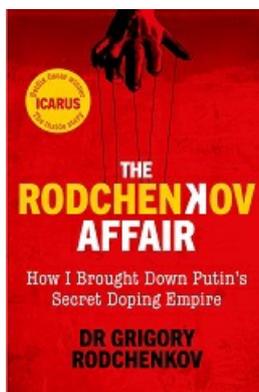




Russian doping mastermind wins William Hill Sportsbook of the Year

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Dr Grigory Rodchenkov, now in hiding, blew the whistle on Russia's state-sponsored doping programme and wins prize for his tell-all book - The Rodchenkov Affair: How I Brought Down Putin's Secret Doping Empire



The brains behind Russia's state-sponsored doping programme, Dr Grigory Rodchenkov, has been crowned the winner of this year's William Hill Sports Book of the Year for his tell-all book - *The Rodchenkov Affair: How I Brought Down Putin's Secret Doping Empire* (WH Allen).

Currently holed up in a safe-house somewhere in the States, Rodchenkov has received widespread acclaim for his detailed account of how he came to blow the whistle on what has been described by the World Anti-Doping Agency as the biggest sporting scandal in world history. Dr Rodchenkov was featured in the 2017 Netflix documentary *Icarus*, which won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. He was unavailable for comment on his William Hill win.

Alyson Rudd, chair of the Judging Panel, said: "That this year produced a particularly strong shortlist was born out by the intense and passionate debate among the judging panel. *The Rodchenkov Affair* was praised for its searing honesty and bravery as Grigory Rodchenkov explains in gripping detail how he helped ensure Russian athletes who cheated through doping, escape detection. He is a whistleblower like few others, and he remains a 'ghost' living in America, separated from his family, the price he pays for wanting 'to be on the side of truth'."

Rodchenkov will receive the £30,000 winner's cheque and a leather-bound copy of his book for becoming the 32nd winner of the award.

Drummond Moir, deputy publisher at Ebury and editor of *The Rodchenkov Affair*, said: "We're thrilled that this unique book has received such a prestigious award. Grigory Rodchenkov's memoir offers readers the full, unadulterated story that was first glimpsed in Bryan Fogel's award-winning documentary *Icarus*, in Grigory's own voice and words.

"He's created a breathtakingly candid memoir, one that takes the reader on a journey through a rigged system of flawed individuals, brazen deceit and impossible moral choices, where what begins as a sporting controversy escalates into a geopolitical earthquake. It feels fitting that *The Rodchenkov Affair* – forged in



clandestine circumstances, by an author in total seclusion, published during a year of lockdowns – is now finally getting the attention it deserves."

According to prize organisers: '*The Rodchenkov Affair: How I Brought Down Putin's Secret Doping Empire*, tells the story of what led to the startling conspiracy, charting Rodchenkov's childhood growing up under the Iron Curtain, his early experiences of doping as a young athlete in Moscow and his later career working for the Soviet Olympic Committee as head of the national anti-doping lab. The candid tale offers insight into the high stakes environment working for the Kremlin, the internal conflicts, sophisticated and brazen cheating and ultimate sacrifices made by Rodchenkov throughout his life.

'Rodchenkov fled his home in 2015 when the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) suspended Russia under accusations of state-sponsored doping during the 2012 London Olympics and 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. His involvement in the conspiracy came to light in Bryan Fogel's Oscar-award-winning documentary *Icarus* and his revelations have helped lead to the disqualification of over 40 Russian athletes. He has since been living under witness protection.'

Pictured on home page: Dr Grigory Rodchenkov

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