

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Preface and Note on the text</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
1 Andrei Bitov’s ecological prose	i
Introduction	i
The ecology	9
Steps toward the ecology	13
2 <i>The Big Balloon</i> : terrestrial and celestial spheres	18
“One Country”	18
The stories	33
“Grandmother’s Uzbek Cup”	33
“A Nothing”	36
“The Sun”	37
“A Foreign Language”	42
“My Wife Is Not At Home”	43
“A Terrible Force”	44
“The Door”	45
“The Jubilee”	47
“The Big Balloon”	49
Conclusion	53
3 <i>Such a Long Childhood</i> : growing pains	55
4 <i>Dacha District</i> : automatic-pilot living and creative living	63
“Journey to a Childhood Friend”	63
“The Garden”	70
“Life in Windy Weather”	76
Conclusion	92

x	<i>Contents</i>	
5	<i>Apothecary Island</i> : “I-lands” of existence	93
	“Apothecary Island”	93
	“The Idler”	95
	“Penelope”	100
	“Infantiev”	102
6	<i>Image of Life</i> : life and images of life	110
	“The Wheel”	110
	“Armenia Lessons”	119
	Conclusion	138
7	<i>Seven Journeys</i> : journeys to the other and journeys to the self	140
	Introduction	140
	“The Gamble”	140
	“Choice of Location”	146
8	<i>The Days of Man</i> : roles and rhymes	153
	Introduction	153
	<i>The Role</i> : “The Third Story”	153
	“The Forest”	158
	“Infantiev” in <i>Days of Man</i>	163
	“The Taste”	164
	<i>The Role</i> : conclusion	176
	“Birds”	177
	<i>The Days of Man</i> : conclusion	182
9	<i>Metropol</i> : Bitov’s stories about life and death	184
	Introduction	184
	“The Last Bear”	188
	“Secluded Street”	194
	“The Doctor’s Funeral”	198
10	<i>Sunday</i> : more “I-lands” and journeys	201
11	<i>Pushkin House</i> : the riddles of life and literature	202
12	Bitov’s post- <i>Pushkin House</i> prose, or life in the images of life	246
	<i>Notes</i>	256
	<i>Bibliography</i>	301
	<i>Index</i>	325