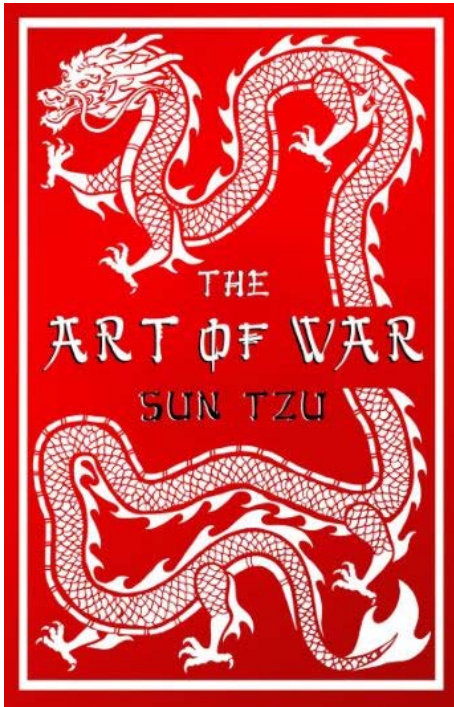




ALMA BOOKS



The Art of War

by Sun Tzu, translated by B.T. Gould

For two and a half thousand years The Art of War has been the core text of military strategy and planning, providing leaders with enduring insights into tactics, psychology, discipline and the nature of power.

Favoured by countless great generals and military tacticians throughout history, over the last century the book has found a new lease of life, inspiring business leaders, politicians and sporting figures, and offering a profound understanding of such diverse topics as managing others and outwitting competitors.

Author Bio

Sun Tzu (544-496 bc) was a Chinese general, writer and philosopher who is traditionally credited with having written The Art of War.

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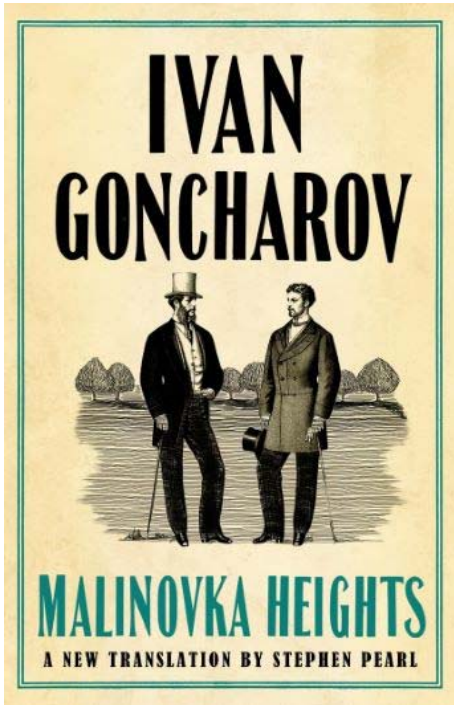
History / Military / Strategy

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Malinovka Heights: New Translation

by Ivan Goncharov, translated by Stephen Pearl

The first unabridged publication of Goncharov's masterpiece, which took him twenty years to finish. This new translation is by the award-winning translator Stephen Pearl.

After his university studies and a short stint in the army and the civil service, thirty-something Boris Pavlovich Raisky enjoys the life of an artist, frequenting St Petersburg's elegant circles, dabbling at his paintings, playing a little music and entertaining thoughts of writing a novel. But for a man like him, who has achieved nothing so far and by his own admission is not born to work", the bustle of the capital proves too much, so he decides to visit his country estate of Malinovka. There he hopes to rediscover the joys of a simpler and more authentic life - but when he becomes emotionally involved with his beautiful cousin Vera and meets the dangerous freethinker Mark Volokhov, the scene is set for a chain of events that will lead to disappointment, confrontation and, ultimately, tragedy.

Conceived twenty years before its initial publication in 1869, and regarded by its author as his best work, *Malinovka Heights* (previously translated in English as *The Precipice*) is Goncharov's crowning achievement as a novelist and a triumph of psychological insight. Here presented for the first time in unabridged form in a sparkling new translation by Stephen Pearl, Goncharov's final novel deserves to be reassessed as one of the most important classics of nineteenth-century Russian literature.

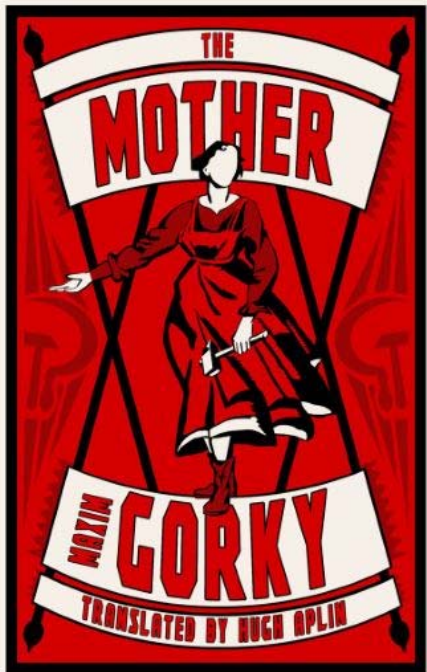
"

... ten heads above me in talent." - *Anton Chekhov*

Author Bio

Ivan Goncharov (1812-91) was a Russian official, novelist, critic and travel writer, who is best remembered for his masterpiece *Oblomov*.





The Mother

by Maxim Gorky, translated by Hugh Aplin

Inspired by real events and centring on the figure of Pelageya Vlasova -- the mother of the title -- and her son Pavel, Gorky's masterpiece describes the brutal life of ordinary Russian factory workers in the years leading to the 1905 Revolution and explores the rise of the proletariat, the role of women in society and the lower classes' struggle for self-affirmation.

A book of the utmost importance, in the words of Lenin, and a landmark in Russian literature, *The Mother* -- here presented in a brilliant new version by Hugh Aplin, the first English translation in almost a century -- will enchant modern readers both for its historical significance and its intrinsic value as a work of art.

Author Bio

Maxim Gorky (1868-1936) ranks as one of the most influential Russian writers of the twentieth century. The founder of Russian Social Realism, his work has inspired countless stage and screen adaptations.

Hugh Aplin worked at the Universities of Leeds and St Andrews before taking up his current post as Head of Russian at Westminster School, London. His previous translations are too many to mention, but include books by Chekhov, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Zamyatin, Bulgakov, Tolstoy, Bunin and, more recently, Gorky.

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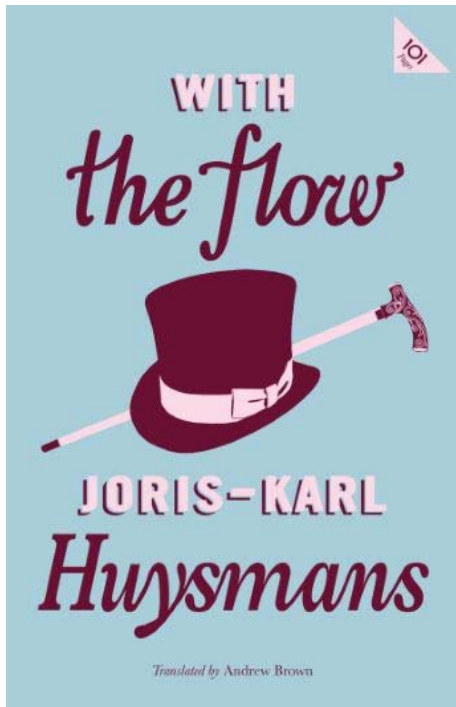


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With the Flow

by Joris-Karl Huysmans, translated by Andrew Brown

The lowly, downtrodden Paris civil servant Jean Folantin seeks respite from the boredom and isolation of his life in the small joys of food and the occasional embraces of a prostitute. But whatever he does, wherever he turns to in his quest for some pleasure, his dissatisfaction only increases, until he is forced to realize that he has to abandon all hope and just "go with the flow".

This 1882 novella, a key work in Huysmans' literary development -- prefiguring in its protagonist the figure of Jean des Esseintes, the hero of *À rebours*, written two years later -- is accompanied here by another masterly study of human despair, 'M. Bougran's Retirement'

Author Bio

ANDREW BROWN is an author, a lawyer, and a volunteer police officer who lives in Cape Town, South Africa. He won the *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize for *Coldsleep Lullaby*, and his work has also been shortlisted for the Alan Paton Award and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Africa Region). He is married and has three children.

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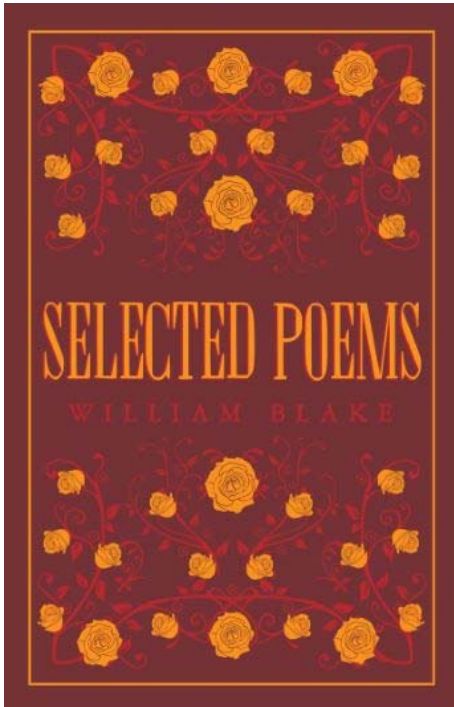


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Selected Poetical Works: Blake by William Blake

Blake occupies a very special place in the pantheon of English Romanticism: just as innovative and brilliant in the figurative arts as in the field of poetry, his works are often difficult to categorize and, while constantly harking back to a classical and biblical past, they also look forward to the future and find resonance there - with authors such as T.S. Eliot, Aldous Huxley and the Beat poets among his many modern admirers.

This volume includes a comprehensive selection of Blake's poetry, from the early Songs of Innocence and Experience to his later prophetic works", covering almost four decades of poetical activity and displaying the author's originality and independence of mind at their sparkling best.

Author Bio

Born in London, William Blake (1757-1827) wrote poetry and worked as a painter and printmaker. His works went largely unrecognized during his lifetime, but have since come to be appreciated as among the most important to be produced in the Romantic Age.

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