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Autobiography of a Corpse

By Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, Joanne Turnbull, Adam Thirlwell

The New York Review of Books, Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Autobiography of a Corpse, Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, Joanne Turnbull, Adam Thirlwell, An NYRB Classics Original. Virtually unpublished during his lifetime, Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky's fantastic and blackly comic philosophical fables have since 1989 earned him a reputation as one of the greatest Russian writers of the twentieth century. Included in this collection of eleven newly translated tales are some of his strangest and most brilliant conceits: a provincial journalist who moves to Moscow finds his existence consumed by the autobiography of his room's previous occupant, a suicide who vacated his hundred square feet in exchange for his successor's consideration of his manuscript; the fingers of a celebrated pianist's right hand run away to spend an abrasive night alone on the city streets; a man's lifelong quest to bite his own elbow inspires both a wildly popular circus act and a new refutation of Kant; a desperate energy crisis is resolved through the systematic exploitation of the one substance to reliably increase along with the dysfunctions of modern life: bile, or "yellow coal." Abounding in nested narratives, wild paradox, and improbably high stakes-what would you do if a Stygian toad landed...



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