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Solzhenitsyn In The First Circle

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*Aleksandr*

*Solzhenitsyn In The  
First Circle  
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Set in Moscow during a three-day period in December 1949, *The First Circle* is the story of the prisoner Gleb Nerzhin, a brilliant mathematician. At the age of thirty-one, Nerzhin has survived the war years on the German front and the postwar years in a succession of Russian prisons and labor camps. His story is interwoven with the stories of a dozen fellow prisoners - each an unforgettable human being - from the prison janitor to the tormented Marxist intellectual who

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designed the Dnieper dam; of the reigning elite and their conflicted subordinates; and of the women, wretched or privileged, bound to these men. A landmark of Soviet literature, *The First Circle* is as powerful today as it was when it was first published, nearly thirty years ago.

Russian Nobel prize–winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918–2008) is widely acknowledged as one of the most important figures—and perhaps the most important writer—of the last century. To celebrate the centenary of his birth, the first English translation of his memoir of the West, *Between Two Millstones*, Book 1, is being

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published. Fast-paced, absorbing, and as compelling as the earlier installments of his memoir *The Oak and the Calf* (1975), *Between Two Millstones* begins on February 13, 1974, when Solzhenitsyn found himself forcibly expelled to Frankfurt, West Germany, as a result of the publication in the West of *The Gulag Archipelago*. Solzhenitsyn moved to Zurich, Switzerland, for a time and was considered the most famous man in the world, hounded by journalists and reporters. During this period, he found himself untethered and unable to work while he tried to acclimate to his new surroundings. *Between Two Millstones* contains vivid

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descriptions of Solzhenitsyn's journeys to various European countries and North American locales, where he and his wife Natalia ( " Alya " ) searched for a location to settle their young family. There are fascinating descriptions of one-on-one meetings with prominent individuals, detailed accounts of public speeches such as the 1978 Harvard University commencement, comments on his television appearances, accounts of his struggles with unscrupulous publishers and agents who mishandled the Western editions of his books, and the KGB disinformation efforts to besmirch his name. There are also passages

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on Solzhenitsyn's family and their property in Cavendish, Vermont, whose forested hillsides and harsh winters evoked his Russian homeland, and where he could finally work undisturbed on his ten-volume dramatized history of the Russian Revolution, *The Red Wheel*. Stories include the efforts made to assure a proper education for the writer's three sons, their desire to return one day to their home in Russia, and descriptions of his extraordinary wife, editor, literary advisor, and director of the Russian Social Fund, Alya, who successfully arranged, at great peril to herself and to her family, to smuggle Solzhenitsyn's invaluable archive out of the Soviet Union.

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Between Two Millstones is a literary event of the first magnitude. The book dramatically reflects the pain of Solzhenitsyn's separation from his Russian homeland and the chasm of miscomprehension between him and Western society.

Nerzhin and his fellow prisoners are forced to conduct research for the Soviet state when they are imprisoned for political crimes

A Reporter's Narrative  
Sketches of Literary Life in the Soviet Union  
The Gulag Archipelago  
(1918-1956)

"We Never Make Mistakes"  
**In his monumental**

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**narrative of the outbreak of the First World War and the ill-fated Russian offensive into East Prussia, Solzhenitsyn has written what Nina Krushcheva, in The Nation, calls "a dramatically new interpretation of Russian history." The assassination of tsarist prime minister Pyotr Stolypin, a crucial event in the years leading up to the Revolution of 1917, is reconstructed from the alienating viewpoints of historical witnesses. The sole voice of reason among the advisers to Tsar Nikolai II, Stolypin died at the**

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**hands of the anarchist Mordko Bogrov, and with him perished Russia's last hope for reform. Translated by H.T. Willetts. August 1914 is the first volume of Solzhenitsyn's epic, The Red Wheel; the second is November 1916. Each of the subsequent volumes will concentrate on another critical moment or "knot," in the history of the Revolution. Translated by H.T. Willetts.**

**This compelling account concludes Nobel Prize-winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's literary memoirs of his years in the**



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**West after his forced exile from the USSR following the publication of The Gulag Archipelago. The book reflects both the pain of separation from his Russian homeland and the chasm of miscomprehension between him and Western opinion makers. In Between Two Millstones, Solzhenitsyn likens his position to that of a grain that becomes lodged between two massive stones, each grinding away—the Soviet Communist power with its propaganda machine on the one hand and the Western**

**establishment with its mainstream media on the other. Book 2 picks up the story of Solzhenitsyn's remarkable life after the raucous publicity over his 1978 Harvard Address has died down. The author parries attacks from the Soviet state (and its many fellow-travelers in the Western press) as well as from recent émigrés who, according to Solzhenitsyn, defame Russian culture, history, and religion. He shares his unvarnished view of several infamous episodes, such as a sabotaged meeting with**

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**Ronald Reagan, aborted Senate hearings regarding Radio Liberty, and Gorbachev's protracted refusal to allow The Gulag Archipelago to be published back home. There is also a captivating chapter detailing his trips to Japan, Taiwan, and Great Britain, including meetings with Margaret Thatcher and Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Meanwhile, the central themes of Book 1 course through this volume, too—the immense artistic quandary of fashioning The Red Wheel, staunch Western hostility**

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**to the historical and future  
Russia (and how much can,  
or should, the author do  
about it), and the  
challenges of raising his  
three sons in the language  
and spirit of Russia while  
cut off from the homeland  
in a remote corner of rural  
New England. The book  
concludes in 1994, as  
Solzhenitsyn bids farewell  
to the West in a valedictory  
series of speeches and  
meetings with world  
leaders, including John Paul  
II, and prepares at last to  
return home with his  
beloved wife Natalia, full of  
misgivings about what use**

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**he can be in the first chaotic years of post-Communist Russia, but never wavering in his conviction that, in the long run, his books would speak, influence, and convince. This vibrant, faithful, and long-awaited first English translation of *Between Two Millstones, Book 2*, will fascinate Solzhenitsyn's many admirers, as well as those interested in twentieth-century history, Russian history, and literature in general. Available for the first time in English, *Apricot Jam and Other Stories* is the brilliant**

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**final work of fiction from Nobel Prize-winning author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Written in the years between Solzhenitsyn's return to Russia from exile in 1994, and his death in 2008, these stories confirm the author's position as the most eloquent and acclaimed opponent of government oppression in the twentieth century and as a true literary giant. Apricot Jam and Other Stories presents a series of astonishing portraits of the Russian life before, during and after Soviet rule. In 'The New Generation', a**

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**professor promotes a student purely out of good will. Years later, the same professor finds himself arrested and, in a striking twist of fate, his student becomes his interrogator. In 'Nastenka', two young women with the same name lead routine, ordered lives - until the Revolution exacts radical change on them both. With an unforgettable cast of military commanders, imprisoned activists and displaced families, these stories play out the moral dilemmas and ideological conflicts that defined Russia in the**

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**twentieth century.**

**Solzhenitsyn**

**The First Circle**

**The First Uncensored**

**Edition**

**A Novel**

**The Red Wheel I**

The only English translation authorized by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn First published in the Soviet journal Novy Mir in 1962, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich stands as a classic of contemporary literature. The story of labor-camp inmate Ivan Denisovich Shukhov, it graphically describes his struggle to maintain his dignity in the face of communist oppression. An unforgettable



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portrait of the entire world of Stalin's forced work camps, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* is one of the most extraordinary literary documents to have emerged from the Soviet Union and confirms Solzhenitsyn's stature as "a literary genius whose talent matches that of Dosotevsky, Turgenev, Tolstoy"--Harrison Salisbury This unexpurgated 1991 translation by H. T. Willetts is the only authorized edition available and fully captures the power and beauty of the original Russian.

Focuses on the brutal and dehumanizing aspects of life in a Russian concentration camp  
The Russian Nobelists's major work,

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back in print for the centenary of World War I and the Russian Revolution In his monumental narrative of the outbreak of the First World War and the ill-fated Russian offensive into East Prussia, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has written "a dramatically new interpretation of Russian history" (Nina Krushcheva, *The Nation*). The assassination of the tsarist prime minister Pyotr Stolypin, a crucial event in the years leading up to the Revolution of 1917, is reconstructed from the alienating viewpoints of historical witnesses. The sole voice of reason among the advisers to Tsar Nikolai II, Stolypin died at the hands of the anarchist Mordko

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Bogrov, and with him Russia's last hope for reform perished. August 1914 is the first volume of Solzhenitsyn's epic, *The Red Wheel*; the second is November 1916. Each volume concentrates on a critical moment or "knot" in the history of the Russian Revolution.

*The Red Wheel, Node III, Book 3*  
Critical Essays and Documentary  
Materials

First Circle

Warning to the West

The Authorized Abridgement

*Ivan is serving a ten-year sentence in a Siberian labour camp.*

*This is the story of a typical day in the camp.*

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*"BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF  
THE 20TH CENTURY."* –Time

*"It is impossible to  
name a book that had a  
greater effect on the  
political and moral  
consciousness of the  
late twentieth century."*

*–David Remnick, The New  
Yorker The Nobel Prize  
winner's towering  
masterpiece of world  
literature, the searing  
record of four decades  
of terror and  
oppression, in one  
abridged volume  
(authorized by the  
author). Features a new*

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*foreword by Anne  
Applebaum. Drawing on  
his own experiences  
before, during and after  
his eleven years of  
incarceration and exile,  
on evidence provided by  
more than 200 fellow  
prisoners, and on Soviet  
archives, Solzhenitsyn  
reveals with torrential  
narrative and dramatic  
power the entire  
apparatus of Soviet  
repression, the state  
within the state that  
once ruled all-  
powerfully with its  
creation by Lenin in*

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1918. Through truly  
Shakespearean portraits  
of its victims—this man,  
that woman, that child—  
we encounter the secret  
police operations, the  
labor camps and prisons,  
the uprooting or  
extermination of whole  
populations, the  
“welcome” that awaited  
Russian soldiers who had  
been German prisoners of  
war. Yet we also witness  
astounding moral  
courage, the  
incorruptibility with  
which the occasional  
individual or a few

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*scattered groups, all defenseless, endured brutality and degradation. And Solzhenitsyn's genius has transmuted this grisly indictment into a literary miracle. "The greatest and most powerful single indictment of a political regime ever leveled in modern times." -George F. Kennan "Solzhenitsyn's masterpiece. . . . The Gulag Archipelago helped create the world we live in today."* -Anne

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Applebaum, Pulitzer

Prize-winning author of  
Gulag: A History, from  
the foreword

"BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF  
THE 20TH CENTURY." -Time  
Volume 2 of the Nobel  
Prize-winner's towering  
masterpiece: the story  
of Solzhenitsyn's  
entrance into the Soviet  
prison camps, where he  
would remain for nearly  
a decade. Features a new  
foreword by Anne  
Applebaum. "The greatest  
and most powerful single  
indictment of a  
political regime ever



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in today.” –Anne*

*Applebaum, Pulitzer  
Prize-winning author of  
Gulag: A History, from  
the foreword*

*Between Two Millstones,*

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*Book 1*

*The Gulag Archipelago*

*Volume 1*

*Between Two Millstones,*

*Book 2*

*Apricot Jam and Other*

*Stories*

*The Mortal Danger*

After years of living in exile, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia in 1994 and published a series of eight powerfully paired stories.

These groundbreaking stories—interconnected and juxtaposed using an experimental method

Solzhenitsyn referred to as "binary"—join Solzhenitsyn's

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already available work as some of the most powerful literature of the twentieth century. With Soviet and post-Soviet life as their focus, they weave and shift inside their shared setting, illuminating the Russian experience under the Soviet regime. In "The Upcoming Generation," a professor promotes a dull but proletarian student purely out of good will. Years later, the same professor finds himself arrested and, in a striking twist of fate, his student becomes his interrogator. In "Nastenka," two young women

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with the same name lead routine, ordered lives—until the Revolution exacts radical change on them both. The most eloquent and acclaimed opponent of government oppression, Solzhenitsyn was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970, and his work continues to receive international acclaim.

Available for the first time in English, *Apricot Jam: And Other Stories* is a striking example of Solzhenitsyn's singular style and only further solidifies his place as a true literary giant/

The First Circle Harvill Press In

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the First CircleThe First  
Uncensored EditionHarper  
Perennial

Volume 1 of the gripping epic  
masterpiece, Solzhenitsyn's  
chilling report of his arrest and  
interrogation, which exposed

to the world the vast  
bureaucracy of secret police  
that haunted Soviet society

How Misconceptions about  
Russia Imperil America

The Gulag Archipelago

Technique and Pattern in

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "The  
First Circle"

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Speaks to the West

November 1916: A Novel

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Speeches given to the  
Americans and to the British  
from June 30, 1975 to March  
24, 1976.

The thrilling cold war  
masterwork by the nobel  
prize winner, published in  
full for the first time  
Moscow, Christmas Eve,  
1949. The Soviet secret  
police intercept a call made  
to the American embassy by a  
Russian diplomat who  
promises to deliver secrets  
about the nascent Soviet  
Atomic Bomb program. On that  
same day, a brilliant  
mathematician is locked away  
inside a Moscow prison that  
houses the country's  
brightest minds. He and his  
fellow prisoners are charged

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with using their abilities to sleuth out the caller's identity, and they must choose whether to aid Joseph Stalin's repressive state—or refuse and accept transfer to the Siberian Gulag camps . . . and almost certain death. First written between 1955 and 1958, *In the First Circle* is Solzhenitsyn's fiction masterpiece. In order to pass through Soviet censors, many essential scenes—including nine full chapters—were cut or altered before it was published in a hastily translated English edition in 1968. Now with the help of the author's most trusted translator, Harry T. Willetts, here for

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the first time is the complete, definitive English edition of Solzhenitsyn's powerful and magnificent classic.

This volume collects two quietly powerful short novels.

Nobel Lectures

Cancer Ward

Rebuilding Russia

The Ascent from Ideology

The Gulag Archipelago

[Volume 3]

Banned from Russia for five years, Salisbury, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the NY Times, returned to a "new" Russia in 1959. Based in Moscow, he achieved quite a contemporary feat by traveling



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30,000 miles within Russia (to Siberia and Outer Mongolia as well as throughout Russia).

This fragment about the author's life describes the repression of ideas in the Soviet Union during the 1960s.

In March 1917, Book 3 the forces of revolutionary disintegration spread out from Petrograd all the way to the front lines of World War I, presaging Russia's collapse.

One of the masterpieces of world literature, The Red Wheel is Nobel prize-winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's multivolume epic work about the Russian Revolution told in the form of a

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historical novel. March 1917—the third node—tells the story, day by day, of the Russian Revolution itself. Until recently, the final two nodes have been unavailable in English. The publication of Book 1 of March 1917 (in 2017) and Book 2 (in 2019) has begun to rectify this situation. The action of Book 3 (out of four) is set during March 16–22, 1917. In Book 3, the Romanov dynasty ends and the revolution starts to roll out from Petrograd toward Moscow and the Russian provinces. The dethroned Emperor Nikolai II makes his farewell to the Army and is kept

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under guard with his family. In Petrograd, the Provisional Government and the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies continue to exercise power in parallel. The war hero Lavr Kornilov is appointed military chief of Petrograd. But the Soviet's "Order No. 1" reaches every soldier, undermining the officer corps and shaking the Army to its foundations. Many officers, including the head of the Baltic Fleet, the progressive Admiral Nepenin, are murdered. Black Sea Fleet Admiral Kolchak holds the revolution at bay; meanwhile, Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich, the emperor's

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uncle, makes his way to military headquarters, naïvely thinking he will be allowed to take the Supreme Command.

Apricot Jam

March 1917

And Other Stories

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

One Day in the Life of Ivan

Denisovich

Richard Tempest examines

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's

evolution as a literary artist from

his early autobiographical novel

Love the Revolution to the

experimental mega-saga The Red

Wheel, and beyond. Tempest

shows how this author gives his

characters a presence so textured

that we can readily imagine them

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as figures of flesh and blood and thought and feeling. The study discusses Solzhenitsyn's treatment of Lenin, Stalin, and the Russian Revolution; surprising predilection for textual puzzles and games à la Nabokov or even Borges; exploration of erotic themes; and his polemical interactions with Russian and Western modernism. Also included is new information about the writer's life and art provided by his family, as well as Tempest's interviews with him in 2003-7.

The thrilling cold war masterwork by the Nobel Prize winner, published in full for the first time Moscow, Christmas Eve, 1949. The Soviet secret police intercept a call made to the American

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embassy by a Russian diplomat who promises to deliver secrets about the nascent Soviet Atomic Bomb program. On that same day, a brilliant mathematician is locked away inside a Moscow prison that houses the country's brightest minds. He and his fellow prisoners are charged with using their abilities to sleuth out the caller's identity, and they must choose whether to aid Joseph Stalin's repressive state—or refuse and accept transfer to the Siberian Gulag camps . . . and almost certain death. First written between 1955 and 1958, *In the First Circle* is Solzhenitsyn's fiction masterpiece. In order to pass through Soviet censors, many essential scenes—including nine full chapters—were cut or

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altered before it was published in a hastily translated English edition in 1968. Now with the help of the author's most trusted translator, Harry T. Willetts, here for the first time is the complete, definitive English edition of Solzhenitsyn's powerful and magnificent classic.

A harrowing novel about life in a Stalinist labor camp in Siberia and one man's heroic struggle to survive.

August 1914: A Novel

An Experiment in Literary Investigation

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's Fictive Worlds

Exile in America, 1978-1994

Another Look Inside the Circle

In Aleksandr

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Solzhenitsyn, Daniel Mahoney presents a philosophical perspective on the political condition of modern man through an exegesis and analysis of Solzhenitsyn's work. Mahoney demonstrates the tremendous, yet often unappreciated, impact of Solzhenitsyn's writing on twentieth century thinking through an examination of the writer's profoundly important critique of communist totalitarianism in a



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judicious and original  
mix of western and  
Russian, Christian and  
classical wisdom.

'One word of truth shall  
outweigh the whole  
world' Aleksandr  
Solzhenitsyn In the  
first month of the First  
World War the Russian  
campaign against the  
Germans creaks into  
gear. Crippled by weak,  
indecisive leadership  
the Russian troops  
battle desperately, even  
as the inevitability of  
failure and their own  
sacrifice dawns.

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Solzhenitsyn's  
astounding work of  
historical fiction is a  
portrait of pre-  
revolutionary Russia, a  
tragic war story, and an  
epic novel in the great  
Russian tradition.

'Can one part of  
humanity learn from the  
bitter experience of  
another or can it not?  
Is it possible or  
impossible to warn  
someone of danger...to  
assess soberly the  
worldwide menace that  
threatens to swallow the  
whole world? I was

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swallowed myself. I have been in the dragon's belly, in its red-hot innards. It was unable to digest me and threw me up. I have come to you as a witness to what it is like there, in the dragon's belly' During 1975 and 1976, Nobel Prize-winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn embarked on a series of speeches across America and Britain that would shock and scandalise both countries. His message: the West was veering towards moral and

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spiritual bankruptcy,  
and with it the world's  
one hope against tyranny  
and totalitarianism.  
From Solzhenitsyn's  
warnings about the  
allure of communism, to  
his rebuke that the West  
should not abandon its  
age-old concepts of  
'good' and 'evil', the  
speeches collected in  
Warning to the West  
provide insight into  
Solzhenitsyn's  
uncompromising moral  
vision. Read today,  
their message remains as  
powerfully urgent as

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when Solzhenitsyn first delivered them.

In the First Circle  
Sketches of Exile,  
1974-1978

Overwriting Chaos  
The Oak and the Calf  
August 1914

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

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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.

In time for the centenary of the beginning of the Russian Revolution, a new edition of the Russian Nobelists' major work *The month of November 1916 in Russia* was outwardly quiet--the proverbial calm before the storm--but beneath the placid surface, society seethed fiercely. In Petrograd, as St. Petersburg was then known, luxury-store windows are still brightly lit;

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the Duma debates the monarchy, the course of war, and clashing paths to reform; the workers in the miserable munitions factories veer toward sedition. At the front, all is stalemate, while in the countryside sullen anxiety among hard-pressed farmers is rapidly replacing patriotism. In Zurich, Lenin, with the smallest of all revolutionary groups, plots his sinister logistical miracle. With masterly and moving empathy, through the eyes of both historical and fictional protagonists, Solzhenitsyn unforgettably transports us to that time and place--the last of pre-Soviet Russia. November 1916 is the second volume in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's

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multipart work, *The Red Wheel*.

This volume concentrates on a historical turning point, or "knot," as the wheel rolls inexorably toward revolution.

**“BEST NONFICTION BOOK OF THE 20TH CENTURY.”** —Time

Volume 3 of the Nobel Prize

winner's towering masterpiece:

Solzhenitsyn's moving account of

resistance within the Soviet labor

camps and his own release after

eight years. Features a new foreword

by Anne Applebaum. “The greatest

and most powerful single indictment

of a political regime ever leveled in

modern times.” —George F. Kennan

“It is impossible to name a book that had a greater effect on the political



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and moral consciousness of the late  
twentieth century.” —David

Remnick, *New Yorker*

“Solzhenitsyn’s masterpiece. . . .

The Gulag Archipelago helped  
create the world we live in today.”

—Anne Applebaum, Pulitzer Prize-  
winning author of *Gulag: A History*,  
from the foreword

Two Short Novels

The Gulag Archipelago [Volume 2]

First circle: Aleksandr I.

Solzhenitsyn

The Red Wheel II

To Moscow-and Beyond