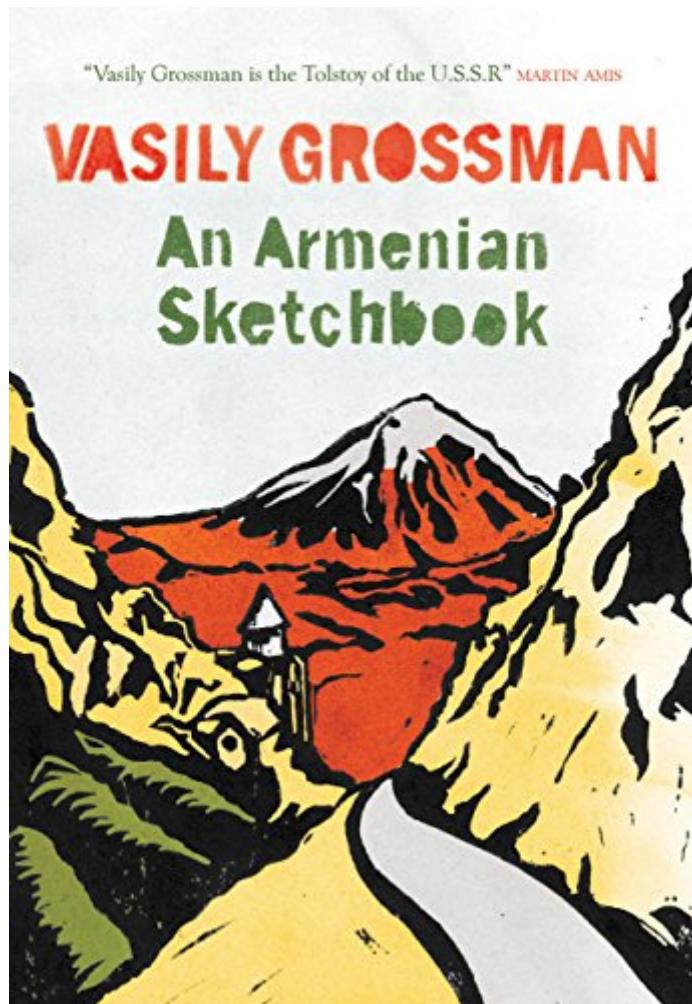


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An Armenian Sketchbook



Synopsis

Few writers had to confront so many of the last century's mass tragedies as Vasily Grossman. He is likely to be remembered, above all, for the terrifying clarity with which he writes about the Shoah, the Battle of Stalingrad and the Terror Famine in the Ukraine. An Armenian Sketchbook, however, shows us a very different Grossman; it is notable for its warmth, its sense of fun and for the benign humility that is always to be found in his writing. After the 'arrest' - as Grossman always put it - of Life and Fate, Grossman took on the task of editing a literal Russian translation of a lengthy Armenian novel. The novel was of little interest to him, but he was glad of an excuse to travel to Armenia. This is his account of the two months he spent there. It is by far the most personal and intimate of Grossman's works, with an air of absolute spontaneity, as though Grossman is simply chatting to the reader about his impressions of Armenia - its mountains, its ancient churches and its people.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent sketch of Armenia, plus deviations and memories.

Adds again another colour to Vasily Grossmans multifaceted observations and penmanship.

Vasily Grossmann's "An Armenian Sketchbook" is full of anecdotes and historical details but, overall, is full of humane feelings and goodness. In my opinion this book can be summarised by the sentence 'when art touches the soul'.

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