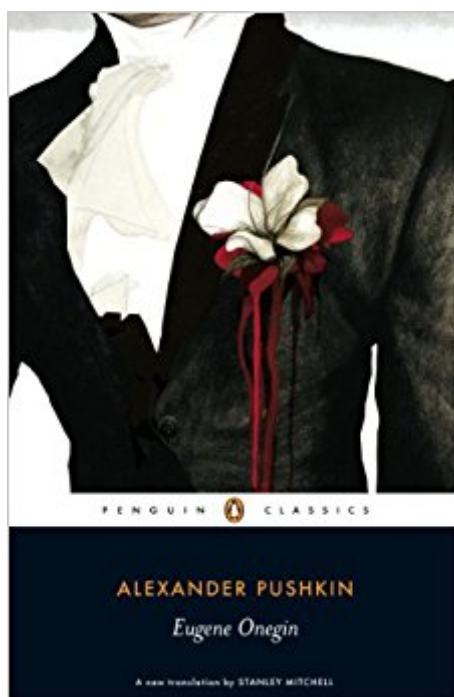


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Eugene Onegin: A Novel In Verse (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Eugene Onegin is the master work of the poet whom Russians regard as the fountainhead of their literature. Set in 1820s Russia, Pushkin's verse novel follows the fates of three men and three women. Engaging, full of suspense, and varied in tone, it contains a large cast of characters and offers the reader many literary, philosophical, and autobiographical digressions, often in a highly satirical vein. Eugene Onegin was Pushkin's own favourite work, and this new translation by Stanley Mitchell conveys the literal sense and the poetic music of the original.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Russian is my native language. Having tried to introduce my English speaking children to Pushkin I browsed through number of available translations of Eugene Onegin. I found Stanley Mitchell's translation from the original is being the most accurate and readable. James E. Falen's version is perhaps the next to this one. Nabokov's translation is one of the weakest, in my opinion. It is very hard to convey the prosody and wit of Pushkin for the non-Russian speaker and this translator does a superb job.

This semester, I took up the rather momentous task of reading Eugene Onegin in its original Russian. I used the Kindle Edition of this book as a means of staying on top of the general storyline while analyzing the Russian text. Having read Eugene Onegin once before in translation, I've found that this copy is more accurate and maintains the poetry rather well. While nothing is as beautiful as the original of any work, in my opinion, this translation is a close second.

If you're a fan of Russian literature, Pushkin or poetry, this is a good choice. It just doesn't get any better than Pushkin and this is arguably his best book. Huge kudos to the translator, who has some serious linguistic talent. This not only translates the story accurately, but the English version makes sense.

I read this book after watching a movie on the story. One thing for sure is that James Falen did a perfect job on the translation of EUGENE ONEGIN. Much of the Russian nature of glows in this English translation, brining out the humor, wittiness, emotions, grief, sadness and vitality of the original story, which mirrored the Russian society at the time Pushkin lived. The lessons from the story are strong. Never fight against somebody who is not out to hurt you even if you feel he hurt your pride. That was the case between Eugene and his friend and neighbor Vladimir Lensky, which ends tragically over a nonexistent rivalry over Olga Larin: Another lesson is to appreciate the genuine and selfless love of others for, especially when we are lost in life. That was the case of Olga's sister Tatiana, whom Eugene initially rejects, only to fall in love with her later at a time when she had lost faith in him and had committed herself to a man she did not love but respected. Pushkin himself could be seen in the writing. The loss of what we did not know we loved is the overriding theme in this book. In this direction, there are many lessons to learn from Russia. We can see that in UNION MOUJIK, WAR AND PEACE. I enjoyed reading this book, so if you are undecided about reading it, pick it up and do yourself a favor by knowing about this great work of art.

I was a bit intimidated at the thought of this Russian poem. But don't be! It's very enjoyable and reads beautifully. I couldn't put it down and finished it in one day! If I had not seen the movie it would have been even better with the added suspense. Do not pass this one by. It's well worth reading and owning.

Over the years I have struggled with direct translations of this classic. Despite the arresting story line I always found the contents dull and lifeless. It seemed that only a Russian speaker could really

appreciate Pushkin. However, this translation into English verse sparkles and trips along with vivacity and humor, and for the first time I could see how closely related this poem is to Byron's Don Juan. This easy to traverse Kindle version comes with a good chronology and introduction, and excellent footnotes. I don't think anyone will be disappointed with this interpretation of the classic.

What an awesome story! No wonder Tchaikowsky grabbed onto this and made an opera from it! Not only is the story line mesmerizing, but this transliteration is tremendous, far better than another one I read. It is DEFINITELY worth the price. If you are interested in Russian literature at all, this is a MUST. Dr. Alan-Clarke Hudson

I am glad I read Pushkin and this translation seems to capture well what made him so beloved by THE great Russian authors. The critical commentary which explains Pushkin's life and how it tied into the poetic tale was a great help. As I read the narrative poem I could see how it inspired those that followed - themes, characters and even stories. For example, Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita developed upon Tatiana's nightmarish dream. Anna Karenina comes to mind as well. If you have a keen background in poetry forms Onegin has extra charms and benefits. The footnotes were great in and of themselves because they reminded me, or more accurately taught me, a lot about who were the popular authors, poets, and thinkers - as well as what they were promoting - at the end of the 18th Century and beginning of the 19th. I enjoyed the story too.

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