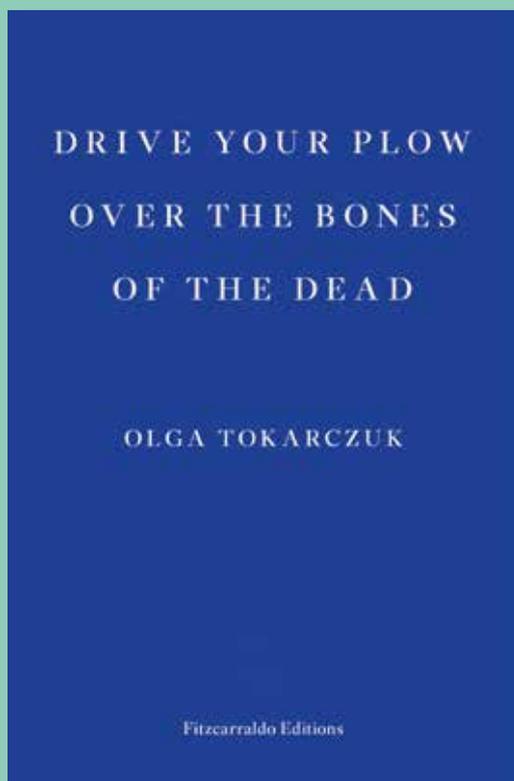


Reader's Guide



Other books by Olga Tokarczuk
House of Day, House of Night (2003)
Primeval and Other Times (2010)
Flights (2018)

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead Olga Tokarczuk

Translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones

Fitzcarraldo Editions

www.themanbookerprize.com
#FinestFiction #MBI2019

THE
READING
AGENCY

M
Man

The
Booker
Prize
Foundation

About the author	Olga Tokarczuk was born in Julechon, Poland, in January 1962. One of Poland's best and most beloved authors, her novel <i>Flights</i> won the 2018 Man Booker International Prize, in Jennifer Croft's translation. In 2015 she received the Brueckepreis and the prestigious annual literary award from Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, as well as Poland's highest literary honour, the Nike and the Nike Readers' Prize. Tokarczuk also received a Nike in 2009 for <i>Flights</i> . She is the author of nine novels, three short-story collections and has been translated into a dozen languages. She lives in Wroclaw, Poland.
About the translator	Antonia Lloyd-Jones was born in Oxford in March 1962. She translates from Polish, and is the 2018 winner of the Transatlantyk Award for the most outstanding promoter of Polish literature abroad. She has translated works by several of Poland's leading contemporary novelists and reportage authors, as well as crime fiction, poetry and children's books. She is a mentor for the Emerging Translators' Mentorship Programme, and former co-chair of the UK Translators Association. She lives in London.
About the book	<i>Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead</i> takes place in a remote village in south-west Poland where Janina Dusezjko, an eccentric woman in her 60s, describes the events surrounding the disappearance of her two dogs. When members of a local hunting club are subsequently found murdered, she becomes involved in the investigation. By no means a conventional crime story, <i>Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead</i> offers thought-provoking ideas on perceptions of madness, social injustice against people who are marginalised, animal rights, the hypocrisy of traditional religion, and belief in predestination.
What the judges thought	'An idiosyncratic and bleakly humorous indictment of humanity's casual corruption of the natural world.'
Discussion points	<p>The book asks about the differences in how society sees humans and animals, looking at issues of law, rights and murder. What do you think about some of the questions raised?</p> <p>The whole novel is told from Janina's perspective. What impact does the lack of alternative voices have, especially as Janina's view could be seen as radical?</p> <p>This is not a typical crime novel as it asks more about why people should care rather than who committed the crime. Does this make you reflect differently on why and how people read crime novels?</p> <p>How does Janina's spiritual and astrological thinking contrast the very physical side of humanity that we are shown?</p>
Themed reading	<p><i>Cosmos</i> by Witold Gombrowicz A metaphysical noir thriller narrated by Witold, a seedy, pathetic, and witty student, who is charming and appalling by turns. He and the despondent Fuks discover a dead bird hanging from a string. Is this a strange but meaningless occurrence or is it the beginning of a string of bizarre events?</p> <p><i>The Animal-Lover's Book of Beastly Murder</i> by Patricia Highsmith Highsmith transfers the murderous thoughts and rages most associated with humans onto the animals themselves. In this satirical reprise of Kafka, cats, dogs, and breeding rodents are no longer ordinary beings in the happy home, but actually have the power to destroy the world in which we live.</p> <p><i>Confession of the Lioness</i> by Mia Couto When Mariamar Mpepe's sister is killed by lions, her father imprisons her at home. With only the ghost of her sister for company, she dreams of escape, and of the hunter who abandoned her years before. Meanwhile, Archangel Bullseye's suspicions about the threats to the village grow...</p> <p><i>Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i> by William Blake Providing inspiration for Tokarczuk, Blake's poetry is written in imitation of biblical prophecy, giving an insight into good and evil.</p>
Useful links	<p><i>Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead</i> by Olga Tokarczuk – the entire cosmic catastrophe in <i>The Guardian</i></p> <p><i>Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead</i> by Olga Tokarczuk: much to admire in <i>The Irish Times</i></p> <p>Review in <i>The London Magazine</i></p> <p>Review in <i>The Scores</i></p>