



[Lady with the Dog](#), by Anton Chekhov

In A Nutshell

Anton Chekhov was a late 19th century Russian writer famous for his short stories and plays. "The Lady with the Dog," a tale of two lovers who carry on an affair while both married to other people, is one of his most famous short stories.

Chekhov wrote the "The Lady with the Dog" in 1899, five years before his death, while he was an invalid suffering from tuberculosis. He was laid up in the seaside town of Yalta, on the coast of the Black Sea, a setting that serves as the backdrop for the lovers' initial meeting in the story. Setting isn't the only tidbit to find its way from Chekhov's life to the page; many scholars argue that the relationship at the center of this story is a reflection of the author's own romance with the actress he would eventually marry in 1901.

"The Lady with the Dog" is in many ways a typical Chekhov tale. It reflects the style and literary preferences of the author who, having written over 200 stories in his career, had certainly established a status quo. In accordance with his typical manner, the story breaks many of the rules of storytelling, particularly when it comes to plot and conclusion.

Visit Shmoop for much more analysis:

- [Lady with the Dog Themes](#)
- [Lady with the Dog Quotes](#)
- [Lady with the Dog Summary](#)
- Also: literary devices, characters, trivia, audio, photos, links, and more

Visit Shmoop for full coverage of [Lady with the Dog](#)
Shmoop: study guides and teaching resources for literature, US history, and poetry



Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0

This document may be modified and republished for noncommercial use only.
You must attribute Shmoop and link to <http://www.shmoop.com>.

Big Picture Study Questions

- 1 Consider the four sections into which "The Lady with the Dog" is divided. Where do these sections start and end? How would you characterize the mood of the story in each of these? What is the overall effect of such structuring?
- 2 In "Point of View" we talk about how the narrative stays mostly with Gurov. How would this story be different if we followed Anna instead? Would the themes and ideas be the same?
- 3 Is Anna and Gurov's relationship simply a case of bad timing? What does "The Lady with the Dog" say about relationships?

Visit Shmoop for many more [Lady with the Dog Study Questions](#)

Visit Shmoop for full coverage of [Lady with the Dog](#)
Shmoop: study guides and teaching resources for literature, US history, and poetry



Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0

This document may be modified and republished for noncommercial use only.
You must attribute Shmoop and link to <http://www.shmoop.com>.