

Snowdrops by A. D Miller.
Atlantic Books by A.D. Miller.

In the slang of the Moscow streets a 'snowdrop' is a body buried in the winter snows that is revealed in the spring thaw. It is a charged term, redolent with danger, and an apt title for a deeply atmospheric novel that grabs the reader by the wrist and refuses to let go until the final page.

The narrator of the novel is an English expat, a lawyer, working in Moscow on a huge deal between a consortium of western banks and a Russian company. He meets a range of individuals, from the menacing to the mad, the lonely to the lubricious. He moves in a world where nothing is quite as it seems and threat lies just below the surface of everything.

At the end of the book the reader is left with a strong sense of the nihilism of Russian life, and a slight sense of fear of what the 'new' Russia might inflict on the world if it ever felt inclined to flex its old imperial muscles.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh