

Here are some books by **Latvian authors**
that talk about isolation – read Latvian Literature while you
#stayathome!

1.

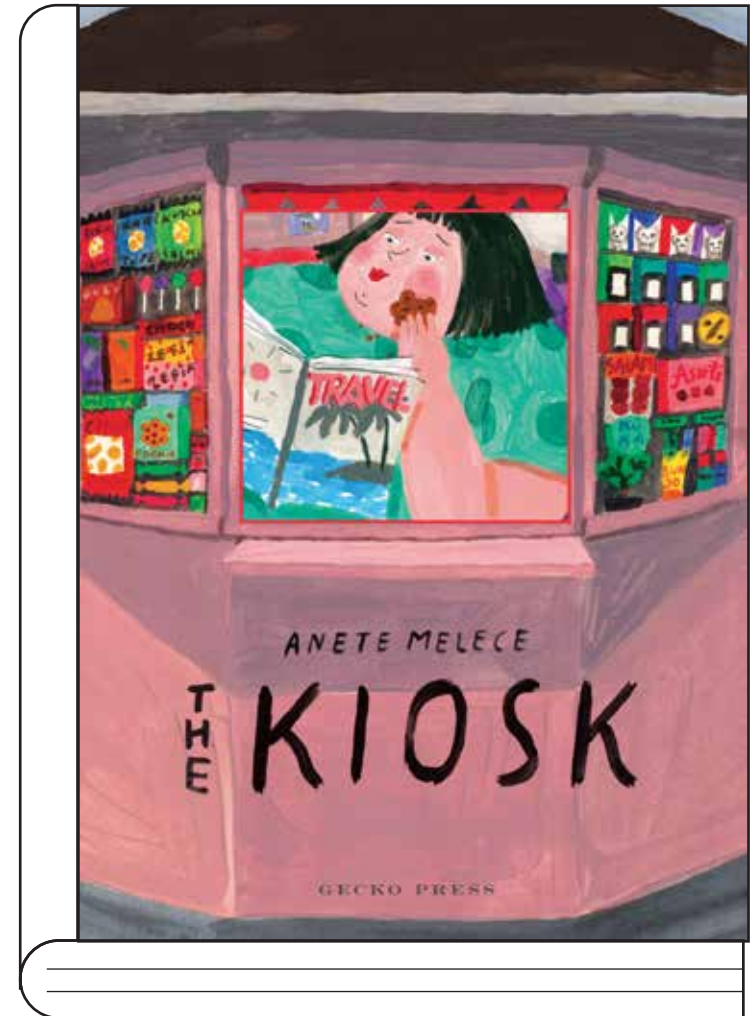
Children will be excited to see **Anete Melece's** best-selling picturebook **The Kiosk** (Latvian *Kiosks*) - a warm and unexpected story about someone who is stuck and trying to find a way to be free.

For years, the kiosk has been Olga's life. She spends her days inside reading travel magazines and dreaming of distant places. One day a chance occurrence turns her upside down--literally--and sets her off on an unexpected journey.

Published by Gecko Press, 2020



Anete Melece



2.

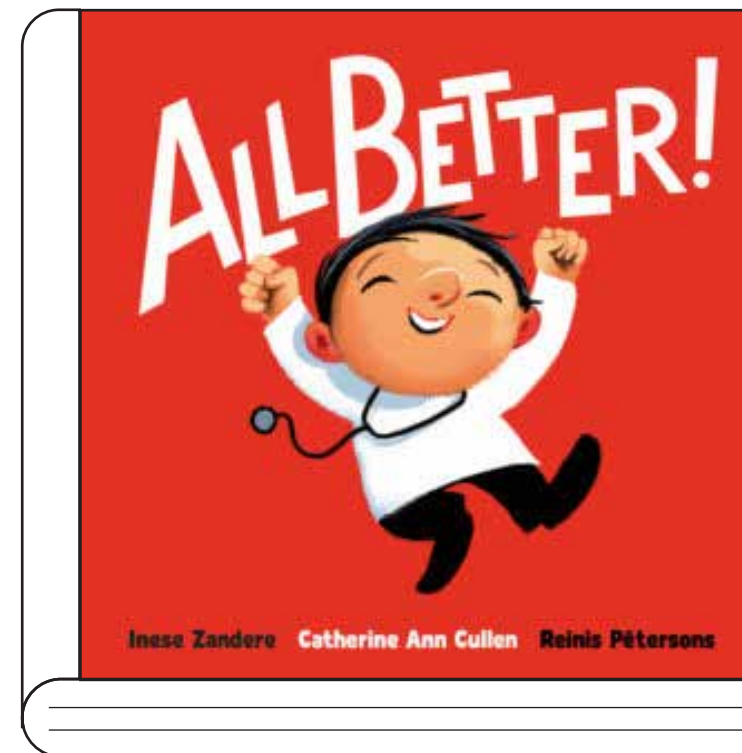
The children's poetry book **All Better** by Latvian poet **Inese Zandere**, translated and retold for English readers by award-winning Irish poet Catherine Ann Cullen, and illustrated by Reinis Pētersons.

When you are forced to stay at home or in hospitals, and you are imprisoned in your own ill body, life can be unbearable, scary and sad at many times, especially if you are a child. This collection of poems and rhymes helps to make being sick a little less scary, with entertaining poems about broken bones, the chickenpox, getting shots and many more - with characters that will make young readers smile and laugh.

Published by Little Island, 2019



Inese Zandere



3.

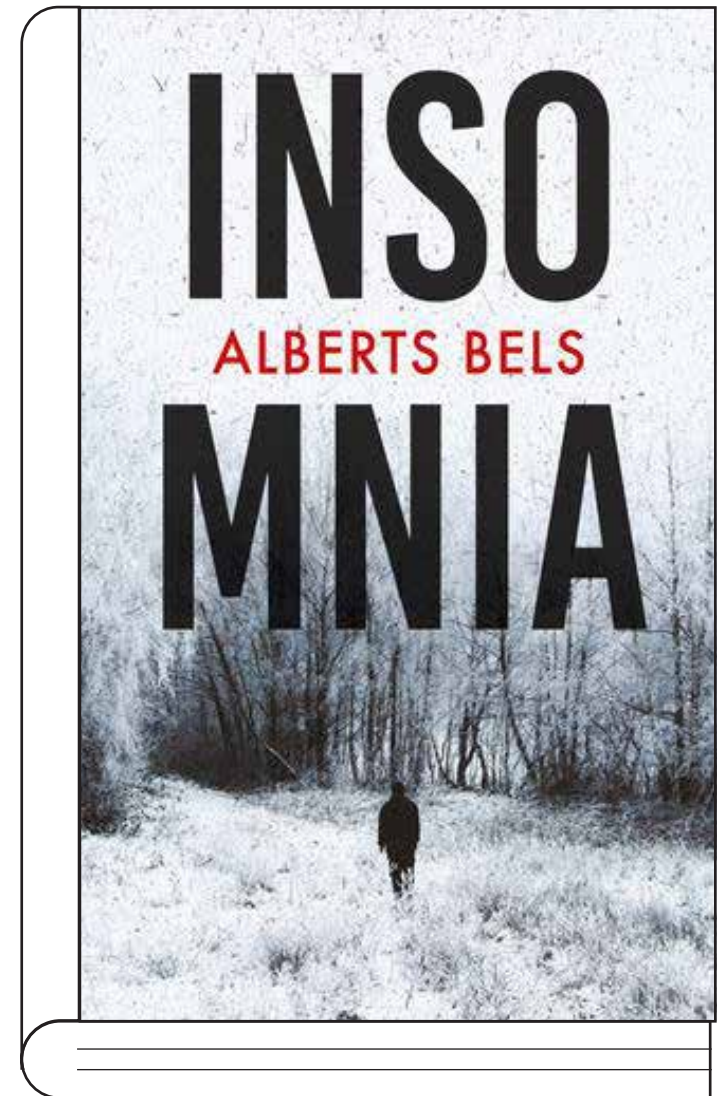
Alberts Bels' famous novel **Insomnia** has become a classic of Cold War writing and continues to exert a major influence over Latvian literature. His poetical political criticism (the book was forbidden from being published for decades) about curtailed personal freedoms, where the walls of isolation can mean the protection of our own freedom and maintaining our personal independence, but also something that can ruin our lives forever.

The story is filtered through the thoughts, emotions and fantasies of the main character, who is suffering from insomnia and detachment from everyday life, content to observe the people living in his building and the wider world around him from the tired luxury of his apartment and daily routines.

Published by Parthian Books, 2020



Alberts Bels



4.

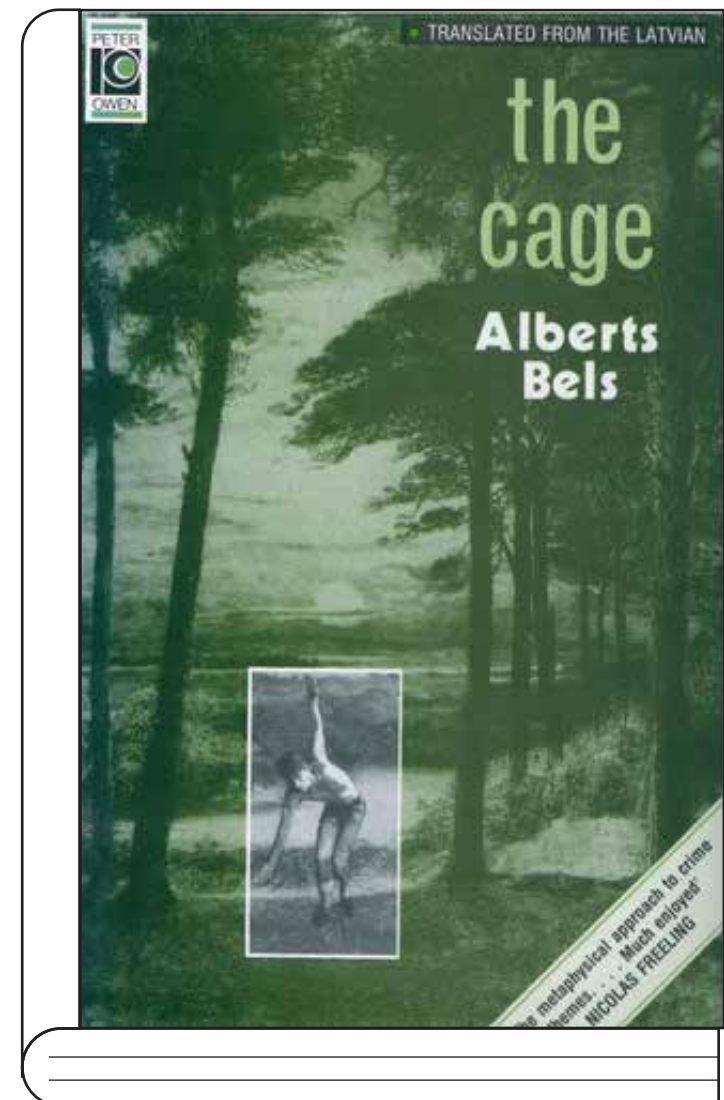
Another gem from **Alberts Bels** - his novel **The Cage** an extraordinary story of mystery and suspense. Set in Communist Latvia, the cage of the novel is a real one in which the protagonist is imprisoned, and a metaphorical one in which Latvian society is imprisoned.

Architect Edmunds Bērzis, a married man and a successful architect, disappears without a trace. The ensuing story behind his disappearance is one of the most ingenious in modern Latvian fiction.

Published by Peter Owen Publishers, 1990



Alberts Bels



5.

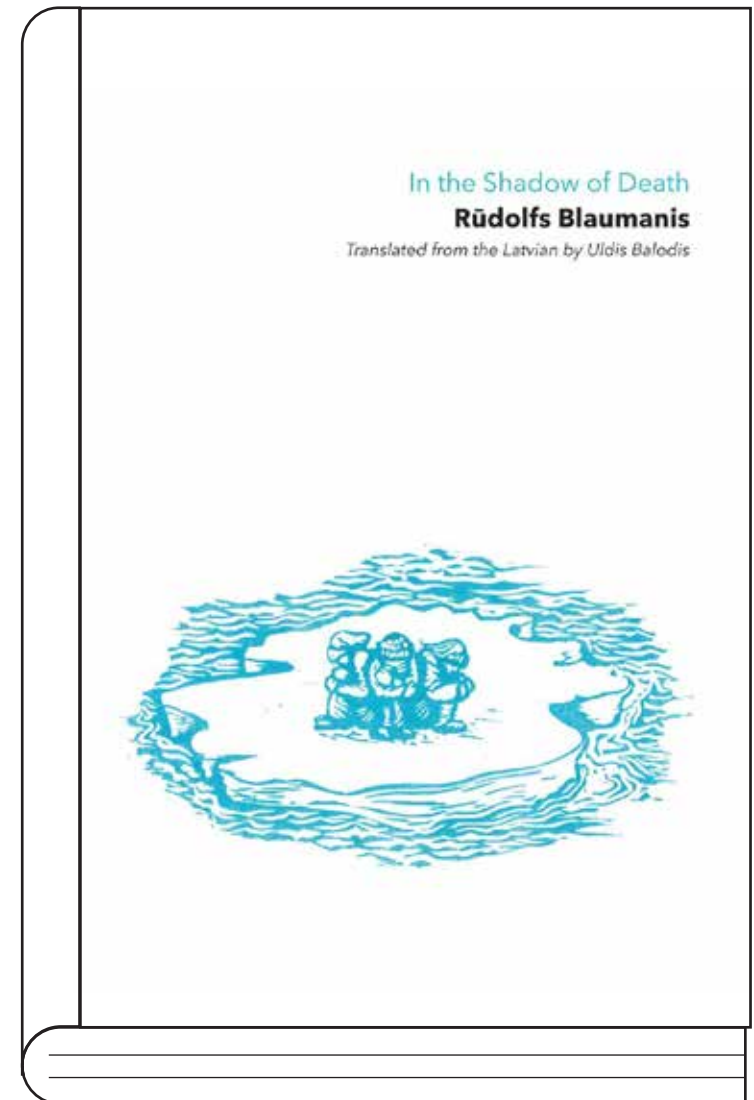
Rūdolf Blaumanis and his story **In the Shadow of Death** is regarded as a Latvian literary classic and an indispensable part of Latvian literature. Forced physical isolation on a floating ice sheet is definitely not a place one wants to find themselves, though such unpredictable moments strike us unexpectedly, and can force us to change our values.

Several fishermen lost at sea after the ice floe they are working on breaks off and quickly drifts away. One by one, the thirteen men and a boy must deal with the reality that they may not see the mainland or their loved ones ever again.

Published by PAPER & INK, 2018



Rūdolf Blaumanis



Recommends



Book lovers, if you are looking for a productive distraction, **this is it!**

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