



# INVISIBLE GAME

**SETTING:** present day; publishing house; hospital.

**THEMES:** writing and publishing; mental health; family constellation theory.

**GENRE:** mystery; detective.

**ADAPTATION:** feature film.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

The novel hovers between thriller and mystery with characters whose lives are oddly and mysteriously intertwined. An established author, Mesh, and a new writer, Sofia, approach the same publisher. They know nothing of each other, but suddenly Sofia tells her editors that she cannot continue writing because her life has started to coincide with the storyline from Mesh's unpublished book. Her editor starts to wonder if there is any connection between the two and begins to investigate.

## CHARACTERS:

**Mesh** – a troubled popular musician and a writer

**Sofia Gilga** – an introspective debut author

**Alex** – an editor at the publishing house and narrator and investigator of the story

**Nana** – the publisher

**Archil** – a mystic

## MOVIE REFERENCES:

**Secret Window** (2004) a film by David Koepp

**The Ghost Writer** (2010) a film by Roman Polanski



BOOK SAMPLE

## SUMMARY:

A famous musician and author, Mesh, and a new writer, Sofia Gilga, both approach a publishing house with their manuscripts at the same time. They sign agreements and disappear for months. Soon after, the pandemic begins to affect people's lives everywhere.

Then, Alex, the editor, comes across an interview with Mesh in which he talks openly about his drug addiction, his chronic PTSD, and alienation from reality. The next day, Sofia Gilga has a meeting with her publisher, Nana, which leaves the publisher anxious.

Meanwhile, Mesh attempts suicide. Hearing this, Nana calls Alex and asks to meet. It turns out she feels guilty for not foreseeing Mesh's suicide attempt. Nana explains that Mesh had sent over a first draft of his book, the story of a young woman who travels to an Eastern country, where she overdoses on drugs, and falls to her death and faces both death and hellfire, becoming God and Satan. The experience convinces her of the incongruity of her life. Nana had rejected the book and it wasn't published elsewhere either. Sofia Gilga had explained to her that she didn't finish her novel because of a certain experience. She had traveled to India, had taken some drugs, and fallen to what could have been her death. Her life story was identical to Mesh's plot.

Alex and Nana decide to investigate together. They fail to reach Sofia, who has left her job and apartment and vanished. So, they decide to visit a mystic called Archil who tells them about the Space of Variations Theory. His belief is that they both understood the illusion of reality and made their individual decisions accordingly.

Alex digs deep into the theories Archil advises him to read on esotericism. He starts to question free will. Archil had explained to Alex a theory that there is a genetic system of morality that all family members are expected to follow. His research leads Alex deeper into a maze, driving him towards his own existential crisis. He quits his job but continues his search. Sofia Gilga also consults Archil, telling him about Bert Helinger's theory of family constellations and asking for help in renouncing hers. Archil has never heard of the theory and has to refuse her plea.

In parallel, Mesh is back at the center of attention. This time it's because of a violent incident that happened at his concert, as a result of which he is hospitalized. Alex digs into the story and discovers from Mesh's psychiatrist his recurring memories of a scene in which a blade repeatedly cuts someone's eyelid. The psychiatrist remembers another patient came to him with the exact same memories.

Alex suspects that must be Sofia and starts investigating their family trees. He finds that Mesh's family history is full of murder, torture, and bloody street fighting, and that his uncle, Erekle, was killed by a Gilga. He is persuaded that both writers are

connected by a family constellation. Alex goes to visit Mesh in hospital, but it appears that he discharged himself after a long conversation with a young woman visitor.

Not long after, Mesh appears on a talk show presenting his new project about the digital cloning of human consciousness. Alex meets with him and explains he has been following his story. Mesh admits he met with Sofia Gilga at the hospital and she helped him realize he was a black sheep of the family and told him how to escape his family constellation. Her advice helped him come up with this idea of cloning to make his ancestral dream of immortality come true.

In the closing section of the novel, Nana receives a manuscript from Sofia Gilga, which tells the story of a feud between two ancestral families, whose descendants know nothing of their history. They struggle with PTSD, drug addiction and various mental health issues because of this family connection. The curse continues to haunt them until one of them recognizes the pattern in this invisible game and chooses to quit the script to follow their true mission. Gilga tells Nana how she came to realize Mesh's and her scripts coincided, and found the way out. She admits to Nana that she's a black sheep, too, and that her ancestral dream was to become a nobody; a nobody who is in complete control and has autonomy; a nobody who wakes to a new identity. Before she leaves, Sofia turns and says with a smile: "Do you know the ultimate truth? Everything that is happening, has happened, and will happen again".

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mari Bekauri (b. 1990) graduated from Tbilisi State University with a Masters in Social and Cultural Psychology in 2014. She entered the literary scene with her short story, *Sisters*, in 2008 and subsequently her stories were selected for the 15 Best Short Stories collection six times in a row. She has won a number of literary awards over the years. Bekauri has written four novels. The latest, *Invisible Game*, was published in 2022, followed by a story collection *Between Two Seas* in 2023. Mari has worked as a screenwriter since 2015. She's written several shows for the Georgian Public Broadcaster and the TV station, GDS. Her scripts were selected for Eurimages, the Georgian National Film Centre, the Batumi International Film Festival and the Vilnius International Film Festival. She is co-writer of the short, *8 Minutes*, that claimed the main award at one of the prestigious Manhattan Short Film Festival, and which made it eligible for the 2018 Academy Awards.