

ZINKA ADAMIANI

SETTING: a small courtyard in old Tbilisi.

THEMES: love, friendship, Soviet Union, post-Soviet Georgia, love, loneliness.

GENRE: drama, urban story, magic realism.

ADAPTATION: feature film.

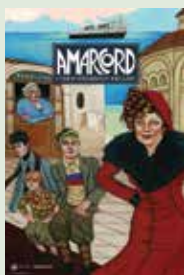
SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Zinka Adamiani is a ballad about a human's life within a small community. In a beautiful city, in a secluded neighborhood courtyard, there lives a crippled musician Alexi Adamiani, who grew up in an orphanage. His last name means "human". If fate had given him a very difficult life, it also smiled at him and gave him his faithful accordion "Raviata"; his two closest friends, Kotiko and Data; Tamriko, who secretly fell in love with him; and a supposed grandchild, Zinka. Their story is a fairy tale, in which what is imagined and what is real are inextricably linked.

MOVIE REFERENCES:

Amarcord (1973) a film by Federico Fellini

Mediterraneo (1991) a film by Gabriele Salvatores



CHARACTERS:

Zinka Adamiani – the main character

Alexi Adamiani – Zinka's father

Niniko – a young girl, Alexi's love interest

Prokofievna – Niniko's mother

Kotiko – Alexi's friend

Data – Alexi's friend

Tamriko – Alexi's neighbor

Anastasia – a nurse, Alexi's lover

Lekvishvili – Alexi's neighbor

Nigo a.k.a. Gulnarovna – the daughter of Alexi's neighbor

Malula – the collective name for all the courtyard cats

Gizo – a wood burning iron stove



BOOK SAMPLE

SUMMARY:

Once upon a time, there was a city whose inhabitants believed it was the most attractive city in the world and which witnessed such magical and beautiful things other cities could only dream of.

A crippled musician Alexi Adamiani, lives here. His name means "human" in Georgian. Even though fate has given him a very difficult life, it has also smiled on him and provided his faithful accordion, "Raviata", and his two closest friends, Kotiko and Data; plus Tamriko, who has fallen in love with him secretly, and a supposed grandchild, Zinka Adamiani, - Zinka the human.

Alexi Adamiani is a musician by occupation and a hedonist by conviction. Brought up in a Soviet orphanage, he has a stiff leg from the physical abuse he received as a child. He lives in the same courtyard as his pals Data and Kotiko, both World War II veterans. Data and Kotiko have war injuries, their similar traumas and physical limitations bind the three friends closer together. They met on the Black Sea coast before relocating to Tbilisi together. Not long after marrying the beautiful Niniko in secret, Alexi became a widower. He inherited her apartment at №1 Revolution Square and moved in there with his friends.

They share a fantastic life in their Tbilisi courtyard, with the cat and the oven, breaking bread and drinking wine with their equally bizarre neighbors. The three of them like to tell stories that turn out to be inventions.

The author describes the life of this community of fate vividly, often brutally, but also with humor. Fairy tales and myths of the past are interwoven with the history of Soviet Georgia. Each of the short chapters is preceded by folk tunes and proverbs, as well as official pronouncements of the Communist Party.

Again and again, there are setbacks, power failures, brutal events, even war. But the friends do not lose their sense of humor or their warmth for one another. Finally, a tiny girl appears, Zinka, who is either the daughter or granddaughter of Alexi. The three take her into their hearts. Zinka also tells stories about her life, which can be read as an allegory of Georgian history.

As unlikely as this novel may seem, much of it is taken straight from the lives of the people of Tbilisi, who have learnt how to survive. Thus, this iridescent, absurd novel provides deep insight into the Georgian soul and state of mind. The characters seem to accept their mostly hard fate, but also love to share their happiness and celebrate the brighter moments of life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born in 1968, Ana Kordzaia-Samadashvili is a writer and literary translator from German. She also teaches literature and creative writing at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. Anna's literary debut was in 2002 when she published a short story collection, *Berikaoba*. Later she wrote many short stories and three novels which brought her success. Her works describe the lives of the people who live alongside us in the very center of large cities but who go unnoticed or remain invisible to us. She tries to reveal the beauty, sadness and inner struggle of each and every person she or we have ever met, or will meet in future. Anna's works are translated into English, German and Swedish.