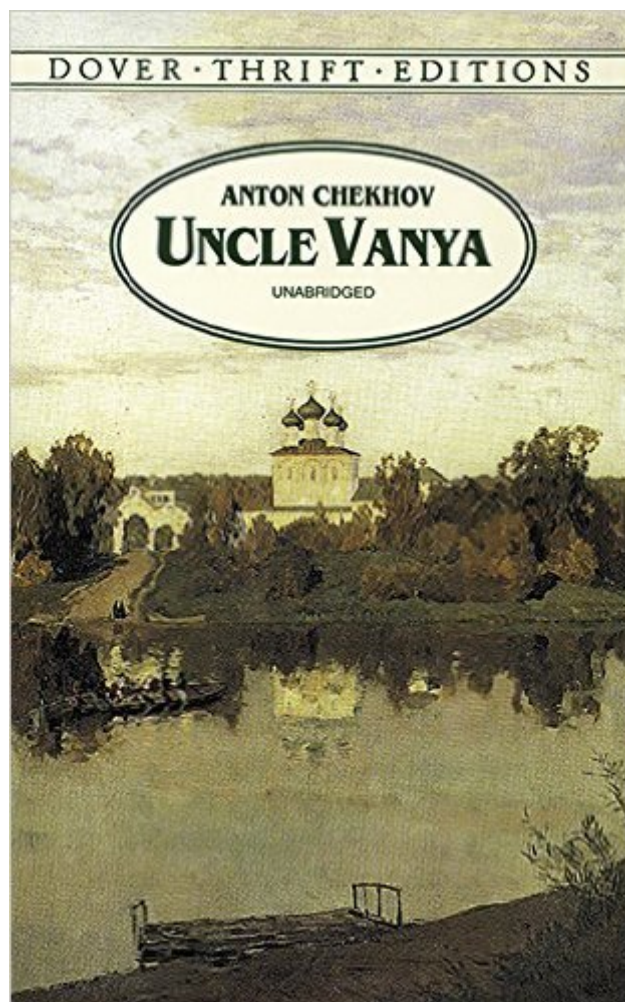


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Uncle Vanya (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

This structurally and psychologically compact drama takes place on an estate in 19th-century Russia, exploring the complex interrelationships between a retired professor, his second wife, and the daughter and brother-in-law from his first marriage. Interwoven themes of weakness, delusion, and despair are balanced by an underlying message of courage and hope.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Have you ever been lonely, and alone, in a room where a clock is loudly ticking? You feel empty inside, hoping yet knowing your hope is unjustified. All you hear is the ticking clock. And yet you will go on, you will rise every morning, live, struggle, dream. But still you feel empty, and you know that nothing and no one can change it. That is Uncle Vanya. It is beautiful and sad, and it shows the frailty of the human soul, its hunger for fulfillment, its sad realization that, in the end, there is only the relentless and cold march of time. Truly, one of the greatest masterpieces in all of world literature.

I have read many versions of Uncle Vanya, but this edition is an up-beat, funny, and, ultimately wonderful version of the excellent story by one of Russias beloved writers. I was looking for the right edition to use in my school for the school play, and this edition the kids could connect to. It doesn't have a lot of that Shakespere mumbo-jumbo that you have to read 50 times. This is accesible and very good. rock on David Mamet.

I've just seen the Brian Friel adaptation of Vanya at the Guthrie. It's a hell of a lot more fun than the dull, humorless version I've read in Ronald Hingley translation (Oxford World's Classics, "Five Plays".) Friel adds a fair amount of material to the original, giving the story a much needed injection of levity. But it's still a "tragicomedy", and Friel's comic lines are MIA at the deadly ending of the play. I'm not sure anyone could have made that endurable. In case the audience hasn't yet got the message, Vanya complains once again that nobody knows the troubles he's seen. Sofia feels his pain, and then proceeds to deliver a painful soliloquy on the generally unhappy state of affairs that made me want to lobotomize myself with my program. Friel should have given the thing a funny ending and renamed it "The Uncle Who Couldn't Shoot Straight" Anyway, this is a review of the Friel version of "Uncle Vanya", so I'm confused about the fact that many of the reviewers here seem to think that it's the David Mamet version. What am I missing?

I definitely wouldn't have thought I'd ever give this play 4 stars. At first, I was bored, but I just needed to get acquainted with the world of the play, the world that it was written in, and to look past just the words on the page. It's subtle and sad. It's definitely worth a read, maybe two.

In a world full of whining and complaining about insignificant things, it's fun to once again admire Anton Chekhov and his ability to make this seem imperative to human life. While in the setting of Russian gentry, everything is falling apart, and the lives of the characters are no more gratifying than anyone else's.

"Uncle Vanya" is a beautiful play. I've read it many times in several languages and always enjoyed it very much. Don't read it unless you have attention span greater than that of a child. It's rewarding if you give it a chance. This is Chekhov's best play.

I enjoyed reading Uncle Vanya. It delves into the lives of everyday normal people and their hopes and disillusionments of life. It is about self-realization and not getting what you want. A great play.

It is an excellent play but the translation was a bit too modern for my liking. The language didn't seem to flow as fluidly as other versions I've come across.

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