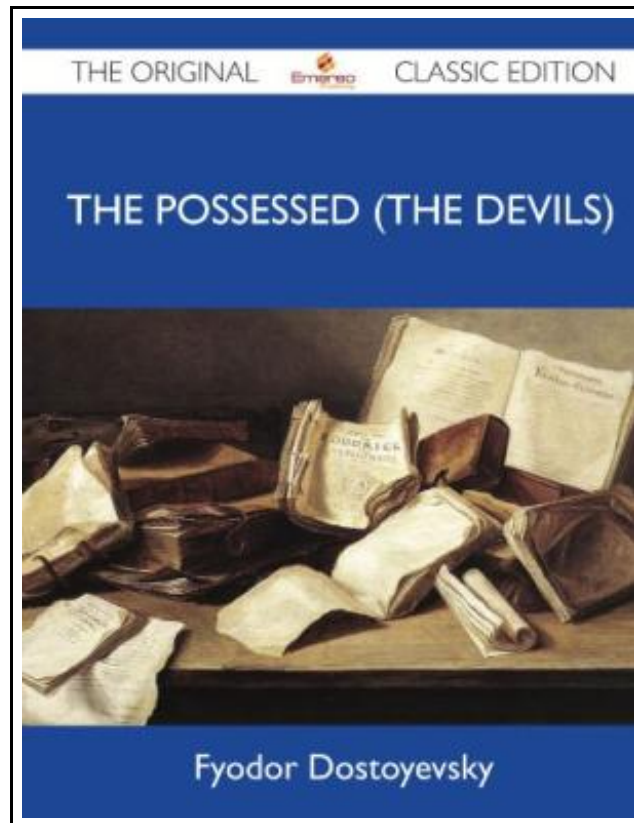


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## THE POSSESSED (THE DEVILS) - THE ORIGINAL CLASSIC EDITION



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Emereo Classics, Australia, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 188 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.I've always felt that fiction is like a window to the past, and with *The Devils*, Dostoevsky gives us a clear glimpse at the underground politics brewing in Czarist Russia. At the same time, his propensity to write about criminals and people with criminal hearts is nowhere more emphasized among his major novels than in this one. There is not one character I could identify as a traditional hero, not even the semi-anonymous narrator, who relates the novels events with the impartiality of a security camera; they are all antiheroes -- a room full of Raskolnikovs. The novel concerns a small band of Russian intellectuals, atheists, socialists, anarchists, and various other rabble who are distributing subversive leaflets in an attempt to incite the proletariat to revolt against the government. They are a motley group, destined to fail because they lack general competence, organizational skills, a clear agenda, definite plans, and even uniform ideas. The only thing they have in common is that they don't like the way things currently are in Russia and intend to change them, violently if necessary. Among this group we meet Nicholas Stavrogin, an obnoxious, insensitive young man who is only looking out for himself and is not above having affairs with his friends wives. The groups prime mover and instigator is Peter Verkhovensky, whose father Stepan had been Nicholass tutor and is still living platonically with Nicholass widowed mother, one of the wealthier citizens of the town in which the novel takes place. The groups rank-and-file who figure most prominently into the plot include the suicidal Kirilov, a former member (and potential informer) named Shatov who just wants to put it all behind...



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