

Short Stories by Anton Chekhov Bk. 1 A Tragic Actor and Other Stories

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- **Title:** Short Stories by Anton Chekhov Bk.1
- **Subtitle:** A Tragic Actor and Other Stories
- **ISBN:** 9780956116543
- **Category:** Classic Fiction, Short Stories, Comedy, Drama
- **Format:** Audio CD, Audio Book
- **Language:** English (Unabridged)
- **Author:** Anton Chekhov
- **Translator:** Constance Garnett
- **Narrator:** Max Bollinger
- **Imprint:** Sovereign
- **Running Time:** 65 min
- **Dimensions:** 190 x 135 (mm), Spine 15 (mm)
- **On Sale:** 2010
- **RRP:** £16.45 (UK)

Brief Description

Short Stories by Anton Chekhov is an audio book release of selected Chekhov short stories read by Max Bollinger in English (Unabridged). This production offers unique dramatisation of Chekhov's best works by a Russian born performer, now a British actor fluent in both Russian and English languages. Case covers of this CD feature Chekhov's hand written college essay "Kyrgyzi" (Киргизы) and notebook cover from "Cherry Orchard" (Вишнёвый Сад) play. This is a limited edition with small number of copies in circulation.

Stories in Audiobook 1 [click >](#) for MP3

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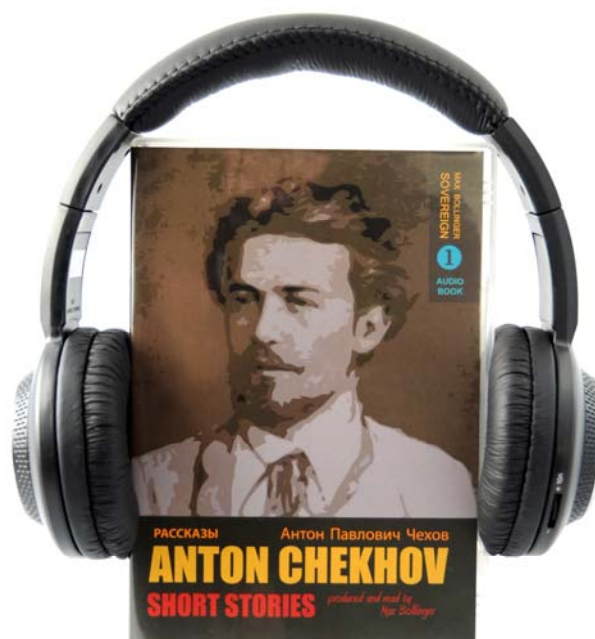
- 01 A Tragic Actor [>](#)
- 02 In A Strange Land [>](#)
- 03 Oh! The Public [>](#)
- 04 The Looking Glass [>](#)
- 05 Her Husband [>](#)
- 06 Overdoing It [>](#)

Extended Description

The CD, entitled Short Stories by Anton Chekhov, has been collated and narrated in English by Max Bollinger, a Russian-born actor, writer and producer. It is the product of several years' work by 34-year-old Max, who has appeared in Doctor Who and was narrator in Twentieth Century Battlefields and Space Race.

The 64-minute CD, produced by Max Bollinger Interactive Media, features six short stories by the master of Russian drama: A Tragic Actor; In A Strange Land; Oh! The Public; The Looking Glass; Her Husband; and Overdoing It.

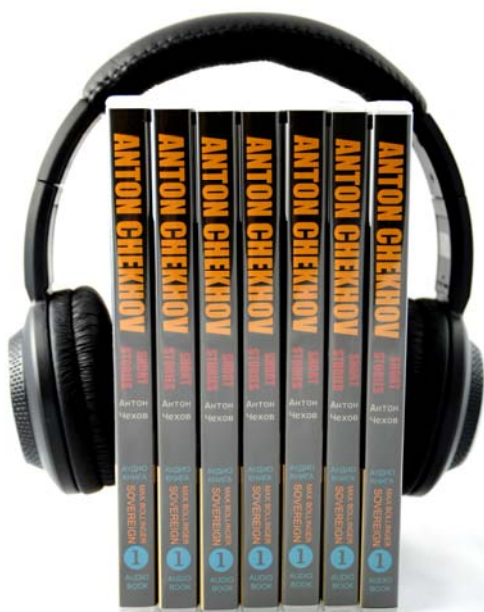
"I rediscovered Chekhov in England after having read his short stories in English," explained Max, who is fluent in both Russian and English. "I felt like Chekhov's texts started to speak to me. I found his words so agile, so relevant, and so enigmatic, that I could not stop.



"It was like some magic book written in code suddenly opening up and transforming into beautiful gleaming stream of light. "Chekhov's writing is full of enlightenment, wisdom and humour that I made it a personal goal to bring these stories to anyone seeking light and truth. It took me several years to put this project together."

Max said that getting the text absolutely correct was paramount. "When I started recording the first several stories, it had become apparent that no cheating was allowed with Chekhov's texts," he said. "Every single word had to be in its rightful place." He said it was vital he honoured Chekhov's original literary vision.

"The texts have what critics often describe as 'layers', each character in his story, like in real life, is not just one or two-dimensional," he explained. "Chekhov often created names and surnames of his characters, as well as locations, with additional meaning encoded within those words, so I made it a point to add those layers where possible and make the experience as it was intended by him."



About The Author

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (Антон Павлович Чехов) 1860 – 1904 was a Russian short story writer, playwright and physician, considered to be one of the greatest short story writers in the history of world literature. His career as a dramatist produced all-time classics The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and Cherry Orchard. His short stories are held in high esteem by writers, critics and audiences of all generations. "Reading Chekhov was just like the angels singing to me." -- Eudora Welty, 1977. Chekhov practised as a doctor throughout most of his literary career: "Medicine is my lawful wife," he once said, "and literature is my mistress."

Chekhov had at first written stories only for the money, but as his artistic ambition grew, he made formal innovations which have influenced the evolution of the modern short story. His originality consists in an early use of the "stream of consciousness" technique, later adopted by other modernists, combined with a disavowal of the moral finality of traditional story structure.

About The Narrator

Max Bollinger is a Russian-born British actor, writer and producer appearing in Doctor Who: Singularity as Pavel Fedorin alongside Peter Davison as the Doctor (audio drama CD), DoctorWho Special The Waters of Mars (TV film) as Mikail Kerenski, the ITV 2 part TV drama Ghostboat playing Soviet Naval captain alongside David Jason, the BBC TV film Life Beyond the Box: Margo Leadbetter as Charles Allcock, the Noise Monster audio production Space 1889: The Lunar Inheritance as Colonel Molokov, and the BBC TV series 20th Century Battlefields as narrator.

Prior to establishing career in performing arts and digital media held management posts at The Cambridge University Local Examination Syndicate (now Cambridge Assessment), various management and consulting posts in British Telecommunications Plc (BT), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) [more >](#)

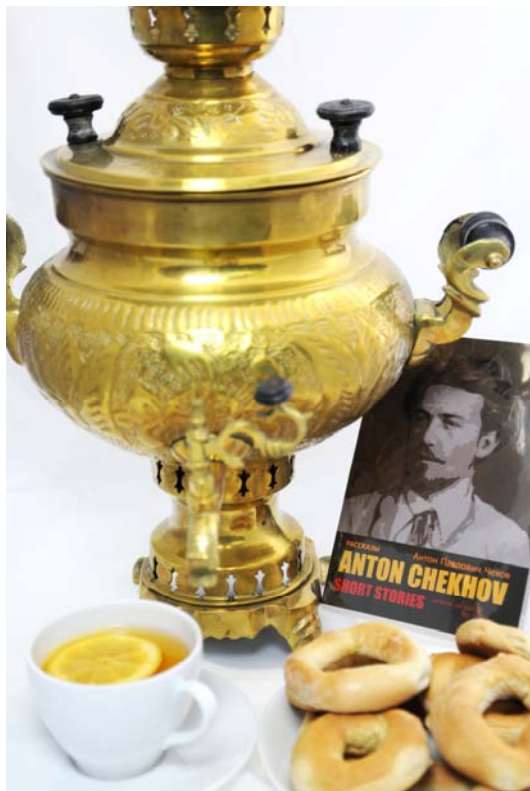
About The Translator

Constance Clara Garnett 1861 — 1946, English translator of nineteenth century Russian Literature. Following her visit to Russia in 1893 where she met Leo Tolstoy, Constance started translating Russian literature, which became her life's passion and resulted in English language versions of dozens of volumes by Tolstoy, Pushkin, Turgenev, Chekhov and other prominent Russian writers. Russian anarchist Sergei Stepniak assisted in preparation of her early works.

Reviews [More Reviews](#) ≥

"For those who already love Chekhov's stories, this CD will delight and demand repeated hearings. And for those unfamiliar with the genius of Anton Chekhov in short story form, welcome to a new world that is close to addictive. Excellent addition to the library and as gifts to friends in love with literature."

Grady Harp (Los Angeles, CA United States) ★★★★★



"These six unabridged stories in the faithful Constance Garnett translation are presented with fine flourish by the Russian-born narrator. The poignant, everyday dramas of Imperial Russia are here, from jolting carriages across boundless taiga, to a tragic actor and a French tutor insulted by his boastful employer."

Rachel Redford, The Observer (UK)

"Listening to Chekhov short stories told in a Russian accented voice. What a pleasant way to spend an hour. Anton Chekhov does so well at condensing time and space into just a few words. Most writers of his time, and of today, would need a novel to tell what he can put into not very many pages. I'm not usually an audio book user, but did enjoy this one. The subtle sound effects and the Russian-sounding narrator added to the listening."

Michael Schwager (Southern Idaho, USA) ★★★★★

"I really do enjoy Chekhov, and it was very pleasant to walk to and from work listening to these stories. I thought the narrator did a decent job turning the prose into something enjoyable to the ear, and Chekhov, as always, writes great stuff."

Jennie Blake (Manchester, UK) ★★★★★½

"I really enjoyed this collection of subtly funny vignettes from the life of 19th century small town Russia. There was something odd that I didn't remember about Chekhov's stories at all, but which caught my attention this time - their climax was as subtle as their wit, and seemed to take place way before the end, or not at all."

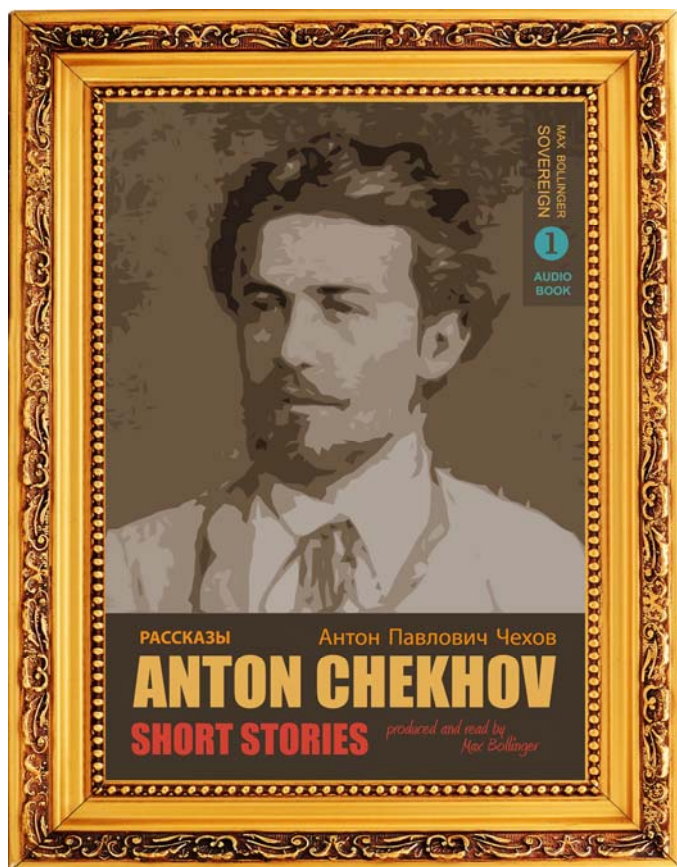
Karim Mamdani (Toronto, Canada) ★★★★★½

"I've always loved Chekhov's stories and the six presented here have that wonderful mix of humour and poignancy."

Maki Vounoridis (Melbourne, Australia)

"Max Bollinger, affluent in both Russian and English, does an excellent job in his narration of these wonderfully quaint stories, changing voices to display the multi-levels of characterization with much emotion. Narrated stories are especially enjoyable to listen to when driving in the car. I am looking forward to Volume II."

Kathy Wroblewski (Baltimore, USA) ★★★★★



Anton Chekhov is of course one of the world's greatest playwrights. From Lincoln Center to Lincoln County, Montana Chekhov's plays are appreciated by theatre-goers of all stripes. But, it was a surprise to me that Chekhov was also a prolific writer of short stories. I confess that I am not a natural lover of short stories and often pick up a collection with the intention of just getting through them. But, this collection by Chekhov came to me as a CD and part of Library Thing's Early Reviewer Program. So, with slightly more interest I began to listen and I was most pleasantly surprised.

These stories are small masterpieces. The scene is set quickly and within a few sentences the story line is underway. But all seem to contain an element of the unexpected. In "The Husband" a newly famous stage actress laments her now dependent husband's whines and demands. In "Oh, the Public" Chekhov depicts a running battle between a conscientious train conductor and an obstreperous passenger. The unhappy results when a doting father invites the members of a theater caste to his home for dinner are related in "A Tragic Actor"

Joseph Belliveau (Canada) ★★★★★

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