



## Death of a Prototype

### The Portrait

*By Victor Beilis, Translated by Leo Shtutin*

**Pub Date:** 15 April 2017

**Binding:** Paperback

**Price:** £10.99 / \$18.95

**ISBN:** 9781783086726

**Extent:** 240 pages

**Size:** 127 x 204 mm /

5 x 8 inches

**BISAC CATEGORY:** FICTION / General

**BISAC CODE:** FIC000000

**BIC CODE:** FA

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**Exclusive:** WORLD

**“Death of a Prototype” is a novel that simultaneously challenges and rewards the reader, especially one attuned to fine-grain detail.**

This is the first work by Victor Beilis to make it into English since the single-volume publication in 2002 of a duo of novellas—“The Rehabilitation of Freud & Bakhtin and Others”(translated by Richard Grose). Much like the novellas that preceded it, “Death of a Prototype” is a hyper-allusive and self-consciously difficult work. Beilis engages closely with an entire spectrum of Russian and European cultural traditions, from classical antiquity to twentieth-century postmodernism. Structurally heterogeneous and fragmented with styles, genres and narrators succeeding one another at great speed, “Death of a Prototype” is also highly balanced and controlled, in some ways recalling a contrapuntal musical composition abounding in thematic echoes and correspondences. “Death of a Prototype” simultaneously challenges and rewards the reader, especially one attuned to fine-grain detail.

#### Readership

- Readers interested in Russian literature and culture
- Aficionados of literature in translation
- Students of postmodernism

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Victor Beilis is a scholar of African folklore and author of numerous short stories and one novel.

Leo Shtutin is a translator of literary fiction from Russian.

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