

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

Perfect Imperfection



Publication date: 2009

Pages: 450

Genre: Novel (science fiction)

Rights available: World

Keynote

A masterstroke — a classic of the genre, bringing to mind the work of the greatest hard science-fiction literature writers, such as Greg Egan, Isaac Asimov or Dan Simmons.

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.
- The novel received the Janusz A. Zajdel Award for 2004.
- An ambitious and incredibly original novel, which lifts the science fiction genre into a whole new dimension.

Description

The first volume of Jacek Dukaj's trilogy about transcending humanity, manipulating biology and culture, time, space and even physics.

It is the 29th century. Adam Zamoyski, a mysteriously resurrected astronaut, is stuck in the middle of civilizations, between people, non-people, and post-human creatures. Competition drives evolution forward — plants, animals, people, cultures and economies compete with one another. He who best makes use of the natural environment, the planetary resources, and finally, the laws of physics, will triumph.

Zamoyski has no idea how he has found himself in a world a few hundred years after his own time — he has problems with his memory and his identity — but this clearly is the key to winning in this evolution. Who is he really? And who are these people surrounding him? What mystery did Narva conceal when Adam's ship crashed on the rocks?

A book that makes you want to immediately start all over again from the beginning once you've turned the last page. And then one more time.

Dukaj calls worlds into existence like a demiurge, giving them full civilizations. He invents educational systems, family relationships, fashion, even languages. Above all, however, he shows the effects of the genetic perfection of mankind — the new social hierarchy and the new gender difficulties. The book reads brilliantly in these respects — the further you go the better it gets. Who knows, maybe this will become a cult novel?

Jacek Dukaj puts a real challenge before readers. This diabolical amalgam is seemingly impossible — physics from the future and Gombrowicz's thought; it's like a journey through the acid test of a literary purgatory. Probably you'll want to make a return trip.

Michał Olszewski, writer

It is my conviction that we've been given a real treasure.

Dariusz Cichocki

Bravura action, a marriage of concepts from the hard and natural sciences, philosophy, metaphysical and religious strands, scientific dissertations, intellectual messages...

Grzegorz Rogaczewski, „Esencja”

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.