



The Gambler / Bobok / A Nasty Story (Penguin Classics)

By Fyodor Dostoyevsky

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The stories in this volume demonstrate Dostoyevsky's genius for fusing caricature, irony and the grotesque to create a powerful dark humour. "The Gambler" is a breathtaking portrayal of an intense and futile obsession. Based on Dostoyevsky's own experience of financial desperation and the compulsive desire to win money, it focuses on the characters that take their places at the gaming tables of 'Roulettenburg': the outspoken, aristocratic 'Grandmamma', the mercenary Mademoiselle Blanche, the cool, mysterious Polina and Alex, the author's self-portrait; a man gripped by exhilaration and hopelessness. "Bobok" is a blackly comic satire in which a desolate writer becomes drawn into the conversations of the dead, and "A Nasty Story" is a humorous look at the disparity between a man's exaggerated ideal of himself and the sad reality.

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Editorial Review

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About the Author

Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881), one of nineteenth-century Russia's greatest novelists, spent four years in a convict prison in Siberia, after which he was obliged to enlist in the army. In later years his penchant for gambling sent him deeply into debt. Most of his important works were written after 1864, including **Notes from Underground**, **Crime and Punishment**, **The Idiot**, and **The Brothers Karamazov**, all available from Penguin Classics.

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