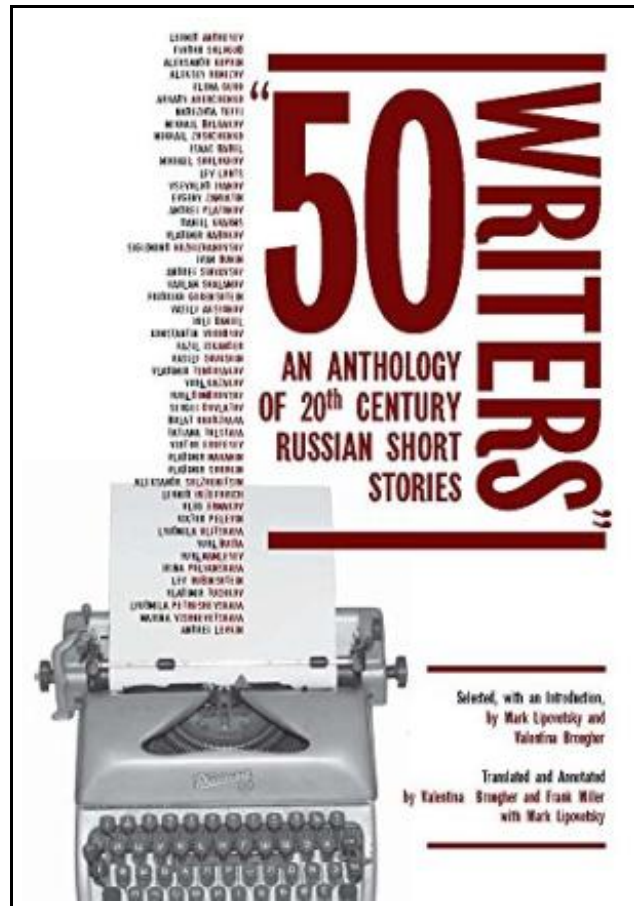


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Academic Studies Press, 2011. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: 50 WRITERS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF 20TH CENTURY RUSSIAN SHORT STORIES Translated from the Russian and annotated by Valentina Brougher, Mark Lipovetsky and Frank Miller Academic Studies Press, \$29, 788 pages If you like the short-story genre, don't pick up this addictive collection unless you are prepared to be lost in its riches for a considerable time. These beautifully translated, haunting Russian tales written from 1901 to 2001, almost all previously unpublished, read so smoothly that they are seductive. And, as the editors suggest, if the stories are read as they are arranged, chronologically, the continuity of certain themes makes the whole lot into "a kind of amazing mega-novel, with different heroes, historical periods and situations which nevertheless resonate with one another and become intertwined." Of course, the great advantage of short stories is that the reader can dip in and out without making the commitment that a novel requires, and if one story doesn't grab you, the next one may. The editors here - three university professors from Georgetown, Colorado at Boulder and Columbia - have captured not only the tragedies that Russians endured in the 20th century, amid revolutions and two world wars, but also the absurdities of everyday life in Russia. And as the editors point out, Russian writers like the short story form because it allows them to "compress their thoughts and observations" and perhaps better survive Soviet censorship. The first story, "Once Upon a Time," by Leonid Andreyev, from 1901, vividly conjures up the universal experience of a hospital room where three patients, in those flimsy gowns, face their different fates together. It's obvious that the dying rich merchant is discovering that he has led a pointless life, but the editors' introduction also...

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