunar imperative to 'fuck, kill, eat', Jacob

has erupted into a beast-man amalgam with superhuman ability and appetites. A growing chorus of victims already haunts his thoughts when he learns that he is the sole



Canongate Books £14.99

survivor of the species; his last-known fellow lycanthrope has been hunted down and exterminated. What follows are the machinations of a world-weary mind contemplating the meaning of existence and extinction, while giving a blow-by-blow account of the savage business of lupine living.

Duncan's viscerally visual description and penchant for violence and gore flow fast. Bodily effluvia almost drip from the pages and this is not a story for the squeamish, faint-hearted, or easily offended. Given that his other seven novels deal with similar themes, exploring the depths of human isolation, questions of morality, depravity and a whole load of fornication, it seems inevitable that Duncan would have eventually turned to the werewolf genre and made his protagonist one of a kind. This full-on lope through the life and times of being wolf doesn't stray far from the path, but it is cleverly wrought and easily devoured. **Zoe Kamen**

MICHAEL PLUNKETT: BENNHARD ANGERER