

Cancer Ward: A Novel (FSG Classics)

By Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn



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Cancer Ward examines the relationship of a group of people in the cancer ward of a provincial Soviet hospital in 1955, two years after Stalin's death. We see them under normal circumstances, and also reexamined at the eleventh hour of illness. Together they represent a remarkable cross-section of contemporary Russian characters and attitudes. The experiences of the central character, Oleg Kostoglotov, closely reflect the author's own: Solzhenitsyn himself became a patient in a cancer ward in the mid-1950s, on his release from a labor camp, and later recovered. Translated by Nicholas Bethell and David Burg.



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Editorial Review

Review

"A literary event of the first magnitude." ?Time

"The most moving of Solzhenitsyn's novels." ?Clifton Fadiman

"Solzhenitsyn's characteristic strategy for subduing space is to temporize it--to transform it into time . . . This transformation of space into time allows Solzhenitsyn to present a variegated group of people who are caught in a collective situation of relative isolation by following the through their daily routine . . . These forcibly restricted milieus provide a natural and persuasive metaphor for life itself . . . How or why Solzhenitsyn is able to succeed . . . I do not know . . . It is probably finally a matter of genius--which is to say, mystery. But the novels rise above the questions they propound and serve--as great literature always has done--to be both a challenge to and a triumph for the free spirit of man wherever it allows itself to exist." ? Earl Rovit, American Scholar

Language Notes

Text: English, Russian (translation)

From the Inside Flap

One of the great allegorical masterpieces of world literature, **Cancer Ward** is both a deeply compassionate study of people facing terminal illness and a brilliant dissection of the ?cancerous? Soviet police state.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Schmidt:

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Donald Calderon:

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