



The Master and Margarita: 50th-Anniversary Edition (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition)

By Mikhail Bulgakov



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A 50th-anniversary Deluxe Edition of the incomparable 20th-century masterpiece of satire and fantasy, in a newly revised version of the acclaimed Pevear and Volokhonsky translation

Nothing in the whole of literature compares with *The Master and Margarita*. One spring afternoon, the Devil, trailing fire and chaos in his wake, weaves himself out of the shadows and into Moscow. Mikhail Bulgakov's fantastical, funny, and devastating satire of Soviet life combines two distinct yet interwoven parts, one set in contemporary Moscow, the other in ancient Jerusalem, each brimming with historical, imaginary, frightful, and wonderful characters. Written during the darkest days of Stalin's reign, and finally published in 1966 and 1967, *The Master and Margarita* became a literary phenomenon, signaling artistic and spiritual freedom for Russians everywhere.

This newly revised translation, by the award-winning team of Pevear and Volokhonsky, is made from the complete and unabridged Russian text.

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Editorial Review

Review

“My favorite novel—it’s just the greatest explosion of imagination, craziness, satire, humor, and heart.”
—**Daniel Radcliffe**

“One of the truly great Russian novels of [the twentieth] century.” —***The New York Times Book Review***

“By turns hilarious, mysterious, contemplative, and poignant . . . A great work.” —***Chicago Tribune***

“A soaring, dazzling novel; an extraordinary fusion of wildly disparate elements. It is a concerto played simultaneously on the organ, the bagpipes, and a pennywhistle, while someone sets off fireworks between the players’ feet.” —***The New York Times***

“Fine, funny, imaginative . . . *The Master and Margarita* stands squarely in the great Gogolesque tradition of satiric narrative.” —***Newsweek***

“A wild surrealistic romp . . . Brilliantly flamboyant and outrageous.” —**Joyce Carol Oates**

“Beautiful, strange, tender, scarifying, and incandescent . . . One of those novels that, even in translation, make one feel that not one word could have been written differently . . . *Margarita* has too many achievements to list—for one thing, a plot scudding with action and suspense, not exactly a hallmark of Russian literature. . . . This luminous translation [is] distinguished by not only the stylistic elegance that has become a hallmark of Pevear and Volokhonsky translations but also a supreme ear for the sound and meaning of Soviet life. . . . It’s time for *The Master and Margarita* to rise to its rightful place in the canon of great world literature. . . . As literature, it will live forever.” —**Boris Fishman, from the Foreword**

About the Author

Mikhail Bulgakov (1891–1940) was a doctor, a novelist, a playwright, a short-story writer, and the assistant director of the Moscow Arts Theater. His body of work includes *The White Guard*, *The Fatal Eggs*, *Heart of a Dog*, and his masterpiece, *The Master and Margarita*, published more than twenty-five years after his death and cited as an inspiration for Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*.

Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky (translators) have translated works by Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov, Gogol, and Pasternak. They were twice awarded the PEN/Book-of-the-Month Club Translation Prize, for their translations of Dostoyevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov* and Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*. Pevear, a native of Boston, and Volokhonsky, of St. Petersburg, are married and live in Paris.

Boris Fishman (foreword) is the author of two novels, *A Replacement Life*, which was one of *The New York Times*’ 100 Notable Books of 2014 and won the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award and the American Library Association’s Sophie Brody Medal, and *Don’t Let My Baby Do Rodeo*. His journalism, essays, and criticism have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, the *London Review of Books*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other publications. Fishman has taught at Princeton University and New York University. Born in Minsk, Belarus, he moved to the United States at age nine and now lives in New York.

Christopher Conn Askew (cover illustrator) is a painter and tattoo artist whose illustrations have appeared

on the covers of books, albums, and magazines. He lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Pierce:

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