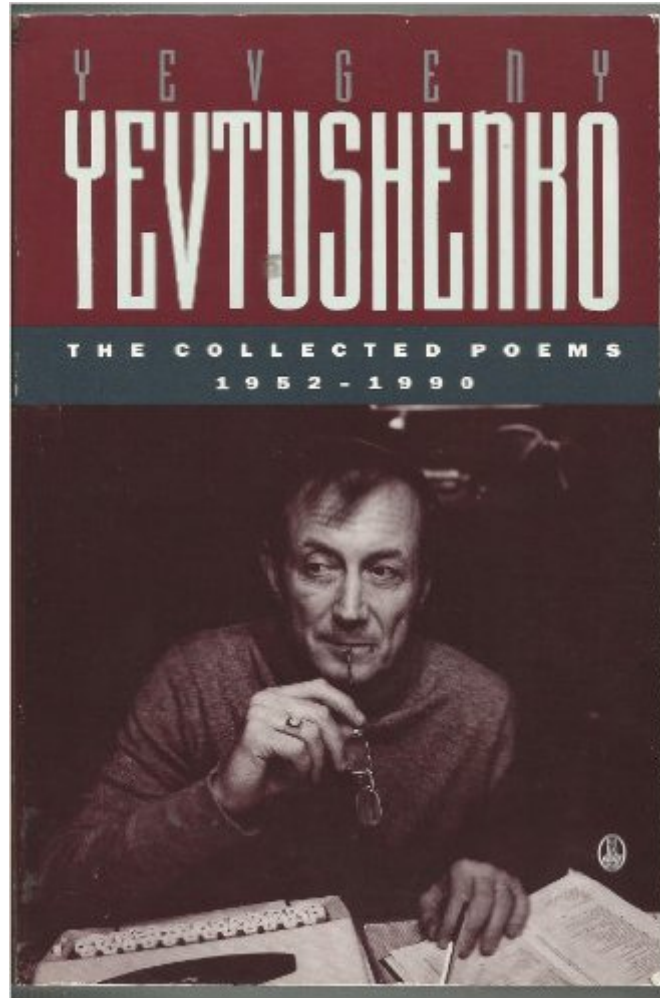


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The Collected Poems, 1952-1990: Yevgeny Yevtushenko



Synopsis

This comprehensive collection of the world-renowned poet's verse spans Yevtushenko's entire poetic life. Amazing in its thematic range and stylistic breadth, his poetry "leaps continents and covers war and peace, intolerance and human striving . . . a passionate and essential edition of his collected poems" (The New York Times).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This 650-plus page volume does not cover the entire poetic work of Yevgeny Yevtushenko until 1990, but it comes close. Not all his collected poems are here, either: selections from "Bratsk Station" and excerpts from long poems such as "Under the Skin of the Statue of Liberty" and "Ivan the Terrible and Ivan the Fool" reduce a bit the scope that we are presented with, although not the quality. His most memorable poems are here and the translation is excellent. What I like the most about Yevtushenko is that he is capable of writing good, even great poetry, from an absolutely opposite perspective to mine. He was, for most of his life, a convinced socialist, a man who really believed in the "human face" of socialism and even in that catchy word "internationalism" that the old autocrats in the Kremlin liked so much. Life seems to have made it very plain to him that the dream had always been a nightmare. But his poems are still here and one of the reasons why Yevtushenko hasn't been swept away like many of the so-called poets who sang for the Soviet regime, is that he never did that. He believed in socialism, but he could write "Russian Tanks in Prague" and tell the truth about the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. A very long poem, included in this collection, is "A Dove in Santiago: A Novella in Verse," where he attempts to

understand and explain, from a socialist point of view, the events in Chile, 1973. He fails, but he is not the first one to get it wrong (most non-Chileans have gotten it wrong) and he, at least, does it with a lot of talent. I don't agree with Yevtushenko's socialism, but I can't help liking his poetry.

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