

# [PDF] Demons: A Novel In Three Parts (Vintage Classics)

**Richard Pevear, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Larissa Volokhonsky -  
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**Books Details:**

Title: Demons: A Novel in Three Part  
Author: Richard Pevear, Fyodor Dosto  
Released: 1995-08-01  
Language:  
Pages: 768  
ISBN: 0679734511  
ISBN13: 978-0679734512  
ASIN: 0679734511



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## **Description:**

**From Library Journal** Pevear and Volokhonsky have found critical acclaim with previous translations of Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* (Classic Returns, LJ 8/90), *Crime and Punishment* (Classic Returns, LJ 1/92), and *Notes from Underground* (Classic Returns, LJ 7/93). Their *Demons* should be equally respected.

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**From Kirkus Reviews** Dostoevsky's sprawling political novel is given new life in this fresh

translation. The previous translations of the husband-and-wife team of Larissa Volokhonsky and Richard Pevear--*The Brothers Karamazov*, *Crime and Punishment*, and *Notes From Underground*--have been universally praised for capturing Dostoevsky's force and subtlety, and all three works are now considered the English standards. Now they have successfully tackled one of Dostoevsky's most complex and dense works. Mistakenly translated in the past as ``*The Possessed*," the title refers to the infestation of foreign political and philosophical ideas that swept Russia in the second half of the 19th century. Pevear writes in the introduction, ``These demons, then, are ideas, that legion of -isms that came to Russia from the West: idealism, rationalism, empiricism, materialism, utilitarianism, positivism, socialism, anarchism, nihilism, and, underlying them all, atheism." Dostoevsky, taking as his starting point the political chaos around him at the time, constructs an elaborate morality tale in which the people of a provincial town turn against one another because they are convinced of the infallibility of their ideas. Stepan Trofimovich, an affable thinker who does little to turn his liberal ideas into action, creates a monster in his student, Nikolai Vsevolodovich Stavrogin, who takes his spiritual father's teaching to heart, joining a circle of other nihilists who will justify any and all violent excesses for the sake of their ideas. Stavrogin aims for a ``systematic corrupting of society and all its principles" so that out of the resulting destruction he may ``raise the banner of rebellion." A chilling foreshadowing of Stalinist logic. Volokhonsky and Pevear's translation brings to the surface all of Dostoevsky's subtle linguistic and nationalist humor, and the copious notes are indispensable for making one's way through the thicket of 19th-century Russian politics. -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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