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Four Of Us: Pasternak, Akhmatova, Tsvetaeva, Mandelstam



Synopsis

"The fact of the matter is that everything that happens in culture ultimately comes down to this, to the four famous temperaments: melancholic, sanguine, phlegmatic, and choleric. That's what I think. It seems to me that our Big Four can also be divided by according to these temperaments, inasmuch as all of them are actually very distinctly represented in the group. Tsvetaeva is unquestionably the choleric author. Pasternak is sanguine. Mandelstam is melancholic. And Akhmatova is phlegmatic. Together they cover the whole poetic universe."-Joseph Brodsky
Included in this dual-language book is a selection of 10 poems from each poet translated into English by Andrey Kneller.

Book Information

File Size: 517 KB

Print Length: 108 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: January 7, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00S06IGLQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #275,752 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Russian #28 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Russian #31 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Russian

Customer Reviews

A great representative selection of the Russian Avant Garde---Cyrillic alongside the English. If you are interested in learning more about some of the Slavic world's greatest poets, "The Four of Us" is a solid introduction. The volume is slim and quite portable---fit's nicely in handbag or book bag.

Excellent translation of these Russian poets' work. The music of the language and poetic images

are magnificently preserved. Bravo Mr Kneller!

This book is a pleasant surprise! Very pleasant! Four poets I know so little about (except Akhmatova).

Abysmal. I bought it as a present for my English speaking friend. As a native Russian speaker and a fluent English speaker I can compare side-by-side. There is no rhythm, character or melody preserved in any of the translations. There are much better ones on the market, this one goes straight to the recycle bin.

beautiful translation, keeps meanings and rithm

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