



The Little Tragedies

By Alexander Pushkin

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The Little Tragedies By Alexander Pushkin

In a major burst of creativity, Russian poet Alexander Pushkin during just three months in 1830 completed Eugene Onegin, composed more than thirty lyric poems, wrote several short stories and folk tales, and penned the four short dramas in verse that comprise the "little tragedies". The "little tragedies" stand among the great masterpieces of Russian literature, yet they were last translated into English a quarter of a century ago and have in recent years been out of print entirely. In this outstanding new translation, Nancy K. Anderson preserves the cadence and intensity of Pushkin's work while aligning it with today's poetic practices and freer approach to metrics. In addition, she provides critical essays examining each play in depth, a discussion of her approach to translating the plays, and a consideration of the genre of these dramatic pieces and their performability. The four "little tragedies" - Mozart and Salieri, The Miserly Knight, The Stone Guest, and A Feast During the Plague - are extremely compressed dialogues, each dealing with a dominant protagonist whose central internal conflict determines both the plot and structure of the play. Pushkin focuses on human passions and the interplay between free will and fate: though each protagonist could avoid self-ruin, instead he freely chooses it.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Pushkin's four dramatic scenes in verse, known as The Little Tragedies, are skillfully translated by Anderson, an independent scholar. Written in 1830, these pieces include "The Miserly Knight," "Mozart and Salieri," "The Stone Guest," and "A Feast During the Plague." The theme of inner conflict dominates them all.

Compared with Vladimir Nabokov's 1944 translation of three of the tragedies, Anderson's are more fluid, with flexible meters that will please contemporary English readers. The use of short scenes makes these translations suitable for acting. The translated text consists of only 66 pages; in addition, Anderson provides a scholarly introduction, four critical essays on each of the tragedies with line-by-line interpretations, and brief commentaries and notes for each tragedy. The book provides refreshing reading and scholarly research in one. Recommended for all academic and large public libraries. DMing-ming Shen Kuo, Ball State Univ.

Lib., Muncie IN

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Review

"Anderson's project, with its conscientious approach to both poetic translation and scholarly annotation as forms of art, is very exciting. It should become the standard edition of Pushkin's Little Tragedies in English." Caryl Emerson, Princeton University

About the Author

Nancy K. Anderson is an independent scholar in New Haven, Connecticut.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Earl Austin:

Book is usually written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book The Little Tragedies will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think this open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

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