



Lyrics Volume 2

1817-24

by Alexander Pushkin, translated by Various

The founding father of modern Russian literature, Alexander Pushkin has exerted - through his novel in verse *Eugene Onegin*, his plays, his short stories and his narrative poetry - a long-lasting influence well beyond the borders of his motherland. A slightly lesser-known, but by no mean less important aspect of his writing is his vast production of shorter verse, a genre at which he excelled and arguably still remains unsurpassed.

This volume, part of Alma's series of the complete poetic works of Alexander Pushkin, collects the poems Pushkin wrote during his time in St Petersburg as a young intellectual and his subsequent stay in the Caucasus and the Crimea, and includes many significant poems of his early maturity, such as 'My Homeland', 'Something or Nothing?' and 'A Storm', each presented in a verse translation opposite the original Russian text. Enriched with notes, pictures and an appendix on Pushkin's life and works, this will be essential reading for anyone wishing to delve deeper into the Russian bard's genius.

Author Bio

Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837) was a dramatist and poet, penning such influential works as *Eugene Onegin* and *Boris Godunov*. He is now considered the father of modern Russian literature.

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The Green Dwarf and Other Early Fiction by Charlotte Bronte

Pronounce quickly, monarch. If you die and make no sign on the subject, woe to Angria... The sword of war is unsheathed and the blade will rankle in many a bosom ere Adrian be cold in his grave."

Inspired by a box of wooden toy soldiers given as a present to her elder brother Branwell in 1826, Charlotte Bronte and her siblings created a series of tales centred originally upon the imaginary realm of Glass Town, and its capital Verdopolis, and then later on the land of Angria. In 'The Green Dwarf', against the backdrop of war between the people of Verdopolis and Senegal, the arrogant aristocrat Colonel Percy and Mr Leslie, a low-born artist, are locked in a battle for the heart of the beautiful Lady Emily. Taking the form of a work written by the character Lord Charles Wellesley as an act of revenge, 'The Spell' tells of the plight of the realms of Angria and Wellingtonsland after they are left without an heir due to the death of the Marquis of Almeida.

Full of tragedy and passion, love and rivalry, the five sweeping tales contained in this volume display the precocious talent, lively imagination and flair for storytelling of the young Charlotte Bronte.

Author Bio

Charlotte Bronte (1816-55) was the eldest of the three celebrated Bronte sisters. Under the care of her father, Charlotte was educated and encouraged to take an interest in natural history. This freedom inspired Charlotte to argue strongly for the intellectual worth of women through her novels, and her success and the respect she won paved the way for future female authors.

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Confessions of an English Opium Eater and Other Writings

by Thomas De Quincey

I have often been asked how I first came to be a regular opium-eater... "

"I sometimes seemed to have lived for 70 or 100 years in one night - nay, sometimes had feelings representative of a millennium passed in that time, or... of a duration far beyond the limits of any human experience."

In an examination of his laudanum addiction, Thomas De Quincey lays bare the celestial pleasures and infernal lows of a life spent in dependence on "subtle and mighty opium". At once moving and rhapsodic, and suffused with a poetic and lyrical beauty, *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* hauntingly evokes frightful visions and phantasmagorical night-time wanderings, while reality, dream and memory blur and intertwine in a nebulous and protean haze.

This edition also includes the classic 'Suspiria de Profundis' and 'The English Mail-Coach', both continuing De Quincey's exploration of the drug and its relationship with dreams and the events of childhood, and inspiring Virginia Woolf to declare that De Quincey's writing has "the effect of rings of sound which break into each other and widen out and out till the brain can hardly expand far enough to realize the last remote vibrations"

Author Bio

Thomas De Quincey (1785-1859) was a journalist and author best known for *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, 'Suspiria de Profundis' and 'The English Mail-Coach'. His extraordinary and wide-ranging influence can be felt in authors from Baudelaire to J.G. Ballard, with the former describing him as one of the most original minds" in England.

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Memoirs of a Mother in Law

by George R. Sims

Jane Tressider has never been afraid of speaking her mind, even if she admits that she may have occasionally given offence by doing so. But as a busy mother of nine children, she cannot let such a small foible get in the way of her job, which is to keep her feckless husband on his toes while ensuring the perfect management not just of her own household but also of that of her married daughters and sons.

Since mothers-in-law have always been misunderstood and no one has ever taken up their side of the argument properly, Jane is determined to set the record straight and plead the cause of the most maligned race on the face of the earth. The result is a hilarious comedy of manners and a gentle satire of Edwardian mores and attitudes.

Author Bio

George R. Sims (1847-1922) was one of the leading satirists and playwrights of his time. A friend of W.S. Gilbert and Ambrose Bierce, he was the author of over thirty plays, some of which enjoyed long runs across Britain.

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