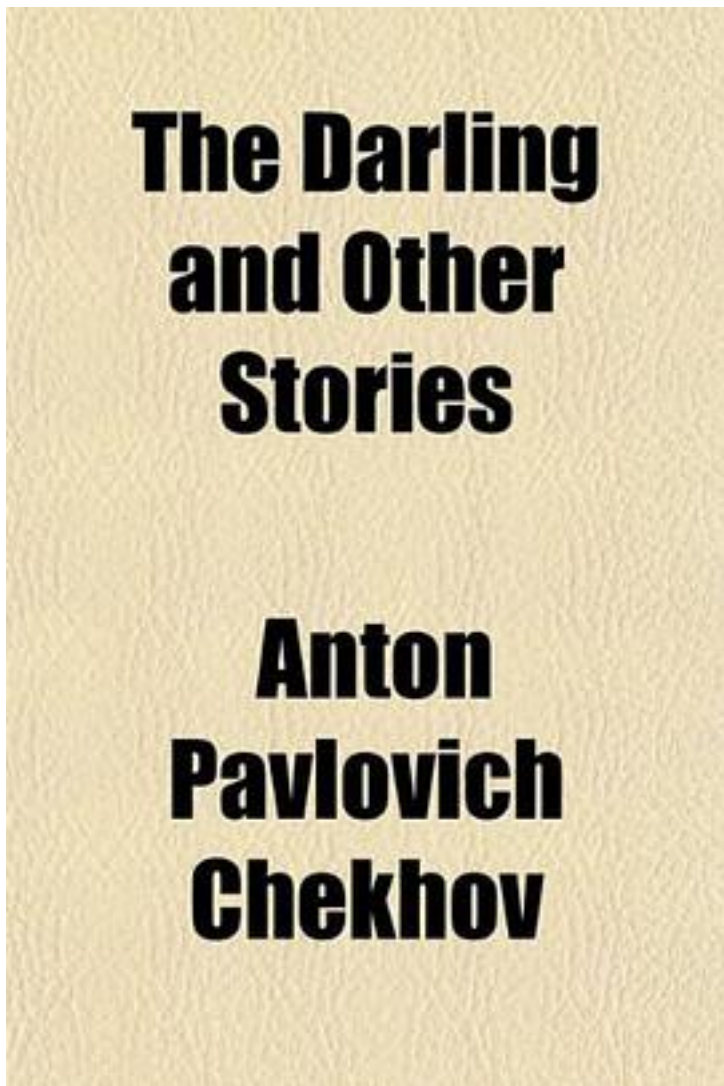


The Darling and Other Stories



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Kukin, who was the manager of an open-air theater called the Tivoli, and who lived in the lodge, was standing in the middle of the garden looking at the sky. "Again " he observed despairingly. "It's going to rain again Rain every day, as though to spite me. I might as well hang myself It's ruin Fearful losses every day." He flung up his hands, and went on, addressing Olenka: "There that's the life we lead, Olga Semyonovna. It's enough to make one cry. One works and does one's utmost, one wears oneself out, getting no sleep at night, and racks one's brain what to do for the best. And then what happens? To begin with, one's public is ignorant, boorish. I give them the very best operetta, a dainty masque, first rate music hall artists. But do you suppose that's what they want They don't understand anything of that sort. They want a clown; what they ask for is vulgarity. And then look at the weather " * This volume also includes "Ariadne," "Polinka," "Anyuta," "The Two Volodyas," "The Trousseau," "The Helpmate," "Talent," "An Artist's Story," and "Three Years."

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