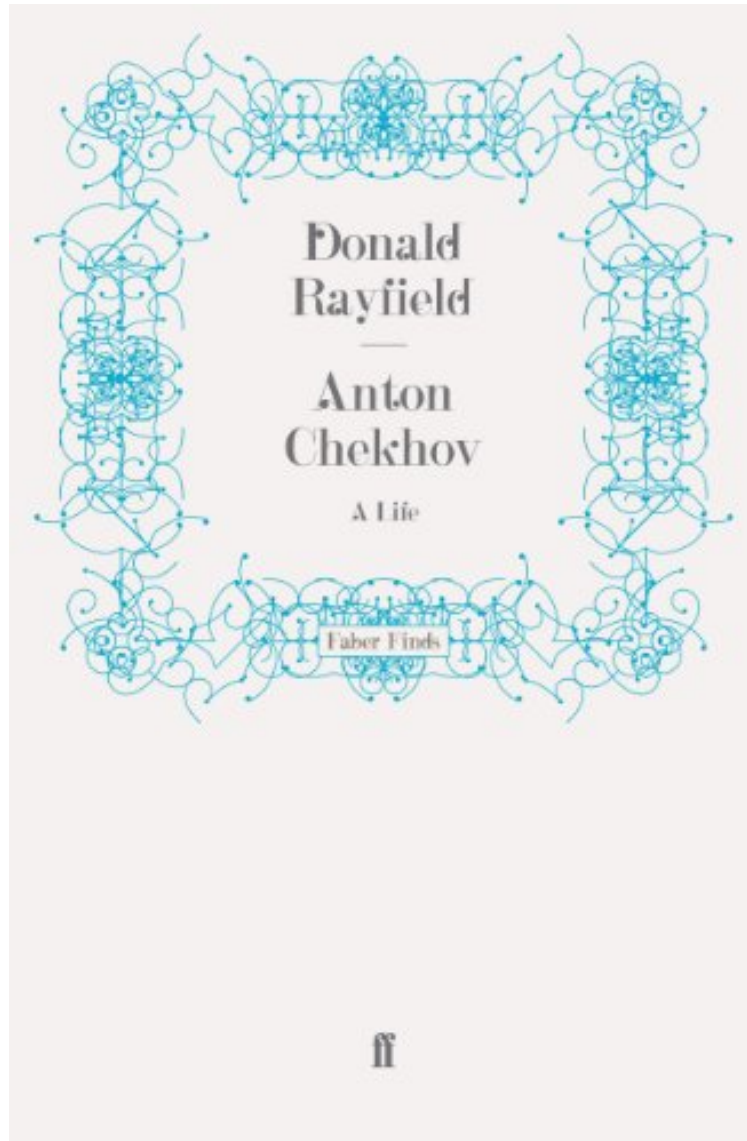


[Mobile ebook] Anton Chekhov: A Life (English Edition)

Anton Chekhov: A Life (English Edition)

Von Donald Rayfield

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Von Donald Rayfield : Anton Chekhov: A Life (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anton Chekhov: A Life (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Chekhov in DetailVon Barbara MackeyReview of Anton Chekhov: A Life. Donald Rayfield. NY: Henry Holt, 1997. 603 pp. There are many good biographies of Chekhov available, and if a person has not read any,I would suggest another before reading Donald Rayfield's Anton Chekhov: A Life. Rayfield says that he has received access to much

previously classified information. Unfortunately this loads his biography with an over-abundance of undigested detail, as if we were reading Chekhov's engagement calendar for each year or an encyclopedia of the minutiae of Chekhov's life. The material needs to be pruned down and focused. No where do I feel a biographer's point of view towards his subject -- unless it be to include as many facts as possible. And although it is interesting to read about the lives of those with whom Chekhov was most closely involved, we do not need to learn about every tart he slept with or every family problem encountered by one of his brother's wives. When these influence his writing, they are an interesting bonus, when they do not, a stronger hand at selection would have been appreciated. Indeed, the most interesting parts of the biography to me were those areas which showed how Chekhov transformed the details of his life into his work. However, too little of these connections were shown, and too many details were simply superfluous. I also miss the author's awareness of Chekhov's ironic humor, and I feel disappointed at the lack of discussion of the short farces. I recommend this book for Chekhov affectionados rather than for Chekhov novices. BARBARA MACKEY, Ph.D. University of Toledo

KurzbeschreibungThe description 'definitive' is too easily used, but Donald Rayfield's biography of Chekhov merits it unhesitatingly. To quote no less an authority than Michael Frayn: 'With question the definitive biography of Chekhov, and likely to remain so for a very long time to come. Donald Rayfield starts with the huge advantage of much new material that was prudishly suppressed under the Soviet regime, or tactfully ignored by scholars. But his mastery of all the evidence, both old and new - a massive archive - is magisterial, his background knowledge of the period is huge; his Russian is sensitive to every colloquial nuance of the day, and his tone is sure. He captures a likeness of the notoriously elusive Chekhov which at last begins to seem recognizably human - and even more extraordinary.' Chekhov's life was short, he was only forty-four when he died, and dogged with ill-health but his plays and short stories assure him of his place in the literary pantheon. Here is a biography that does him full justice, in short, unapologetically to repeat that word 'definitive'. I don't remember any monograph by a Western scholar on a Russian author having such success. . . Nikita Mikhalkov said that before this book came out we didn't know Chekhov. . . The author doesn't invent, add or embellish anything . . . Rayfield is motivated by the Westerner's urge not to hold information back, however grim it may be.' Anatoli Smelianski, Director of Moscow Arts Theatre School 'It is hard to imagine another book about Chekhov after this one by Donald Rayfield.' Arthur Miller, Sunday Times 'Donald Rayfield's exemplary biography draws on a daunting array of material inaccessible or ignored by his predecessors.' Nikolai Tolstoy, The Literary 'Donald Rayfield, Chekhov's best and definitive biographer.' William Boyd, Guardian.deA noted scholar of the works of Anton Chekhov now turns to his life (1860-1904), with equally revelatory results. Rayfield's densely documented account avoids general statements in favour of quiet accumulation of detail that gradually creates a multifaceted impression of Chekhov's contradictions. Witty, charming, and an ardent lover of women, Russia's greatest dramatist was also coolly detached, prone to capriciousness and capable of considerable cruelty. In Anton Chekhov, Rayfield does not attempt to tidy up a messily complex psyche or to downplay the faults that were as intrinsic to Chekhov's genius as were his merits.Pressestimmen"Without question the definitive biography of Chekhov, and like to remain so for a very long time to come. . . . [Rayfield] captures a likeness of the notoriously elusive Chekhov, which at last begins to seem recognizably human--and even more extraordinary." --Michael Frayn"Full of fascinating surprises. It is hard to imagine another book about Chekhov after this one. . . . A sculpted likeness of a most human genius shown in the context of his time." --Arthur Miller"The life Rayfield describes is no less impressive for having a flawed, at times unsympathetic, figure at its center. And his restraint in presenting his controversial new findings--along with the sheer quantity of fresh material he has amassed--is finally what makes his portrait so persuasive. His clear-eyed, critical sympathy for his less-than-perfect subject might have been borrowed from Chekhov's own writing." --New York Times Book