



A Writer's Diary

By Fyodor Dostoevsky

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The essential entries from Dostoevsky's complete *Diary*, called his boldest experiment in literary form, are now available in this abridged edition; it is a uniquely encyclopedic forum of fictional and nonfictional genres. *A Writer's Diary* began as a column in a literary journal, but by 1876 Dostoevsky was able to bring it out as a complete monthly publication with himself as an editor, publisher, and sole contributor, suspending work on *The Brothers Karamazov* to do so.

The *Diary's* radical format was matched by the extreme range of its contents. In a single frame it incorporated an astonishing variety of material: short stories; humorous sketches; reports on sensational crimes; historical predictions; portraits of famous people; autobiographical pieces; and plans for stories, some of which were never written while others appeared later in the *Diary* itself. A range of authorial and narrative voices and stances and an elaborate scheme of allusions and cross-references preserve and present Dostoevsky's conception of his work as a literary whole.

Selected from the two-volume set, this abridged edition of *A Writer's Diary* appears in a single paperback volume, along with a new condensed introduction by editor Gary Saul Morson.

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A Writer's Diary By Fyodor Dostoevsky Bibliography

- Rank: #946677 in Books
- Published on: 2009-03-17
- Format: Abridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.60" w x 5.50" l, 1.66 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 574 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Was Dostoevsky's *A Writer's Diary* "a daring experiment in form," an integral work of art, as Morson claims, or was this monthly periodical--with Dostoevsky its editor, publisher and sole contributor--a mere hodge-podge of articles, sketches, reportage and short stories? Readers pondering this question will gain uncanny insight into the inner conflicts that shaped Dostoevsky's character and thought as they confront a staggering diversity of genres--self-parody, utopian and anti-utopian sketches, autobiographical reminiscences, vignettes celebrating prosaic incidents in the lives of ordinary people, accounts of suicides and sensational trials, jingoistic polemics, essays on Tolstoy, Pushkin and George Sand. This forceful translation by Lantz, a Slavic professor at the University of Toronto, preserves the raw, rough edge of the *Diary* (whose last issue was in 1881). In his illuminating introduction, Morson, a Slavic professor at Northwestern, shows how the *Diary* embodies Dostoevsky's belief that salvation or social uplift can only occur gradually through individual self-betterment.

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From Library Journal

Dostoevsky's unorthodox work, which began as a series of columns in 1873, is a pastiche of genres--fiction, journalism, political and cultural criticism, and autobiography. Intended as a vehicle for his artistic ruminations about his times, it was first translated into English in 1949 (by Boris Brasol) and published under the title *The Diary of a Writer* (LJ 5/15/49). An outstanding feature of this new translation is Gary Saul Morson's introduction. Morson masterfully places this groundbreaking work in its proper literary and historical context while acknowledging the unevenness of Dostoevsky's prose. The more memorable "entries" grapple with familial relationships; the best of these pieces form the basis for parts of *The Brothers Karamazov*. Though it is probably too long and disjointed for the general reader, this book provides fascinating insight into the workings of Dostoevsky's genius. Recommended for Russian literature collections.

- *Diane Gardner Premo, SILS, SUNY-Buffalo*

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Review

"An essential document for understanding this greatly flawed, greatly gifted master."--American Scholar

"Illuminates an entire stretch of Russian cultural history, and is indispensable on this score alone."--Joseph Frank, *London Review of Books*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Ochoa:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book *A Writer's Diary* has been making you to know

about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication A Writer's Diary is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with the book A Writer's Diary. You never feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Herman Jenkins:

This A Writer's Diary are generally reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The main reason of this A Writer's Diary can be on the list of great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you with information that possibly will shock your prior knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this A Writer's Diary giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

Valery Carpenter:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got students? We believe that that question was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. So you know that little person including reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important along with book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update concerning something by book. Many kinds of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims A Writer's Diary.

Anthony Carter:

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is written or printed or highlighted from each source in which filled update of news. With this modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social such as newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just in search of the A Writer's Diary when you desired it?

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