

Elena Fanailova

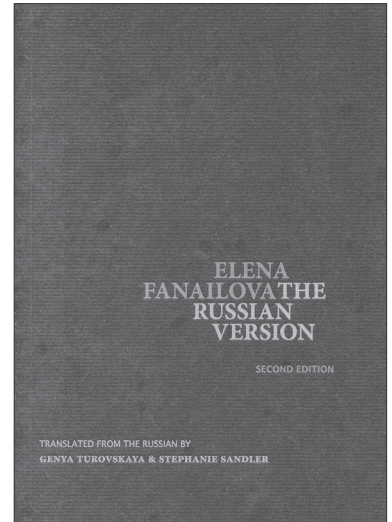
The Russian Version (Second Edition)

Introduction by Aleksandr Skidan

Translated from the Russian by Genya Turovskaya & Stephanie Sandler

Winner of the 2010 Best Translated Book Award for Poetry, *The Russian Version* is a collection of poems that spans Russia's post-Soviet era. Acclaimed journalist and poet, Elena Fanailova tells stories about the various social layers of a stratified and conflicted nation, reclaiming the poet's role as social critic, while scrutinizing her own position as citizen and poet. Fanailova's political lyricism casts personal pain into the net of historical suffering.

The Russian Version includes an introduction by Russian poet and critic Aleksandr Skidan. The 2019 second edition includes a more recent long poem, "Lena and Lena."



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She assumes the role of the poet as broadcaster, who transforms suppressed and muted private worlds into a distressing signal, to disturb the smugness and cynicism of her contemporaries and compatriots—Russian intellectuals.

— ZINOVY ZINIK, *TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

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The Russian Version obliterates the stereotype of what Great Russian Poetry should sound like. Fanailova has the candor and compassion of Akhmatova and a gift for striking metaphor that might bring Mandelstam to mind.

— IDRA NOVEY, *CHAIR OF THE BTBA PANEL FOR POETRY*



Elena Fanailova is the author of eight books of poetry. Her poems have been translated into ten languages. She has worked as a doctor, a university professor, and a journalist. In recent years, her journalism has been focused on Central Europe and the Balkans. She lives in Moscow.

Aleksandr Skidan has published five poetry collections in Russian, one of which was awarded the 2006 Andrei Bely Prize. He translates American and European literary theory and American poetry. His first book in English translation, *Red Shifting*, was published in 2008 by UDP. **Genya Turovskaya** is a poet, translator, and psychotherapist. She is the translator of Aleksandr Skidan's *Red Shifting* (UDP) and co-translator of Arkadii Dragomoshchenko's *Endarkenment: Selected Poems* (Wesleyan). **Stephanie Sandler** is Ernest E. Monrad Professor and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, where she also co-chairs the Rethinking Translation Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center. She is a co-author of *A History of Russian Literature* (Oxford) and translator and co-editor of Olga Sedakova, *In Praise of Poetry* (Open Letter).

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