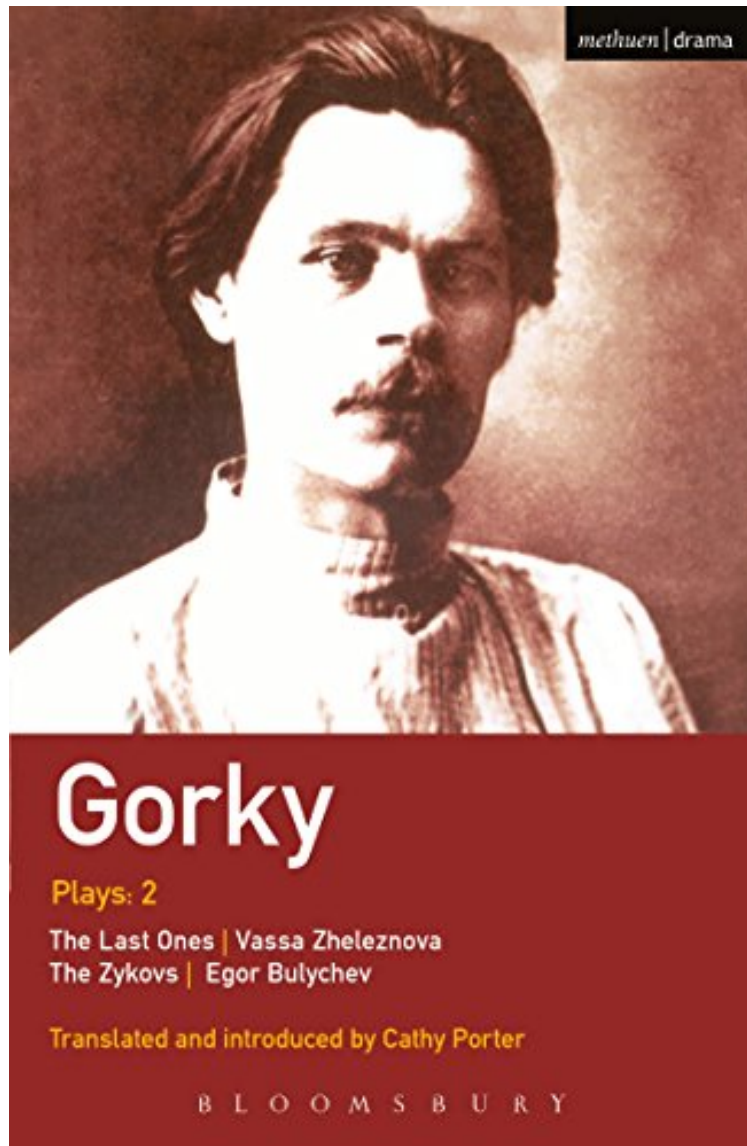


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Four key new translations of plays (including three previously unpublished works) written at the turn of the 20th century, charting the descent of Russia into revolution. Hailed by Chekhov as the voice of his time, Gorky's four plays offer a panoramic view of Russia in the throes of revolution. **THE ZYKOV** is set shortly before the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917. Antipa Zykov is a merchant adventurer. His young wife, Pavla is an unworldly convent-bred girl, too weak to realise these ideals in her stormy marriage. **EGOR BULYCHOV** is set on the eve of revolution as the rich businessman of the title is given power, after the Tsar's abdication. But the songs of the demonstrating crowds outside his window show that his days are numbered. Subtitled 'The Mother' and hugely controversial at the time of its first production **VASSA ZHELEZNOVA**, is a tragic portrait of a woman with an iron will determined to root out the corruption in her family in order to keep control of the family business. Written during his most religious phase, **THE LAST ONES** is about a corrupt police chief and his family who face death at the hands of revolutionaries as he tries to fight back by lynching a young man.