

A sparkling story about the fate of four generations of Balkan Romany

Feri Lainšček

SHANGHAI GYPSY

»The novel bares before us the dimension of the spiritual and physical reality that is right next to us, yet the writer knows when to let silence do the talking and leave the secret of the 'Gypsy soul', to the Romany themselves.«

(Mladina weekly)



A brilliant tale vibrating with the nomadic spirit



Feri Lainšček, a writer and a screenwriter, born in 1959 in Dolenci, Slovenia, is one of the most highly-esteemed and widely read Slovenian authors. He has received numerous awards for his work. He lives and works in Murska Sobota.

His bibliography comprises more than a hundred books, many of which have been translated into foreign languages. His works have been adapted for screen more often than works of any other Slovenian author.

Shanghai Gypsy

The novel was written for the Cannongate Myths series, an international editorial project of short novels in which ancient myths from myriad cultures are reimagined and rewritten by contemporary authors.

The project was conceived in 1999 by Jamie Byng, owner of the independent Scottish publisher Canongate Books.

The novel was published in Slovenia by Mladinska knjiga publishing house with the title *The Untouchables*.

It speaks of four generations of Roma people on their life journey from horse thieves to stone grinders, smugglers and eventually in the last generation, drug addicts.

Feri Lainšček has lived in the vicinity of a Roma village since his childhood, which is why he has learnt to respect the Roma.

The novel is both an attempt to fundamentally understand the Romany and their 'original sin', and a story about the banal yet cruel reality of the Romany's life in Europe. Shortlisted for the best Slovenian novel 2008 and for EU book prize 2008.

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(<http://arsmedia.si/en/production/in-realization/>)



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