



The Golden Calf

By Ilya Ilf, Evgeny Petrov

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Ostap Bender, one of Russia's most beloved literary characters and an unrelenting con man, is trying to scam a scammer in *The Golden Calf* and swindle enough to be able to move to Rio. One of the funniest, and most satirically cutting, books ever published in the Soviet Union.

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The Golden Calf By Ilya Ilf, Evgeny Petrov Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. A hilarious blend of absurdist, futurist and surrealist sensibilities, this new (and only complete) translation of Ilf and Petrov's novel following *The Twelve Chairs*, first serialized in 1931, is a highly animated tale of a con artist's journey through the cities and hinterlands of Soviet Russia. Part anarchist, part Quixote and part jester, grand strategist Ostap Bender, along with his lackeys, rides through the country in a yellow jalopy in search of the elusive secret millionaire Alexander Koreiko. Along the way, a superabundance of wild, arresting images and uncanny scenarios materialize, from an elaborate bureaucracy housed in a former hotel where the white bathtubs were filled with files, to the introduction of a puzzle maker attempting to make a riddle out of the word industrialisation; from the sight of doormen selling white-striped watermelons by their doorways to the use of a telegram machine missing a letter. It's an invigorating journey through innumerable paradoxes, dreams and burlesque routines, and though it's intensely chaotic (at times to dizzying effect), this is a finely translated edition of a triumphant literary experiment. (*Dec.*)

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Review

"On the heels of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall comes a new translation of one of the most beloved and quotable Russian classics—*The Golden Calf* by Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov. This is the first version based on the complete and uncensored original, which was first serialized in 1931, and, unlike the two very truncated incarnations that came before, finally illuminates in full comedic and insightful glory the work of the writing duo from Odessa (pen names for Ilya Faynzilberg and Evgeny Kataev), whose iconic status in Russian literature is akin to that of Fitzgerald and Hemingway in the U.S."—Kseniya Melnik, *The Brooklyn Rail*

"Ilf and Petrov's picaresque is packed with intricacies that resist summary. The authors exploit every character and complication to its fullest humor, in a wild tale driven in large part by Bender's rapid-fire language."—By Nicole Rudick, *Los Angeles Times*

"The *Golden Calf* was translated into English shortly after its first serialisation in 1931, and then again in the early sixties. This new translation is the first English version to have gone to print unexpurgated. Translators Konstantin Gurevich and Helen Anderson have delivered a text full of glib energies and stylistic verve. While choosing to forego some of the language-based humour in the original text, Anderson and Gurevich show equal sensitivity to the novel's satirical mirroring of a new model society's hubris, and to its evocative vignettes of Socialist Russia."—Nick Terrell, *The Ember*

"War and Peace, Crime and Punishment, and Doctor Zhivago weigh so heavily on Russian literature that many readers don't realize that there are some truly hilarious Russian novels. This classic picturesque is one of them." —K.H.Cuminskey, *Library Journal*

"For students and scholars who studied Russian literature in the three decades of so before the collapse of communism, the works of Ilf and Petrov are remembered fondly not so much for their artistic viability as for their comic relief from the grim and grimy fiction in the early years of Soviet power." — Thomas Gaiton Marullo, *University of Notre Dame*

From the Inside Flap

Ostap Bender, the "grand strategist," is a con man on the make in the Soviet Union during the New Economic Policy (NEP) period. He's obsessed with getting one last big score a few hundred thousand will do and heading for Rio de Janeiro, where there are "a million and a half people, all of them wearing white pants, without exception."

When Bender hears the story of Alexandr Koreiko, an "undercover millionaire" no Soviet citizen was allowed to openly hoard so much capital the chase is on. Koreiko has made his millions by taking advantage of the wide-spread corruption and utter chaos of the NEP, all while serving quietly as an accountant at a government office and living on 46 rubles a month. He's just waiting for the Soviet regime to collapse so he can make use of his stash, which he keeps hidden away in a suitcase.

Teaming up with two petty criminals and a hopelessly naive driver, Bender leads his merry band of mischief makers on a raucously hilarious jaunt across the "wild west" of the early Soviet Union. One of the true classics of Russian literature, this new translation of *The Golden Calf* the first complete translation of the novel restores the absurd, manic energy of the original and reaffirms the judgment of the Soviet censors, who said: "You have a very nice hero, Ostap Bender. But really, he's just a son of a bitch."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Lyons:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of tasks that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading books therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people love it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new details. When you read a review you will get new information since a book is one of several ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, reading through a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you study a book especially fictional works the author will bring one to imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to others. When you read this *The Golden Calf*, you may tell your family, friends and soon about your publication. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them read a publication.

Joseph Southard:

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Olga Andres:

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