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Five Comic One-Act Plays (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

One of the foremost dramatists of the 19th century, Russian author Anton Chekhov (1860–1904) created a body of work noted for its realistic dialogue and keen insights into human relationships. This collection of five one-act plays in the celebrated Constance Garnett translations shows Chekhov at his witty best. *The Anniversary* takes a lively look behind the frenetic scenes at a bank: a man overburdened with errands from friends and family gives a nearly maddened but ludicrous account of his chores and obligations in *An Unwilling Martyr*; and *The Wedding* depicts scenes from a wedding reception in which the mother of the bride assumes affected airs and deals with quarrelsome guests. In *The Bear*, a virtuous, spirited widow is pressed to repay a debt and ends up receiving an offer of marriage. *The Proposal* depicts the trauma of a would-be suitor who winds up in a wrangle over property. Theater lovers, students of drama and literature, and other readers, as well as amateur and professional groups performing these popular works, will welcome this convenient, inexpensive collection of comic gems by one of the masters of modern drama.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When we think of Chekhov classics our mind turns to such full-length masterpieces as "The Seagull," "The Cherry Orchard," and "Uncle Vanya." Dover Thrift presents five classic Chekhov shorts including the perennial favorites "The Proposal" and "The Bear" in very accessible translations. The other short plays "The Anniversary," "The Unwilling Martyr" and "The Wedding" receive equal clarity. While Chekhov considered all of his plays "comedies," these short sketches of

early Russian life demonstrate Chekhov's nearly vaudevillian skills as well as his keen sense of observation.

The wonderful confusion of conversations between the characters, the lack of listening to each other; an yet beautiful elevated lines of each characters desires to be and to have. These one act plays have been overlooked and they are a compliment to Chekhov's three act masterpieces such as The Three Sisters.

Not the best one acts but a very good study for young and new playwrights. Recommended for small stages anywhere

very interesting. the characters are hard to follow because of the complicated names. the wedding is a good example. for the western audience, perhaps simple nicknames would make them more easily recognized. the other stories were hilarious and interesting

I would not presume to rate Chekhov short plays, nor any of the other I sent for. There is nothing more to say.

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