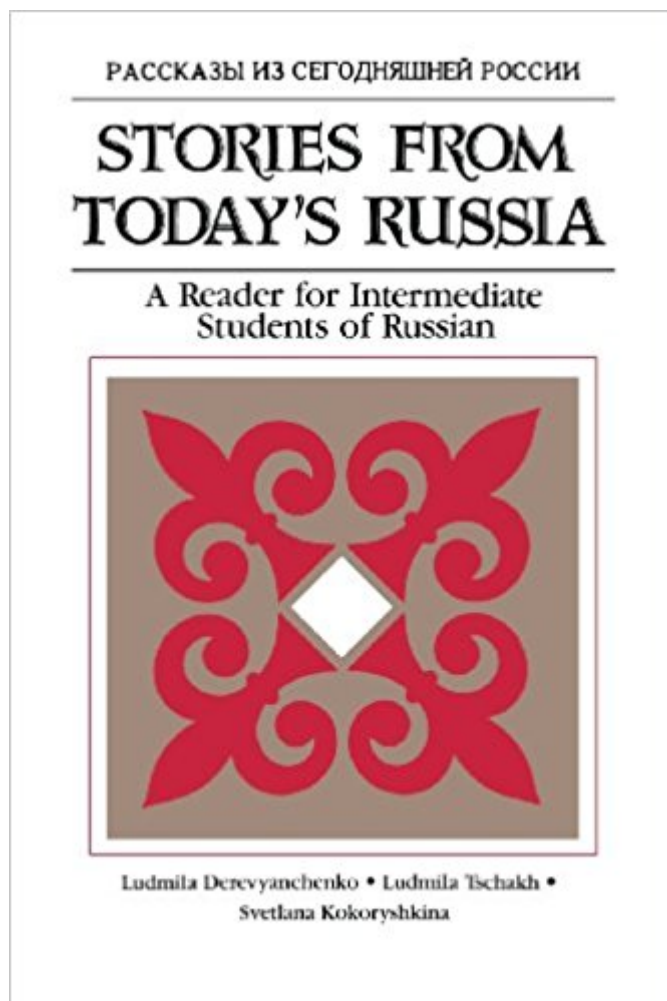




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# Stories From Today's Russia



## Synopsis

Advanced Beginning through Intermediate Intermediate students of Russian will connect with these contemporary stories created especially for them. Written by three contemporary Russian-language authors, the tales reflect aspects of the lives of Russians today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Stories From Today's Russia' presents tales of three present-day Russian language authors. Created especially for intermediate students of Russian, these stories reflect aspects of the lives of Russians today.

McGraw-Hill authors represent the leading experts in their fields and are dedicated to improving the lives, careers, and interests of readers worldwide

There are three novelettes here. The first is about a German who comes to stay with her teenage Petersburg penfriend, the second about a pet Polar Bear and the last about a shipwrecked boy. The text is up-to-date and not patronising with the minimum of footnotes. Critically speaking the stories are genuinely weird especially the true one about a polar bear who thinks he's human and who lives in a tower block. Apparently it was also made into a documentary. If you can't find a suitable reader, then this will suffice and should take you a couple of weeks to progress through. However the varied

language used shows you how Russian verbs are used in context, and thus the book will last you a long time as a grammar reference. There are also short annotated Russian stories for learners in the weekly English version of 'Moscow Today'. Check this out too.

First, the book is actually geared toward the upper level beginner or intermediate Russian student (as it claims). The vocabulary and word sets, including action verbs, are very good and quite useful. The book provides explanatory footnotes for some words. However, I found it interesting that some of the footnotes were for "beginner vocabulary", while more intermediate words were not footnoted. Overall, the book would have been enhanced by a limited dictionary in the appendix and I am surprised that the authors did not include it. I could understand 85% of the vocabulary without using a dictionary, but I was still appropriately challenged. A good buy!

I read through this book while I was working overseas, and it really helped my understanding of the Russian language. The book contains three stories which are actually interesting and informative. The story about the polar bear is particularly interesting. The stories are at an intermediate level, and the reader should have an understanding of the 6 Russian declinations in particular. The grammar is not the hardest part of this book - it's the vocabulary. Many of the easier words are glossed but some of the more difficult words are not. I recommend having a good Russian/English dictionary (English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary) with you when you read this book. This book is challenging to an intermediate level Russian student without being so difficult that the reader will become frustrated. Your vocabulary will increase as a result of reading this book.

As an intermediate student of the Russian language (I have been studying it mostly on my own for a few years) I found the stories in this book interesting and very readable. Most of the words unfamiliar to me had footnotes and many of the few that didn't I was able to guess from the context. The thing that bothered me and kept me from giving this a higher rating was the abundance of typographical errors. It seemed there was at least one per page. One is even in the title of one of the stories in the table of contents (the word for "bear" spelled with a "b" instead of a "v"). In most cases I was able to spot the errors for myself but sometimes I found myself wondering whether a word was unfamiliar or just misspelled. Also, in at least one instance the wrong translation was given for a word (it can be translated as "rudder" as an adjective, which was the meaning given, but in this case it was being used as a noun meaning "helmsman").

Great collection of stories at a intermediate level of Russian.

After studying Russian for a few months I wanted to try reading something. At first I was seriously over-ambitious and struggled to read a paragraph of Pushkin, looking up every word. I decided Stories from Today's Russia might be more suitable. I initially found the text to be quite difficult; there were a good number of words I didn't know, but as I continued reading I began to find I could read more quickly, making less and less use of my dictionary. These stories are ideal for someone with a reasonable vocabulary and a fair knowledge of the basic rules of Russian grammar. They are neither so easy that there is no challenge at all, nor so hard that they become tedious. It helps that the stories themselves are quite interesting and varied. There are a good number of pictures and maps and some short exercises. I found this book really useful not only because I learned a good number of new words and improved my understanding of some grammar points, but also because in the end I began to really enjoy reading Russian. Maybe one day I will be ready for Pushkin.

I have found very few books geared for English speakers at the intermediate level, so if you fall into the same category, get this book! The stories are engaging, and there are a lot of words to learn and lots more to relearn. English translations for many words and some phrases are included along the bottom of each page. The only thing I found odd was that some very difficult words were not translated, yet some of the easier ones were. But even if it had no translations at all, I would still recommend it. One more thing: If you find the first story to be difficult to read, start with the second story and move on to the third - I found them to be much less difficult.

As a native speaker of Russian, I thought the book was nothing else, but an insult. Good stories. Would be interesting to read for learners of Russian. They could even benefit from it in terms of grammar, spelling and punctuation if...it didn't have a great deal of typos and mistakes. As if it was not proofread for spelling, grammar or punctuation at all. Would I recommend it for my students? No! Good-looking cover and the pictures, but the way the stories are put onto the paper - it's just a shame. I wouldn't complain, if I got it for free, but spending \$10 on it was a waste.

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