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Fyodor Dostoyevsky , ?????? ?????? ?????? (Translator)

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Author : Fyodor Dostoyevsky , ????? ??????? ?????? (Translator)

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Karina says

Since I read the Brothers Karamazov I have been a Dostoyevsky fan and am happy to add this to my reads.....

This was a compilation of ten short fiction stories. I'll be honest. The beginnings of each story started off kind of dull and wordy but as I got to the middle of each tale it started to make sense and pulled itself together by the end. All the stories have strong conversations between the characters, lots of back and forth so this might turn some readers off; I enjoyed the communication between the protagonists.

Each story is one of spiritual torment and psychological struggle. The themes are hardly light as it shows the characters with their greed, the need to be loved and respected, tormented by ingratitude, jealousy, cowardice, classism....

My favorite story turned out to be THE DREAM OF A RIDICULOUS MAN. The narrator has it in his head that he will kill himself bc what is the point in living?? He is unhappy with everything. Until he meets a girl in the street that needs help with her mama that he refuses to help. He gets home, loads his shotgun and puts it on his lap. This is the day! He falls asleep not knowing why he hasn't offed himself. His dream is vivid. He is in a wonderful world where people don't get ill, don't fight and love each other until he corrupts them and everything is changed. He finds he loves them more for their flaws. When he awakes he has a revelation and decides he will love life more bc of its imperfectness and try to be a better person.

This is what Dostoyevsky is all about. Seeing the human condition for what it is. The hope, despair, love, self- sacrifice. He is an amazing story teller. I'm sure it is better in Russian. I think some of it is hard to translate but I got what I could out of it.

Elektra says

Ταξ?δι στην Αγ?α Πετρουπολη λιγοστ?ς καλοκαιρινες νυχτες. Ο απελπισμ?νος μοναχικ?ς ονειροπολος ως αφηγητ?ς απευθ?νεται στον αναγν?στη. Και η Ναστενκα, μια νεαρ? δεκαοχ?χρονη που ονειρε?εται να ξεφυγει απο την καλ?βα της τυφλ?ς γιαγι?ς και ψ?χνει απελπισμ?να εναν ?ντρα να την βοηθ?σει στην δραπ?τευσ? της, ?στω και στο ?γνωστο. Ευγενε?ς ν?οι, ειλικρινεις και καλοσυνατοι κι οι δυο αρνο?νται να πληγ?σουν ο ?νας τον ?λλον. Το τ?λος απρ?βλεπτο ενσταλ?ζει στην ψυχ? του αναγν?στη μια απ?ραντη συμπ?θεια για τον ονειροπολο ν?ο και για τη δυναμη της αγ?πης που μπορε? να γεννηθε? ακ?μη και μ?σα σε τεσσερις νυχτεριν?ς συναντησεις.

Constantina Kstm says

Σε ?λες τις νουβ?λες του ο Ντοστογ?φσκι αποδεικν?ει την εξαιρετικ? ικαν?τητ? του να περιγρ?φει λεπτομερ?ς τον ψυχισμ? των ανθρ?πων. Ιδια?τερη εντ?πωση μου ?καναν οι Λευκ?ς ν?χτες, Η ?μερη και Το ?νειρο εν?ς αστε?ου ανθρ?που.

Steven says

While reading René Girard's study of Dostoevsky, *Resurrection from the Underground*, I realized—to my dismay—that I had not read one of the stories he was discussing. I went through all of my Dostoevsky story collections, but I could not find one called *A Faint Heart*. At least my memory hadn't failed me. It was unacceptable, of course, that there was a story by Dostoevsky that I had not yet read, so I went on a mighty search for the story in question. The only collection that I (finally) found to include it was this one, *White Nights & Other Stories*. So, I bought it—to read that one last little missing story.

It was worth it, obviously.

Junta says

A collection of ten short stories, spanning most of Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)'s writing life (1844-). The impression I have is that many people only touch his longer works, but his short stories can be quite wonderful too. There's no mistaking his penmanship even in this format, but the stories shine in a different way. Read on for a slice from each story. (Hope this way of reviewing isn't too lazy.)

1. **An Honest Thief** (1848), pp. 1-15. ★★★??

"Disagreeable! I should think so! Yet, to be sure, there are thieves and thieves. And I have happened, sir, to come across an honest thief."

"An honest thief? But how can a thief be honest, Astafy Ivanovitch?" (pp.3-4)

The story is a poignant answer to the question.

2. **An Unpleasant Predicament** (1862), pp. 16-61. ★★★★?

"Why", flashed through his mind, "here we talk and talk, but when it comes to action - it all ends in nothing. Here, for instance, take this Pseldonimov: he has just come from his wedding full of hope and excitement, looking forward to his wedding feast....This is one of the most blissful days of his life....Now he is busy with his guests, is giving a banquet, a modest one, poor, but gay and full of genuine gladness....What if he knew that at this very moment I, I, his superior, his chief, am standing by his house listening to the music? Yes, really how would he feel? No, what would he feel if I suddenly walked in? H'm!....Of course at first he would be frightened, he would be dumb with embarrassment.....I should be in his way, and perhaps should upset everything. Yes, that would be so if any other general went in, but not I....That's a fact, any one else, but not I...." (p.25)

Dostoyevsky is a master at painting awkward situations.

3. **Another Man's Wife, or The Husband Under the Bed -An Extraordinary Adventure-** (1848), pp. 62-98. ★★★★★

Only then the young man in the wadded overcoat observed that this gentleman in the raccoon

furs certainly was upset. His wrinkled face was rather pale, his voice was trembling. He was evidently in some confusion of mind, his words did not flow easily from his tongue, and it could be seen that it cost him a terrible effort to present a very humble request to a personage possibly his inferior in rank or condition, in spite of the urgent necessity of addressing his request to somebody. And indeed the request was in any case unseemly, undignified, strange, coming from a man who had such a dignified fur coat, such a respectable jacket of a superb dark green colour, and such distinguished decorations adorning that jacket. It was evident that the gentlemen in raccoon was himself confused by all this, so that at least he could not stand it, but made up his mind to suppress his emotion and politely to put an end to the unpleasant position he had himself brought about. (p.62)

One of the funniest short stories I have ever read, I laughed (*really* laughed) many times! In fact, after enjoying *An Unpleasant Predicament*, even the title of this story was making me snigger in anticipation. The opening pages are an absolute gem. Dostoyevsky's humour doesn't get enough credit - we can see it in all of his longer works, but when he makes it the nucleus of a story, you'd be surprised.

4. **The Peasant Marey** (1876), pp. 99-103. ★★★??

...Suddenly in the midst of the profound stillness I heard a clear and distinct shout, "Wolf!" I shrieked and, beside myself with terror, calling out at the top of my voice, ran out into the clearing and straight to the peasant who was ploughing. (p.101)

Based on a childhood episode of the author.

5. **The Crocodile -An Extraordinary Incident-** (1865), pp. 104-133. ★★★??

A true story of how a gentleman of a certain age and of respectable appearance was swallowed alive by the crocodile in the Arcade, and of the consequences that followed.

A promising and absurd setting.

6. **Bobok -from Somebody's Diary-** (1873), pp. 134-148. ★★★???

The friend is right. Something strange is happening to me. My character is changing and my head aches. I am beginning to see and hear strange things, not voices exactly, but as though someone beside me were muttering, "bobok, bobok, bobok!"

What's the meaning of this *bobok*? I must divert my mind. (p.135)

Hearing muffled voices from beneath at a cemetery.

7. **The Dream of a Ridiculous Man** (1877), pp. 149-165. ★★★★?

As I was thinking about the gas lamps in the street I looked up at the sky. The sky was horribly dark, but one could distinctly see tattered clouds, and between them fathomless black patches. Suddenly I noticed in one of these patches a star, and began watching it intently. That was because that star had given me an idea: I decided to kill myself that night... (p.151)

Perhaps the most 'Dostoyevsky-esque' of the collection - welcome back, Depraved Man. Many people have probably read or heard of a story involving a utopia, a paradise where there is only love, joy and serenity, and man is one with nature. Would vividly dreaming of living in such a world for a millennium change a desperate man? A masterful story deserving more renown.

8. **White Nights -A Sentimental Story from the Diary of a Dreamer-** (1848), pp. 166-207. ★★★★★

"Nastenka," I answered in a stern and dignified voice, hardly able to keep from laughing, "dear Nastenka, I know I describe splendidly, but excuse me, I don't know how else to do it. At this moment, dear Nastenka, at this moment I am like the spirit of King Solomon when, after lying a thousand years under seven seals in his urn, those seven seals were at last taken off. At this moment, Nastenka, when we have met at last after such a long separation - for I have known you for ages, Nastenka, because I have been looking for some one for ages, and that is a sign that it was you I was looking for, and it was ordained that we should meet now - at this moment a thousand valves have opened in my head, and I must let myself flow in a river of words, or I shall choke. And so I beg you not to interrupt me, Nastenka, but listen humbly and obediently, or I will be silent." (p.173)

While *Another Man's Wife...* was one of the funniest short stories I have read, *White Nights* was one of the most beautiful, fully deserving to be the title of the collection - my bias comes from seeing my younger self in the protagonist. For those new to Dostoyevsky, I recommend you begin by reading this story if you are wary of tackling one of his novels, and find out whether his writing appeals to you. You can find the story online, here for instance.

9. **A Christmas Tree and a Wedding** (1848), pp. 208-214. ★★★★?

...After receiving his book he walked round the other toys for a long time; he longed to play with the other children, but did not dare; it was evident that he already felt and understood his position. I love watching children. Their first independent approaches to life are extremely interesting. I noticed that the red-haired boy was so fascinated by the costly toys of the other children, especially by a theatre in which he certainly longed to take some part, that he made up his mind to sacrifice his dignity...

A succinct story about wealth and society.

10. **A Faint Heart** (1848), pp. 215-252. ★★★??

"Come, that's enough, that's enough! Of course, that's how it is....You know what it all comes from - from my having a good heart. What vexes me is, that I could not tell you as I wanted to, making you glad and happy, telling you nicely and initiating you into my secret properly....Really, Arkasha, I love you so much that I believe if it were not for you I shouldn't be getting married, and, in fact, I shouldn't be living in this world at all!" (p.217)

Such a joyous prelude to the story. Yep.

This was my second book by Dostoyevsky, since falling in love with *Crime and Punishment* at the start of the year - I was a little worried that his short stories wouldn't excite me as much, but I enjoyed this collection very much. Highly recommended!

May 8, 2015

Nesli says

"Çünkü o anlarda hiçbir zaman gerçek bir hayat?m olmayacakm?? gibi geliyor bana, çünkü her türlü ahengi, ?imdiki ve gerçekteki tüm sezgimi art?k yitirdi?imi san?yorum. Çünkü sonunda kendi kendimi lanetledim, çünkü hülyal? gecelerimden sonra korkunç ay?lma anlar? ya??yorum."

P?nar says

ke?ke biraz daha uzun olsaym?? kal?n bir roman?n k?salt?lm?? hali gibi geldi doya doya okuyamad?m ve nastenka karakteri çok sinirimi bozdu ayn? kavak yelleri asl?yd? nas? okunun ayn? görürsünüz

FeReSHte says

Reyhaneh says

Fahim says

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Öykü Co?kun says

?lk Dostoyevski okuyu?um ve diyebilirim ki a??r? ak?c?.

Puna Baris says

Kitap iki oykuden olusuyor; 'Beyaz Geceler' ve 'Baskasinin Karisi'. "Beyaz Geceler", cagimizda gorulmesi zor tatliklikta bir ask oykusunu olarak ilerlerken, sonu cagimizda bol gorulen bir "it's not you, it's me" veya "ben

seni çok seviyorum ama arkadaş olarak" durumu ile bitiyor. Insana ister istemez Eksi Sozlukten bazı başlıklar hatırlatıyor :) Yine de bu kısacık hikayeden üzerine düşünecek bir çok malzeme çıkıyor. "Baskasinin Karisi" bana aynı tadi vermedi. Yalnız, o ruh halini taşıyan kişilerin durumu gerçekten ustaca tarif edilmiş. Ayrıca ummadığım bir şekilde bittiği için sarsılmak guzeldi. Bir de, hikayeyi okurken hep tiyatroda sahneleniyormuş da orada seyrediyormuşum duygusu uyandırdı. Fakat itiraf etmeliyim ki, daha çok Nejat Uygur tiyatrosu gibi fiziksel komediye dayalı ve hic mi hic sevmediğim bir tiyatro gozumde canlandı.

Ebru says

Kitaptan notlar:

- * Yanınızda, gerçek hayatı bu kadar mutlu olduktan sonra neyi hayal edebilirim?
- * Zaman geçip insan olgunlaşınca, eski ülkülerin yerine yenilerini koyamayınca yokları arasında yeni bir şeyler bulup karmak zorunluluğu oluyor.
- * Herkes olduğunu sert görünmek istiyor. Duygularını kolayca açıp klarsa küçülecekmiş gibi bir kuşku var.
- * Bir şeyim yok. Biraz aladım, o kadar... Gözyaşları kurur...
- * Yapayalnız yaşıyan, sana karımızla çarpan bir yüreke tattırdı mı? mutluluk anından dolayı seni hep hayatı anacağım. Ulu tanrı! O ne uzun, ne mutlu bir andı! Bir insana böyle bir anı am boyu yetmez mi?
- * Ama siz de kabul edin ki, kırkıncılık affedilemez bir tutku, hatta belalarını büyütür.

-Ah Nastenka ahh, ne çekti? Hayalperest' e. Kitapta iki tane öykü bulunmaktadır? Birinci bölüm Beyaz Geceler ikinci bölüm Ba?kas?n?n Kar?s?. Beyaz Geceler hikâyesi Nastyenka ve Hayalperest' in ilginç kar??la?mas? ve geçirdikleri dört geceyi konu almaktad?r. Yaln?zl?k mücadelesi ve herkes beni sevsin kavramlar?n?n olu?turu?u k?sa bir a?k hikâyesi. Bir oturu?ta okuyup keyif ald???m bir bölümündü.

-Ama Ba?kas?n?n Kar?s? için ayn? duygular? söyleyemeyece?im. K?sac?k bir hikâye olmas?na ra?men ancak bitirebildim. Diyaloglar çok kar??kt?, ilk ba?ta ne oldu?unu anlayamad?m o yüzden iki kere okudum. Karakterler birinci bölümdeki ak?c?l??? vermedi maalesef. O yüzden pek bir ?ey yazam?yorum ikinci bölüm hakk?nda.

- Kitap dolu günler dilerim :)

Amiy says

Ahmad Sharabiani says

White Nights and Other Stories, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

"White Nights" (Russian: Белые ночи, Belye nochi) is a short story by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, originally published in 1848, early in the writer's career. Like many of Dostoyevsky's stories, "White Nights" is told in first person by a nameless narrator; the narrator is living in Saint Petersburg and suffers from loneliness. He gets to know and falls in love with a young woman, but the love remains unrequited as the woman misses her lover with whom she is finally reunited.

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