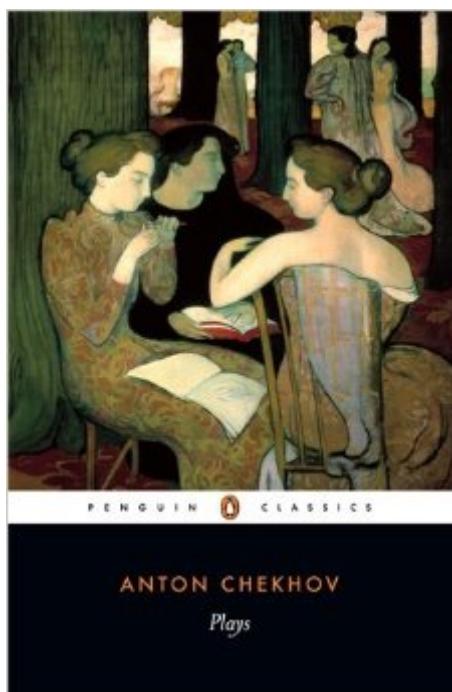


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# Plays: Ivanov; The Seagull; Uncle Vanya; Three Sisters; The Cherry Orchard (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Five masterful dramatic works from one of the world's best-loved playwrights At a time when the Russian theatre was dominated by formulaic melodramas and farces, Chekhov created a new sort of drama that laid bare the everyday lives, loves and yearnings of ordinary people. *Ivanov* depicts a man stifled by inactivity and lost idealism, and *The Seagull* contrasts a young man's selfish romanticism with the stoicism of a woman cruelly abandoned by her lover. With 'the scenes from country life' of *Uncle Vanya*, his first fully mature play, Chekhov developed his own unique dramatic world, neither tragedy nor comedy. In *Three Sisters* the Prozorov sisters endlessly dream of going to Moscow to escape the monotony of provincial life, while his comedy *The Cherry Orchard* portrays characters futilely clinging to the past as their land is sold from underneath them. In this edition Peter Carson's moving translations convey Chekhov's subtle blend of comedy, tragedy and psychological insight, while Richard Gilman's introduction examines how Chekhov broke with theatrical conventions and discusses each play in detail. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was a medical doctor, short story writer and author of great plays. Chekhov is one of the Russian immortals of the nineteenth century along with Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Lermenov, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Chekhov was a playwright in a time when melodramas and the well made plays of the Victorian era were the norm. Chekhov's plays, however read like modern works as this doctor of the human heart probes emotions of everyday men and women dealing with such major issues as: boredom; the passage of time; love and work. Chekhov is one of this reviewer's favorite literary artists! The Revised Penguin Edition of five of his plays includes such gems as: Ivanov: a bored middle aged man who has grown weary of life. The Seagull-A story of a famous actress; the man who jilted her and a young girl who becomes an actress in Moscow. Uncle Vanya-He is a man without past or future. he has been exploited by the rich old man whose estate he has managed well for many years. Vanya is incapable of murder, love or suicide. Sonya is the daughter of the old man. She is plain but has a loving heart. Dr. Astrov is a jaded doctor who is also interested in conservation. These are the characters in the play which endure through work. The old professor and his hedonistic wife leave the estate for the city. They are exploiters. The wife named Yelena has physical beauty but inside she is lazy, indolent and self-centered. Three Sisters-A troika of sisters who are living in a sleepy town of 100,000 longing for the excitement of their home in Moscow. They realize they will never have their dreams fulfilled. They are admirable in that they know life is best lived with busy service in the cause of the community around them.

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