



The Carriage

Nikolai Gogol

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Date : Published 2002 by Hesperus Press Limited (first published October 16th 1836)

ISBN :

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Format : Paperback 12 pages

Genre : Cultural, Russia, Short Stories, Classics, Literature, Russian Literature, Fiction

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Mackenzie says

Garden variety Gogol short story. Better than most other things written in modern history and it'll make you smirk but not his best.

Veronica says

Entertaining as usual, Gogol' paints once again the picture of the superficiality and cowardice of men. Little men acting like big human beings, then showing the lack of everything inside them.

????? ???? says

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Shaghayegh.l3 says

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Maria Lasprilla says

Although by now I don't remember the details I do remember enjoying *Dead Souls*. But this story and *The Nose* seemed just silly to me. At least *The Nose* had a level of absurdity that made it somewhat worthy but not this one. Too much preamble.

Maryam Samiei says

Saba Akbarpouran says

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Hasan Abbasi says

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Ugn? says

paprasta komiška istorija be gilesni? pot?pi?, bet užtat su kokia meistryste parašyta! nuostabu

Kathryn Jacoby says

Meet Pythagoras Pythagoravitch Tchertokoutski, a braggadocious nobleman par excellence: he prides himself on trophies like a beautiful wife and a tame monkey at home, displays his taste through little touches like gold door handles on his estate, drunkenly blurts out non sequiturs at parties in his boorish attempts to ingratiate himself, bows so low to the superiors he's always trying to act chummy with that thistles get caught in his beard. He tells a bald-faced lie at an aristocratic dinner of cavalry officers, desperate to impress them and improve his social standing, and is then caught inside that lie. As in literally discovered *inside* of it, completely exposed (and practically naked to boot). But here the story ends—there's no falling action or well-deserved tongue-lashing. Does this mean there are no consequences for the petty lies and cowardice of the elite? In discovering this wannabe in his lie, did these buffoons see their own foolishness reflected back at them and thus let it slide? The reader must gather the sly comic details and devise their own comeuppance.

This is mostly dullish preamble, and not much happens. But what does happen is just exquisite, in an understated way.

Title in Spanish: *El carroaje*

Veysel says

Palto, Portre, Burun, Bir Delinin An? Defter ve Neva Bulvar? gibi öykülerinden sonra okudu?umdan dolay? belki de beklenmem yüksek ba?layarak okudum. Yine de dönemin e?lenceli bir "hiciv"i...

Mehrdad says

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Bill Kerwin says

This early comic tale of Gogol's is certainly effective, and almost as memorable as the Petersburg Tales ("The Overcoat," "The Nose," "The Diary of a Madman"), with which it is usually classed. It is simpler, though, less cosmic in its ironies, and takes place far from the capital city's bureaucratic battles in the small South Russian town of B——, where "the chief of police has long since had all the trees in the gardens cut down to improve the view" and "one never meets anything in the town, unless it is a cock crossing the road." But then, "the cavalry regiment arrived, and everything changed."

Our hero is Pythagoras Pythagoravitch Tchertokoutski, one of the "gentlemen of the neighbourhood" of B——, a petty nobleman anxious to ingratiate himself into the cavalry's exciting new martial society and elevate his own social status. At a dinner given by the general of the regiment, Tchertokoutski begins to brag about his magnificent new carriage, and—his judgment impaired by punch and wine—he invites the officers over to his estate to take a look at this fine vehicle of his. What happens after this is a little sad, but also hilariously funny. Suffice it to say, Pythagoras Pythagoravitch does *not* improve his social status.

One of the factors that makes this short tale so effective is that Gogol, even in his early pieces, was a master of illuminative comic detail. Here, for example, is his description of the protagonist of the tale:

Tchertokoutski always wore a coat of a military cut, spurs and moustache, in order not to have it supposed that he had served in the infantry, a branch of the service upon which he lavished the most contemptuous expressions. He frequented the numerous fairs to which flock the whole of the population of Southern Russia, consisting of nursemaids, tall girls, and burly gentlemen who go there in vehicles of such strange aspect that no one has ever seen their match even in a dream. He instinctively guessed the spot in which a regiment of cavalry was to be found and never failed to introduce himself to the officers. On perceiving them he bounded gracefully from his light phaeton and soon made acquaintance with them. At the last election he had given to the whole of the nobility a grand dinner during which he declared that if he were elected marshal he would put all gentlemen on the best possible footing. He usually behaved after the fashion of a great noble. He had married a rather pretty lady with a dowry of two hundred serfs and some thousands of rubles. This money was at once employed in the purchase of six fine horses, some gilt bronze locks, and a tame monkey. He further engaged a French cook. The two hundred peasants of the lady, as well as two hundred more belonging to the gentleman, were mortgaged to the bank. In a word, he was a regular nobleman.

Afkham says

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Maahava ????? ?? ?? ?? ??? ??????? says

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<http://maahava.com/360Z>

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