

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

Other Songs



Publication date: 2009

Pages: 630

Genre: Novel
(fantasy, alternative physics)

Rights available: World

Keynote

Care to see how the world would look if Aristotle had been right, and not Democritus? If we were surrounded by the four elements, and not by a swarm of atoms? How would society look, or wars, or travel to the moon? In *Other Songs* Dukaj has written the unwritable and created great literature.

Sales points

- One of the most interesting and skilled Polish prose writers, whose imagination has no equal, neither in Poland nor across the whole world.
- Multiple prize winner.
- Honored by the prestigious Janusz A. Zajdel Award, the SFinks and a nomination for the "Polityka" Passport.

Description

Hieronim Berbelek was once a great strategist. During wartime, however, he was crushed by the enemy's Form, which almost stripped him of his identity and his will to live. Perhaps he'll get it back when he makes contact with his children he hasn't seen for years, on a trip to Africa — a land of golden cities and shapeless beasts, to the heart of the Dark Continent, where terrifying beauty and monstrous miracles are born...

Other Songs can be read in many fashions: as an adventure, fantasy, or science-fiction novel, or as a philosophical treatise. In any case, this is a superb and compelling read, in which the author and the reader are hunting together for an answer to a question: Is the other knowable? Or can you only impose your own form on the unknown by force — or submit and become altered yourself?

Apparently this is his writing technique — first he imagines an extraordinary scenario, and then writes it as if condensing a film screened inside his head. If this is true, then this film has eclipsed all previous ones with its special effects — we have here, for example, the dreamlike description of Alexandria and its library, a city lifting itself over the Mediterranean Sea, air ships and interplanetary ones, moon colonies, Moscow under the rule of a dark prince, palaces, fortresses and battlefields, all described most tangibly, and sticking deep in your memory.

Wojciech Orliński, „Gazeta Wyborcza”

Other Songs is a fantasy novel (...), a tribute to complex 19th-century adventure literature, full of African exotica and the tropics, and also a philosophical parable.

Mariusz Czubaj, „Polityka”

Other Songs carries a load of extraordinary landscapes, places that are known to us, but transformed according to Aristotelian philosophy and historical events which Dukaj has created for the purposes of the novel. Each of these visions is original, incredible, and simultaneously exquisitely depicted. This is prose you can see.

Eryk Remiezowicz, „Esensja”

Target market

Lovers of Jacek Dukaj's work, fans of top-notch fantasy, which steps outside of the genre, people interested in the world, demanding readers in search of a multi-layered work they can return to time and again.