

## YOU DO UNDERSTAND

“Each of these short bursts (most are barely a page long) bubbles with a droll, dry humor handily captured by Soban’s dead-on, deadpan translation.”

*Publisher’s Weekly, July 26, 2010*

“Readers who actively participate in Blatnik’s imaginative process will be richly rewarded.”

*Library Journal, September, 2010*

## ON SKINSWAPS

“Blatnik is a genius in showing the interpersonal alienation and his new collection holds a merciless mirror to our world.”

*Wiener Zeitung, March 31, 2005*

“Sentence after sentence, Blatnik builds the situations that pose questions not only to his characters, but to his readers as well – dangerous, great literature.”

*Die Zeit, May 25, 2005*

“This debut collection [...] shows that after the opening of the former Eastern bloc, modern alienation travels faster than social and political change.”

*The New York Times, February 28, 1999*

“This collection is slender enough to be read in a single sitting, and good enough to be read several times. Let’s hope that Blatnik’s work finds an American audience large enough to keep the translations coming.”

*San Diego Union-Tribune, November 8, 1998*

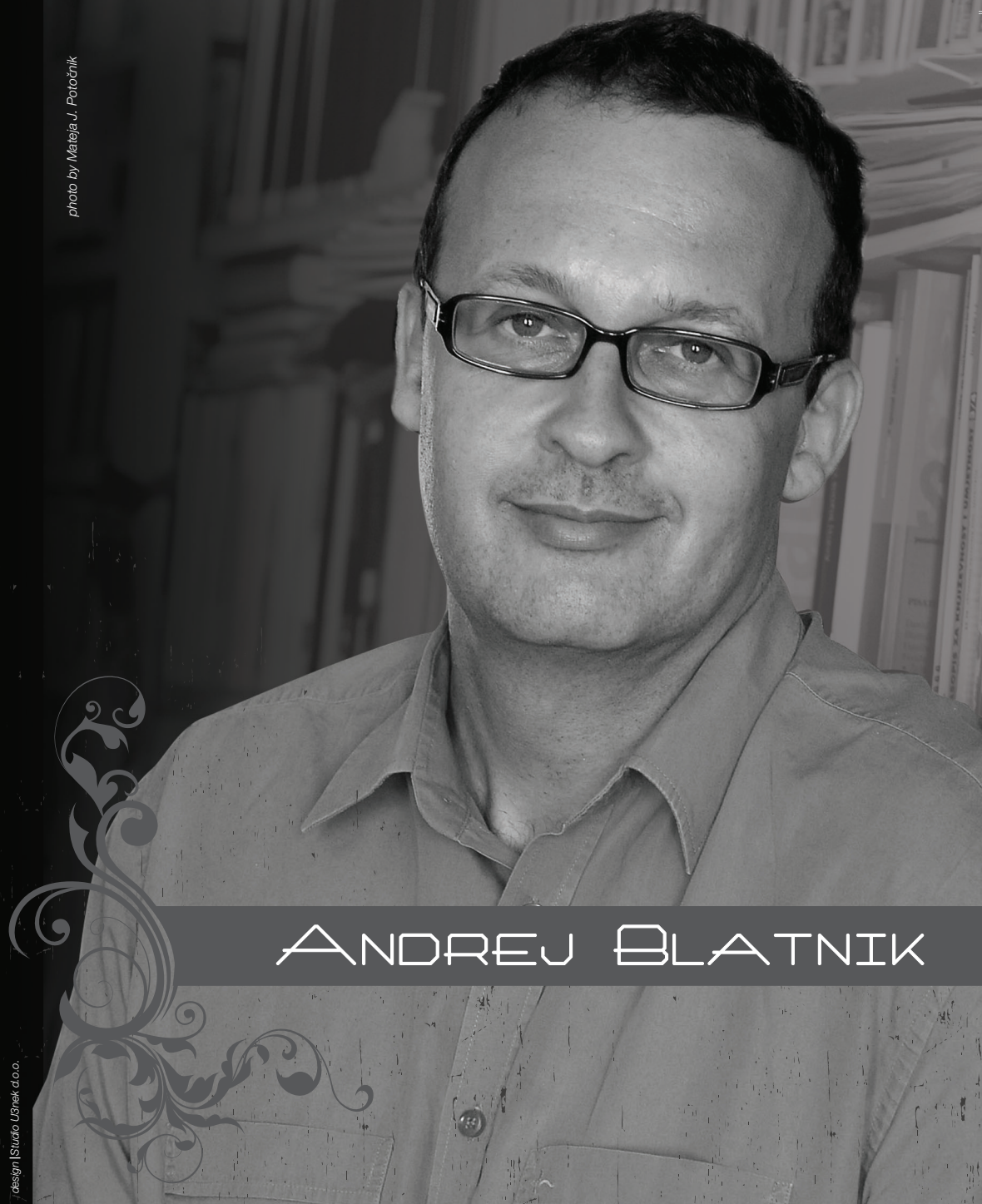
“Blatnik’s craftsmanship and modern flair direct our attention repeatedly to what is small, strange and essential in the world around us.”

*Publishers Weekly, October 12, 1998*

“Superlative short fiction from an exciting new writer.”

*Kirkus Review, November 15, 1998*

photo by Matej J. Potočnik



ANDREJ BLATNIK

Design Studio Usnek d.o.o.



## ANDREJ BLATNIK

(born in 1963) holds a PhD in communication studies. After having worked as an editor for 25 years, he now teaches creative writing and book studies at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has published twelve books: three novels, four books of literary criticism and five collections of short stories. Some have also been translated into English, German, Spanish, French, Czech, Slovakian, Hungarian, Macedonian, Turkish, and Croatian.

Although he also wrote three novels, Blatnik is particularly known across Europe as a short story writer. His collection *Skinswaps* (Northwestern University Press, 1998) was published in eight languages. *Spremeni me* (Change me, 2008) is the title of Blatnik's latest novel. His latest collection of short stories *Saj razumeš?* (*You Do Understand*, 2009) was also published in English by Dalkey Archive Press in 2010. He won some major Slovenian literary awards and appeared at readings and literary festivals worldwide. His work is included in *Best European Fiction 2010*, edited by Aleksandar Hemon. A list of his publications, along with some samples, is available at [www.andrejblatnik.com](http://www.andrejblatnik.com).

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## SOME BOOKS BY ANDREJ BLATNIK

Neonski pečat



Pisanje kratke zgodbe od prvopisa do natisa



Saj razumeš?

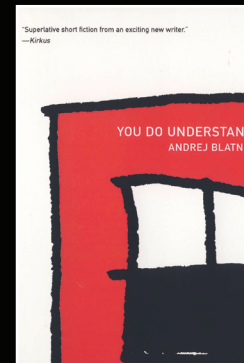


Spremeni me



## YOU DO UNDERSTAND

The book was translated by Tamara Soban



Partly parables, partly fairy tales, *You Do Understand* is a comedy of errors for a species of talkers who've never learned to listen. This collection of sharp, spare, occasionally absurd, cruel, touching, and yet always generous short-short fictions addresses the fundamental difficulty we have in making the people we love understand what we want and need. Demonstrating that language and intimacy are as much barriers between human beings as ways of connecting them, Andrej Blatnik provides us with a guided tour of the slips, misunderstandings, and blind alleys we each manage to fall foul of on a daily basis—no closer to understanding the motives of our families, friends, lovers, or co-workers than we are those of a complete stranger . . . or, indeed, our own.

## SELECTED TITLES BY ANDREJ BLATNIK

- **Menjave kož (short stories, Emonica, Ljubljana 1990)**  
In Spanish *Cambios de piel*, Libertarias/Prodhufi, Madrid 1997  
In English *Skinswaps*, Northwestern University Press, Chicago 1998  
In Croatian *Promjene koža*, Durieux, Zagreb 1998  
In Hungarian *Bőr*, Jak, Budapest 2002  
In Czech *Promeny kuzi*, Periplum, Olomouc 2002  
In German *Der Tag, an dem Tito starb*, Folio, Vienna 2005  
In Turkish *Deri Degisimi*, Pupa Yayinlari, Istanbul 2008
- **Labirinti iz papirja (essays on American literature, LUD Literatura 1994)**  
In Croatian *Papirnat labirinti*, Hena-Com, Zagreb 2001
- **Tao ljubezni (novel, LUD Literatura 1996)**  
In Croatian *Tao ljubavi*, Meandar, Zagreb 1998  
In Slovakian *Tao lasky*, F.R. & G., Bratislava 2000
- **Zakon želje (short stories, Študentska založba 2000)**  
In German *Das Gesetz der Leere*, Folio, Vienna 2001  
In Croatian *Zakon želje*, Meandar, Zagreb 2002  
In Czech *Zakon touhy*, Periplum, Olomouc 2004  
In French *La loi du desir*, AlterEdit, Paris 2005  
In Macedonian *Zakonot na želbata*, Magor, Skopje 2005  
In Turkish *Arzu Yasasi*, Pupa Yayinlari, Istanbul 2009  
In Spanish *La ley del deseo*, in preparation, Baile del sol, Tegueste 2010
- **Spremeni me (novel, Litera 2008)**  
In German *Ändere Mich*, Folio, Vienna 2009  
In Croatian *Promijeni me*, in preparation, Novi Liber, Zagreb 2010
- **Saj razumeš? (very short stories, LUD Literatura 2009)**  
In English *You Do Understand*, Dalkey Archive, Champaign and London 2010  
In Polish *Przecież rozumiesz?*, in preparation, Ukladanka, 2010