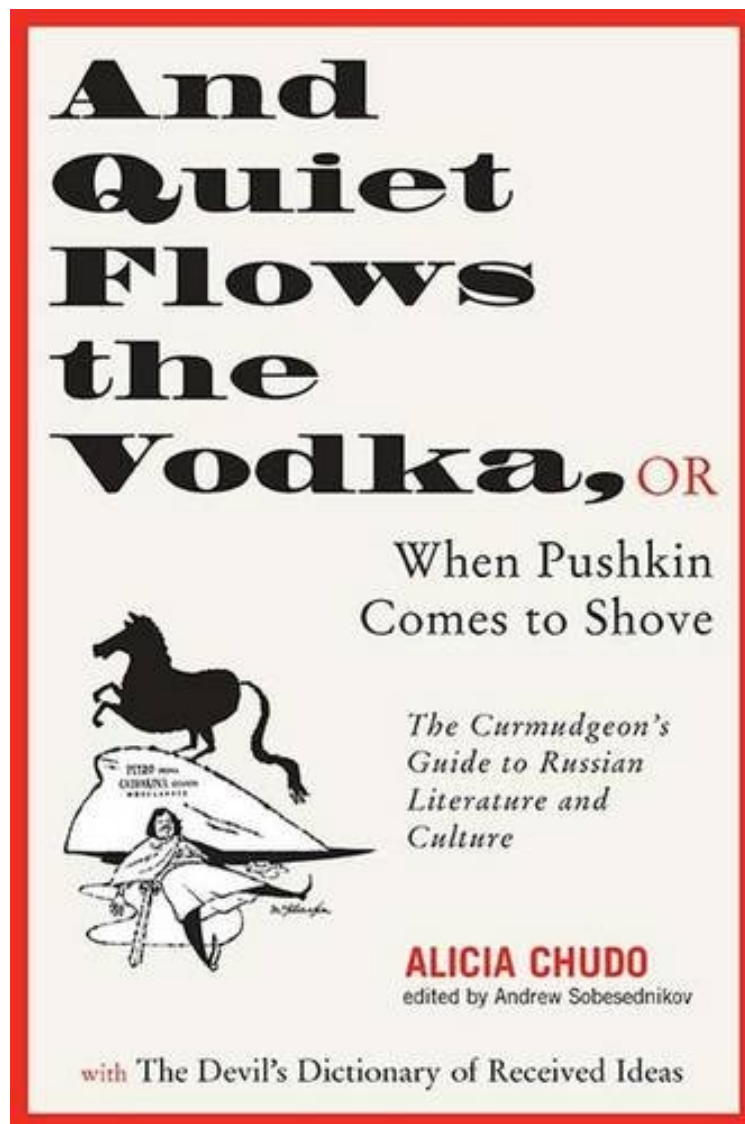


[Mobile book] And Quiet Flows the Vodka: or When Pushkin Comes to Shove: The Curmudgeon's Guide to Russian Literature with the Devil's Dictionary of Received Ideas

And Quiet Flows the Vodka: or When Pushkin Comes to Shove: The Curmudgeon's Guide to Russian Literature with the Devil's Dictionary of Received Ideas

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Alicia Chudo, Gary Saul Morson : And Quiet Flows the Vodka: or When Pushkin Comes to Shove: The Curmudgeon's Guide to Russian Literature with the Devil's Dictionary of Received Ideas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And Quiet Flows the Vodka: or When Pushkin

Comes to Shove: The Curmudgeon's Guide to Russian Literature with the Devil's Dictionary of Received Ideas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Was A Gift: He Loved ItBy Heidi Crabtree aka ScoundrelBought this for Christmas for my husband who has studied Russian/USSR history and its military history, as well as some Russian literature. He loved this book, out of all the books I gave him he finished this first. He did say that you have to have knowledge on Russian affairs and lit, there were a few bits he didn't quite "get," but he said he really enjoyed this. I'd have to recommend this to others with his interests and who are familiar with the themes in the book.10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Amusing, but no "1066 and All That"By UrsiformIf you swallow the hype, and go in expecting this book to on a level with "1066 and All That" you will be disappointed. "Chudo" has failed to absorb the lesson that "brevity is the soul of wit", a philosophy that helps make "1066 and All That" the wonderful book it is. There are certainly humorous moments in this book, but there are also long stretches that try too hard without every really getting funny. The "dictionary" at the end has far more duds than truly funny entries. If you love Russian literature you should probably take a look at this book, but don't expect to fall out of your chair laughing very often.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Awful!By A CustomerTerrible Book

Russia has fascinated outsiders for centuries, and according to Alicia Chudo, it is high time this borscht stopped. In this hilarious send up of Russian literature and history, Chudo takes no prisoners as she examines Russia's great tradition of unreadable geniuses, revolutionaries who can't hit the broad side of a tsar, and Soviets who like their vodka but love their tractors.Written in the tradition of 1066 and All That, The Pooh Perplex, and The Classics Redefined, And Quiet Flows the Vodka will, with any luck, be the final word on the ghastly first two millennia of Russian literature, history, and culture.

From Library JournalChudo, the pen name of Gary Saul Morson (Slavic languages and literature, Northwestern Univ.), has written a satirical survey of Russian civilization that is pure fun. Readers should not seek information here, for the book presupposes a good knowledge of Russian history and a thorough dislike of the pretentiousness of official interpretations. The author first gives a history of Russian literature in which most of the names and titles sound just a little different from those readers will remember but now have often ironic meanings. For example, Galicia becomes Garlicia, and the Russian scholar Vinogradov (meaning from the vineyard) appears as Vinopianov (wine-drunk). Chudo analyzes such literary masterpieces as War and Punishment and Nose from the Underground. David Senzel's The Russians: Victims of History from Yaroslavl to Yeltsin (Book Guild, 1997) also aims at a humorous discussion of Russian civilization yet mistakenly sticks to the facts; unfortunately, as Nikolai Gogol noted, Russian facts are boring. Highly recommended for all Russian studies collections."Bert Beynen, Des Moines Area Community Coll., Ankeny, IO Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sRussian history and literature get a good thrashing from truly grouchy Professor Chudo, assisted by editor Sobesednikov--both of whom are official pseudonyms of Russian Lit maven Gary S. Morson.Steppe by steppe, we learn from this elaborate put-on--and put-down--about the Russian national drink (vodka), national philosophy (vodka), national song (Vodka!), and most recent Five-Year Plan (anti-Semitism). Obscurity becomes lucid and vice versa. Obviously Chudo knows a lot of arcane stuff about the Slavic intelligentsia and does her utmost to protect us from it. From the graves of academe she delivers the ultimate in literary criticism. This seminal satirical study works out convoluted textual analysis and analyzes textual convolutions: included are several treasures like a new Gogol tale (clearly from the hand of the master) and an undoubted story by Dostoevsky (from the hand of the same master). Along with many footnotes and shameless wordplay, there's real verisimilitude to what might, at first glance, pass for a junior college's selection of an appropriate sophomore textbook. All of the Russias is a large target, and this spoof hits it. Unfortunately, other traits of Russian letters (feckless torpor and ennu) emerge in the appended material of comments regarding the Russian language, some faux advertising, a spotty chronology, and a comic dictionary (festooned with much doggerel) in the mode of Flaubert and Bierce. Chudo would have done well to recall her reference to a 19th-century novel so tedious that even its translator didn't read it. Nevertheless, the main text, often as nimble as Nijinsky, disses the Slavs in a manner that will certainly cause a lot of academic hilarity and possibly, as an American-Zionist provocation, a major diplomatic incident. Despite an underdone potato or two, this rich comic serving of borscht will be deemed savory by many a Department of Russian Studies. -- Copyright © 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "There is little that needs saying except bravo! . . . [B]y my lights, this is a brilliant satire that clicks from beginning to end. The book is an intriguing mixture of invented nonsense and quite genuine reflections on the sad history of Russia and the qualities--at once morose and wild--of its literature." --Frederick Crews, author of Postmodern Pooh