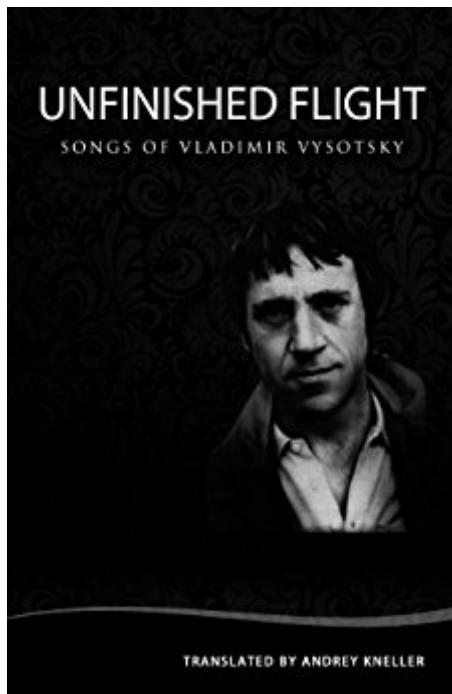


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Unfinished Flight: Selected Songs Of Vladimir Vysotsky



Synopsis

Vladimir Vysotsky (January 25, 1938 - July 25, 1980) was a poet, singer, and actor whose work had an immeasurable and lasting effect on Russian culture. His songs explored a vast variety of topics, ranging from comedy to social and political commentary. With the impressive poetical quality of his lyrics, he quickly outgrew the label of "a bard." In the time when many poets and performers were under heavy scrutiny and censorship by the government, Vysotsky dared to speak his mind and due to his immense popularity with the Soviet people, he was left largely ignored by the authorities.

Vysotsky died of a heart attack on July 25, 1980, though many speculate that alcohol and drug use may have also contributed to his early death. In the short span of twenty years, Vysotsky had produced nearly 2000 songs and poems. To this day, he remains an icon for the Russian people and has had a deep influence on the Russian musicians of today. This dual-language collection of his work strives to give a glimpse into the creative mind of Russia's greatest singer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I, as a majority of Russian-speaking people, cannot overstate the treasure given to us by Vladimir Vysotsky (or by G-d himself?). I bought this book for my daughter who speaks two languages, and

for her husband who learned only few funny words in Russian. I doubted that anybody can translate Vysotsky without losing strength and harmony of his poetry. However, I was pleasantly surprised that this translation didn't irritate me. Moreover, I am very grateful for opportunity to enjoy reading Vysotsky once again and this time in both languages.

It is often said that books are best read in their original language. I strongly agree with this when it comes to the Russian poetry. However the author/translator of this book has done such a brilliant work with translation, tone, rhyme and poetic flow that reading these poems in English has been as pleasant, as it has in Russian.

Very good translation, preserves both the spirit and the rhythm.

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