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The Russian Nanny, Real and Imagined: History, Culture, Mythology

By Steven A. Grant

New Academia Publishing, LLC. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 508 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.3in. x 1.6in. This book examines why and how nannies have appeared in Russian literature from 1700 to the late 20th century, and why they have engendered a set of myths. This book is principally about women - women who care for small children - and about ideas or myths surrounding both individual nannies and nannies in the abstract. Its two major themes are thus reality and constructed reality. It examines how a figure that fell all too easily into a near caricature still retained tremendous emotional power and specificity in the lives of so many Russians, especially creative writers and artists. Secondly, the book concerns the limits of autobiography and biography, the conscious and unconscious manipulation of memory, and the autobiographical fallacy. An important subtext that recurs frequently is that of intellectuals seeking to (super)impose their own notions, values, and ideals upon others to satisfy their personal needs and desires. One part concerns real-life nannies, the role(s) they played in and the impact they had on their charges lives - mostly in childhood. This story of real-life caretakers is documented in all kinds of ego-documents and...



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