

# The Master and Margarita

By Mikhail Bulgakov



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I first read Mikhail Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita on a balcony of the Hotel Metropole in Saigon on three summer evenings in 1971. The tropical air was heavy and full of the smells of cordite and motorcycle exhaust and rotting fish and wood-fire stoves, and the horizon flared ambiguously, perhaps from heat lightning, perhaps from bombs. Later each night, as was my custom, I would wander out into the steamy back alleys of the city, where no one ever seemed to sleep, and crouch in doorways with the people and listen to the stories of their culture and their ancestors and their ongoing lives. Bulgakov taught me to hear something in those stories that I had not yet clearly heard. One could call it, in terms that would soon thereafter gain wide currency, "magical realism". The deadpan mix of the fantastic and the realistic was at the heart of the Vietnamese mythos. It is at the heart of the present zeitgeist. And it was not invented by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, as wonderful as his One Hundred Years of Solitude is. Garcia Marquez's landmark work of magical realism was predated by nearly three decades by Bulgakov's brilliant masterpiece of a novel. That summer in Saigon a vodka-swilling, talking black cat, a coven of beautiful naked witches, Pontius Pilate, and a whole cast of benighted writers of Stalinist Moscow and Satan himself all took up permanent residence in my creative unconscious. Their presence, perhaps more than anything else from the realm of literature, has helped shape the work I am most proud of. I'm often asked for a list of favorite authors. Here is my advice. Read Bulgakov. Look around you at the new century. He will show you things you need to see.





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# The Master and Margarita By Mikhail Bulgakov Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

Review

"A wild surrealistic romp. . . . Brilliantly flamboyant and outrageous." —Joyce Carol Oates, *The Detroit News* 

"This dark, absurd, and subversive treasure lay hidden for many years, even after Bulgakov's death, such was the fear of reprisal for such a pointed, authentic stab at life under the tyrannical malevolence of Uncle Joe and the withering Soviet climate of the time." —Johnny Depp, "My Essentials" in *Entertainment Weekly's* "Best of the Decade" issue (December 11, 2009)

"Fine, funny, imaginative . . . . The Master and Margarita stands squarely in the great Gogolesque tradition of satiric narrative." —Saul Maloff, *Newsweek* 

"The book is by turns hilarious, mysterious, contemplative and poignant. . . . A great work." — *Chicago Tribune* 

"Magnificent . . . a gloriously ironic gothic masterpiece . . . had me rapt with bliss." —Patrick McGrath, *Guardian* (UK)

"Funny, devilish, brilliant satire . . . It's literature of the highest order and . . . it will deliver a full measure of enjoyment and enlightenment." — $Publishers\ Weekly$ 

"A rich, funny, moving and bitter novel . . . . Vast and boisterous entertainment." —The New York Times

"A classic of twentieth-century fiction." —The New York Times Book Review

Language Notes

Text: English, Russian (translation)

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

# **Sammy McManus:**

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they're still students or this for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has different personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and important the book The Master and Margarita. All type of book can you see on many sources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

# **Lloyd Schuler:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you this The Master and Margarita book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

#### **Jennifer Powell:**

The book with title The Master and Margarita has lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This kind of book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

# **Lloyd Gilbert:**

The Master and Margarita can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Master and Margarita however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into fresh stage of crucial imagining.

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