

THE SAME OLD STORY GONCHAROV
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The Same Old Story

A New Translation by Stephen Pearl

Ivan Goncharov
Author of Oblomov
Introduction by Dr. Galya Diment

From Galya Diment's introduction: Much as I love *Oblomov*, *The Same Old Story* holds an even more special place in my heart. I used to wish more people in the English-speaking world would read the novel in a truly good translation and see for themselves what a gem Goncharov's first novel is. Now, with this new translation by Stephen Pearl, who before gave us an equally excellent translation of *Oblomov*, that is finally a real possibility.

This book made Goncharov famous in Russia. And from half a continent and three lifetimes away he can still make new readers laugh and gasp with recognition over timeless human foibles, so I am glad that he was translated, and I trust you will be, too.

—Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*

This is the endlessly repeated tale of how the young lose their saving illusions. ...From his first clumsy and awkward arrival in St. Petersburg, Alexander encounters not only the cold cynicism of his uncle (Pyotr), but also the much warmer and more ironical sympathy of his aunt.... It is only very slowly...that we begin to realize that this is not...about what happens to the nephew—it is a wistful story about what happens to the older man.... What Goncharov is so brilliant at doing and what Pearl conveys so well, is the slow-paced, gently unfolded dialogue in which more seems to be left unsaid than said, but which nonetheless leaves both interlocutors changed.

—A.N. Wilson, *Times Literary Supplement*

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