



About Love and Other Stories

Anton Chekhov, Rosamund Bartlett (Translator)

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Raymond Carver called Anton Chekhov "the greatest short story writer who has ever lived." This unequivocal verdict on Chekhov's genius has been echoed many times by writers as diverse as Katherine Mansfield, Somerset Maugham, John Cheever and Tobias Wolf. While his popularity as a playwright has sometimes overshadowed his achievements in prose, the importance of Chekhov's stories is now recognized by readers as well as by fellow authors. Their themes - alienation, the absurdity and tragedy of human existence - have as much relevance today as when they were written, and these superb new translations capture their modernist spirit. Elusive and subtle, spare and unadorned, the stories in this selection are among Chekhov's most poignant and lyrical. The book includes well-known pieces such as *The Lady with the Little Dog*, as well as less familiar work like *Gusev* inspired by Chekhov's travels in the Far East, and *Rothschild's Violin*, a haunting and darkly humorous tale about death and loss. The stories are arranged chronologically to show the evolution of Chekhov's art.

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About Love and Other Stories Details

Date : Published August 12th 2004 by Oxford University Press (first published January 1st 2004)

ISBN : 9780192802606

Author : Anton Chekhov , Rosamund Bartlett (Translator)

Format : Paperback 211 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Classics, Fiction, Literature, Russian Literature, Cultural, Russia

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From Reader Review About Love and Other Stories for online ebook

Descending Angel says

It's been awhile since i read a short story collection, i like russian literature and Chekhov has a reputation of being one of the best short story writers of all time. Unfortunately this collection doesn't prove that. Most of the stories are too short and aren't satisfying in the least and they aren't gonna bring you back to read them again and again. A couple favorites ~ "The Black Monk", "The Man In A Case" and "The House With The Mezzanine" are worth reading.

Naile Berna says

I didn't know I liked reading short stories. Apparently I do.

My favorites were Lady with the Little Dog, Gooseberries, Rothschild's' Violin, About Love.

It's interesting Chekhov keeps using the same character names. It can be confusing sometimes with remnants of one character attached to a name, blending into an unrelated one.

Ally says

I'm not sure I 'got' these stories. For me it was a one-dimensional look at human behaviours, the negative side of life and love. While interesting and universal, to me this was just half the story. I was also a bit disappointed that the inspiration behind so many of my favourite authors, particularly Katherine Mansfield, didn't really live up to my expectations. BUT...I'm sure I'm missing something so I want to re-visit these stories in a few years time. Maybe I'll appreciate them more at another time in my life!

Concertina says

Aiñ

Laura says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00q2prs>

William says

I still don't understand love but whatever this is good

Scott Gates says

Chekhov describes a character or a scene just enough to let the reader cleanly infer what's being indicated. His descriptions are never overstated or garish; always subtle, wavering, whimsical, but precise. He lets his stories tell themselves somehow, getting out of the way when he should.

And the descriptions of these all-too-human people in mediocre villages in one-hundred-years ago Russia are so vivid that it all seems familiar and nostalgic.

Highlights! An uncharacteristically zany story about a fish falling in love with a woman and the difficulties of a trans-species relationship. Also, a series of three stories that work off each other and have the same characters. I've never run into this in any other Chekhov collection. The collection ends with a story so uncompromisingly dreary ("The Bishop") that it's almost comic. The ending of "the Bishop" is similar in terms of despair-level to the ending of Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* ("the most depressing ending in modern literature," pronounced Zizek, one of the few times a theorist managed to get something right about literature).

And it also includes some classic Chekhov stories of muted loss, failure, and quiet joy. So many of these stories have to do with provincial panic: the sense of being tucked in some remote village wasting your life away, never able to find a way to live the type of life you know you could, like a light under a bushel.

Steven Godin says

The best collection I have read from Chekhov by a mile.

Jonathan Terrington says

This collection featured many stories I had previously read last year but those I had not read were refreshing. The difference in translation of the old stories however was both refreshing and disappointing.

While I felt with stories previously read I was reading them afresh the change in meaning was a disappointment at times. While at times things made unclear in previous translations were revealed with more clarity.

On the whole as with any work of Chekhov's worth reading to observe a master short story writer work his craft. He really was a genius regardless of the quality of translation.

Gerald says

Chekhov is one of a kind! Every single story in this superb collection, is an exquisitely crafted and miniature world, in itself! Chekhov is a master at depicting the most subtle of details and turns of phrase in the dialogue between characters in each story, and in his use of colorfully vivid imagery, whether in carefully describing a supposedly humdrum scene of life, or in capturing idyllic and picturesque natural settings, as if you were right there, gazing in wonder, alongside with the characters themselves. Not to be missed! :)

A note on the translation and translator: Perhaps the very finest translation of Chekhov's stories (tr. Rosamund Bartlett), I have ever come across! Ronald Wilks' translations are a close second. Rosamund Bartlett is not only a world renown scholar and translator of Russian literature, but also a noted specialist on Russian music and culture, particularly, on the reception of Wagner's music into the world of Russian music. Her translations are as lyrically beautiful and diamond cut, as the finest pieces of music!

Mohammed Amarnah says

Anton Chekhov wrote very beautiful stories, and I am in no position to criticize any of his writings, So I will talk about the things I liked about this book.

First, one of the greatest aspects of Chekhov's stories are the conversations between the characters. In just a few pages, you feel like you know the characters very well and that you've suddenly developed a bond with them. The conversations sometimes are slow and calm, and in other times they're stormy and fierce; both are beautiful in their own setting.

Second, I liked how Chekhov didn't forget about the formal education he got. You can clearly see his attachment to science and medicine in some of his stories, and that is very beautiful.

Overall, this was my first book from the Russian culture, and it was interesting. It gave a preview on how they used to look at the world (Especially that Russia has got a very interesting history), and Chekhov's stories portrayed the Russian society in a very sensitive era.

I should also point out that this specific translation of the book (by Rosamund Bartlett) was absolute. It was very interesting, and her choice of words were artistic and beautiful. I read some of Chekhov's stories translated by other people on the web, and I found her versions of all the stories more vivacious and compelling.

‘But you haven’t had a university education? So you can’t really know what science is. All the sciences across the world share the same *raison d’être*: the pursuit of truth! Every single one of them, even something bizarre like pharmacognosia, * is dedicated to the pursuit of truth, not to usefulness or comfort. It’s wonderful! When you set out to study a branch of science, it is the beginning stage that astounds you most of all...‘

aaron says

A short story writer whose terse statements of late-19th century Russian life left an indelible impression on

my mind - Chekhov was the first writer of fiction that I reached for after finishing my degree. I was not disappointed. I have yet to meet any other short story writer of the modernist period or otherwise that commands such a profound grasp of the simple sentence or the laconic phrase; Chekhov's prose economy is fittingly frugal.

Tania Aysen says

'People don't need six feet of earth, or even a house in the country, but the whole globe, the whole of nature in its entirety, so they can have the space to express all the capacities and particularities of their free spirit.'

Incredible writer. Chekhov writes with compassion towards all his characters whether they are a member of the clergy, an unhappily married man or a lonely schoolteacher. The stories explore a wide range of themes including love, death, freedom, faith and loneliness. This is the sort of collection where you feel you need a long pause after each story to soak up and reflect on everything you have just read before moving to the next one. After finishing the book, I actually went back to reread some of the stories.

The stories in this edition are arranged chronologically so you get a good sense of Chekhov's development as a writer. It also includes a comprehensive introduction by the translator Rosamund Bartlett, with a biographical and literary context that gives the reader a good background to Chekhov's work. I enjoyed Bartlett's translation and I'm looking forward to reading her translations of Chekhov's other short stories as well as Tolstoy's Anna Karenina.

Jenny says

Upon buying this book I neglected to read the table of contents and have come to find that there are a few stories from the Lady with the Little Dog stories that I had read earlier.

Annie says

First book by Chekov
