



The Works of Anton Checkov (100+ stories and plays with an active table of contents)

Anton Chekhov

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Black's Readers Service Company: Includes the novel, The Shooting Party, the plays, The Cherry Orchard, The Three Sisters, The Sea-gull, and The Wedding, and the complete collection of tales, including La Cigale, The Match, The Black Monk, Anna Round the Neck, The Peasants, The Wager, Ward No. 6, and In the Ravine.

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Details

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Author : Anton Chekhov

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From Reader Review The Works of Anton Checkov (100+ stories and plays with an active table of contents) for online ebook

Tina says

I prefer his shorter stories. A Gentleman Friend for example.

Edith says

I listened to the version of this available from openculture.com which has 60 stories. The selected stories accurately show Checkov's mastery of the short story, and more importantly for me, his ability to portray many aspects of 19th century Russian life. I was assigned Checkov as an undergraduate (in the 1980's), and wanted to revisit the author because I did not really remember any of the stories. Well worth the effort, and I plan to listen again in a few years.

Winston-Daniel Cabral-Silvero says

He is simple fantastic!

LeAnne says

Complete Stories of Anton Chekhov, vol 1 1882-1885 (not listed in GR)

I think what I dislike about short stories is the disruption of finishing one and moving on to the next. Theoretically, reading, one can pause and savor in between, but I was listening to the audio, which just went straight on with new characters and a new situation with no time to absorb the previous story's conclusion. Those new characters all have complicated Russian names, too. Duh. It's a Russian author writing for a Russian audience, but for me, an American, it was challenging to keep them straight. Most of the characters are ridiculously foolish. It took me a while to adjust to the culture enough to realize that that foolishness was intended to be ridiculous in the manner of a comedy of manners ala Jane Austin. Once I understood that, it was easier to enjoy the stories for what they were—classics of the Russian language. A few times I even laughed out loud. I don't regret reading (or rather, listening) to these, but I think if I pick up Chekov again, it will be in a print or e-book form where I can dip into one at a time.

Nate says

this is one of those shitty walter black editions from the 1920s, so lots of typos and smudged print, no footnotes, or even a credit of who did the translations, which seem inconsistent with one another. some don't appear to be constance garnett after comparing with project gutenberg but who knows really. the content itself is great - this volume contains mostly short stories, the novella "the shooting party" and four dramas.

there isn't much overlap with the other chekhov volumes i have, so i only skipped anna round the neck, the peasants, in the ravine, and all the dramas except for "the wedding", a short comedic one-act. there are a few other light hearted comedic moments in here - the match, the proposal, fish and children, which nicely balance out the dark tone of the other stories. highlights include the grasshopper (oddly translated as la cigale), sleepyhead, an event, rothchild's fiddle, an adventure and ward no 6. i really liked the novella too, even though the twist was made pretty obvious by the deliberate foreshadowing filtered through the framing device

blakeR says

I'm not sure if I read this exact edition. Mine was published by Black's Readers Service Company, and it's not 678 pages but rather 632. It is notably missing one of Chekhov's most famous plays, *Uncle Vanya*, and it only has one of his novellas, *The Shooting Party*.

That said, this was amazing. It's not the best to read straight through, given the uniformly tragic and depressing nature of Chekhov's short stories and plays, but almost each story contains beautifully ornate descriptions of scenery along with profound insights into the human psyche. The aforementioned novella is masterful, not only with an intriguing story but also an ingenious narrative device in which Chekhov, writing in first person, publishes a murder story submitted by a dubious aspiring writer who turns out to be the murderer himself.

I'm not an expert on theater, but I found his plays ("The Cherry Orchard," "Three Sisters," and "The Seagull") extremely captivating and moving. The real treat, however, comes with his short stories. Raymond Carver said about Chekhov:

Chekhov's stories are as wonderful (and necessary) now as when they first appeared. It is not only the immense number of stories he wrote—for few, if any, writers have ever done more—it is the awesome frequency with which he produced masterpieces, stories that shrieve us as well as delight and move us, that lay bare our emotions in ways only true art can accomplish.

. . . and I agree completely. While it doesn't seem like my collection contained perhaps Chekhov's most famous story, "The Lady with the Dog" (unless it was translated to a different name in my edition), there are many moments of pure genius, almost too many to count: "The Kiss," "La Cigale," "The Black Monk," "Verotchka," "A Husk," "Rothchild's Fiddle," "The Princess," "The Cossack," "Art," "Ward No.6," and "In the Ravine" (names may differ due to translation).

These are only the most perfect of his stories, but all of them are worthwhile. Most of them contain cruel, hypocritical, or otherwise unhappy characters who are struggling to live happily in a world without meaning. Not an original subject matter perhaps, but Chekhov was the first to do it this well, and he creates a personality with such subtle strokes that you almost don't realize it's happening until they insinuate themselves completely into your heart and mind as you read. He forsakes the light humor of Gogol and the fantastic melodrama of Dostoyevsky to go straight for the *pathos*. It's odd to think that he considered most of his works (the plays at least) to be comedies, when they are almost universally considered tragedies nowadays. I guess the Russians have a strange sense of humor.

For any aspiring writers, or for fans of Russian literature, Chekhov is a must-read. For fans of good literature in general really. Just don't get discouraged at his mastery.

Rick Haag says

I was listening to a radio show talk about Russia last month and I decided to again visit Anton Chekov. I don't know why...I just do things like that. What follows can be classed as a review; however, it is more my musings about some of his work that stood out during the read.

I find Anton Chekhov to be an interesting figure from both a literary and humanistic perspective. The Lady with the Dog was a journey into the mind of Anna Sergeyevna and her view on herself, her life and how she feels about her actions. In brief moments reading the text, I thought of Lacan's mirror stages and how we see ourselves and how others perceive us.

I found many parallels in other texts that read with this story. The romantic novel theme pops up again and again. We see it in Madam Bovary and something similar in Don Quixote. The idea of a life unfulfilled and the divergent paths these unsatisfied characters take, allow the reader insights into the minds of the characters. Chekhov does a masterful job of weaving the complexities of the lives and the relationship of Anna and Dmitri. I also felt some stylistic similarities with James Joyce in Chekhov. I am not sure in what way, but I wonder if Chekhov was influential for Joyce?

The Lady with the Dog shows the changes in Dmitri and who has not viewed women in the best of "lights." He was a bit of a "player" and it started out that way with Anna. However, he changed and consequently, his perspective on women (at least Anna) changed. He comes to a self-revelation about the differences in how he is perceived by women and how he perceived himself. In Anna, he had found a love that was true and it completely altered his views.

Chekov's short stories delve into the lives of an assortment of characters. In Gusev, two sick and dying men discuss the world from very different views. One speaks of injustice, the other mostly of home and the responsibilities he has there. The tale is sad?even depressing, but demonstrates Chekhov's ability to get the reader to invest in the story of the two men. Everything happens on board a ship, and it becomes the universe that the story plays out in.

I admire Chekov's ability to write and his descriptive abilities. His prose seems to be clean, stark, and direct. He was very much "the Russian" in his work. He was a gifted realist writer. However, I found many of his stories a little grim for a steady diet. Many (if not most) of his stories deal in some manner with death by disease. The reality of tuberculosis and typhoid was a very literal aspect to 19th century life; nevertheless, I found it rather depressing. I found myself enjoying The Lady with the Dog more than the rest of the his stories.

I appreciate the fact that Chekov wrote about those things he knew; this gives him added credibility. He does focus on the dramatic, but seemed to wed the real with the fictional, and in so doing, his stories are very believable. I could see many of the things he wrote about happening. The endings of many of his stories do have a feeling of hope and/or continuum. The reader often wonders just what exactly will occur next. The closure that Chekov gives the reader is decidedly Russian.

--Rick Haag 2017
