



Crime and Punishment (Penguin Translated Texts)

Fyodor Dostoevsky

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'Will I really - I mean, really - actually take an axe, start bashing her on the head, smash her skull to pieces? . . . Will I really slip in sticky, warm blood, force the lock, steal, tremble, hide, all soaked in blood . . . axe in hand? . . . Lord, will I really?'

This new translation of Dostoevsky's 'psychological record of a crime' gives his dark masterpiece of murder and pursuit a renewed vitality, expressing its jagged, staccato urgency and fevered atmosphere as never before.

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky was born in Moscow in 1821. His debut, the epistolary novella *Poor Folk* (1846), made his name. In 1849 he was arrested for involvement with the politically subversive 'Petrashhevsky circle' and until 1854 he lived in a convict prison in Omsk, Siberia. From this experience came *The House of the Dead* (1860-2). In 1860 he began the journal *Vremya* (Time). Already married, he fell in love with one of his contributors, Appolinaria Suslova, eighteen years his junior, and developed a ruinous passion for roulette. After the death of his first wife, Maria, in 1864, Dostoyevsky completed *Notes from Underground* and began work towards *Crime and Punishment* (1866). The major novels of his late period are *The Idiot* (1868), *Demons* (1871-2) and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879-80). He died in 1881.

Oliver Ready is Research Fellow in Russian Society and Culture at St Antony's College, Oxford. He is general editor of the anthology, *The Ties of Blood: Russian Literature from the 21st Century* (2008), and Consultant Editor for Russia, Central and Eastern Europe at the *Times Literary Supplement*. As Director of the Russkiy Mir Programme at St Antony's, he runs events and conferences devoted to Russian culture.



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