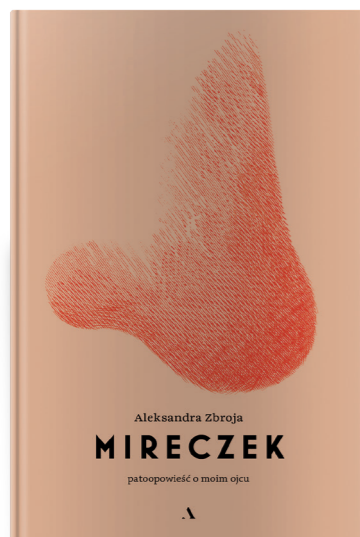


# Catalogue



Agora  
Publishing House

NON FICTION



ALEKSANDRA ZBROJA

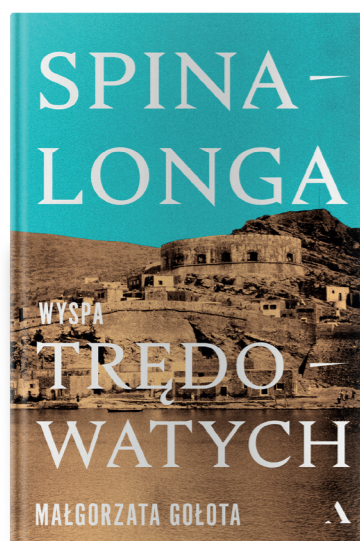
## Mireczek

The Hard Truth about My Father

A shocking debut. A true and moving story about a daughter's attempt to understand her father, who chose alcohol over her. Without embellishment or undue drama, Aleksandra Zbroja writes with unusual candour to tell the story of Mireczek who was lost to vodka. She exposes the problem of alcoholism and its lifelong impact on the children of alcoholics. She assesses her own childhood and a father who wasn't there. But he is never simply dismissed; Zbroja tries to understand him, finding the cause and social context that make 'Mireczek' a universal figure.



264 PAGES  
PHOTOS  
HARDCOVER



MAŁGORZATA GOŁOTA

## Spinalonga

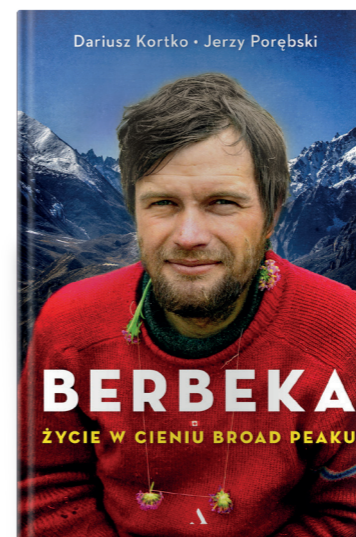
Leper Island

This is a shocking account of Spinalonga, the Greek island-prison and former leper colony. Crete is a top tourist destination and one of the must-see locations on the travellers' route is Spinalonga, a rocky island that was converted into a defensive fortress even prior to Venetian rule. What really draws crowds here, however, are the grim legends surrounding this 'leper island'. It was supposed to be a place where the sick could find a substitute for normal life. But tour guides don't tell the whole truth: there was no escape from the island, individuals resettled there were permanently erased from records and condemned to a slow death. Their children were taken from them just a few days after birth. They were shunned by their families and society, even though effective treatment was available. No documents or photographs commemorating this tragedy have ever been found. Małgorzata Gołota, a Polish print and radio journalist, has combed through archives and traced the last surviving witnesses, as well as people who devoted their lives to the lepers' cause.



320 PAGES  
PHOTOS  
SOFTCOVER

NON FICTION



DARIUSZ KORTKO AND JERZY PORĘBSKI

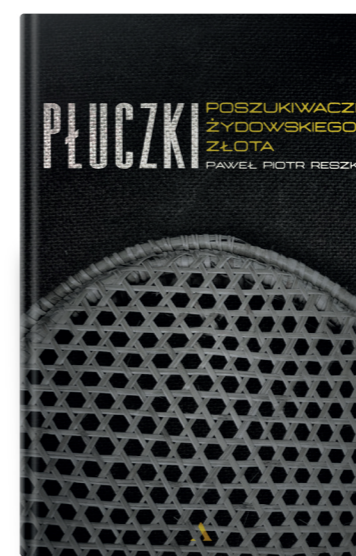
## Berebeka

A Life in the Shadows of Broad Peak

The moving story of Maciej Berbeka, a Polish Himalayan climber, mountain guide, search and rescue volunteer, painter, graphic designer and set designer. With successful ascents of 5 eight-thousanders to his name, he was also the first man to climb above 8,000 metres in the Karakoram in winter. He completed wintertime ascents of Manaslu (without oxygen), Cho Oyu and Broad Peak – the twelfth-highest mountain in the world. It was this ascent in March 2013 that would turn out to be his last. In 1988, Berbeka had miraculously escaped with his life from Broad Peak. It was a failure that changed his life: he returned home defeated, rarely venturing back into the mountains, becoming a model husband and father instead. What happened to make him pack his bags after twenty-five years of quiet, ordinary life, and return to that mountain, which this time would take him away for good?



340 PAGES  
PHOTOS  
HARDCOVER



PAWEŁ PIOTR RESZKA

## Pans

Digging for Jewish Gold

In the area around the former extermination camps of Sobibor and Belzec, amid the graves of hundreds of thousands of victims of the Nazis, residents of nearby villages went digging in search of 'Jewish gold'. They rinsed the mixture of earth and human ash in so-called 'launders' – specially dug pits close to the camps. These were not isolated incidents, but a process that lasted years. Paweł Piotr Reszka spoke to participants and observers of those events. How could a 'gold rush' develop in the aftermath of the Holocaust? What do the diggers and members of their families have to say now? Do they feel regret, shame or remorse?



320 PAGES  
PHOTOS  
HARDCOVER

NON FICTION



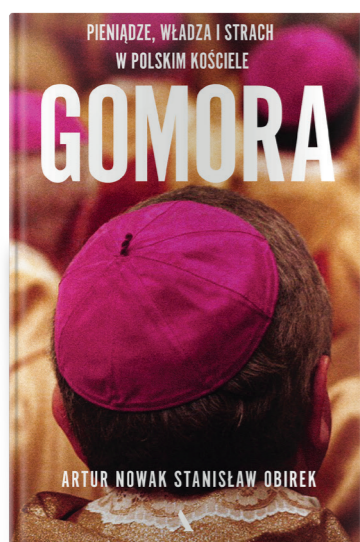
KATARZYNA SURMIAK-DOMAŃSKA

## Kieślowski

Close Up

How did a boy who left his family to avoid succumbing to disease end up becoming a film director? How did an artist, whose closest colleagues predicted his downfall, become an overnight global success? Why did some late-twentieth-century observers see him as a prophet? And why – in the words of one of his friends – did he “beat himself up” so much? Kieślowski always achieved his goals. Nothing could stop him seeing through his plans. He chose to starve rather than join the army. He applied to the Łódź Film Academy three times because he refused to disappoint his mother. But he was barely ever satisfied with what he did, constantly agonizing over whether he’d picked the right profession. Kieślowski: Close Up is more than simply a biography of the director of films including Blind Chance, Dekalog, The Double Life of Veronique and the Three Colours trilogy. It is also a highly nuanced factual portrait of an artist who despite spectacular success still battled with the spectre of dissatisfaction.

 600 PAGES  
PHOTOS  
HARDCOVER



ARTUR NOWAK AND STANISŁAW OBIREK

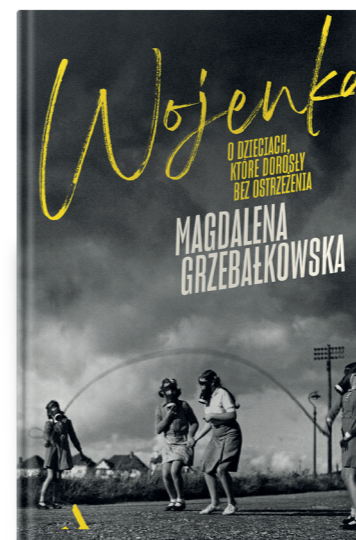
## Gomorra

Power, Fear and Money in the Polish Church

Paedophilia, a lack of financial oversight, criminal cover-ups, the exclusion of women, a feudal power system, sex scandals, corrupt bishops, debauchery, cynicism, ties to government and hypocrisy are all common accusations made against the Polish church. New scandals erupt in the media all the time. In no uncertain terms, Artur Nowak and Stanisław Obirek ascribe the clergy’s vices to the seven deadly sins. They analyse the system reigning within the Polish church and explain why it is incapable of reform.

 384 PAGES  
SOFTCOVER

NON FICTION




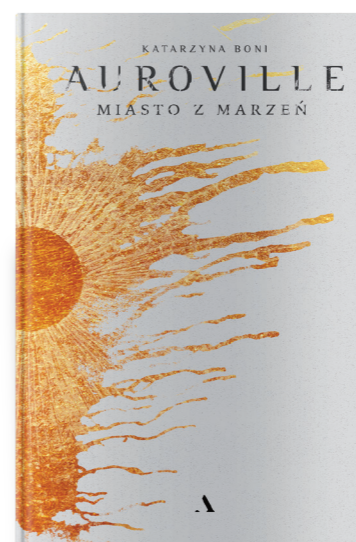
MAGDALENA GRZEBĄŁKOWSKA

## The Little War

Growing Up without Warning

‘War? Nobody here checks behind our ears or makes us say our prayers at night. You don’t have to go to school and nobody minds what time you go to bed. I like it here.’ Magdalena Grzebałkowska, Polish journalist and author, travelled the world in search of people who were children during the Second World War. In order to find the last witnesses of the biggest conflict the world has ever known, she went to Spain, Germany, the United States and the farthest reaches of a former Gulag. This is a moving depiction of war seen through the eyes of children, a story of childhoods suddenly cut short in the face of tragedy. Three-year-old Arthur is sent to an orphanage where he is brought up to be a devoted Nazi, just as Hitler intended. Despite her background and time spent in a Soviet labour camp, Lilia grows up to love Stalin. Jose Maria’s parents send him away from war-torn Spain, but will he find peace?

 416 PAGES  
PHOTOS  
HARDCOVER




KATARZYNA BONI

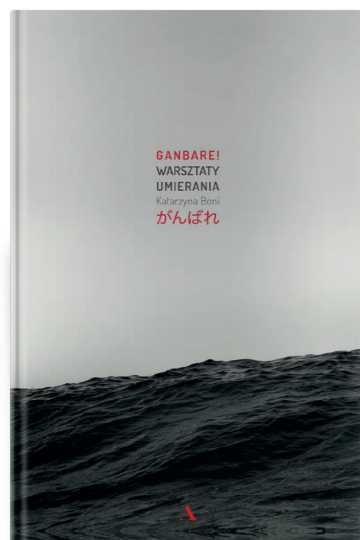
## Auroville

The City Made of Dreams

It’s 1968. Representatives of 124 countries from across the world meet to create the city of the future. Without schools, because the whole of life will be an education and children will choose what they want to study. Without money, because in exchange for their labour, workers will receive everything they need. Without judges or police forces, because residents will solve disputes among themselves. Without property. Without divisions. Katarzyna Boni spent over a year in Auroville, deep in the Indian jungle. This is a moving account of a place where Westerners arrive with a vague longing for nothingness and a slight fear of the future. About an experiment in reality and in dreams.

 416 PAGES  
HARDCOVER

# NON FICTION



KATARZYNA BONI

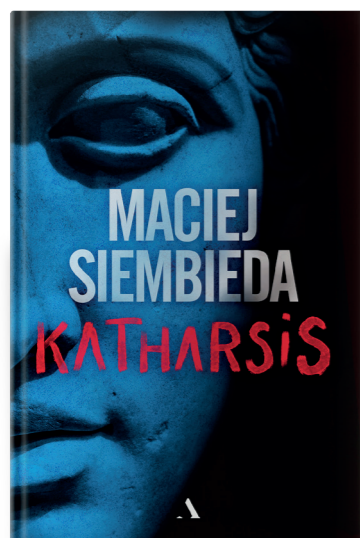
## Ganbare! Workshops on Dying

The story of a country where the threat of disaster is part of ordinary life. In Japan, to spur someone into action, you cry ‘Ganbare!’ – Give it your all! Hang in there! You can do it! Since 2011, it’s a call that has been heard everywhere across the destroyed north of the country. Normal life is haunted by the spectre of death; those who survived the tsunami and explosion at the nuclear power plant try to cope with the new reality. Some learn to scuba dive to continue looking for their loved ones’ remains at the bottom of the sea; others try to ignore the risk and live normally in an irradiated world. Still others turn to the spiritual way of life in order to speak with the dead, or sign up for workshops on dying.



304 PAGES  
HARDCOVER

# THRILLER



MACIEJ SIEMBIEDA

## Catharsis

In 1949, Kostas Tosidos, hero of the Greek partisans, is sent with his family to the secret hospital for refugees on the Polish island of Wolin. He changes his identity but his Greek past unexpectedly comes back to haunt him. ‘Saccharin’, a smuggler from 1930s Gdynia, becomes king of the black market only for betrayal and later war to turn his life into a hellish sequence of events. Janis, Kostas’ son, breaks off his boxing career in dramatic circumstances. He becomes a police officer and one of his investigations leads him to reveal his own father’s secrets. ‘Zulus’, one of ‘Saccharin’s’ protegees, writes his own chapter in the criminal history of Gdynia. These four seemingly unconnected stories come together in a uranium mine in Kletno in the Sudeten mountains, where between 1949 and 1952 the Soviets extracted ore in order to build an atomic bomb.

Catharsis is a riveting novel about individuals swept into the course of history and the emotions that dictate our choices, regardless of the circumstances. It is also a timeless and universal story of good and evil, complicated love, identity struggles, about trying to live in harmony with oneself, and the price of truth.



576 PAGES  
SOFTCOVER

# SELF HELP



NATALIA DE BARBARO

## Kind Companion A Woman’s Way Back to Herself

This is a book about the feminine path to knowing oneself. Natalia de Barbaro works with women who seek answers to questions like: ‘Who am I really? What do I want? What are my dreams? How do I indulge?’ This book is a moving and at times painfully honest story about how to find the way back to yourself. Why do women take on roles that are completely unsuited to them? Why do they judge their smallest mistakes so harshly? Natalia de Barbaro invites us on a journey under the watchful eye of the Gentle Guide – a woman’s intuition and wisdom.



256 PAGES  
8 COLLAGES  
SOFTCOVER



OLGA KORDYS-KOZIEROWSKA

## Love is a Verb

How to Make your Relationship Kinder, Closer, Longer. And More Chilled Out

A light-hearted guide packed with useful psychological insights for couples, showing both men’s and women’s perspectives. A psychologist and philosopher of interpersonal relationships, Olga Kordys-Kozierowska shares her recipe for a successful relationship, interweaving specialist knowledge with stories from her own marital ups, downs and discoveries. The guiding principle: #LoveisaVerb – because, as she argues, relationships require movement, effort and commitment, and they founder when left to their own devices. The author reminds us that every relationship is a full-time job, while the work we put in pays off with better understanding and a sense of happiness that is within our power to achieve.



200 PAGES  
SOFTCOVER