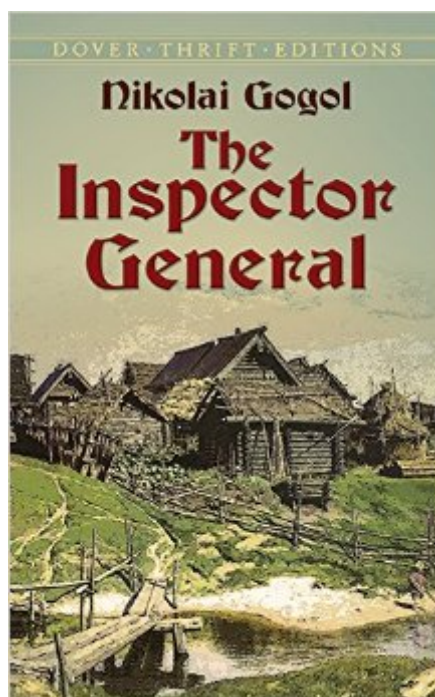


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The Inspector General (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Considered the high point of Gogol's writing for the stage and a masterpiece of dramatic satire, *The Inspector General* skewers the stupidity, greed, and venality of Russian provincial officials. When it is announced that the Inspector General is coming to visit incognito, Anton, the chief of police, hastens to clean up the town before his arrival. Local officials scurry to hide evidence of bribe-taking and other misdeeds, setting the stage for the arrival from St. Petersburg of Ivan, a penurious gambler and rake who is promptly taken by the townspeople to be the dreaded Inspector General. Ivan, and his servant, Osip, soon take advantage of the situation with hilarious results. First performed in 1836, the play transcends regional and national boundaries to offer a biting, highly entertaining glimpse of universal human foibles and failings.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This play is Gogol's most famous, and deservedly so. Gogol portrays a small town's corruption and downfall very amusingly; the story is less memorable than Gogol's manner of telling it and his detached observations of his grotesque creations. The story is a farce, with miniature farces set within it. Anyone who reads it expecting something ponderous will be disappointed; anyone who is simply interested in a fun read need look no further.

This was a fun play to read. I highly recommend it to anyone, especially if you're into Russian literature. Enjoy!

this play is not really laugh out loud material, but one can easily see how such absurd and dramatically ironic situations have worked their way into modern film/literature/plays. the comedy is sort of 19th century slapstick, which doesn't really entertain and delight...but what I found so priceless about this play was the universally shallow character of the cast....especially considering they are nearly all government officials. the very people who are supposed to selflessly "protect and serve" the people, are revealed as self-serving idiots who are only concerned with protecting themselves. I could see this making an excellent play with the right actors.

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