



Ashes to Ashes

EARS TO HEAR, EYES TO SEE

Tombstone Stories

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Exodus

I was born and have lived my entire life in Moscow. I have worked in publishing, including in the publishing house of the Russian Orthodox Church, and as a web developer.

It was four years ago, on a visit to (then-Ukrainian) Crimea, that I became seriously interested in photography. After reviewing my first collection—over 1,000 photos—I destroyed it without hesitation. Now I take street photos, character shots, portraits, and still lifes. At first I disliked black and white photography, but later I fell in love with it.

The absence of color makes it possible to excise everything that is extraneous to the essence of the shot.

“Tombstone Stories” is one of my earliest series. It was conceived as an experiment. I thought of the Gothic beauty of Moscow’s Vvedenskoye (German) cemetery, where many Christian ascetics were buried, and how it would be interesting to show the “postmortem” without death itself. In search for interesting shots, I visited four or five cemeteries, and ended up not including the Vvedenskoye itself.

These days, four years later, with more experience and wisdom, I would have probably realized this idea differently, with different meanings. But “Tombstone Stories” remains a valuable experience for me as a photographer and as a Christian pondering death. ✱



Where is My Soul?



Burdens



Smile of Death



Angels of Death

