



Angel Igov is a Bulgarian writer, literary critic, and translator. He has published two collections of short stories, the first of which won the Southern Spring award for debut fiction. Igov has also translated books by Paul Auster, Martin Amis, Angela Carter, and Ian McEwan into Bulgarian. He was a Fulbright visiting researcher at the University of California, Berkeley and holds PhD in European Literature.



Zachary Karabashliev is a Bulgarian-born novelist and playwright, now living and writing in the U.S. His debut novel—*18% Gray*—is a bestselling title, cowinner of the VIK prize Novel of the Year, and one of the 100 most-loved books of all time by Bulgarians in the BBC campaign “The Big Read.” He is also the author of the short story collections *A Brief History of the Airplane* and *Symmetry*, as well as the awarded stage plays *Recoil* and *Sunday Evening*. He also wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of *18% Gray*.



Angela Rodel has translated numerous books, including *Thrown into Nature* by Milen Rouskov and *Nine Rabbits* by Virginia Zaharieva. Her translations of stories by Rayko Baychev, Georgi Tenev, and Yana Punkina were featured as part of Granta Online’s “Bulgaria Week” in August 2011. She won a PEN Translation Fund Grant for *Holy Light*, a collection of stories by Georgi Tenev – the first time a Bulgarian work has received this award. Her recent translators include Angel Igov’s *A Short Tale of Shame* and Zachary Karabashliev’s *18% Gray* -- co-winners of the Contemporary Bulgarian Writers Contest in 2102.

About the books

A SHORT TALE OF SHAM BY ANGEL IGOV

After deciding to take a semester off their studies to think about future plans, long-time friends Maya, Sirma, and Spartacus decide to hitchhike to the sea. Boril Krustev, former rock star and middle-aged widower who is driving aimlessly to outrun his grief, picks them up and accompanies them on their journey. It doesn’t take them long to figure out they’re connected to each other by more than their need to travel—specifically through Boril’s daughter, whose actions damaged each of the characters in this novel.

2012 co-winner of the Contemporary Bulgarian Writers Contest (Together with Karabashliev’s *18% Gray*), *A Short Tale of Shame* marks the arrival of a new talent in Bulgarian literature with a novel about the need to come to terms with the shame and guilt we all harbor.

18% GRAY BY ZACHARY KARABASHLIEV

Distraught over the sudden disappearance of his wife Stella, Zack tries to drown his grief in Tijuana, where he encounters a violent scene, and trying to save a stranger’s life, nearly loses his own. Escaping with the van of his attackers, he makes it back to the U.S., but only to find a bag of marijuana in it. Using this as an impetus to change his life, Zack sets off for New York with the weed and a vintage Nikon. Through the lens of the old camera, he starts rediscovering himself by photographing an America we rarely see. His journey unleashes a series of erratic, hilarious, and life-threatening events interspersed with flashbacks to his relationship with Stella. The story shifts from present day California to Eastern Europe in the late eighties, flows briefly through France, and climaxes in a penthouse above Manhattan.

A suspenseful, darkly funny love story, *18% Gray* won both the Bulgarian Novel of the Year Award and the Flower of the Readers Award (2008) and is a co-winner of the Contemporary Bulgarian Writers Contest in 2012 together with Angel Igov’s *A Short Tale of Shame*.