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Alexander Pushkin



Synopsis

Russia's greatest poet Pushkin led a short but turbulent life. His poetry tackles the great themes of the human condition: Love and sex, nature and art, the individual and social. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (June 1982)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0389203408

ISBN-13: 978-0389203407

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book of poems can be read quickly. It includes English translations by nine other poets, but most (33) of the 60 poems in this book have been translated by A. D. P. Briggs, who has devoted four books to Pushkin and has also edited four other volumes in the Everyman's Poetry series. Briggs also revised Chapter 8 of Oliver Elton's translation of Yevgeny Onegin, which he describes in the Introduction as, "A few stanzas from the end of the novel are included here in order to give a general impression of how the novel works." (p. xvii). Poem 16, "The Caucasus" is credited to F. Cornford on pages xxi and 19, but the Acknowledgements on page 104 credits a book, *POEMS FROM THE RUSSIAN* (1943), "trans. Frances Cornfield [this mistake might be due to the enormous number of actual cornfields that currently exist on this planet] and Esther Polianowski." Of the Pushkin poems translated by C. M. Bowra in a book from 1948, eight poems are included in this book. The Contents lists the titles of the poems, and the Introduction explains poetic qualities which the translations in this volume attempt to match, "partly to ensure that interesting formal properties like these are not lost." (p. xv). The first paragraph on page xvi attempts to show how the poems "are grouped roughly thematically," into the order in which the themes are encountered in the first

poem in this book, "Winter. What shall we do out in the country?" Pushkin's major themes are identified as the personal, the natural world, poetry, love, some poems of ideas, and his poems on those topics comprise the first half of the book. The longer works in the final portion of the book include the concluding stanzas of YEVGENY ONEGIN (which has 366 stanzas altogether), Chapter 8, Stanzas 33-51.

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