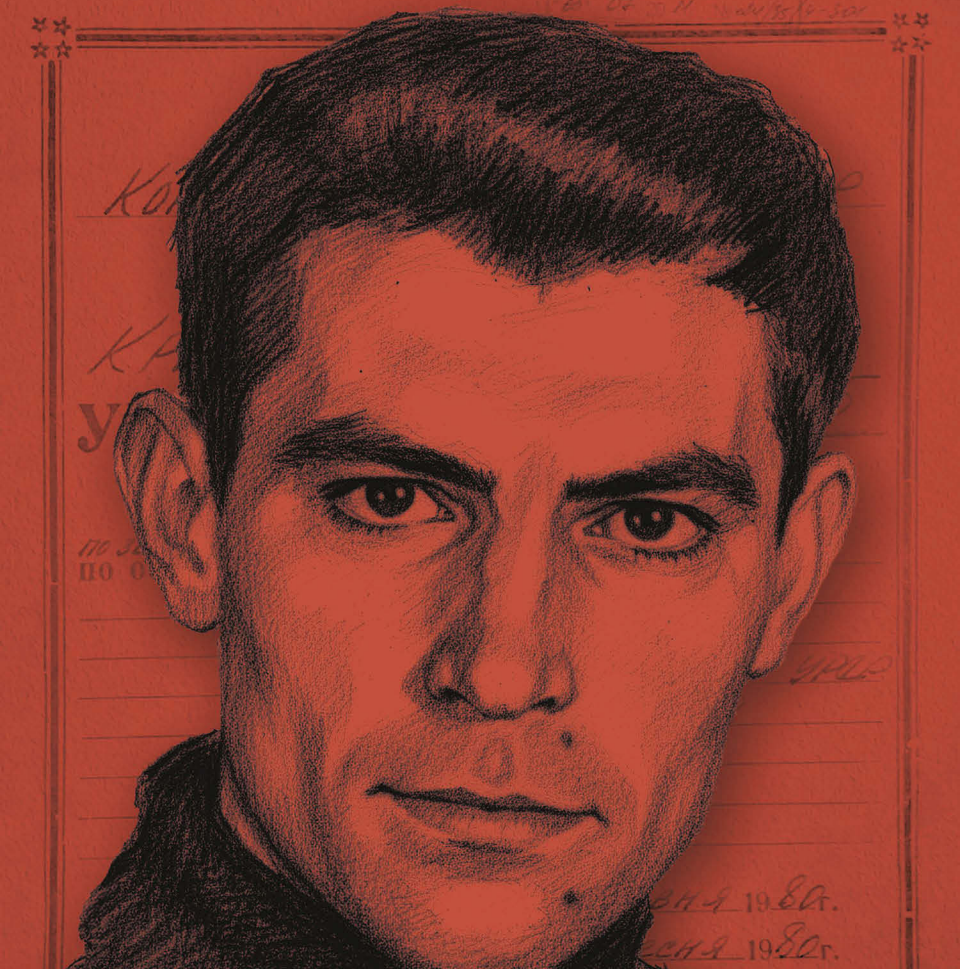


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ALEXANDER
KOROTKO

STUS

A NARRATIVE POEM

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A NARRATIVE POEM

by Alexander Korotko

Translated into Ukrainian by Olha Ilchuk
Translated into English by Michael Pursglove
Translated into German by Alois Woldan
Translated into Polish by Anna Bednarczyk

Editing in English, Russian, and Ukrainian by Svetlana Payne

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German translation © Alois Woldan 2026
Polish translation © Anna Bednarczyk 2026

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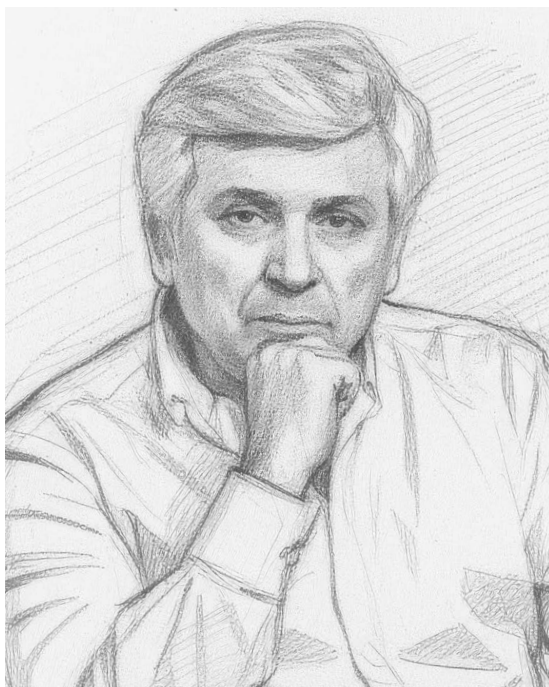
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АЛЕКСАНДР КОРОТКО
СТУС

Поэма

«І на волі немає волі».¹
Александр Коротко

СТО ГРАММОВ КОЛЫМЫ

1.

Ночи без неба.
На растяжке ветров
над бездною ГУЛАГа
стол стоит
с водкой
в гранёном стакане
Колымы.
Свеча луны
прикасается щекой
к замурованному в лёд
тюремному окну
и греет сны Стуса,
парящие

.....
¹ И на воле воли нет. (укр.).

над *рідною* *ненькою*
Україною.
А вот и свастики паук,
забился в угол
Колымы
и ловит в свои сети
тени неокрепших эзков.
Земли
наждачный круг
шлифует душу
и перо поэта,
на этой круговерти
циферблата
считает время
позвонки минут
и склеивает дни и годы
в один протяжный
вой;
здесь нет других
напевов
и быть не может.
Сопки Магадана –
двугорбые верблюды –
застыли
надзирателями
в позе лотоса
над вечным бесправием
этого края.
Сон-облако, сон-остров
повис над вечной
мерзлотой...

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This narrative poem is about the legendary figure of Ukrainian literature of the 20th century – the poet and dissident Vasyl Stus. The poet became a symbol of the indomitable Ukrainian spirit. His life and his poems today are perceived as part of the narrative of Ukrainian resistance to imperial aggression and dictatorship. Stus continued the line of spiritual resistance established by Taras Shevchenko in Ukrainian literature. Korotko has reconstructed Stus's internal struggles in poetic visions and masterfully recreated the amplitude of his heroic displays of will and stoic struggle against the Soviet system.

This volume comprises the original poem of Alexander Korotko and its translations into Ukrainian, English, German, and Polish.

Alexander Korotko was born into a Jewish family in Korosten, northern Ukraine, in 1952 and is a graduate of Odesa National Economics University. A prolific writer of both poetry and prose, his work has been translated into numerous languages and he has received many honours and awards. His *War Poems* was published by Glagoslav in 2022, and a collection of short stories *Bera and Cucumber* followed next year (2023). He now lives in Kyiv.

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