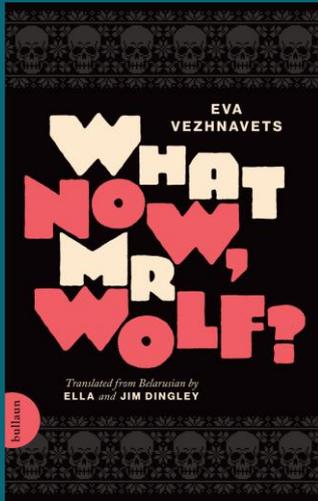




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Bullaun Press, winner of the Republic of Consciousness Prize 2025, is the only Irish press dedicated to literature in translation. Previous titles translated from Irish, German, Ukrainian, French & Galician.



WHAT NOW, MR WOLF?

by **Eva Vezhnavecs**

tr. **Ella and Jim Dingley**

Winner of Jerzy Giedroyc Prize 2021

'A literary masterpiece ... poetic force and subtle irony, in sensual and direct language.' **Frankfurter Allgemeine**

'A novel that acts as a conversation between the living and the dead, a book full of hope ... highly recommended.' **WDR5 Bücher**

Ryna comes home from abroad to the wake of her granny Darafeya in Nauhalnaye, a village in the drained marshlands near Lipen, in a remote corner of Belarus. That night as Ryna sits alone with the coffin, Darafeya, who lived to be a hundred, tells one last story. She and her grandmother, one-eyed Maryanka, known as the 'whisperers', managed to survive several brutal regimes, feared and respected by their neighbours for their powers of healing and witchcraft.

Caustic; harrowing, yet leavened with black humour, *What Now, Mr Wolf?* offers an unforgettable oral testimony of the dark days of recent European history. Ryna, prisoner of her grandmother Darafeya's memories of relentless violence, tries to make her peace with them and remake a life for herself in this troubled place.

Granny could remember who was killed or simply died and where, in what part of the forest and how they were found ... The old girl had lived through two wars and nine different powers-that-be, and she didn't spare her granddaughter any of her stories.

KEY SELLING POINTS:

- An epic contained in a small volume
- A tribute to the **women of Belarus**
- A microcosm of **Eastern European history**: people not politics
- Translation rights sold: Czech, Danish, French, German, Polish, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish

AUTHOR:

Eva Vezhnavecs (Eva Viežnaviec) was born in 1972 in Zahalle, a village south of Minsk. Journalist, translator and writer, she was compelled to leave Belarus and now works at the Katyń Museum in Warsaw, Poland. Historical sections of *What Now, Mr Wolf?* are based on family stories as well as eyewitness reports and materials from archives and the local press. First published in Minsk in 2020 and reissued in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2024 by Pflaumbaum, the publishing house founded by Svetlana Alexievich, 2015 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, *What Now, Mr Wolf?* was awarded the highest prize for prose in Belarus in 2021.

TRANSLATORS:

Ella Dingley together with Jim Dingley translated from Russian *The Zekameron* by dissident Belarusian lawyer Maxim Znak, still imprisoned in Belarus following the disputed presidential election of 2020. This book was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize 2024.

An expert in Belarusian history and literature, **Jim Dingley** has most recently translated *A large Czesław Miłosz with a dash of Elvis Presley* by Tanya Skarynkina (2018) and the acclaimed *Alindarka's Children* by Alhierd Bacharevič (2020) – the latter with the Scottish poet Petra Reid.