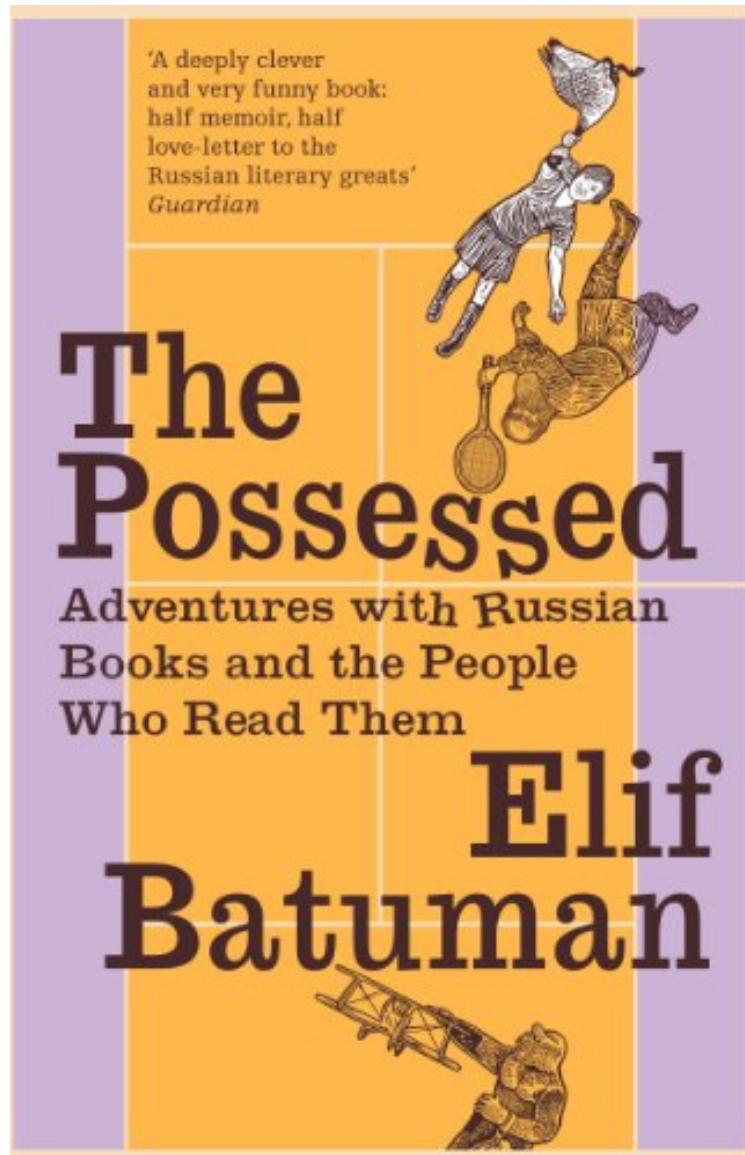


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The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them

Von Elif Batuman

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Von Elif Batuman : The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It's a

miracle. Von Geoff Roberts I first met Elif Batuman's work when I read one of her reports in the New Yorker. 'Hm', I thought, 'she is a very talented writer, her writing is full of dazzling metaphors, spiced with humour and shrewd in a way that makes you stop and think'. So I bought her book and have just finished reading it. I was amazed. Gradually I became aware of the depth of her learning, not only on Russian literature but also on Turkish, Uzbek (a hundred words for crying - have you counted them, Elif?) on literary criticism, on hospitality, airlines, melons and humanity in general. The prose dips from Marxian zaniness (Groucho, not Karl of course) to deeply-felt responses to the descriptions of tragedy in Russian literature. What's it like reading Anna K in Russian, Elif? Did you respond to her death in a different way when you read the book in the original? What more can you wish for from a book than that it makes you think? Elif Batuman's book 'The possessed' does just that. Makes you think.

Kurzbeschreibung The true story of one woman's intellectual and sentimental education and her strange encounters with others devoted absurdly! melancholically! ecstatically! to the Russian classics. Opening with a description of a conference about Isaac Babel in California at which various destinies intersect, Elif Batuman follows the footsteps of her favourite authors both literally and metaphorically, searching for the answers to the big questions. She investigates a possible murder at Tolstoy's ancestral estate, travels to Samarkand and St Petersburg; retraces Pushkin's wanderings in the Caucasus; learns why Old Uzbek has one hundred different words for crying; and sees an eighteenth-century ice palace reconstructed on the Neva. Combining fresh readings of the great Russians from Gogol to Goncharov with the sad and funny stories of the lives they continue to influence, *The Possessed* introduces a brilliant and distinctive new voice: comic, humane, charming, poignant and completely, and unpretentiously, full of an infectious love for literature.

Pressestimmen Praise for "The Possessed" "In her comic, poignant, beguiling book, Batuman succeeds marvelously in illuminating her version of love." -Reese Kwon, "Virginia" Quarterly "At every step along the way, Batuman's observations are wonderfully vivid." -Julia Keller, "Chicago" Tribune "Odd and oddly profound . . . Among the charms of Ms. Batuman's prose is her fond, funny way of describing the people around her . . . Perhaps Ms. Batuman's best quality as a writer though-beyond her calm, lapidary prose-is the winsome and infectious delight she feels in the presence of literary genius and beauty. She's the kind of reader who sends you back to your bookshelves with a sublime buzz in your head. You want to feel what she's feeling." -Dwight Garner, "The New York Times Book" "It's not surprising that some people never get over these books, and Batuman, for

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