

## Jacek Dukaj

---

THE MOST OUTSTANDING WRITER OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION IN POLAND  
WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO STANISŁAW LEM

---



Jacek Dukaj (born 1974) is one of Poland's most interesting contemporary prose writers, whose books are always eagerly anticipated events. He is the author of *Black Oceans*, *Extensa*, *Other Songs*, *Perfect Imperfection*, *Xavras Wyzryn* and *Other National Fictions* and *Ice*, and the brains behind the *PL + 50. Future Histories* anthology. After the huge success of his novel *Ice*, which won the European Literary Award, the prestigious Kościelscy Award and was nominated for the Nike (the most prestigious literary award in Poland), Jacek Dukaj published widely acclaimed grim fairy tale *The Crowe*.

### MOST IMPORTANT PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

Jerzy Żuławski Literary Award for *The Crowe* (2010)  
Mackiewicz Literary Award for *The Crowe* (2010)  
PPNW Prize: Autumn Book 2009 for *The Crowe* (2010)  
European Literary Award for *Ice* (2009)  
Kościelscy Award for *Ice* (2008)  
„Polityka” Prize: Book of the Last Two Decades for *Ice* (2008)  
Kościelscy Award for *Ice* (2008)  
Prize in the Wirtualna Polska (website) public vote: Polish Novel of the Year 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
Śląkfa Prize: Author of the Year 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish novel of the Year 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
PPNW Prize: Autumn Book 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
Zajdel Prize: Novel of the Year 2004 for *Perfect Imperfection* (2005)  
PPNW Prize: Autumn Book 2003 for *Other Songs* (2004)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish Novel of the Year 2003 for *Other Songs* (2004)  
Zajdel Prize: Novel of the Year 2003 for *Other Songs* (2004)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish Novel of the Year 2001 for *Black Oceans* (2002)  
Zajdel Prize: Novel of the Year 2001 for *Black Oceans* (2002)  
Fantom Prize for *In the Land of the Faithless* (2001)  
Sfinks Prize: Book of the Year 2000 for *In the Land of the Faithless* (2001)  
Śląkfa Prize: Author of the Year 2000 (2001)  
Zajdel Prize: Story of the Year 2000 for *Cathedral* (2001)  
Srebrny Glob (Silver Globe) Prize: Story of the Year 1998 for *Heart of Darkness* (1999)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish Story of the Year 1998 for *Heart of Darkness* (1999)

### BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR OFFERED BY WL

#### Novels

*Extensa* (2002)  
*Other Songs* (2003)  
*Perfect Imperfection* (2004)  
*Ice* (2007)  
*The Plunderer's Daughter* (2002, reprint 2009)  
*Black Oceans* (2001, reprint 2008)  
*The Crowe* (2009)

**Short story collections**

*Xavras Wyzryn and Other National Fictions* (2004, reprint 2009)

*In the Land of Unbelievers* (2000, reprint 2008)

*King of Pain* (2010)

## Jacek Dukaj

# Extensa



Publication date: 2010

Pages: 130

Genre: novel (science fiction)

Rights available: World

### Keynote

A thinking-man's science-fiction writer who enjoys massive cross-over success in Poland

### Sales points

- Perhaps Dukaj's warmest and most accessible book
- Both a parable of existence and an engrossing tale of future life as it has never been seen before

### Description

This novel by the reigning master of Polish literary science fiction initially seems uncharacteristic of his works. It is very brief by his standards, and describes an idyllic community living in the Green Country (formerly Greenland), grazing their horses in the valley, falling in love etc.

The darkness here emerges slowly, as it does for our young protagonist, who comes to learn the truth about his surroundings from an old astronomer he befriends, and gains the ability to live in two spaces at once. The Green Country is, after all, the last human settlement after some obscure cataclysm, a place where the living speak with the dead, and where magic spells are daily fare. The title of the book may allude to a paradox discovered by Einstein, Rosen and Podolski in 1935, but much of the charm of this book also comes from its observations on human nature, and its reflections on death and old age. Though it has earned comparison with Wyndham's *The Chrysalis*, *Extensa* is in fact a book that resembles nothing else – nothing except, perhaps, for Jacek Dukaj.

*Dukaj has built an extraordinarily tight construction that can be read in two ways: either with a dictionary of foreign terms, or by taking the author's word for it. But then he leaps from these scientific descriptions to the fantastic, pulled from thrillers of the best kind.*

Pawel Dunin-Wasowicz

*A tale of loyalty, devotion, and the human desire to live eternally, and in a few worlds simultaneously.*

Dariusz Nowacki

### Target market

Fans of top-shelf science-fiction, and lovers of intricately constructed literature who normally stay far away from the science-fiction shelves.