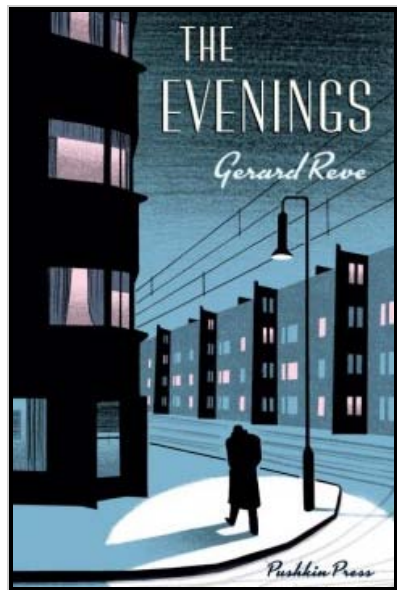


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The Evenings

by Gerard Reve, Sam Garrett

Price: \$22.00(Hardcover)

Published: January 31, 2017

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: THE FIRST ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF A POSTWAR MASTERPIECE 'I work in an office. I take cards out of a file. Once I have taken them out, I put them back in again. That is it.' Twenty-three-year-old Frits - office worker, daydreamer, teller of inappropriate jokes - finds life absurd and inexplicable. He lives with his parents, who drive him mad. He has terrible, disturbing dreams of death and destruction. Sometimes he talks to a toy rabbit. This is the story of ten evenings in Frits's life at the end of December, as he drinks, smokes, sees friends, aimlessly wanders the gloomy city street and tries to make sense of the minutes, hours and days that stretch before him. Darkly funny and mesmerising, *The Evenings* takes the tiny, quotidian triumphs and heartbreaks of our everyday lives and turns them into a work of brilliant wit and profound beauty.

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About The Author

Gerard Reve, Sam Garrett

Gerard Reve (1923-2006) is considered one of the greatest post-war Dutch authors, and was also the first openly gay writer in the country's history. A complicated and controversial character, Reve is also hugely popular and critically acclaimed- his 1947 debut *The Evenings* was chosen as one of...

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Release Info

List Price: \$22.00 (Hardcover)

Published: January 31, 2017

Publisher: Pushkin Press

Pages: 224

ISBN 10: 1782271783

ISBN 13: 9781782271789

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


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What We Say

Gerard Reve is one of the Big Three of Dutch literature, or so Wikipedia tells me. A controversial, openly gay, anti-communist and converted Catholic who mocked his own Church kind of guy, Reve loved to poke fun at one and all. His novel "The Fourth Man" was turned into a film by Paul Verhoeven but by and large we're barely catching up with his many novels, essays, collections of letters and so on. As example, "The Evenings" was his debut in 1947 and it has just been translated into English for the first time. Often ranked as one of the greatest -- if not the greatest -- Dutch novel in modern times. It proves drily amusing, suffused with angst and post-war malaise and -- at first blush -- very impressive. Frits is a

23 year old office worker, living with his mother and father while spending his evenings in an endless attempt to stave off boredom or perhaps despair. Though more self-contained, he is a cousin of sorts to Holden Caulfield in temperament and knee-jerk dislike of one and all. His parents infuriate him in a thousand minor ways. Offsetting that is the fact that they seem deeply unhappy with each other, often fighting when they believe their son can't hear them. Fritz and his friends offer a running commentary on their own actions a la a TV or radio announcer, a meta device I would have thought didn't appear until decades later (and flourishing with the comic strip "Doonesbury"). They delight in mordant humor, with Fritz repeatedly teasing others about incipient baldness while secretly worrying over the same for himself. Agonizingly hypercritical, Fritz typically offers up a silly, pseudo-profound comment and then secretly derides himself for it or worries about what to say next or whether he should leave a friend he's visiting before outstaying his welcome and on and on and on. It's fascinating, amusing, exhausting and perhaps a bit tiresome over the brief length of the novel. Yet that's counterbalanced by the repeated nightmares that Frits experiences, each one more frightening and phantasmagorical than the one before. While he often reverts to faux religious language, that verbal tic becomes a genuine prayer of sorts by the end. Toss in an upsettingly casual crook of a friend with disturbing psychotic flashes that Frits instinctively understands (or at least spots easily) and you can see the beginnings of an exceptional career and the darker roads it would soon travel down. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"In this first English translation of a Dutch classic . . . The author's dry wit and ability to find humor and beauty in the banality of daily life are impressive."— *Booklist*

"Not only a masterpiece but a cornerstone manque of modern European literature... what can I say, in a world of hype, that will put this book where it belongs, in readers' hands and minds?... Reve's sparkling collage of acute observation, droll internal monologue and pitch-perfect dialogue keeps the reader breathless right through to the grand finale...huge respect to Pushkin Press." — **Tim Parks**, *The Guardian*

"One of the greatest post-war Dutch novels... [a] brilliant modern classic." — **Tom Chalmers**, *Publishers Weekly*

"The novel is dark, funny, unsettling and lingers vividly in the mind. Hats off to Pushkin Press and the outstanding translator, Sam Garrett, for making this odd, orphaned masterpiece available at last to an English-speaking readership." — *Times Literary Supplement*

"*The Evenings* is packed with the minutiae of life: luckily, the minutiae are fascinating..Reve isn't the kind of novelist to give you a straightforward...

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