



New from
Red Hen Press

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P.O. Box 40820, Pasadena, CA 91114 / (626) 356-4760 / fax: (626) 356-9974 / redhen.org

Spring in Siberia

A NOVEL BY

Artem Mozgovoy

Can a land of ice be melted by the fires burning in his heart?

1985. Russia. As the Soviet Union disintegrates and Western capitalism spreads its grip across their land, the Morozov family finds itself consigned to the remote, icy wastes of Siberia. It is here that their only child, Alexey, is born.

A sweet and gentle schoolboy, Alexey discovers that reciting poetry learnt by heart calms his fears. That winter gales can be battles with self-invented games, and solace found through his grandmother's rituals and potions. But when Alexey's classmate, the son of KGB agents, confesses his love, the desire of two boys to be together clashes violently with the mad world around them.

Exploring the healing power of literature, the magic of first love, and the ways our family and homeland can save (or shatter) us, *Spring in Siberia* is a coming-of-age novel that, in the darkest of times, glows with hope and the yearning for freedom to be oneself — completely.

ADVANCE PRAISE

“A work of earnest, grounded, and ultimately hopeful testimony of selfhood at the brink.”

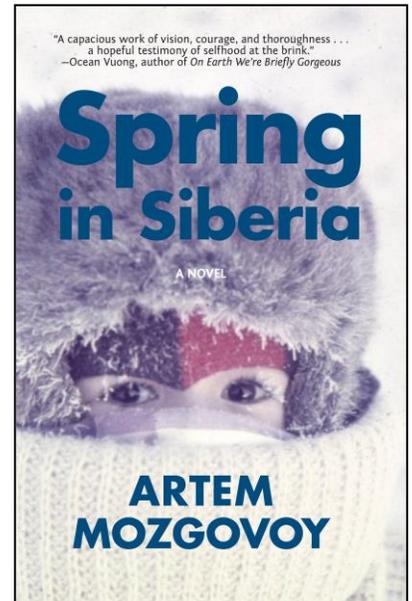
—**Ocean Vuong**, the author of the international best-seller *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

“Genuinely compelling!”

—**Sir Stephen Fry** is the author of, among many other best-selling works, *Troy*, *Mythos*, and *Heroes*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in a small town in Central Siberia at the time when the Soviet Union was falling apart, **Artem Mozgovoy** began his career as a cadet journalist in a local newspaper when he was sixteen; at twenty-six he was an editor-in-chief. In 2011, as Russia began legalizing its persecution of gay people, he left his homeland. Having lived in six different countries, including the US, and worked as a movie extra, a yoga instructor, and a magician's assistant, Artem today holds a Luxembourgish passport, speaks five languages and, with his Romanian Partner, lives in Belgium.



PUB DATE: April 4, 2023

ISBN: 978-1-63628-070-7

SIZE: 5.5 x 8.5

FORMAT: Tradepaper

EXTENT: 256pp

PRICE: \$18.95

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REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

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MORE PRAISE FOR *SPRING IN SIBERIA*

“A wonderful book about a fascinating though troubled childhood by a deeply talented and original writer who had both the wits to survive it and the talent to transform it into art.”

—Poet, novelist, essayist, and short story writer **Michael Blumenthal**, former Director of Creative Writing at Harvard.

“Full of poetry of extreme landscape, of the struggle for the love and acceptance against the odds – a remarkable debut.”

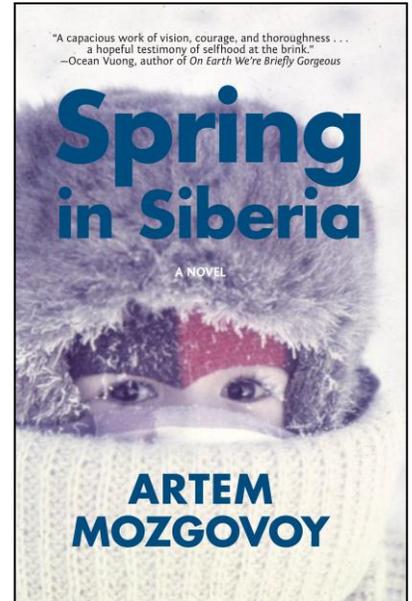
—**John Clanchy**, Australian and international prizewinning author.

FROM *SPRING IN SIBERIA*

‘I’m afraid that I love you,’ my classmate spoke quickly and quietly, but I managed to catch his words before they melted in the evening smoke.

We were standing on the sixteenth-story balcony, on the top floor of the tallest building in our city. The three walls of the balcony were smothered in smut and graffiti, its floor was thick with grime and cigarette stubs, but we were left alone and felt safe there, far from all the turmoil down at ground level. On that balcony we spent hours talking, watching our bleak and dire town, which seemed even gloomier than usual on that miserable mid-April night.

‘And you, do you think you love me?’ my classmate turned away from the town and looked at me with both a glimpse of hope and the certainty of rejection evident in his wild black eyes. I stood still, shivering slightly, shocked by this confession which, to me, seemed to have come out of nowhere.



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