

Classic RUSSIAN LITERATURE



Flip the page for contemporary Russian books.

The Essential Tales of Chekhov by Anton Chekhov

A truly balanced selection of stories that exhibit the qualities that make Chekhov one of the greatest fiction writers of all time: his gift for detail, dialogue, and humor; his emotional perception and compassion; and his understanding that life's most important moments are often the most overlooked. Also try The Portable Chekhov.

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

This turbulent story centers on the murder of Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov, a corrupt, loutish landowner, and the aftermath for his sons: the passionate Dmitri, the coldly intellectual Ivan, the spiritual Alexey, and the bastard Smerdyakov. Also try Crime and Punishment and The Idiot.

The Collected Tales of Nikolai Gogol by Nikolai Gogol

For the first time, the best of Gogol's short fiction is brought together in a single volume: from the colorful Ukrainian tales that led some critics to call him "the Russian Dickens" to the Petersburg stories, with their black humor and wonderfully demented attitude toward the powers that be.

Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov

Awe and exhilaration—along with heartbreak and mordant wit—abound in this account of the aging Humbert Humbert's obsessive, devouring, and doomed passion for the nymphet Dolores Haze.

Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak

The classic story of the life and loves of a poet/physician during the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. Doctor Zhivago was cited by the Swedish Academy when it awarded Pasternak the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1958 (an award that Pasternak refused, under pressure from the Soviet government).

One Day In the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

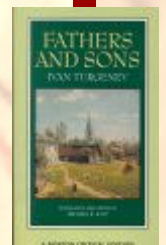
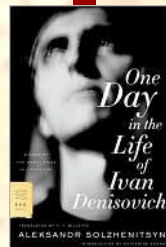
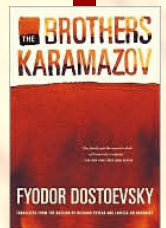
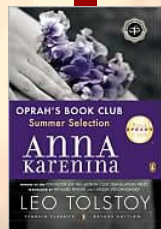
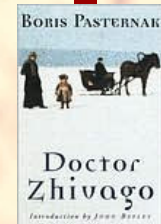
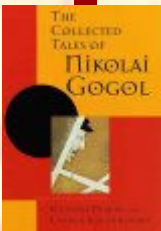
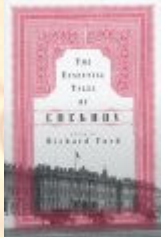
One of the most chilling novels ever written about the oppression of totalitarian regimes—and the first to open Western eyes to the terrors of Stalin's prison camps, this book allowed Solzhenitsyn, who later became Russia's conscience in exile, to challenge the brutal might of the Soviet Union. Also try Cancer Ward.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

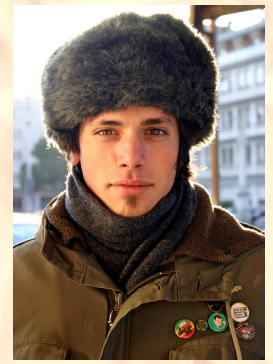
From its famous opening sentence—"Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way"—to its stunningly tragic conclusion, this enduring tale of marriage and adultery plumbs the very depths of the human soul. Also try The Death of Ivan Ilyich and War and Peace.

Fathers and Sons by Ivan Turgenev

Youth rebels. It's true today and it was true in Russia, in 1862, when Fathers and Sons first appeared. At the novel's center stands Evgeny Bazarov, medical student, doctor's son, and self-proclaimed nihilist. Bazarov rejects all authority, all so-called truths that are based on faith rather than science and experience. His ideas bring him into conflict with his best friend, his own parents, and eventually with his emotions, when he falls helplessly in love with the beautiful Madame Odintsova.



Contemporary RUSSIAN LITERATURE



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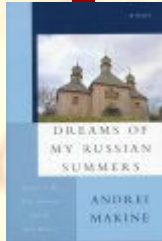


The Winter Queen by Boris Akunin (Mystery)

What would cause a talented young student from a wealthy family to shoot himself in the Alexander Gardens? Decadence and boredom is what the commander of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Moscow Police thinks, but still he finds it curious enough to put the newest member of the division, Erast Fandorin, on the case. A thrilling mystery brings nineteenth-century Russia to vivid life. Also try the follow up, [Special Assignments](#).

Night Watch by Sergei Lukyanenko (Science Fiction)

Set in contemporary Moscow, Lukyanenko's fantastic American debut—the first in a series about an epic struggle between good and evil—charts the adventures of a race of supernaturally gifted Others, who serve either the Light or Dark Side.

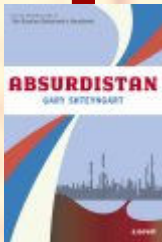


Dreams Of My Russian Summers by Andrei Makine

A poignant story of a Soviet boy's ascent into manhood in the 1960s and 1970s, and his extraordinary affection for his mysterious grandmother who seems to have been there for all the pivotal historical events. Winner of both the Prix Goncourt and the Prix Medicis, France's top literary prizes. Also try [The Earth and the Sky of Jacques Dorme](#) and [The Woman Who Waited](#).

What Happened to Anna K? by Irena Reyn

Set among early 21st-century Russian Jewish immigrants in New York City, Reyn's debut beautifully adapts [Anna Karenina's](#) social melodrama for a decidedly different set of Russians. Reyn's sparkling insight into the Russian and Bukharan Jewish communities, and the mesmerizing intensity of her prose, make this debut a worthy remake.

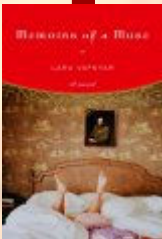


Absurdistan by Gary Shteyngart

At the center of Shteyngart's rollicking tale of the ridiculousness of life in post-Soviet Central Asia is Misha Vainberg, an obese, extremely wealthy young Russian man stuck in Absurdistan, an imaginary republic that mirrors the striving but backward real "stans" of the world.

Petropolis by Anya Ulinich

In her stunning debut novel, Anya Ulinich delivers a funny and unforgettable story of a Russian mail-order bride trying to find her place in America.



Memoirs of a Muse by Lara Vapnyar

Tanya is a typical teenager living with her bookish professor mother in a cramped Soviet apartment. She is obsessed with Dostoyevsky, and noticing that he always portrays his mistress and muse in his novels—never his wife—she determines to become a companion to a great writer. A touching and very funny novel in the great tradition of Russian realism.

Monumental Propaganda by Vladimir Voinovich

Aglaya Stepanovna Revkina, a believer in Stalin, finds herself bewildered in the relative openness of the Khrushchev era. She believes her greatest achievement was to have browbeaten her community into building an iron statue of the supreme leader, which she moves into her apartment after his death. A darkly comic novel about the absurdity of politics and the place of the individual.

