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# White Walls Collected Stories Tatyana Tolstaya

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The Rain Watcher Open Road + Grove/Atlantic  
From the author of the prizewinning memoir about growing up in Stalinist Russia, *The Girl from the Metropol*

Hotel, the masterly novellas that established her as one of the greatest living Russian writers—including a new translation of the modern classic *The Time Is Night* “ Love them, they ’ ll torture you; don ’ t love them, they ’ ll leave you anyway. ” After her work was suppressed for many years, Ludmilla Petrushevskaya won wide recognition for capturing the experiences of everyday Russians with profound pathos

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and mordant wit. Among her most famous and controversial works, these three novellas—The Time Is Night, Chocolates with Liqueur (inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado"), and Among Friends—are modern classics that breathe new life into Tolstoy's famous dictum, "All happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Together they confirm the genius of an author with a gift for turning adversity into art. *Aetherial Worlds* Random House Trade Paperbacks "Playful and poetic . . . A foxy, original writer. Memory fuses with wonder, and wonder with worship." —The Wall Street Journal "Marvelously vivid, perfectly tuned. . . Tolstaya is well known in Russia as a brilliant and caustic political critic, but

her memories of her Soviet childhood have a tender, personal quality." —The New York Times Book Review "Grimly hilarious ... Everything in this generous writer's hands is vivid and alive ... Tolstaya is divinely quotable—slangy, indignant, lyrical, crude...It's all sublime...the swerve and cackle, the breeziness and dark depths...the torrents of language and the offhand perfect touch...She has been compared to Chekhov. Absurd...Tolstaya barrels by him and knocks him in the ditch." —Joy Williams, Bookforum From one of modern Russia's finest writers, a spellbinding collection of eighteen stories, her first to be translated into English in

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more than twenty years. Ordinary realities and yearnings to transcend them lead to miraculous other worlds in this dazzling collection of stories. A woman's deceased father appears in her dreams with clues about the afterlife; a Russian professor in a small American town constructs elaborate fantasies during her cigarette break; a man falls in love with a marble statue as his marriage falls apart; a child glimpses heaven through a stained-glass window. With the emotional insight of Chekhov, the surreal satire of Gogol, and a unique blend of humor and poetry all her own, Tolstaya transmutes the quotidian into aetherial alternatives. These tales,

about politics, identity, love, and loss, cut to the core of the Russian psyche, even as they lay bare human universals. Tolstaya's characters--seekers all--are daydreaming children, lonely adults, dislocated foreigners in unfamiliar lands. Whether contemplating the strategic complexities of delivering telegrams in Leningrad or the meditative melancholy of holiday aspic, vibrant inner lives and the grim elements of existence are registered in equally sharp detail in a starkly bleak but sympathetic vision of life on earth. A unique collection from one of the first women in years to rank among Russia's most important writers. Kremlin Wives New York

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## Review of Books

Published to accompany the 1994 exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, this book constitutes the most extensive survey of modern illustrated books to be offered in many years. Work by artists from Pierre Bonnard to Barbara Kruger and writers from Guillaume Apollinaire to Susan Sontag. An important reference for collectors and connoisseurs. Includes notable works by Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse, and Pablo Picasso.

A Werewolf Problem in Central Russia and Other Stories Europa Editions

Satirical stories by a Russian writer. The story, Vera Pavlovna's Ninth Dream, is on the transition from communism to capitalism as experienced by the cleaner of a public toilet, Bulldozer Driver's Day is on a hydrogen bomb assembly line, while The Ontology of Childhood compares childhood to

prison. By the author of The Blue Lantern.

Pushkin's Children  
Vintage

27 contributors to The New York Review of Books tell of their deep and abiding friendships with other poets, writers, artists, composers, and scientists of equal stature.

**The Bridge of Beyond**  
New York Review of Books

The Dud Avocado follows the romantic and comedic adventures of a young American who heads overseas to conquer Paris in the late 1950s. Edith Wharton and Henry James wrote about the American girl abroad, but it was Elaine Dundy's Sally Jay Gorce who told us what she was really thinking. Charming, sexy, and hilarious, The Dud Avocado gained

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instant cult status  
when it was first  
published and it  
remains a timeless  
portrait of a woman  
hell-bent on living.

"I had to tell someone  
how much I enjoyed *The  
Dud Avocado*. It made  
me laugh, scream, and  
guffaw (which,  
incidentally, is a  
great name for a law  
firm)." -Groucho Marx

"[*The Dud Avocado*] is  
one of the best novels  
about growing up  
fast..." -The Guardian

**Earthly Signs** Houghton  
Mifflin Harcourt

White Walls New York  
Review of Books

*Den grimme ælling*  
Rebellion

Publishing Ltd

For over seventy  
years the Kremlin  
was the bastion of  
the all-powerful  
Soviet rulers. A  
great deal is known

about the men who  
held millions of  
fates in their iron  
grip, yet little is  
known about the  
women—the wives and  
mistresses—who  
shared their lives.  
They took part in  
the Revolution and  
its aftermath, bore  
children, and  
suffered abuse;  
some were arrested  
and sent to  
Siberia, driven to  
suicide, or even  
murdered. In 1991  
the KGB granted the  
author access to  
its secret files,  
which, together  
with the author's  
own research and  
interviews,  
provided the  
material for this  
book. Here for the

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first time the stark and sometimes scandalous truth about these women is revealed. Lenin's wife worked passionately for the Revolution alongside her husband, from the time of Lenin's exile until her death. His mistress was also a close friend of his wife. Stalin married Nadezhda Alliluyeva when she was only sixteen. Earlier, he had had a relationship with Nadezhda's mother, and there is strong evidence that his wife may also have been his daughter. When she was found dead in a pool of blood, the official verdict was suicide, but many believe she was murdered. Secret Police Chief Lavrenti Beria, known as "The Butcher," roamed the streets in Moscow in a curtain-drawn limousine, stalking young girls who would later be abducted by his agents. One was forced to marry Beria—his wife Nina Teimurazovna. Among the many other Kremlin "wives" portrayed here are: Alexandra Kollontai, feminist and supporter of "free love"; Larissa Reisner, Boris Pasternak's

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muse; Olga Nelson Mandela, and  
 Kameneva, Trotsky's Alexander Graham  
 sister; Nina Bell, as well as  
 Khrushchev; villains from  
 Victoria Brezhnev; history, such as  
 Galina Brezhneva; Heinrich Himmler,  
 Tatyana Fillipovna John Wayne Gacy,  
 Andropov, and Raisa and O. J. Simpson.  
 Gorbachev—supposedl We have also  
 y the only Soviet published survivor  
 ruler's wife to stories of World  
 have married for War II, memoirs  
 love. Skyhorse about overcoming  
 Publishing, along adversity, first-  
 with our Arcade, hand tales of  
 Good Books, Sports adventure, and much  
 Publishing, and more. While not  
 Yucca imprints, is every title we  
 proud to publish a publish becomes a  
 broad range of New York Times  
 biographies, bestseller or a  
 autobiographies, national  
 and memoirs. Our bestseller, we are  
 list includes committed to books  
 biographies on well-on subjects that  
 known historical are sometimes  
 figures like overlooked and to  
 Benjamin Franklin, authors whose work

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might not otherwise find a home.

**There Once Lived a Mother Who Loved Her Children, Until They**

**Moved Back In** Farrar, Straus and Giroux

"There are shades of David Lynch, Margaret Atwood and Angela Carter in this

collection of feminist allegories and surreal skits" (The Guardian).

Dolls, mirrors, tinned foods, malfunctioning

bodies—the seemingly banal quickly turns

unsettling in this debut story

collection. A woman laments having to send her children to

daycare before turning into a wolf and eating

them both in "The Mouse Queen." "Waxy"

explores a dystopian world where failure to

register for exams can result in blackmail.

And in "Unstitching,"

a woman unstitches her own body to reveal her

new form, which resembles a sewing

machine. With the thirteen stories

collected in The Doll's Alphabet,

Camilla Grudova proves herself to be "a canny

collage artist with an eye for the comically

macabre." While Grudova draws "her

images from Victorian and Edwardian

aesthetics . . . her ironies and insights

about the inequalities in relationships

between men and women feel startlingly

current (Publishers Weekly).

**Me, Margarita** Tate

The first English-language collection of

short stories by Russia's greatest

contemporary author, Mikhail Shishkin, the

only author to win all three of Russia's most



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prestigious literary awards. Often included in discussions of Nobel Prize contenders, Shishkin is a master prose writer in the breathtakingly beautiful style of the greatest Russian authors, known for complex, allusive novels about universal and emotional themes. Shishkin's stories read like modern versions of the eternal literature written by his greatest inspirations: Boris Pasternak, Ivan Bunin, Leo Tolstoy, and Mikhail Bulgakov. Shishkin's short fiction is the perfect introduction to his breathtaking oeuvre, his stories touch on the same big themes as his novels, spanning discussions of love and loss, death and eternal life,

emigration and exile. Calligraphy Lesson spans Shishkin's entire writing career, including his first published story, the 1993 Debut Prize-winning "Calligraphy Lesson," and his most recent story "Nabokov's Inkblot," which was written for a dramatic adaptation performed in Zurich in 2013. Mikhail Shishkin (b. 1961 in Moscow) is one of the most prominent names in contemporary Russian literature. A former interpreter for refugees in Switzerland, Shishkin divides his time between Moscow, Switzerland, and Germany.

Great Granny Webster Flatiron Books: An Oprah Book  
"Tolstaya's essays

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in this compact, a variety of  
historically subjects. They move  
significant volume in one unique voice  
offer a from Soviet women,  
fascinating, highly classical Russian  
intelligent cooking, and the  
analysis of Russian bliss of snow to  
society and the effect of  
politics" Pushkin and freedom  
(Publishers on Russia writers;  
Weekly). These from the death of  
twenty pieces the czar and the  
address the Great Terror to the  
politics, culture, changes brought by  
and literature of Gorbachev, Yeltsin,  
Russia with both and Putin in the  
flair and last decade.  
erudition. Throughout this  
Passionate and engaging volume,  
opinionated, often the Russian  
funny, and using temperament comes  
ample material from into high relief.  
daily life to Whether addressing  
underline their literature or  
ideas and reporting on  
observations, politics,  
Tatyana Tolstaya's Tolstaya's writing  
essays range across conveys a deep

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knowledge of her country and countrymen. Pushkin's Children is a book for anyone interested in the Russian soul. "Tolstaya is simply the most fearless female observer of the very male-centric culture . . . of the USSR." —Ben Dickinson, *Elle Sour Heart* Penguin  
INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  
"Searing. Powerful. Needed." —Oprah  
"Sometimes a single story can change the world. Unbound is one of those stories. Tarana's words are a testimony to liberation and love." —Brené Brown

From the founder and activist behind one of the largest movements of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the "me too" movement, Tarana Burke debuts a powerful memoir about her own journey to saying those two simple yet infinitely powerful words—me too—and how she brought empathy back to an entire generation in one of the largest cultural events in American history. Tarana didn't always have the courage to say "me too." As a child, she reeled from her sexual assault, believing she was responsible. Unable to confess what she thought of as her own sins for fear of

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shattering her family, her soul split in two. One side was the bright, intellectually curious third generation Bronxite steeped in Black literature and power, and the other was the bad, shame ridden girl who thought of herself as a vile rule breaker, not as a victim. She tucked one away, hidden behind a wall of pain and anger, which seemed to work...until it didn't. Tarana fought to reunite her fractured self, through organizing, pursuing justice, and finding community. In her debut memoir she shares her extensive work supporting and empowering Black and brown girls, and the devastating realization that to truly help these girls she needed to help that scared, ashamed child still in her soul. She needed to stop running and confront what had happened to her, for Heaven and Diamond and the countless other young Black women for whom she cared. They gave her the courage to embrace her power. A power which in turn she shared with the entire world. Through these young Black and brown women, Tarana found that we can only offer empathy to others if we first offer it to ourselves. Unbound is the story of an inimitable woman's

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inner strength and perseverance, all in pursuit of bringing healing to her community and the world around her, but it is also a story of possibility, of empathy, of power, and of the leader we all have inside ourselves. In sharing her path toward healing and saying "me too," Tarana reaches out a hand to help us all on our own journeys.

*Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love*  
New York Review of Books

*Mona and Other Tales* covers Reinaldo Arenas's entire career: his recently rediscovered debut (which got him a job at the Biblioteca Nacional in Havana), stories written in a political prison, and some of his last works, written in exile. Many of the stories have not previously appeared in English. Here is the tender story of a boy who recognizes evil for the first time and decides to ignore it; the tale of a writer struggling between the demands of creativity and of fame; common people dealing with changes brought about by revolution and exile; a romp with a famous, dangerous woman in the Metropolitan Museum; an outrageous fantasy that picks up where Garcia Lorca's famous play *The House of Bernardo Alba* ends. Told with Arenas's famous wit and humanity, *Mona* makes a perfect introduction to this important writer. Translated

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from the Spanish by Dolores Koch.

ABRAMS

Who is this Vladimir Putin? Who is this man who suddenly--overnight and without warning--was handed the reigns of power to one of the most complex, formidable, and volatile countries in the world? How can we trust him if we don't know him? First Person is an intimate, candid portrait of the man who holds the future of Russia in his grip. An extraordinary compilation of over 24 hours of in-depth interviews and remarkable photographs, it delves deep into Putin's KGB past and explores his meteoric rise to power. No Russian leader has ever subjected himself to

this kind of public examination of his life and views. Both as a spy and as a virtual political unknown until selected by Boris Yeltsin to be Prime Minister, Putin has been regarded as man of mystery. Now, the curtain lifts to reveal a remarkable life of struggles and successes. Putin's life story is of major importance to the world.

*Infernal Open Road*  
Media

The international bestselling story collection. "Truth and beauty are here brought together with all the visual beauty and power of a major literary work" (Lire Magazine, France). A cast of extravagant and affecting characters lovingly portrayed by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt

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animates these eight contemporary fables about people in search of happiness. One of Europe's most popular and bestselling authors, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt captivates the reader with his spirited style and enchanting stories that move effortlessly from the everyday to the fantastical. The eight stories in this collection, his first to be published in English, represent his best and most imaginative storylines: from the touching and surprising love story between Balthazar, a wealthy author, and Odette, a shop clerk, to the tale of a barefooted princess; from the moving title story about a group of female prisoners in a Soviet gulag to the entertaining portrait

of a perennially disgruntled perfectionist. Behind each story lies a simple, if elusive, truth: though we may be frequently blind to it, happiness is often right in front of our eyes.

### **The Company They**

**Kept** New York Review of Books Profiles the Romanov Dynasty tsar as one of Russia's most forward-thinking rulers, documenting his efforts to redefine history by bringing freedom to his country, the use of terrorist bombings by the radicals that lived during his regime, and the series of assassination

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attempts that eventually ended his life. By the author of *The Last Tsar*. Reprint. 35,000 first printing.

*The Most Beautiful Book in the World*  
Anchor

Collects four stories, including "The Circus," in which rhyming text describes different circus performances.

**First Person** New York Review of Books  
From American Book Award-winning author Ana Castillo comes a suspenseful, moving novel about a sensuous, smart, and fiercely independent woman. Eking out a living as a teacher's aide in a small New Mexican border town, Tía Regina is also raising her teenage

nephew, Gabo, a hardworking boy who has entered the country illegally and aspires to the priesthood. When Gabo's father, Rafa, disappears while crossing over from Mexico, Regina fears the worst. After several days of waiting and with an ominous phone call from a woman who may be connected to a smuggling ring, Regina and Gabo resolve to find Rafa. Help arrives in the form of Miguel, an amorous, recently divorced history teacher; Miguel's gregarious abuelo Milton; a couple of Gabo's gangbanger classmates; and a priest of wayward faith. Though their journey is rife with challenges and danger, it will serve as a remarkable



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testament to family  
bonds, cultural pride,  
and the human  
experience Praise for  
The Guardians NAMED  
ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS  
OF THE YEAR BY THE  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE "An  
always skilled  
storyteller,  
[Castillo] grounds her  
writing in . . .  
humor, love, suspense  
and heartache-that  
draw the reader in."  
-Chicago Sunday Sun-  
Times "A rollicking  
read, with jokes and  
suspense and joy rides  
and hearts breaking .  
. . This smart,  
passionate novel  
deserves a wide  
audience." -Los  
Angeles Times "What  
drives the novel is  
its chorus of  
characters, all, in  
their own way,  
witnesses and guardian  
angels. In the end,  
Castillo's  
unmistakable

voice-earthy,  
impassioned, weaving a  
'hybrid vocabulary for  
a hybrid people'-is  
the book's greatest  
revelation." -Time Out  
New York "A wonderful  
novel . . . Castillo's  
most important  
accomplishment in The  
Guardians is to give a  
unique literary voice  
to questions about  
what makes up a  
'family.' " -El Paso  
Times "A moving book  
that is both intimate  
and epic in its  
narrative." -Oscar  
Hijuelos, author of  
The Mambo Kings Play  
Songs of Love  
*Between the World  
and Me* Columbia  
University Press  
"Tolstaya carves  
indelible people  
who roam the  
imagination long  
after the book is  
put down." -Time

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Tatyana Tolstaya's descents to earth, short stories—with Tolstaya is the their unpredictable natural successor fairy-tale plots, in a great Russian appealingly literary lineage eccentric that includes characters, and Gogol, Yuri Olesha, stylistic abundance Bulgakov, and Nabokov. White and flair—established Walls is the most her in the 1980s as comprehensive one of modern collection of Russia's finest Tolstaya's short writers. Since then fiction to be her work has been published in translated English so far. It throughout the presents the world. Edna O'Brien contents of her two has called Tolstaya previous "an enchantress." collections, On the Anita Desai has Golden Porch and spoken of her Sleepwalker in a work's "richness Fog, along with and ardent life." several previously Mixing heartbreak uncollected and humor, dizzying stories. Tolstaya flights of fantasy writes of lonely and plunging children and lost

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love, of philosophers of the absurd and poets working as janitors, of angels and halfwits. She shows how the extraordinary will suddenly erupt in the midst of ordinary life, as she explores the human condition with a matchless combination of unbound imagination and unapologetic sympathy.

**Memories** Archipelago “[A] blistering novel” of family, loyalty, ambition, and revenge that offers an intimate look into the tragedies unfurling at the US-Mexico border (Publishers Weekly). The promise of a new beginning brings Casimiro and Nopal

together when they are young immigrants, having made the nearly deadly journey across the border from Mexico. They settle into a life of long days in the chili fields, and in a few years their happy union yields two sons, Lorenzo and Vito. But when Nopal is brutally murdered, the boys are left to navigate life in this brave but capricious new world without her. A Glass of Water is a searing, heartfelt tribute to brotherhood, and an arresting portrait of the twisted paths people take to claim their piece of the American dream. The first novel from award-winning memoirist, poet, and activist, Jimmy Santiago Baca, it is a passionate and galvanizing addition to Chicano literature.

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"The sheer passion that drives Baca's novel is undeniable."

-Publishers Weekly

"[With] image-rich writing . . . A Glass of Water adds another strong voice to the growing body of literature on immigration and migrant farmworkers . . . Baca should be commended for tackling injustice in his fiction." -High Country News "A well-written and at times lyrical saga told with understanding and compassion." -Library Journal