

The Introvert Times

THE LATVIAN LITERATURE PLATFORM

The "Latvian Literature" platform was established to promote Latvian written word in the world. We are always happy to provide you with a diverse array of information on Latvian authors and their books, our publishing industry and innovations within.

Working alongside the writers, literary agents, translators and foreign publishers, we never thought we would also turn into self-made design curators and curators of not just literary introverts, but introverts worldwide. Who would thought that literature can conquer also the world of design and who would thought that #iamintrovert would go all the way to London (again) to continue telling our story.

The "Latvian Literature" platform is financed by the Ministry of Culture of Latvia.

THE LIFE OF I*

The world is a perfect place for extroverted people. But we are different. Latvia is one of the most introverted countries in the world, and we take pride in that. Our writers fit in accordingly, so we will let their works speak for themselves. Literature is the perfect place for introverts.

I* - Introverted Latvian Writer.



#IAMINTROVERT

CONFESSION TO AN IN³* WRITER

“Confession to an In³ writer” is a performative living monument to the literature of Latvia today.

Latvia is a nation of introverted writers. It is not clear whether Latvians like to write because they are introverts or they have become introverts because of writing so much. As one of the London Book Fair’s Market Focus countries in 2018, Latvia celebrated this introversion with the #iamintrovert campaign designed for the event.

The main characters of the campaign were two fictional Latvian writers “I.” and “I.”

The response to the campaign was so great that I. and I. simply had to visit the London Design Biennale to meet the public in person for the first time. This, of course, is not a traditional meet-and-greet. It is both very

intimate and distant. When meeting one of the I.s, you’ll get a chance to share a secret. It can be anything — greatest fears and hopes or simple, silly and mundane things.

The introverted writers sitting in their creative cell will turn your secret into a short literary piece or provide some other response. Let’s see how it resonates. You’ll receive answer through a drawer. This experience might encourage you to tell your secret to the whole world. Or at least to someone who needs to hear it.

The I. and I. creative cell is a new interpretation of an existing historical object of Latvia’s cultural heritage — Dainu Skapis (Cabinet of Folk Songs). It is a rather introverted object which holds valuable information about Latvians and the importance of poetry in the everyday life of Latvian

people over the centuries. The new cabinet hides various treasures of Latvian contemporary literature.

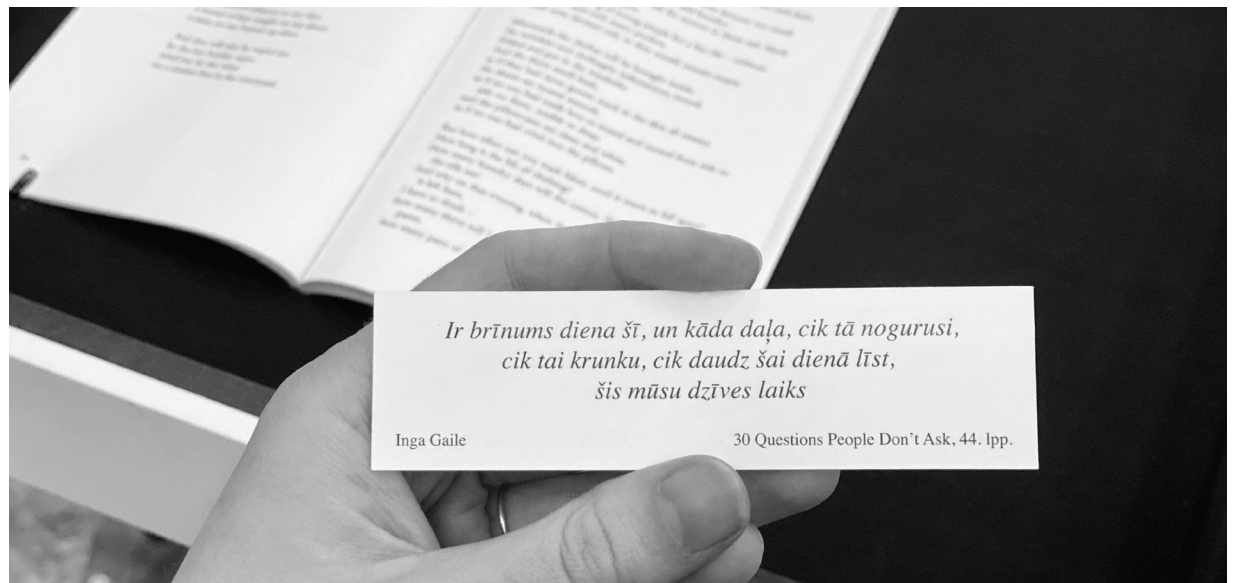
Share your secret with Latvian introverted writers and let’s see how it resonates!

* Introvert In Interior

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Curator: Latvian Literature Platform

Supporters: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia



*Ir brīnums diena šī, un kāda daļa, cik tā nogurusi,
cik tai krunku, cik daudz šai dienā līst,
šīs mūsu dzīves laiks*

Inga Gaile

30 Questions People Don't Ask, 44. lpp.

THE LEGEND

The world is a perfect place for extroverts. For the kind of people who know how to start a relaxed conversation with a stranger, perform in front of an audience, say something flattering about them, or hug someone for no reason at all. But we are different. Latvians can feel deeply confused when kissed on both cheeks. Or when suddenly talked to on a public bus or tram. If someone compliments a Latvian, he will turn red-white-red. Latvia is one of the world’s most introverted nations. And so are our writers, of course. And we are proud of that. We allow our books to speak for us, since literature is the perfect world for introverts.



The Cabinet of Folksongs (Dainu) holds 268,815 hand-written slips of paper of Latvian Folk Songs – the result of a lifetime of dedicated work by our father of folk songs Kristjānis Barons. This cabinet only has 12 notes, nonetheless, each of them holds a secret about a wonderful and introverted contemporary Latvian author. Check the drawers and see for yourself!

THREE QUESTIONS FOR THE “IN3” CREATORS:



UNA ROZENBAUMA
director

Describe the design object you created in three words!
Obelisk. Secret. Answer.

Are Latvian film directors as introverted as Latvian writers?
It depends on the stage of creation they are in. When developing characters, writing screenplays, editing, colouring or working on the score, it is possible to be introverted. While on set, however, it isn't an option. You have to be able to lure, charm, and blackmail the entire crew into your world to produce a cohesive result.

Would you be willing to reveal your secrets to a writer?
I certainly would. Secrets are safe with writers because they are introverted, and introverts usually have to be specially trained to gossip even just a little bit.



KRISTA AND REINIS
DZUDZILO
artists

Describe the design object you created in three words!
Introvert In Interior.

Are Latvian film directors as introverted as Latvian writers?
You could say so. Just like Latvian writers, they live under Northern European skies.

Would you be willing to reveal your secrets to a writer?
We already did...

CROSSWORD

NORA IKSTENA

Soviet Milk

- There was a vase of Michaelmas daisies on the table, which had been laid for a meal. (1.) was waiting for my return.
- 'Who am I?' I asked my (2.). 'A split personality,' she replied.
- My passion had turned into a (3.) routine, a dead end.

KĀRLIS VĒRDIŅŠ

Come to me

- I learn not to (4.) at moments when it's not necessary.
- Don't tell anyone, I am your (5.), David shaped by Michelangelo; if my hands were kissed tonight, their knuckle porcelain would tinkle.
- You shaped me, caressing me awkwardly. So here I (6.), large and strange, pale and bumpy before your eyes. Tell me – do you still like me?

JĀNIS JONEVS

- Stuff always happens to everyone (7.).
- I don't want all your good parts of life, you can't make me eat lingonberry (8.)! The battle was on.
- The feeling only intensified until it became visceral – (9.) flooded down on the city. No, not flooded, but trickled down like a misty rain that soaks you to the bone.
- When there's an (10.), even a butterfly moves its wings

ARVIS VIGULS

They

- We know that (11.) cages were devised to imprison them, but we are certain that our cages protect us.

- No, today I won't (12.) anything. Today it's payback time.
- Because real love is blind, dear; real (13.) wears rose-coloured glasses.

MĀRA ZĀLĪTE

Five fingers

- Everything doesn't have to be seen with one's own (14.) in order to be known. Everything doesn't have to be experienced oneself to be felt.

You'll have to learn to (15.) earth from fire and air from water, and the fine from the coarse, and the beautiful from what is repulsive. With great care.

ANETE MELECE

The Kiosk

- The woman with her (16.) in a bun likes fishing, cats and politics.
- Tourists can never find their own way to the modern art (17.).
- Some (18.) don't buy anything, they just want to talk.

INESE ZANDERE

Three Friends on the Coast of the Same River

- So maybe we should not get (19.) at all?
- Hee hee hee, we will all live on (20.) floors!

ALBERTS BELS

Insomnia

- I did everything. As you (21.). Ok. That's unfortunate. That's unfortunate. Thank you. Goodbye.
Love is a (22.) primer; we turn page

after page, learning to recognize new letter upon new letter.

- A vicious circle, and then start everything (23.) again from the beginning?
- It was a mystery to me, (24.) I still didn't know anything.

RŪTA BRIEDE

- I was (25.) through a sea of tears.
- Soon we were all jumping (26.) in a sorrowful dance of joy, scattering wisps of smoke all about us.

SERGEJS TIMOFEJEVS

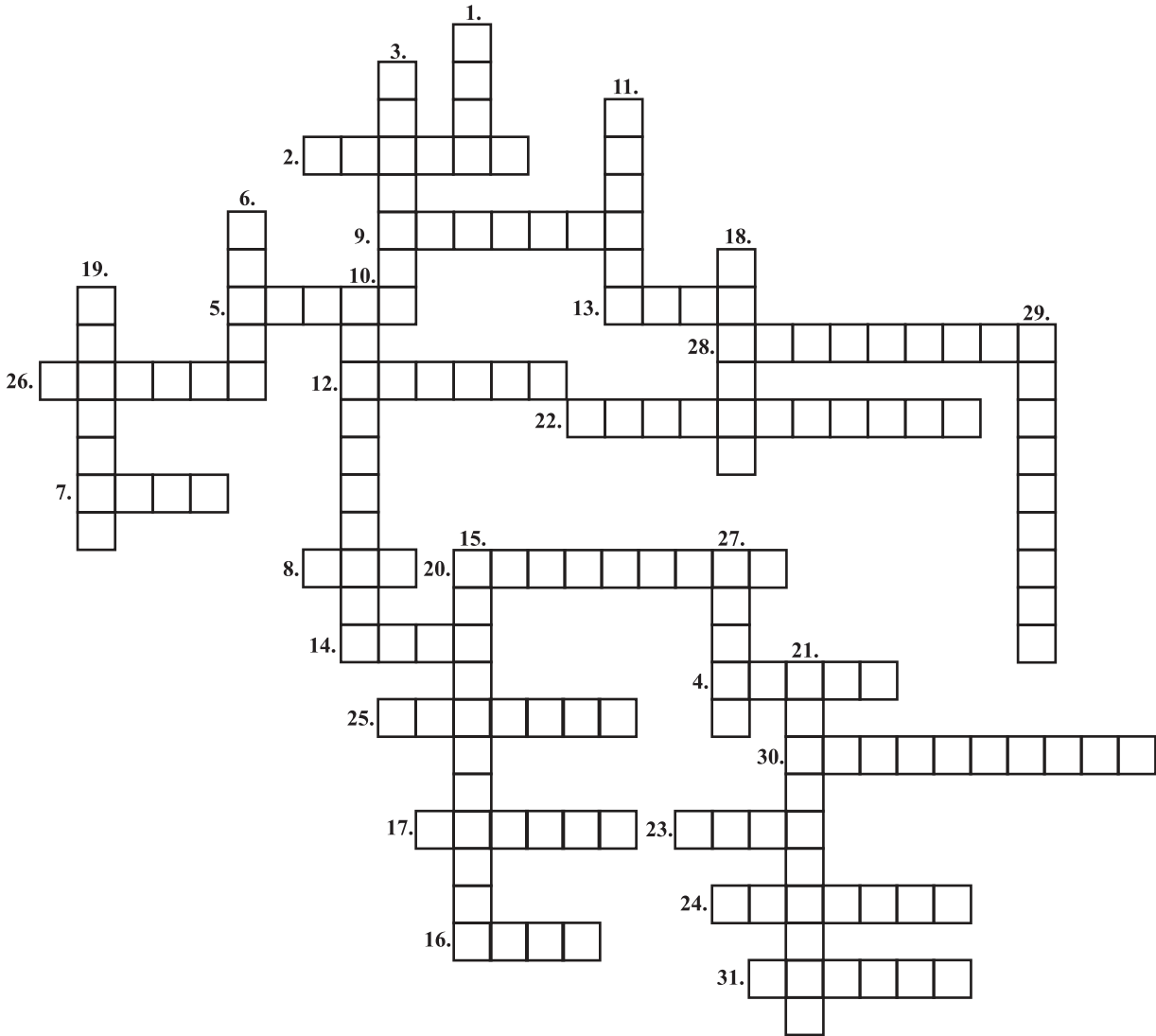
The Orbita Project

- Write me a novel
That will tell of another (27.)
All the same I'll read neither one nor the other – I'll depart for Manchuria and perish for nothing.
- At the present moment all (28.) are busy.
Does this mean that at the next – they'll be free and happy? prosperous and successful? Independent and tranquil?

ZIGMUNDS SKUJINŠ

Nakedness

- Bad moods can also happen. Best not to take everything so (29.) right away. But matters of love are important, especially when you're young.
- I think that (30.) don't mean anything. I believe in luck. A hundred lottery tickets might be losers, but just one and only one a winner.
- What happens in life is (31.) anyone's imagination.



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HOW GOOD ARE THE DIFFERENT ZODIAC SIGNS AT KEEPING SECRETS?

The introverted Latvian writers I. and I. would never reveal the secrets entrusted to them at the “In3” exhibition. They simply listen and provide answers – consoling, exciting or as mysterious as the secrets themselves. Let’s take a look at all the different relationships zodiac signs have with secrets!

♈ ARIES

Aries won’t be very happy if they find out you’ve already told your secret to someone else. There’s no point in begging Aries not to tell anyone your secret, since they will of course be the one who decides if it should really be considered a secret in the first place. If you happen to realise that Aries has let your secret out, don’t worry – your misery won’t last too long. Aries will soon find a way to convince you that they’ve done you a favour by revealing your secret.

♉ TAURUS

Taurus is excellent at keeping secrets, because most of the time they are just too lazy to pass the information on. By the time they’ve resolved to reveal a secret, it is usually no longer a secret. “Did you know that I. and I. are a couple?” Taurus might ask at a party, only to learn that “They’ve been married for two years already!”

♊ GEMINI

Did you confide in a Gemini? You’ve got only yourself to blame. Geminis enjoy gossip, so secrets are under constant threat with them. It often happens by accident – they let

something slip and only later realise that it was someone’s secret. But you shouldn’t be too hard on Geminis – life isn’t easy for tattletales either. Gossip doesn’t come cheap, and sometimes a big secret is the price you pay.

♋ CANCER

If you ask Cancer not to tell anyone your secret, they might take great offence. How could you even think that Cancer would be capable of something as low as sharing someone else’s secret? Unfortunately, they won’t let you see that their feelings have been hurt. Maybe 20 years later you will finally dare to ask: “Hey, Cancer, why did we grow apart back then?”, and they will wipe away their tears of resentment and respond: “I have never given away a secret in my life! Never!”

♌ LEO

Leo will nobly keep any secret they are entrusted with. They will, however, require constant praise for being such an amazing confidant. “So selfless – a true friend! It’s so rare to meet a great listener who is also capable of keeping it to themselves. Many try to keep it under wraps, but Leo makes it look so easy and

effortless that it seems they were born to keep secrets. Leo is a king among confidants,” is the type of praise Leo would expect to hear from you.

♍ VIRGO

Misunderstandings are always a possibility when it comes to Virgos, since they don’t always understand when a secret is a secret. So if you do happen to share confidential information with a Virgo, it is best to provide them with precise instructions for how to keep said information concealed. If you tell them from whom, for how long and why the secret must be kept, they will comply with an utmost sense of duty. They will take as much care of your secret as they do with their own appearance and attention to detail in interior design.

♎ LIBRA

Libra is always looking for a way to both tell and keep the secret at the same time. Libra will make sure the gossiping is done correctly and with precision if they witness someone else telling your secret. The most reliable way of getting information out of a Libra is to threaten them with physical work. To avoid chores or gardening, Libra would be willing to give away a state secret.

♏ SCORPIO

Scorpios like to get to the bottom of it, so it is vital they know exactly why your secret is a secret. Why can’t this information be passed on? Would it be the end of the world if the secret somehow got out? They must never learn that someone else besides them is in on it, or the jealousy will drive them mad.

♐ SAGITTARIUS

Your secret is pretty much safe with Sagittarius. There are, however, a couple of things to be aware of. First of all, Sagittarius will analyse all the information in detail and not shy away from telling you what the best and most correct course of action would have been. And, being a highly sensual sign, they might selfishly use your secret to pursue a romantic goal of theirs.

♑ CAPRICORN

Capricorns love being thorough, so if they decide to disclose your secret to someone they will share it all, with no tiny detail left out. They are relentless and, if necessary, will drag the information out of you even if you weren’t planning on telling anyone. Although Capricorns will often have a friendly appearance,

they are actually loners with plenty of skeletons in the closet.

♒ AQUARIUS

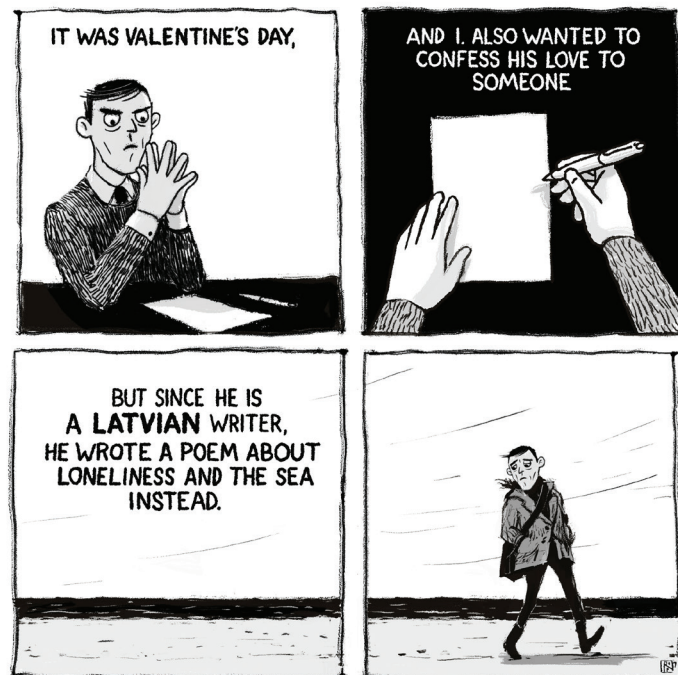
Aquarius will have a heart-to-heart with anyone who will listen and convince you that what they’re telling you isn’t really a secret at all, and vice versa – they can make something you never thought was a secret sound very much like it is. Aquarius will not always succeed at respecting boundaries – for instance, they might feel it is entirely appropriate to ask directly and openly: “What is the biggest secret of your life?”

♓ PISCES

Pisces will gain your trust almost immediately, so they often accumulate secrets of different genres and levels of confidentiality. If you feel like you are their best friend, you probably are right, but be aware that this position might be filled by someone else tomorrow. Pisces will try to avoid leaking secrets mostly out of fear of the conflict and confrontation that might follow. It might be useful to threaten them in advance, so they know you will cry and scream if they break your trust.

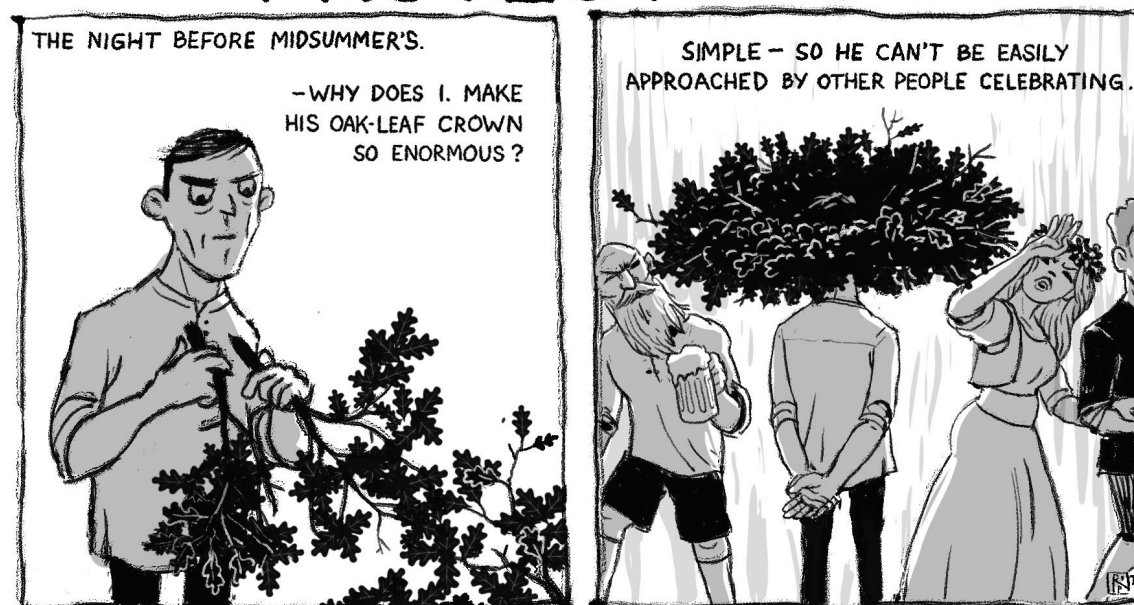
THE LIFE OF I.*

LOVE LETTER



THE LIFE OF I.*

PROTECTION



*AN INTROVERTED LATVIAN WRITER