



BALKAN BIOFICTION

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A SPECIFIC GENRE

- What is biofiction?
- A hybrid genre of life-writing
 - Life stories repeatedly used as plot lines in postmodern biofictions, which, it should be noted, underline the connection between fiction, biography, and autobiography by developing texts that are “both self-reflexive and yet paradoxically also lay claim to historical events and personages” (Hutcheon 2003: 5). The process of creating such texts involves different appropriations of facts, fictional characters, literary works and practices, themes and subjects, which are re-ordered in a constantly changing world of doubling, mirror reflections and fluctuations constructing in this way narrative identities that subvert the popularly accepted images of public figures.



A SPECIFIC GENRE

- The study of biofictions analyzes the narrative techniques used by the different writers to create new genre forms in life-writing. These forms are usually closely connected to the processes of hybridization, bending of boundaries and blending of characteristics. In other words, what I am interested in is the genre play that has become an inherent feature of postmodern writing, often associated with specific forms of textuality
- Generally speaking, contemporary self-reflexive historiographic metafiction subverts the view of history as a coherent inscription of unified subjectivity. The questions of how the issues of narrative representation, textuality, subjectivity and ideology are dealt with in the postmodern combinations of fiction, non-fiction and history are the center of this investigation.
- Techniques: historiographic metafiction, intertextuality, parody, kitch, allusions, pastiche, palimpsest, borrowing, plagiarism





THE BIOFICTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BALKANS

- Exhibits unique perspective and development
- Global and transcultural outlook
- Specific contribution to world literature
- Both books by Balkan authors about world figures and by world authors about Balkan figures



$y = g(x)$
Secant Lines

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$
$$f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h}$$
$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - x^2}{h}$$
$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2}{h}$$
$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} h(2x + h)$$

BALKAN BIOFICTIONS — CHARACTERISTICS

Life-writing narrative journeys

Shapeshifting, transgressions and crossing thresholds

Narratives as agents of changes and transformation



BIOFICTION ABOUT GOCE DELCEV



- Georgi Nikolov Delchev (4 February 1872 – 4 May 1903), known as Gotse Delchev or Goce Delčev (Гоце Делчев), was an important Macedonian revolutionary (komita) active in the Ottoman-ruled Macedonia and Adrianople regions at the turn of the 20th century. He was the most prominent leader of what is known today as the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (IMRO), a secret revolutionary society that was active in Ottoman territories in the Balkans at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.
- The international, cosmopolitan views of Delchev could be summarized in his proverbial sentence: "*I understand the world solely as a field for cultural competition among the peoples*"



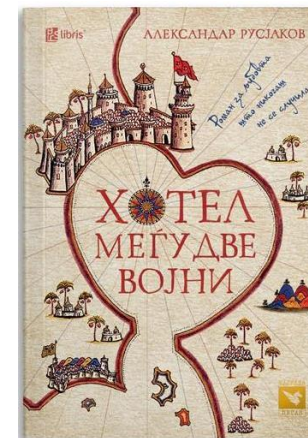


BIOFICTION ABOUT MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK

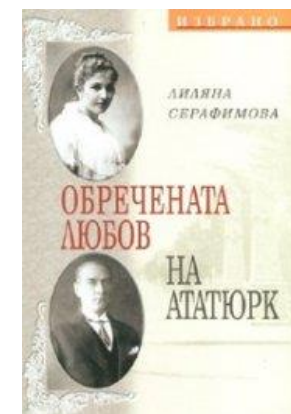
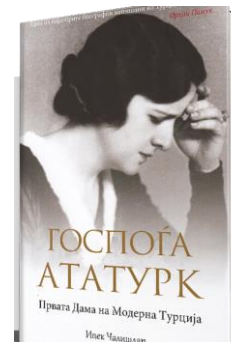
- **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, (c. 1881 – 10 November 1938), was a Turkish field marshal, revolutionary statesman, author, and the founding father of the Republic of Turkey, serving as its first president from 1923 until his death in 1938. He undertook sweeping progressive reforms, which modernized Turkey into a secular, industrializing nation. Ideologically a secularist and nationalist, his policies and socio-political theories became known as Kemalism. Due to his military and political accomplishments, Atatürk is regarded as one of the most important political leaders of the 20th century.
- Born in today's Thessaloniki, attended military school in today's Bitola.



KEMAL ATATURK BIOFICTIONS



- Обречената любов на Ататјурк (2010) - (The Doomed Love of Ataturk) - Liljana Serafimova – The relationship between Ataturk and Miti Kovacheva, the daughter of Bulgarian general Stilijan Kovachev, while Ataturk was a military envoy in Bulgaria at the beginning of XX century
- Госпоѓа Ататурк (2016) (Mrs. Ataturk) - Ipek Chalishar – About his only wife Latife Hanım
- Хотел меѓу две војни (2022) (Hotel between Two Wars) - Aleksandar Rusjakov – The love story between Ataturk and Eleni Karinte



BIOFICTIONS ABOUT MARRIE CURIE SKŁODOWSKA



- Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie (7 November 1867 – 4 July 1934), known simply as Marie Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win a Nobel Prize twice, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two scientific fields. Her husband, Pierre Curie, was a co-winner of her first Nobel Prize, making them the first-ever married couple to win the Nobel Prize and launching the Curie family legacy of five Nobel Prizes. She was, in 1906, the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris.





MARRIE CURIE BIOFICTIONS

1. Варшавската срна (2023) (The Warsaw Doe) - Mimoza Risoza – About the three love interests of the great scientist; the book is divided into three units, the end of Marrie's first love with the Polish mathematician Kazimierz Zorawski, the marriage with Pierre Currie and the passionate adventure with the French mathematician Paul Langevin
2. Madame Curie und die Kraft zu träumen: Roman (2020) (Madam Currie and the Power of Dreams) - Susanna Leonard- Marrie Curie in Paris with her husband Pierre





MARRIE CURIE BIOFICTIONS

- 3. Radioactive – Movie 2019 Directed by Marjane Satrapi – British production



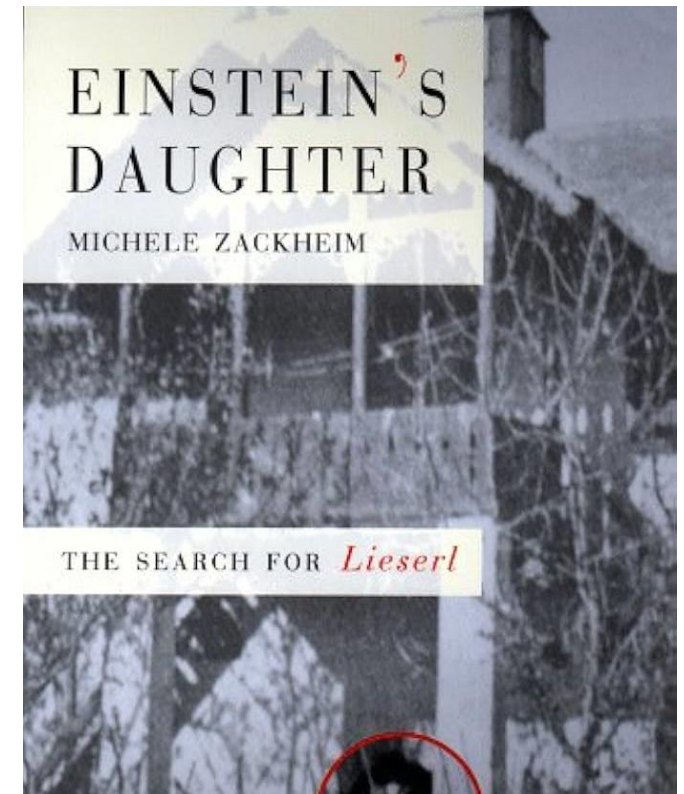
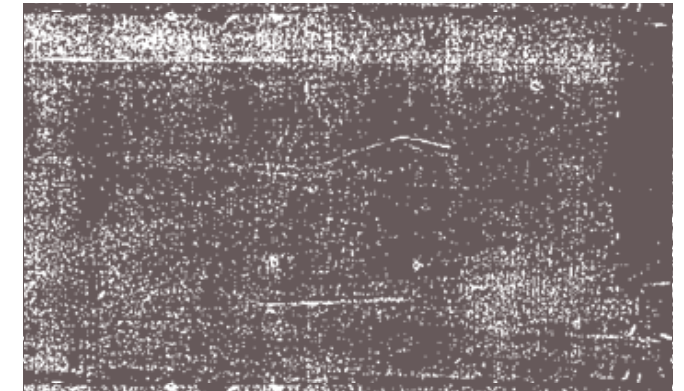
ALBERT EINSTEIN BIOFICTIONS

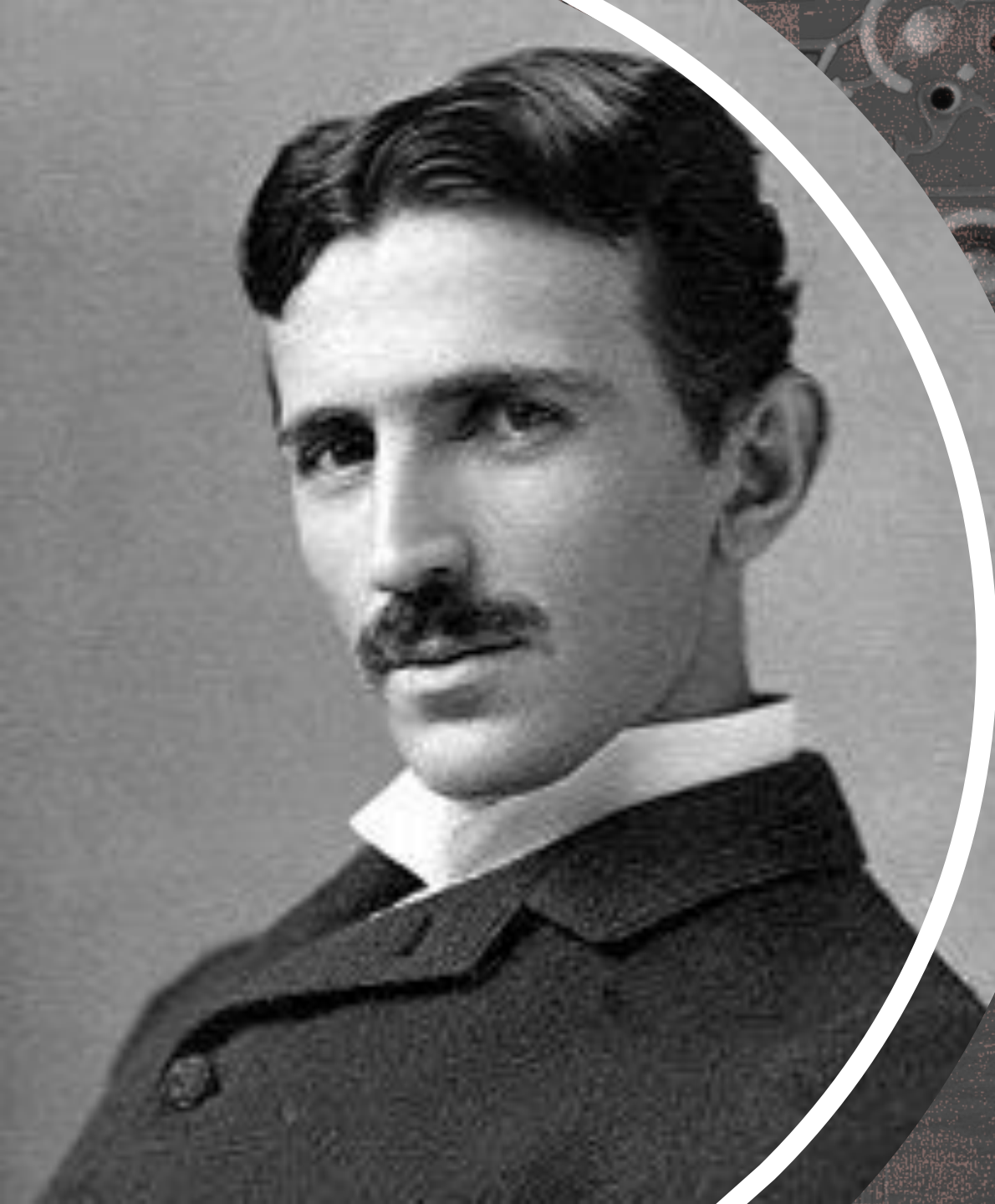
- Albert Einstein (14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist who is widely held to be one of the greatest and most influential scientists of all time. Best known for developing the theory of relativity, Einstein also made important contributions to quantum mechanics, and was thus a central figure in the revolutionary reshaping of the scientific understanding of nature that modern physics accomplished in the first decades of the twentieth century. His mass–energy equivalence formula $E = mc^2$, which arises from relativity theory, has been called "the world's most famous equation". He received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics "for his services to theoretical physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect", a pivotal step in the development of quantum theory. His work is also known for its influence on the philosophy of science. In a 1999 poll of 130 leading physicists worldwide by the British journal *Physics World*, Einstein was ranked the greatest physicist of all time.



EINSTEIN BIOFICTIONS

1. Mileva Ajnstajn - Teorija tuge (2016)
(Mileva Einstein – Theory of Sadness) -
Slavenka Drakulic – First person narrator,
Mileva tells the story of her marriage with
Einstein (Croatian author)
2. Scandalous letters from Einstein to Mileva
3. Einstein's Daughter – The Search for
Lizerel (1999) - Michelle Zakheim (USA) -
the story about the lost child of Einstein

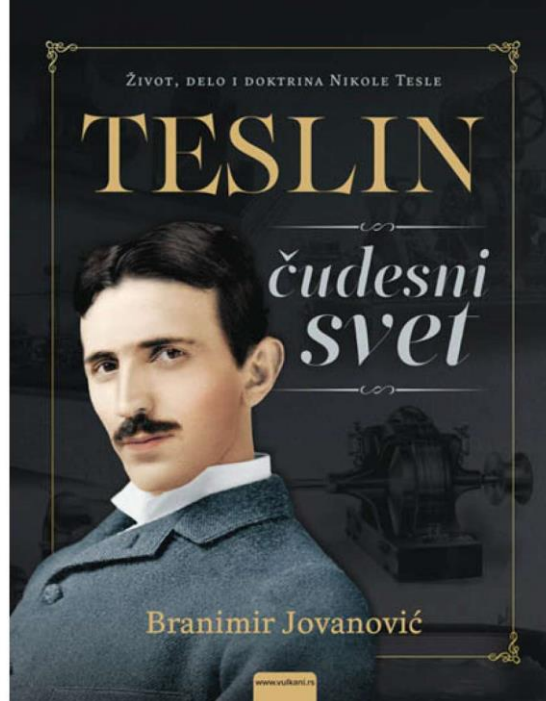
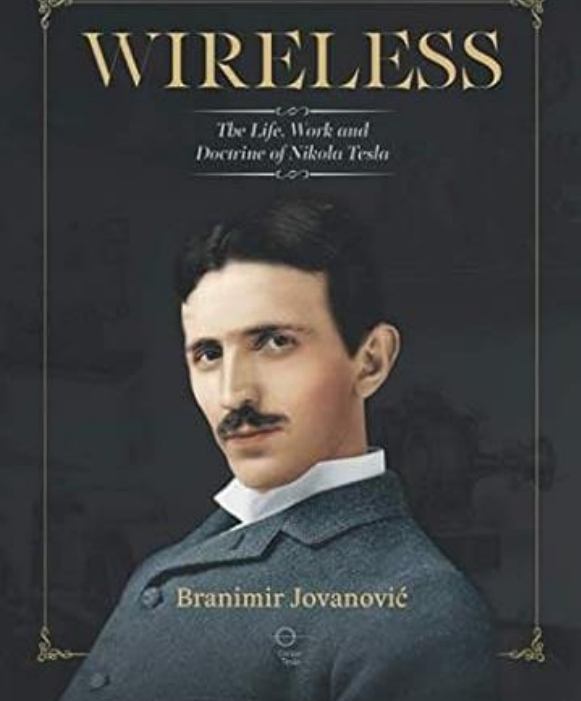




NIKOLA TESLA BIOFICTIONS

- Nikola Tesla (10 July 1856 – 7 January 1943) was a Serbian-American inventor, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, and futurist best known for his contributions to the design of the modern alternating current (AC) electricity supply system.
- Born Ethnic Serb in today's Croatia, then Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Tesla was able to perform integral calculus in his head, which prompted his teachers to believe that he was cheating
- Studied in Graz – Prague – Budapest – Paris
- 1888 – America





NIKOLA TESLA BIOFICTIONS

- 1. Wireless (2016) – Branimir Jovanovic (The Life, Work and Doctrine of Nikola Tesla) - Steve Agnew (Vulkan publishing house)
- 2. Tesla – Man out of Time (1981) Margaret Cheney – Biography focused on Tesla's life (personality)



ANA
ATANASKOVIĆ

Moja ljubav Nikola Tesla

Priča o Ketrin
Mekmehon
Džonson



NIKOLA TESLA BIOFICTIONS

- 3. Prodigal Genius (1944) – (Nenadmasivi genije) The Life of Nikola Tesla – The story of Tesla's father's inspiration for his career in engineering, shows his theories of electricity that went against the scientific establishment, explores the friendships of Tesla, investigates the story of Tesla's lost Nobel Prize, and explains Tesla's investigations of the paranormal – acquaintance of Tesla
- 4. Moja ljubav Nikola Tesla (2021) - Ana Atanaskovic - Kathrine Johnson's, wife of Tesla's friend Robert Johnson fascination and admiration for Tesla





EL GREKO

- **EL GREKO Domenikos Teotokopulos BIOGRAFIJA (2020 Serbian edition) - Pandelis Prevelakis**
- Doménikos Theotokópoulos (1 October 1541 – 7 April 1614) most widely known as El Greco ("The Greek"), was a Greek painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance. El Greco was a nickname, and the artist normally signed his paintings with his full birth name in Greek letters, often adding the word Κρής (Krés), which means "Cretan".
- El Greco was born in the Kingdom of Candia (modern Crete), which was at that time part of the Republic of Venice, Italy, and the center of Post-Byzantine art.

SULTAN SULEMAN

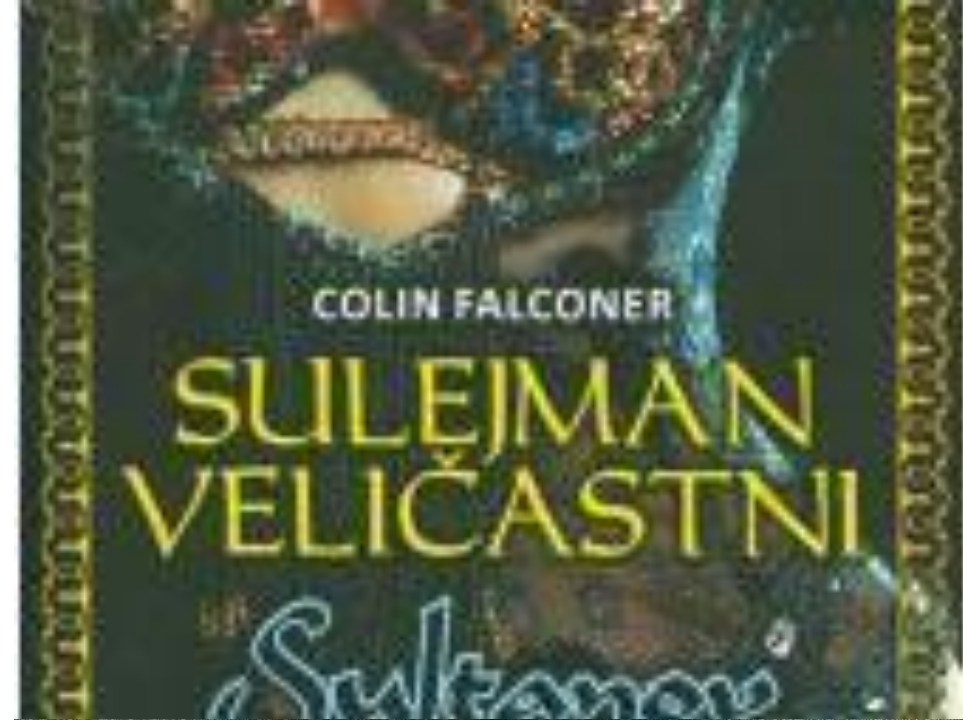
6 NOVEMBER 1494 – 6 SEPTEMBER 1566), COMMONLY KNOWN AS SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT IN THE WEST AND SULEIMAN THE LAWGIVER, IN HIS REALM, WAS THE LONGEST-REIGNING SULTAN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE FROM 1520 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1566. UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION, THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE RULED OVER AT LEAST 25 MILLION PEOPLE.

The Sultan's Harem (2004) – Colin Falconer

2004

2011–2014

The Magnificent Century – TV Series





BIOFICTIONS FROM THE WORLD OF FASHION AVAILABLE TO THE BALKAN AUDIENCE

1. The Paris Secret (2020) – Natasha Lester (Australian) - About Christian Dior
 2. Merci, Monsieur Dior (2020) – Agnes Gabriel
- Mademoiselle Chanel: A Novel (2015) – C.W. Gortner
 - Mademoiselle Coco (2019) – Michelle Marly

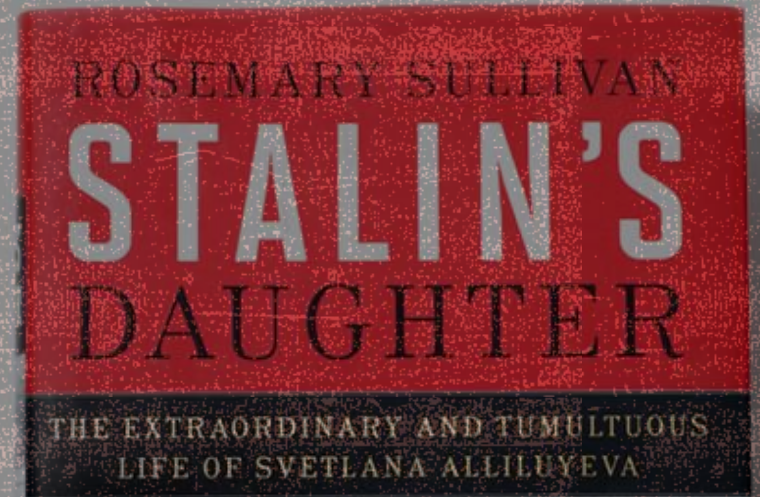
The Queen's Fortune

OTHER TITLES

A NOVEL

- Life of Chehov (1946) – Irene Nemirovsky – Ukranian author
- Stalin's Daughter (2015)– Rosemary Sullivan
- The Queen's Fortune (2020) – Allison Pataki (Napoleon's love)

DE CHÉJOV
IRÈNE
NÉMIROVSKY



CONCLUSION

- This study shows the current trend of writing, publishing and translation of biographical fictions on the Balkans. It draws attention to the complex developments in examining the life stories of both Balkan figures by world authors and vice versa. As a result, it is clear that the Balkan literary scene can be considered a diverse, innovative and vibrant arena that confidently responds to the world trends by giving its own contribution, setting its own new paths in the world literature. Both the readers and the writers are greatly exposed and therefore influenced by the rich content of life –writing genre blending available in the Balkan bookstores. Therefore, the place and the role of the Balkan biofictions should be acknowledged by presenting the many emerging titles in this field. This, in turn will have its lasting impact in the literary, cultural and artistic world across the globe.





THANK YOU

- Marija Krsteva, PhD
- November, 2023

