



The Russian Debutante's Handbook

By Gary Shteyngart

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart

A visionary novel from the author of *Super Sad True Love Story* and *Little Failure*.

The Russian Debutante's Handbook introduces Vladimir Girshkin, one of the most original and unlikely heroes of recent times. The twenty-five-year-old unhappy lover to a fat dungeon mistress, affectionately nicknamed "Little Failure" by his high-achieving mother, Vladimir toils his days away as a lowly clerk at the bureaucratic Emma Lazarus Immigrant Absorption Society. When a wealthy but psychotic old Russian war hero appears, Vladimir embarks on an adventure of unrelenting lunacy that takes us from New York's Lower East Side to the hip frontier wilderness of Prava--the Eastern European Paris of the nineties. With the help of a murderous but fun-loving Russian mafioso, Vladimir infiltrates the Prava expat community and launches a scheme as ridiculous as it is brilliant.

Bursting with wit, humor, and rare insight, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* is both a highly imaginative romp and a serious exploration of what it means to be an immigrant in America.

 [Download The Russian Debutante's Handbook ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Russian Debutante's Handbook ...pdf](#)

The Russian Debutante's Handbook

By Gary Shteyngart

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart

A visionary novel from the author of *Super Sad True Love Story* and *Little Failure*.

The Russian Debutante's Handbook introduces Vladimir Girshkin, one of the most original and unlikely heroes of recent times. The twenty-five-year-old unhappy lover to a fat dungeon mistress, affectionately nicknamed "Little Failure" by his high-achieving mother, Vladimir toils his days away as a lowly clerk at the bureaucratic Emma Lazarus Immigrant Absorption Society. When a wealthy but psychotic old Russian war hero appears, Vladimir embarks on an adventure of unrelenting lunacy that takes us from New York's Lower East Side to the hip frontier wilderness of Prava--the Eastern European Paris of the nineties. With the help of a murderous but fun-loving Russian mafioso, Vladimir infiltrates the Prava expat community and launches a scheme as ridiculous as it is brilliant.

Bursting with wit, humor, and rare insight, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* is both a highly imaginative romp and a serious exploration of what it means to be an immigrant in America.

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #117795 in Books
- Published on: 2003-04-29
- Released on: 2003-04-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.03" w x 5.10" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 476 pages

 [Download The Russian Debutante's Handbook ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Russian Debutante's Handbook ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Vladimir Girshkin, a likeable Russian immigrant, searches for love, a decent job, and a credible self-identity in Gary Shteyngart's debut novel, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*. With a doctor-father of questionable ethics and a manic, banker mother, Vladimir avoids his suburban parents and their desire that he pursue the almighty dollar as proof of success. Vladimir gets by as an immigration clerk, eking out a living in a cruddy New York City apartment while accumulating an array of quirky acquaintances, from a wealthy but disheveled old man (who claims his electric fan speaks to him) desperate for citizenship to Challa, a portly S/M queen. As a love interest, Challa is replaced by Francesca, a graduate student whose friends welcome Vladimir for the status he brings their bohemian clique, and whose parents encourage them to shack up (she lives at home) as visible proof she can maintain a steady relationship.

The Russian Debutante's Handbook is a quirky amalgam of dead-on American absurdities, albeit with somewhat stereotypical characters. While Vladimir flounders with how to improve his state, he becomes an expatriate in a trendy European city, becomes somewhat of a mobster himself, and generally has a good time. While many of the central characters remain elusively thin, Vladimir is a delight, and Shteyngart's wit is merciless: Russian women wear "wedding cakes of blond hair" and graduate students lounge in a bar "as if waiting for funding to appear." Reminiscent of Gogol and other Russian satirists, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* is a genuine, sublime social commentary. --Michael Ferch

From Publishers Weekly

Four years after its initial publication, Shteyngart's debut novel makes its first appearance in an audio version. Strong gamely does his best to capture the antic rhythms of Shteyngart's irrepressible comic novel, but his reading lacks fluency, failing to emulate the book's dry, sardonic wit. More so than most novels, Shteyngart's book depends on the sound of language—immigrants' careful tap dance around a language not entirely their own. While it would perhaps have been too simplistic to have a Russian-sounding voice read this novel, the gamble of having a voice so clearly not Russian results in a competent but unenlightening reading that undersells its source material. Strong sounds too wholesomely American and too white bread to be protagonist Vladimir Girshkin. The result is a reading that lacks a true connection to Shteyngart's work. (Reviews, Apr. 29, 2002) (Jan.)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Library Journal

Failurchka Mother's Little Failure is what Vladimir Girshkin's overweening Russian immigrant mother calls her 25-year-old son at the beginning of this picaresque, episodic, and somewhat sprawling first novel. Vladimir is stuck in a dead-end job and saddled with girlfriend Challah, "queen of everything musky and mammal-like." Then through a series of chance encounters, he is catapulted to the eastern European city of "Prava" to find himself welcomed into the fold of powerful Mafiosi. Shteyngart introduces a large cast of exotic characters, mainly twentysomethings meandering from adventure to adventure. Yet this distinctive new voice, which is both richly ironic and often side-splittingly funny, still seems to be seeking the right register. The relentless humor and satire obscure the development of character that is necessary to make readers believe the cast is real and not just being staged. Moreover, one wonders why the author felt the need to (thinly) disguise Prague (Prava) with its river Tavlata (Vltava) and the 1969 (1968) Soviet invasion. Thus, his highly imaginative but at times maddening panorama comes to resemble a dazzling Potemkin village. Though this is not an experimental novel, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the author is still experimenting with a very large talent he's not entirely sure what to do with. But having gotten a taste, we

will eagerly await his next offering, in which less just might be more. Recommended for all literary collections and larger public libraries. Edward Cone, New York
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Theodore May:

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the title The Russian Debutante's Handbook suitable to you? Often the book was written by well-known writer in this era. The actual book untitled The Russian Debutante's Handbook is the main of several books which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new shape that you ever know previous to. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, so all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this e-book. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world with this book.

Arthur Daniel:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Russian Debutante's Handbook can be very good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Ruth Haddock:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book The Russian Debutante's Handbook it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Sandra Leggett:

Do you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't evaluate book by its cover may doesn't work the following is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not because fantastic as in

the outside look likes. Maybe you answer is usually The Russian Debutante's Handbook why because the wonderful cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Download and Read Online The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart #MTQUD8C4OHW

Read The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart for online ebook

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart books to read online.

Online The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart ebook PDF download

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart Doc

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart Mobipocket

The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart EPub

MTQUD8C4OHw: The Russian Debutante's Handbook By Gary Shteyngart