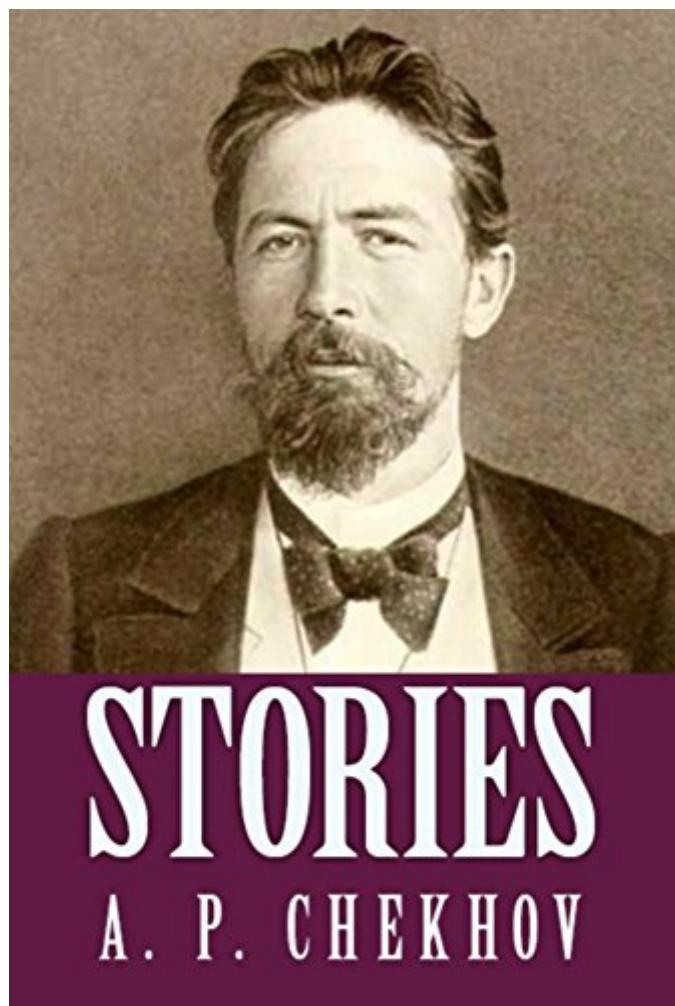


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Stories (The Greatest Masterpieces Of Russian Literature) (Illustrated)



Synopsis

Beautifully designed and carefully proofed for digital publication, this collection includes: 30 of Chekhov's best tales from the major periods of his creative life; 12 unique illustrations relevant to its content; Table of Contents with Quick Navigation. Table of Contents: THE LADY WITH THE DOG THE DEATH OF A CLERK SMALL FRY THE HUNTSMAN A MALEFACTOR THE REQUIEM MANYUTA EASTER NIGHT VANKA SLEEPY A BORING STORY GUSEV PEASANT WOMEN THE GRASSHOPPER IN EXILE WARD NO. 6 THE BLACK MONK ROTH SCHILD™S FIDDLE THE STUDENT ANNA ON THE NECK THE HOUSE WITH THE MEZZANINE THE MAN IN A CASE GOOSEBERRIES A DOCTOR™S VISIT THE DARLING ON OFFICIAL DUTY AT CHRISTMAS TIME THE BISHOP THE BRIDE THE WITCH

Book Information

File Size: 1526 KB

Print Length: 496 pages

Publication Date: November 20, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00PX8U748

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #53,015 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Russian #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories > World Literature #16 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Russian

Customer Reviews

Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky have established themselves as the preeminent living translators of Russian into English. Their translations of Dostoyevsky and Gogol are simply unparalleled, and now they have finally gotten around to Chekhov. It's not so bad that they've taken their time with Chekhov, for he has had numerous distinguished translators. Indeed, Constance Garnett is much-maligned (perhaps unfairly) for her many translations at the beginning of the 20th century of Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky, but even her detractors tend to agree that she did good work

with Chekhov. (Indeed, until now the best all-around collection of Chekhov stories was The Chekhov Omnibus, edited by Donald Rayfield, who used the Garnett translations, though he did revise them.) But now we have the best. It's not perfect, but if you can have only one collection of Chekhov stories, this is the one to have. The selection covers Chekhov's entire career, and includes such masterpieces as "Ward No. 6", "The Lady with the Little Dog", "Gusev", "The House with the Mezzanine", "In the Ravine", and many others (30 stories total). It is a delight to read Chekhov in these translations, because the translators have stuck close to many of the idiosyncrasies of Chekhov's style which most other translators ignore or smooth over. Chekhov's world -- a land of moping aristocrats and disenchanted peasants, of former serfs seeking dignity and everyday workers searching for the meaning of life, of lovers and painters and doctors and thieves -- is unique and haunting, and all of its dry absurdities and bleak terrains are rendered here with care and skill and sensitivity.

A number of readers on have written that this is the finest of all Chekhov collections in English. Perhaps that is so, but my thought about the various Chekhov collections is that each one of them contains real treasures and each one gives a sense of the essence of Chekhov. So what I will do here is simply write a few of my thoughts on my recent reading of Chekhov in the hope that they may be of interest to a reader or two. The Chekhov stories are among the best I have ever read. One element in this is I sense a certain love and respect the author has for his characters even when he may be mocking them. Another element is Chekhov's ability to teach us how to see the character from inside. Chekhov writes with sympathy and insight of the inner lives of others. His work is filled with dreams and longings and disappointments and many great loves. He seems to delight in portraying idiosyncratic characters with great affection. His stories are famous for not 'telling stories' but that is not I think the case. Often his stories do contain within them the narrative of what the person has lived. As I do not know Russian I cannot fully appreciate the stories, or appreciate his special idiom. But they have a feeling of Russian lavishness, drunkenness, of Russian generosity. They also present the Russian world and Russian nature and have a kind of wild poetry in them. Chekhov sees people and things from inside and sympathetically and he gives the reader a sense of his affection for them. With Chekhov there is a sense of the controlling voice of the writer behind the story as a good person. Chekhov also is very strong on the theme of reality encountering dream, and knocking it on the head.

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