

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Researchers, writers, politicians, athletes, activists, businesswomen, singers, defenders of human rights. Here are 50 women who are turning Poland around

TEXT Zuzanna Leniarska, Aleksandra Więcka

KATARZYNA BONDA

Author of the best-selling crime fiction series about criminal profiler Sasza Załuska (a forensic psychologist who builds profiles of criminals based on circumstantial evidence). Bonda first gained popularity with her previous trilogy starring profiler Hubert Meyer, but it was with the *Four Elements of Sasza Załuska* that she broke all sales records. Bonda's novels enjoy a popularity comparable to that of the *Harry Potter* series.

For the premiere of *Lampiony* [Lanterns], the third of four planned parts, Empik – the largest chain of bookstores in Poland – opened a pop-up store dedicated to selling only this one title.

While research conducted by the Polish National Library points to a declining readership, Katarzyna Bonda's crime novels sell like hot cakes – she's already sold a million copies in Poland, and rights to her novels have been purchased by no fewer than nine foreign publishers, including the English giant Random House. Thanks to Bonda, Polish noir may yet pose a threat to Scandinavian crime fiction. Bonda has also established a school, *Maszyna do Pisania* ("The Writing Machine"), one of the first to offer creative writing courses in Poland.

