

## Jacek Dukaj

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THE MOST OUTSTANDING WRITER OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION IN POLAND  
WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO STANISŁAW LEM

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Jacek Dukaj (born 1974) is one of Poland's most interesting contemporary prose writers, whose books are always eagerly anticipated events. He is the author of *Black Oceans*, *Extensa*, *Other Songs*, *Perfect Imperfection*, *Xavras Wyzryn and Other National Fictions* and *Ice*, and the brains behind the *PL + 50. Future Histories* anthology. After the huge success of his novel *Ice*, which won the European Literary Award, the prestigious Kościelscy Award and was nominated for the Nike (the most prestigious literary award in Poland), Jacek Dukaj published widely acclaimed grim fairy tale *The Crowe*.

### MOST IMPORTANT PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

Jerzy Żuławski Literary Award for *The Crowe* (2010)  
Mackiewicz Literary Award for *The Crowe* (2010)  
PPNW Prize: Autumn Book 2009 for *The Crowe* (2010)  
European Literary Award for *Ice* (2009)  
Kościelscy Award for *Ice* (2008)  
„Polityka” Prize: Book of the Last Two Decades for *Ice* (2008)  
Kościelscy Award for *Ice* (2008)  
Prize in the Wirtualna Polska (website) public vote: Polish Novel of the Year 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
Śląkfa Prize: Author of the Year 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish novel of the Year 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
PPNW Prize: Autumn Book 2007 for *Ice* (2008)  
Zajdel Prize: Novel of the Year 2004 for *Perfect Imperfection* (2005)  
PPNW Prize: Autumn Book 2003 for *Other Songs* (2004)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish Novel of the Year 2003 for *Other Songs* (2004)  
Zajdel Prize: Novel of the Year 2003 for *Other Songs* (2004)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish Novel of the Year 2001 for *Black Oceans* (2002)  
Zajdel Prize: Novel of the Year 2001 for *Black Oceans* (2002)  
Fantom Prize for *In the Land of the Faithless* (2001)  
Sfinks Prize: Book of the Year 2000 for *In the Land of the Faithless* (2001)  
Śląkfa Prize: Author of the Year 2000 (2001)  
Zajdel Prize: Story of the Year 2000 for *Cathedral* (2001)  
Srebrny Glob (Silver Globe) Prize: Story of the Year 1998 for *Heart of Darkness* (1999)  
Sfinks Prize: Polish Story of the Year 1998 for *Heart of Darkness* (1999)

### BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR OFFERED BY WL

#### Novels

*Extensa* (2002)  
*Other Songs* (2003)  
*Perfect Imperfection* (2004)  
*Ice* (2007)  
*The Plunderer's Daughter* (2002, reprint 2009)  
*Black Oceans* (2001, reprint 2008)  
*The Crowe* (2009)

**Short story collections**

*Xavras Wyzryn and Other National Fictions* (2004, reprint 2009)

*In the Land of Unbelievers* (2000, reprint 2008)

*King of Pain* (2010)

## Jacek Dukaj

# King of Pain



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Publication date: 2010

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Pages: 826

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Genre: Short story collection  
(science fiction)

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Rights available: World

### Keynote

The latest book by Poland's reigning king of philosophical science-fiction.

### Description

How close can you get to another person? Into his head? Into his thoughts? Can you learn his emotions? Never. The body is just a detail; whether it's this or that one hardly makes a difference. But shame of one's body, the barrier of nakedness — whether physical or psychological, the barrier of embarrassment, the fear of revealing oneself, of letting down the mask — separates a conventional situation from an intimate one. The pain that we sometimes call shame, sometimes betrayal, sometimes humiliation, this pain is not a prison to be broken out of at all costs — it is the first condition of intimacy.

Jacek Dukaj's new volume of short stories is very diverse, and one that shows the finest qualities of the author's work — a wealth of fictional inventiveness, creative flair, and astonishingly innovative form. This is a real occasion for lovers of his work, as well as for those who are only setting off on their adventure with his books. *King of Pain* is sure to be a compelling read.

### Target market

Fans of top-shelf science-fiction, and lovers of intricately constructed literature who normally stay far away from the science-fiction shelves.