Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion

The IdiotThe Idiot [Large Print Unabridged Edition]The Idiot Frank J. Morlock Fyodor Dostoyevsky Fyodor Dostoyevsky

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prince myshkin a sort of holy fool stumbles into a sordid love triangle when he returns from exile to russia myskhin means well but he s simply too good for this world and his well meaning intentions bring disaster on himself and those he loves based on the classic novel the idiot by fyodor dostoyevsky

fyodor dostoyevsky s the idiot is an immaculate portrait of innocence tainted by the brutal reality of human greed this penguin classics edition is translated from the russian by david mcduff with an introduction by william mills todd iii returning to st petersburg from a swiss sanatorium the gentle and naïve epileptic prince myshkin the titular idiot pays a visit to his distant relative general yepanchin and proceeds to charm the general his wife and his three daughters but his life is thrown into turmoil when he chances on a photograph of the beautiful nastasya filippovna utterly infatuated with her he soon finds himself caught up in a love triangle and drawn into a web of blackmail betrayal and finally murder inspired by an image of christ's suffering dostoyevsky sought to portray in prince myshkin the purity of a truly beautiful soul and explore the perils that innocence and goodness face in a corrupt world david mcduff s new translation brilliantly captures the novel s idiosyncratic and dream like language and the nervous elliptic flow of the narrative this edition also contains a new introduction by william mills todd iii which is a fascinating examination of the pressures on dostoyevsky as he wrote the story of his christ like hero fyodor mikhailovich dostoyevsky 1821 1881 was born in moscow from 1849 54 he lived in a convict prison and in later years his passion for gambling led him deeply into debt his other works available in penguin classics include crime punishment the idiot and demons if you enjoyed the idiot you might like anton chekhov s ward no 6 and other stories also available in penguin classics mcduff s language is rich and alive the new york times book review the idiot's narrative is so compelling rowan williams archbishop of canterbury

the idiot a novel by the 19th century russian author fyodor dostoyevsky it was first published serially in the journal the russian messenger in 1868 9 the title is an ironic reference to the central character of the novel prince lyov nikolaevich myshkin a young man whose goodness and open hearted simplicity lead many of the more worldly characters he encounters to mistakenly assume that he

lacks intelligence and insight in the character of prince myshkin dostoevsky set himself the task of depicting the positively good and beautiful man the novel examines the consequences of placing such a unique individual at the centre of the conflicts desires passions and egoism of worldly society both for the man himself and for those with whom he becomes involved the result according to philosopher a c grayling is one of the most excoriating compelling and remarkable books ever written and without question one of the greatest

this book is designed to guide readers through dostoevsky s the idiot first published in 1869 and generally considered to be his most mysterious and confusing work

originally written in russian language the idiot is a unique masterpiece dostoevsky has depicted a good man prince myshkin who is trapped in the cruel and wild petersburg society that is obsessed with avarice power and manipulation it is a story of conflicting emotions of love and hatred friendship and hostility etc appealing

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first published serially between 1868 and 1869 the idiot is dostoevsky s most deeply personal work which he remarked was his own personal favorite it follows the journey of the title character prince lev nikolayevich myshkin who is actually intelligent but is cynically referred to as an idiot by his fellow characters for his moralistic purity prince myshkin is a young man from an ancient noble russian family who is returning home after a two year stay at a swiss clinic for treatment of his epilepsy a condition that dostoevsky himself suffered from on his train journey home he meets the darkly passionate and reckless young man rogozhin and is drawn into a love triangle with the beautiful but flawed and destructive nastasya filippovna upon returning to russia prince myshkin stands out as the exact opposite of the society around him he is thoughtful deliberate deeply compassionate and selfless while his contemporaries are greedy impulsive materialistic manipulative and self absorbed they cannot understand the prince and mistakenly interpret his naivete as idiocy the idiot is a tragic haunting and deeply moving examination of a wholesome and idealistic man s struggle to cope with the changes being brought on by a modernizing russia during the second half of the 19th century this edition follows the translation of eva m martin and includes a biographical afterword

the acclaimed translator of crime and punishment and the brothers karamazov returns with a definitive new rendering of dostoevsky s most enigmatic and poignant novel

the idiot pre reform russian Идіотъ post reform russian Идиот tr idiót is a novel by the 19th century russian author fyodor dostoevsky it was first published serially in the journal the russian messenger in 1868 69 the title is an ironic reference to the central character of the novel prince knyaz lev nikolayevich myshkin a young man whose goodness open hearted simplicity and guilelessness lead many of the more worldly characters he encounters to mistakenly assume that he lacks intelligence and insight in the character of prince myshkin dostoevsky set himself the task of depicting the positively good and beautiful man the novel examines the consequences of placing such a unique individual at the centre of the conflicts desires passions and egoism of worldly society both for the man himself and for those with whom he becomes involved joseph frank describes the idiot as the most personal of all dostoevsky s major works the book in which he embodies his most intimate cherished and sacred convictions 2 it includes descriptions of some of his most intense personal

ordeals such as epilepsy and mock execution and explores moral spiritual and philosophical themes consequent upon them his primary motivation in writing the novel was to subject his own highest ideal that of true christian love to the crucible of contemporary russian society

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richard pevear and larissa volokhonsky s masterful translation of the idiot is destined to stand with their versions of crime and punishment the brothers karamazov and demons as the definitive dostoevsky in english after his great portrayal of a guilty man in crime and punishment dostoevsky set out in the idiot to portray a man of pure innocence the twenty six year old prince myshkin following a stay of several years in a swiss sanatorium returns to russia to collect an inheritance and be among people even before he reaches home he meets the dark rogozhin a rich merchant s son whose obsession with the beautiful nastasya filippovna eventually draws all three of them into a tragic denouement in petersburg the prince finds himself a stranger in a society obsessed with money power and manipulation scandal escalates to murder as dostoevsky traces the surprising effect of this positively beautiful man on the people around him leading to a final scene that is one of the most powerful in all of world literature everyman s library pursues the highest production standards printing on acid free cream colored paper with full cloth cases with two color foil stamping decorative endpapers silk ribbon markers european style half round spines and a full color illustrated jacket everyman s library classics include an introduction a select bibliography and a chronology of the author s life and times

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what happens when perfect goodness confronts a corrupt world fyodor dostoevsky s the idiot published in 1869 poses this devastating question through one of literature s most extraordinary characters prince lev nikolayevich myshkin a man so pure of heart that society can only regard him as a fool returning to russia after years of treatment for epilepsy in switzerland myshkin enters st petersburg society with the radical notion that human beings can be redeemed through love and compassion his christ like innocence immediately draws him into the lives of two remarkable women nastasya filippovna a beauty whose soul has been shattered by abuse and betrayal and aglaya epanchin a spirited young woman torn between convention and her own fierce independence what

follows is a tragedy of such scope and intensity that it ranks among dostoevsky s greatest achievements the idiot is far more than a character study it is dostoevsky s bold attempt to imagine what would happen if a truly good person walked among us myshkin s very existence becomes a mirror that reflects the moral compromises petty jealousies and desperate hungers that drive those around him his inability to navigate the treacherous currents of social ambition and sexual desire makes him simultaneously the most innocent and most dangerous person in every room he enters set against the glittering backdrop of 1860s russian high society the novel captures a world in transition where old certainties are crumbling and new philosophies promise either salvation or destruction dostoevsky weaves together themes of faith and doubt love and possession sacrifice and self destruction with a psychological insight that feels startlingly modern this is a novel that dares to ask whether goodness itself might be a form of madness and whether the very qualities we most admire compassion forgiveness selfless love are compatible with survival in an unforgiving world the idiot doesn t merely tell a story it performs a kind of moral vivisection laying bare the contradictions at the heart of human nature with surgical precision and profound empathy for readers willing to confront these difficult questions the idiot offers one of literature s most rewarding and heartbreaking experiences a masterpiece that continues to challenge our assumptions about virtue suffering and what it truly means to be human

discover tiktok s new favourite book i loved it and could have read a thousand more pages of it emma cline author of the girls selin a tall highly strung turkish american from new jersey turns up at harvard with no idea what to expect what she doesn t expect is how much time she will spend thinking about language and its limitations an opinionated cosmopolitan serb named svetlana who will become her confidante a mathematician from hungary called ivan whom she will obsess over when she is supposed to be studying feeling dangerously overwhelmed by the challenges and possibilities of adulthood but most of all selin does not expect to embark on a study of precisely how baffling love can be when you are trying to forge a self praise for the idiot a moving continent hopping coming of age story observer elif batuman surely has one of the best senses of humour refreshing and unique sheila heti full of zingy one liners financial times hilarious brilliant observations about writing life and crushes curtis sittenfeld delightful and slyly funny red

fiódor dostoyevski s the idiot presented here in the unabridged eva martin translation delves into the complexities of human nature and morality through the character of prince myshkin a man whose innocent and naive demeanor starkly contrasts with the moral decay of the society around him the novel steeped in 19th century russian social dynamics employs a rich psychological narrative and a stream of consciousness style that draws readers into the tumultuous emotions and philosophical dilemmas faced by its characters dostoyevski juxtaposes the purity of myshkin with the corruptive forces of wealth ambition and cynicism inviting readers to ponder the true essence of goodness in a flawed world fiódor dostoyevski a prominent figure in russian literature was deeply influenced by his extensive experiences with poverty philosophical discourse and the socio political turmoil of his time his own bouts with mental health and imprisonment for political activism contributed to his profound understanding of human psychology and morality which is vividly articulated in the idiot this work is often seen as an exploration of the existential crisis and a critique of contemporary russian society reflecting the author s lifelong engagement with questions of faith suffering and redemption the unabridged eva martin translation of the idiot is highly recommended for readers interested in the depths of human emotion and the philosophical inquiries that define dostoyevski s work this edition not only preserves the integrity of the original text but also brings modern readers face to face with the timeless questions of morality and the human condition it is essential reading for anyone aspiring to delve into the profound complexities of dostoyevski s thought and the intricate tapestry of russian literature

this premium quality large print edition contains the complete and unabridged original classic version of the idiot printed on heavyweight bright white paper in a large 7 44 x9 69 format with a

fully laminated full color cover featuring an original design also included is authoritative introductory commentary discussing the life and work of fyodor dostoyevsky and the idiot in particular providing the modern reader with useful background information to enhance the enjoyment of this classic novel the idiot is prince lev nikolaievich myshkin returning to russia after a long stay at a swiss sanitorium prone to blackouts and learning difficulties as a youth he has been treated with some success but the society of st petersburg scorns him viewing as idiocy his simple honesty trustful nature and naiveté finding himself at the center of an increasingly complex entanglement involving a beautiful kept woman and a virtuous and pretty young girl both of whom win his affection and the men who love or desire them myshkin s unfettered goodness precipitates a tragic chain of events with disastrous consequences beginning with the chance meeting of myshkin light haired blue eyed affable and unassuming and the dark and intense rogozhin on the train to st petersburg the idiot is a study in contrasts exploring themes of good and evil honesty and deceit passion and self control through the story of myshkin a positively good man thrust into a society which espouses as values the very qualities which it derides as idiocy and questioning whether human society has a place for the true and unflinching honesty and trust of a saintly man complex and dense with rich characters and evocative questions about human nature and society ranked among the finest of dostoyevsky s works the idiot is often considered one of the most brilliant literary achievements of the golden age of russian literature like dickens in england dostoyevsky was embraced by the masses about whom he wrote and to whom he spoke despite criticism by contemporary experts who found his subject matter unsuitable for literature and his work lacking in style and technical merit and like dickens dostoyevsky has become an inextricable part of the culture of his country and the essential literature of the world

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