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A School for Fools

By Sasha Sokolov, Alexander Boguslawski

The New York Review of Books, Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, A School for Fools, Sasha Sokolov, Alexander Boguslawski, By turns lyrical and philosophical, witty and baffling, "A School for Fools" confounds all expectations of the novel. Here we find not one reliable narrator but two "unreliable" narrators: the young man who is a student at the "school for fools" and his double. What begins as a reverie (with frequent interruptions) comes to seem a sort of fairy-tale quest not for gold or marriage but for self-knowledge. The currents of consciousness running through the novel are passionate and profound. Memories of childhood summers at the dacha are contemporaneous with the present, the dead are alive, and the beloved is present in the wind. Here is a tale either of madness or of the life of the imagination, in conversation with reason, straining at the limits of language; in the words of Vladimir Nabokov, "an enchanting, tragic, and touching work." Sasha Sokolov was born in 1943 in Canada, the son of a high-ranking Soviet diplomat. Sokolov studied journalism at Moscow State University and attempted to escape from the USSR, for which he was imprisoned. In 1975, he was allowed...



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