

The Bear  
By  
Anton Chekhov

Introduction

Anton Chekhov, a Russian dramatist and short-story writer, was born on January 17, 1860 in Southern Russia. His art has been described as psychological but his psychology ignores the individual. He is almost universally regarded as the greatest Russian writer and as the greatest story-teller and dramatist of modern times. *The Bear* is an interesting humorous play about a Russian widow, Popova. The characters in the play are emotional. The play is a criticism on the hypocrisy in human beings. There are sudden changes from hatred and dislikeness to love and likeness. Popova and Smirnov hate each other but at the end of the play they develop love and ready to be married. These elements of hypocrisy cause laughter and fun. The play brings out before us the social conditions of Russian society. *The Bear* is a successful comedy. The characters in the play suffer from different complications and psychological complexes. *The Bear* is a masterpiece in the domain of comedy.

When the curtain rises, we see Popova in her mourning dress, sitting in her drawing-room. Popova is a beautiful young lady and Luka is her middle-aged footman. Popova's husband, Nicolai Mikhailovitch has died and has left all his wealth and property to her. Her servant Luka is talking in a serious manner with her. He is fed up with her continuous mourning and suggests she should not waste her youth for her dead husband. She is leading a life of completely loneliness and solitude. Luka tells her that she is a young woman and should lead a realistic life. She should accept the will of God, and Popova replies that she has no interest in life after the death of her husband. Popova.....