



The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them

Elif Batuman

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One of *The Economist's* 2011 Books of the Year

**THE TRUE BUT UNLIKELY STORIES OF LIVES DEVOTED?ABSURDLY!
MELANCHOLICALLY! BEAUTIFULLY! TO THE RUSSIAN CLASSICS**

No one who read Elif Batuman's first article (in the journal *n+1*) will ever forget it. "Babel in California" told the true story of various human destinies intersecting at Stanford University during a conference about the enigmatic writer Isaac Babel. Over the course of several pages, Batuman managed to misplace Babel's last living relatives at the San Francisco airport, uncover Babel's secret influence on the making of *King Kong*, and introduce her readers to a new voice that was unpredictable, comic, humane, ironic, charming, poignant, and completely, unpretentiously full of love for literature.

Batuman's subsequent pieces?for *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, and the *London Review of Books*? have made her one of the most sought-after and admired writers of her generation, and its best traveling companion. In *The Possessed* we watch her investigate a possible murder at Tolstoy's ancestral estate. We go with her to Stanford, Switzerland, and St. Petersburg; retrace Pushkin's wanderings in the Caucasus; learn why Old Uzbek has one hundred different words for crying; and see an eighteenth-century ice palace reconstructed on the Neva.

Love and the novel, the individual in history, the existential plight of the graduate student: all find their place in *The Possessed*. Literally and metaphorically following the footsteps of her favorite authors, Batuman searches for the answers to the big questions in the details of lived experience, combining fresh readings of the great Russians, from Pushkin to Platonov, with the sad and funny stories of the lives they continue to influence?including her own.

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Bryan Donovan:

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Benjamin Martinez:

The reason? Because this The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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