

Turava M., PhD, associate professor
Sokhumi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia)

NEWS OF THE WAR THAT DIDN'T REACH TBILISI
(NANA AKOBIDZE'S "THREE WARS" (TRILOGY))

“War Has No Female Face” is the title of the first book by the Belarusian author, Nobel Prize laureate Svetlana Alexievich. The author spoke to hundreds of women who survived World War II and left us with vivid accounts of those who witnessed this tragedy. This is a fictional-documentary prose, a mixture of reality and fiction.

The reader is introduced to unadorned images, completely different from the male perspective, free from soviet pathos, of a war seen through a woman's eyes and experienced in the most unspoiled details, where there is everything – humility, dirt, but also true heroism and a victory won with blood and tears, which centuries cannot erase. The collected materials/premise of the book did not fit the clichés of soviet literature on the war, which is why the book, written in 1983, was published in 1985 in duplicate, and its full form has only appeared in recent editions. The Georgian translation of the book was published in 2017 by Intellect; the words quoted above are from the annotation of this edition. Alexievich's book made the cruelty seen through the eyes of a woman relevant, looked at the “butterfly” from a masculine perspective, and focused on previously unknown details and nuances.

This is exactly the kind of book Nana Akobidze's “Three Wars(s)” (trilogy), published in 2024. In the words of the book's editor, Irakli Shamatava, “Nana Akobidze is a war writer”. The war completely changed the journalist's life, it became part of her biography, which is why she writes about it so sincerely, so truly. That's why she becomes a reliable author, that's why I forgive her flaws, even compositional errors: the first and third parts of the trilogy are almost repeated, which would make any text fall off the page. If published in two parts, the book would have benefited much more, both what

was said and the author's assessments would have been more accurately and skillfully recorded.

The trilogy shows very clearly how Georgia failed to comprehend this war, how society was united by fashionable Dubai tours, trips abroad, and continued to live as usual, while there, in Sukhumi, in reality, not only the fate of the war, but also the future of Georgia was being decided. "News of the Abkhazian war almost never reached Tbilisi. Periodically, the names and surnames of those who died in the war were announced on TV: "They died for the territorial integrity of the country." Only this short news connected them with the war!

"War is already an adventure," – an English reporter tells the book's hero, who, of course, is the author's double. In the texts of the documentary genre, the issue of the identity of the character and the author is easily resolved. It is in search of adventure that a student girl goes to war, fights boredom, confronts everyday life. The very first night spent in the Tskhum Hotel radically changes his life and personal experience. He also shares his first love experiences in the war, feverish, tired, and confused, and he does not clearly remember how the main adventure of his life will turn out. Remembering this adventure, detailing it, and searching for the strange, "black Rayban" boy are all his subsequent concerns. The story of this boy is also heartbreaking; blinded by the war, he ultimately becomes a failed, defeated hero, a typical representative of the "lost generation".

For both, the girl and the boy, that one night spent in Sukhumi is the saving, bright ray of life. The unlucky, unrequited love of the "little, blue-eyed, blond" journalist and the soldier they met on the plane, and the constant anxiety – "Will he find me, will he find me?" ("Where did he look for me? Where did he find me only by name? I didn't know my last name, nor the battalion;" "I believed that it was fate that this meeting of ours would happen and that it would definitely continue") is what makes Nana Akobidze's "Three Wars" a special text. The war turns a love that began romantically into a tragic,

fateful story.

The author/character has been alienated from the context in which he lives his entire life, and after the outbreak of the visible, physical war, his inner resistance becomes even more intense, which has become a distinguishing mark of those who have experienced the war, a spiritual scar, perhaps even a stigma that no one has been able to escape.

Nana Akobidze writes about the stories she herself has experienced with an inner feeling, it is unthinkable to write about the war in any other way.

REFERENCES

1. Akobidze, N. *Sami Omi(ts)*/ Three Wars. Tbilisi. Publishing House: Intelekti. (2014).
2. Qalebi Tsarsulidan. *Mediis Ganvitarebis Fondi*/ Women from the Past. Media Development Fund (2013).
<https://www.mdfgeorgia.ge/uploads/library/7/file/Kalebi.pdf>.