



Yevgeny Yevtushenko • Евгений Евтушенко

PRE-MORNING

ПРЕДУТРО

A New Book
of Poetry
in English
and Russian

ΔΩΡΕΑ
ΕΛΛΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΝΙΚΟΥ
ΠΑΙΟΝΙΔΗ

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Yevgeny Yevtushenko • Евгений Евтушенко

To my beloved
friends -

PRE-MORNING

• Rhmos +



ПРЕДУТРО



A New Book of Poetry
in English and Russian

with my deep

Edited by Albert C. Todd

appreciation of
your fidelity



Vestnik Information Agency
Baltimore, U.S.A.

during many years. so

Yevgeny Yevtushenko
1995

Dear ELLI!
if is my publishers need it, there are
and my some information for about me
novel. Y. Y. (1)

YEVGENY YEVTUSHENKO

' Yevtushenko has been one of Russia's most adventurous writers for more than thirty years. His work has played an important part in Russia's historic struggle to open herself up to the modern world.'

Arthur Miller

'To me Yevtushenko is a poet in the great tradition of Russian letters. He was the first and still is the most outspoken against Stalin and the dangers of a revival of Stalinism.'

Harrison Salisbury

'... Yevtushenko is clearly a figure of important international stature, who has much to contribute to the life and letters in this country and to the broader world of relations between America and Russia. It is rare for someone who is so talented and famous at an early age to sustain his career...'

James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress
'... the most celebrated voice of the 'thaw'..'

Serge Schmeman New York Times
'Aside from being one of Russia's and the world most renowned poets he is a lecturer and teacher of remarkable gifts.'

Willam Styron
'Certainly, Yevtushenko has represented the best hopes and aspirations of millions of Russian citizens ever since he appeared on the public stage in the 1950s... In Don't Die Before You're Dead, he recreates his nation's tormented political history through his own extraordinary autobiography...'

Stephen F. Cohen Director of Russian Studies
Program in Princeton University.

' I recommend Yevgeny Yevtushenko's new novel with great pleasure. For many years he has been on the cutting edge of the intellectual battles raging around the problems of our country and the entire planet. In this novel he speaks out again both as a man and as an artist seeking the answers to the main questions of existence..'

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV
May, 25, 1995 Moscow

' This is / DON'T DIE BEFORE YOU'RE DEAD/ at once a highly sophisticated political novel and a deeply touching series of vignettes about unforgettable people caught up in a world they never made- certainly Yevtushenko's finest prose work to date.'
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY October 2, 1995

'Contemporary history giving the enlivening, even immortalizing fictional spin that only someone with a poetic sensibility, and someone who was there, can give.'
KIRKUS REVIEWS about DON'T DIE BEFORE YOU'RE DEAD
OCTOBER 1, 1995

Russian poet, novelist, essayist, film director, movie actor, photographer, distinguished professor of the Russian literature and European cinema. Member of the Soviet Parliament from 1988 until 1991.

Honorary member of The American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Member of The European Academy of Arts and Sciences. Honorary citizen of New Orleans, Atlanta, Mobile, Tulsa.

His works have been translated into 72 languages. Among his American translators are James Dickey, John Updike, Stanley Kunitz, Richard Wilbur.

He has toured 94 countries, all republics of the USSR, all states of the USA, also he has recited his poetry in

sports palaces in Russia, in the Stadium of Santiago de Chile with Pablo Neruda, in Opera di Roma, in Albert Hall in London , in Madison Square Garden and Carnegie Hall, in Saint John the Divine Cathedral with Robert de Niro and in the Lincoln Center with New York Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kurt Mazur.

Two films, written and directed by Yevtushenko, - "Kindergarten" with Klaus Maria Brandauer, and "Stalin's Funeral" with Vanessa Redgrave were shown in many countries.

His last novel Don't Die Before You're Dead has become a bestseller in Russian and in various European languages. In September 1995 Y.Y. received in Italy Bocaccio prize for the best foreign novel . Eighteen of his books have been translated into English; the most recent ones are: Collected Poems Henry Holt, Twentieth century. Russian Poetry Doubleday, Don't Die Before You're Dead/ Novel/ Random House, "Pre-morning"- / New poems. Bilingual edition. Printed by author.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko was born in 1933, in Zima Junction, Siberia.

In 1948 he was expelled from school for "disobedience". His first poem was published in 1949, and his first book in 1952. In 1957 Y.Y. was expelled from the Young Communist League and the Literary Institute because of his "individualism". But his early poems were praised by Pasternak, Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost.

Before the appearance of Solzhenitzin, Sakharov and other dissidents on the Russian political stage, his poetry became the first lonely voice against Stalinism.

Starting in 1960 YY became the first Russian poet to break the Iron Curtain and to recite his poetry in the West . Since then, he has continued to deliver the message of the 'thaw' through the icy winds of cold war. He has met Pablo Picasso, Max

Ernst, Henry Moore, Federico Fellini, John Steinbeck, Graham Green, Heinrich Boll, T.S. Eliot, Gabriel Garcia Marques. In 1961 Y.Y. published his sensational poem against antisemitism- "Babi Yar". The great Russian Composer Dmitri Shostakovich created his 13th Simphony based on "Babi Yar" and other Yevtushenko's poems. Y.Y. many times protested against dissidents' trials in USSR, and against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, wrote a bitter poem about war in Afganistan, and campaigned for the release of Vaclav Havel when he was in prison. Together with Sakharov, Y.Y. was one of the founders of the first Russian antistalinist association "Memorial".

From 1988 to 1991 Y.Y. served as a member of the first freely elected Parliament of the USSR, and fought against censorship and other restrictions. In 1991st when hard-liners were trying to overthrow Russia's young democracy, Y.Y. recited his poetry from the balcony of the Russian White House before two hundred thousand defenders of freedom.

In 1991 Y.Y. received the American Liberties Medallion- the highest honor the American Jewish Commitee has to bestow '... for exeptional advancement of the principles of human liberty.'

In 1993 Y.Y. received in Russia the Defenders of Freedom Medal 'given to those who were on the barricades during the 1991 coup. In his congratulatory letter on this occasion President Yeltsin wrote: ' Your innate, multifaceted talent arose brightly in the now distant years of 'thaw'. The civic consciousness then played a huge role in the spiritual liberation and awakening of the people of Russia.'

However when Y.Y. was invited to the Kremlin on December 29, 1994 to receive from Yeltsin's hands the highest Russian decoration 'The Order of Friendship Between Peoples' he publicly refused to accept it

because of bloodshed in Chechnya.

