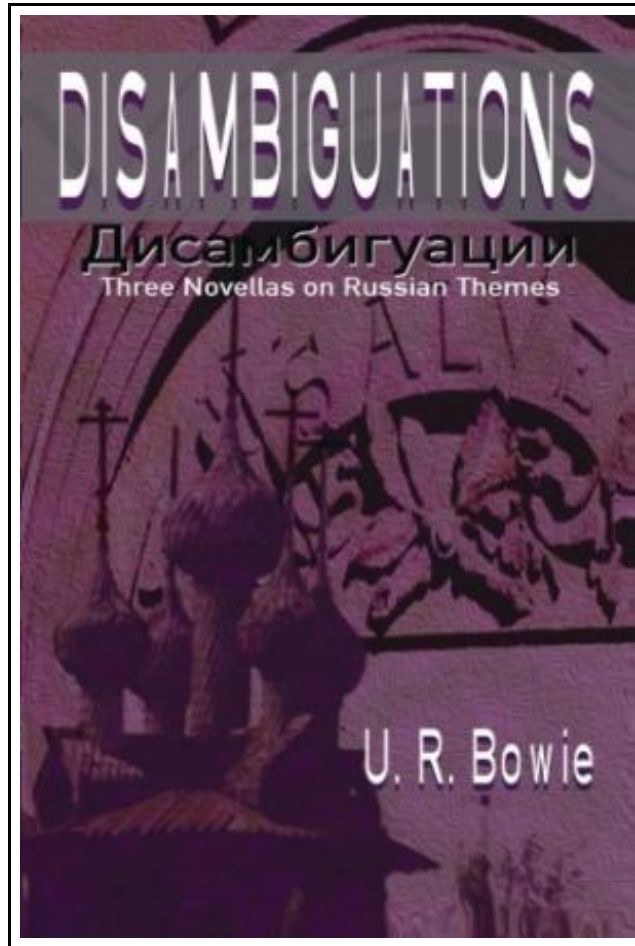


Disambiguations: Three Novellas on Russian Themes



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Reviews

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(Prof. Maya Hand)

DISAMBIGUATIONS: THREE NOVELLAS ON RUSSIAN THEMES



Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. R N Bowie (illustrator). 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.U.R. Bowie DISAMBIGUATIONS: THREE NOVELLAS ON RUSSIAN THEMES U.R. Bowie holds a Ph.D. in Russian literature. The three tales included here are written in English, but make no mistake: they are firmly in the tradition of Russian literature. In fact, the great Nikolai Gogol, with what the critic Mirsky once called his volcano of imaginative creativeness, blows through all three works, both in body and spirit. The first novella, Exhumation, features Gogol in the flesh (and then out of it). Beginning with scenes from the writer s life in the nineteenth century, it goes on to describe the macabre little festivities on the summer day in 1931 that Nikolai Gogol, along with some of his closest friends, was dug up at the Danilov Monastery in Moscow. When they opened the coffin they discovered that the skull was missing. Nikolai Gogol s head had been stolen. The second novella, Disambiguation, is set in the United States, but the theme, once more, is Gogolian in its skewed intricacy. A man who may or may not be insane, who may or may not be Lee Harvey Oswald (still alive fifty years later) appears on a Philadelphia talk show, where he discusses the ambiguations and disambiguations of the spy world, and of the Russian mind- and, by extension, the labyrinthine thing that is anyone s life on earth. The longest, and most purely Russian of the three works is the last, The Leningrad Symphony. Set entirely in the city of St. Petersburg, on one day in October of 1999, it is structured something like Virginia Woolf s Mrs. Dalloway. While Shostakovich s famous Seventh Symphony (The Leningrad) plays...



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