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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

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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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