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The Gypsies and Other Narrative Poems

By Alexander Pushkin

David R Godine. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 160 pages. Dimensions: 7.9in. x 5.5in. x 0.5in. Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837), Russia's greatest writer, wrote much more than his novel in verse Eugene Onegin. In this selection of five of his finest narrative poems, all his essential qualities are on display: his ironic poise, his stylistic variety, his confounding of expectations, his creation of poetry out of everyday language. *The Gypsies* is modern Russian literature's first masterpiece. Telling the anti-Romantic tale of an effete city-dweller whose search for unspoiled values among a band of gypsies ends in tragedy, it is the major but unacknowledged source for Bizet's *Carmen*. In *The Bridegroom* Pushkin turns the Romantic ballad into a whodunnit filled with sexual dread and subconscious terror. In *Count Nulin*, a deliciously comic tale of country life, he stands Shakespeare's *Rape of Lucrece* on its head: what would have happened if Lucrece had slapped Tarquin's face? *The Tale of the Dead Princess* (Pushkin's version of the Snow White story) transforms Russian folk tale into purest art, and its companion-piece, the eerie *Tale of the Golden Cockerel* (inspired by his bitter experience with Tsar Nicholas I), savagely politicizes the folk-tale form. Antony Wood...



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Reviews

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