

### DAVID FOSTER WALLACE: INFINITE JEST

“Everybody is identical in their secret unspoken belief that way deep down they are different from everyone else”. *David Foster Wallace*

There are people deeply different from everyone else, and in some cases they are genius. David Foster Wallace, the author of the novel “Infinite Jest” was certainly one of them.

This American writer and university professor in the disciplines of English and creative writing promised to be one of the most successful writers of the 20th century. His first novel “The Broom of the System” was immediately bought, and not by any, but by the New York publishing house Viking Press. Literary success came to him when he was 25.

In 1996 the second novel “Infinite Jest” was published and it was a sensation. The reaction of readers was expressive – crowds of people came to public readings.

It took a lot of time and many efforts to make possible publishing the novel in Russian. No one was able to undertake its translation for 22 years. Alexey Polyarinov, a journalist, and Sergey Karpov, a hydraulic engineer, were working on the translation in their spare time and at weekends from 2014 to 2017. Having translated 100 pages, they posted it online. And just the next day, the editor of Astrel-SPb, Nikolay Kudryavtsev, offered: “They say, you have 10%, let’s do the rest”. It had already been translated into German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Hungarian when in 2018 at last appeared in Russian.

The main thing to know when opening this novel is that the author is not going to entertain you. The phrase “infinite jest” here is a kind of oxymoron. Under the cover, among other things, you will find a story that any fun is finite. This book is about the destructive power of our desire for pleasure. One of the most important phrases in the novel sounds like this: “You are what you love. No? You are, completely and only, what you would die for without, as you say, the thinking twice”. So, let’s be careful about our desires. After all, anything which does not require the effort is not worth the effort.

In April 2010, David Lipsky, a novelist and journalist published his book “Although of Course You End Up Becoming Yourself” about a five-day road trip with the writer David Foster Wallace. The book’s title comes from Wallace's statement felt like advice from David to the reader: you will have to deal, at a certain point, with who you do become.