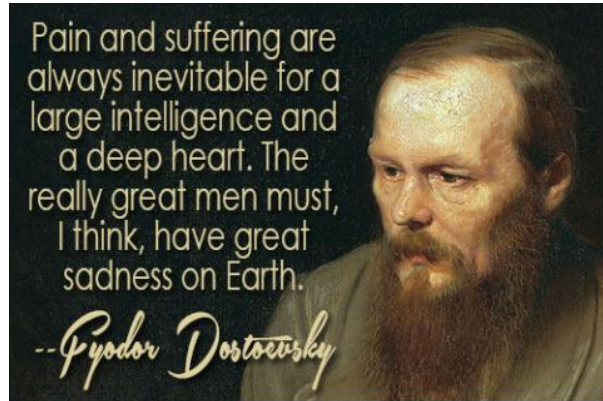


0. THE REAL ALEX - Story Preface
1. SAVED BY STENOGRAPHY
- 2. THE REAL ALEX**
3. ARRESTED
4. DEATH BY THE FIRING SQUAD
5. DOSTOEVSKY, THE GAMBLER
6. TRAGEDIES
7. THE REAL EMMA
8. ON TIME



The quote, noted above, is from one of Dostoevsky's most-famous works, the still-popular *Crime And Punishment*. [See Part 3; Chapter 5.](#)

Who was Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky - the famous 19th century Russian writer whose real-life story has been adapted into the movie *Alex and Emma*? Most people recognize his name or may have read one of his acclaimed books:

Crime and Punishment

Notes From the Underground

Demons

(also translated as *The Possessed*)

The Idiot

The Brothers Karamazov.

But what was Dostoevsky like? Where did he live? Whom did he marry? What were his eccentricities?

His father, Mikhail Andreyevich, was the chief medical doctor at Moscow's Hospital for the Poor when his second son, Fyodor, was born there on October 30, 1821. Maria Fyodorovna was a gentle woman whose seven children adored her.

(A word about Russian 'middle' names may be helpful here. It is called a "patronymic." A boy's patronymic often ends in 'evich' or 'ovich' which means 'son of.' A girl's patronymic usually ends in 'evna' or 'ovna' which means 'daughter of.' Mikhail Andreyevich is thus translated 'Michael, son of Andre,' and Maria Fyodorovna means 'Maria, daughter of Fyodor.')

By 1831, an apartment at the Hospital for the Poor was no longer suitable for the growing family. In what would prove to be a disastrous purchase, Dr. Dostoevsky bought two small villages about 95 miles north of Moscow.

The family's summer home (called a dacha in Russian) at Darovoye (one of the two villages) became a place of joy for the children. Later, in his writings, Dostoevsky returned to the site of his childhood memories and recalled how much his parents loved him.

But growing boys need proper schooling and, with the untimely death of their mother (from tuberculosis), Dr. Dostoevsky (in May of 1837) traveled with his two older sons (Mikhail and Fyodor) to St. Petersburg, then Russia's capital. The brothers were enrolled in the Military Engineering College.

Thereafter, the future writer (who became a Lieutenant after graduation) was always identified with the beautiful city on the Neva River and not with Moscow, the place of his birth.

But it was also in St. Petersburg, that city of palaces and cathedrals, where Dostoevsky found himself in prison.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-REAL-ALEX-Alex-and-Emma>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-REAL-ALEX-Alex-and-Emma>



Mikhail Andreyevich - Dostoevsky's Father

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mikhail-Andreyevich-Dostoevsky-s-Father>



Hospital for the Poor

Image online, courtesy Dartmouth College website.

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Maria Fyodorovna - Dostoevsky's Mother

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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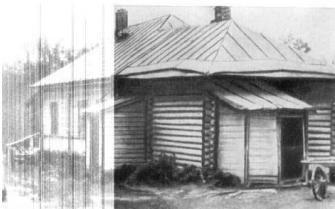
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Maria-Fyodorovna-Dostoevsky-s-Mother>



Dostoevsky Summer Home

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Dostoevsky - Childhood Home

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St. Petersburg, Russia

Image online, courtesy Dartmouth College website.

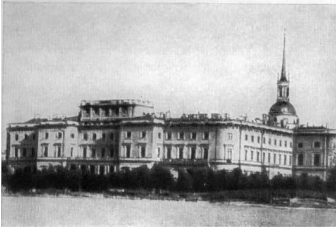
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St. Petersburg

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St. Petersburg Engineering College

Image online, courtesy istmira.com website.

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Early Photo of Dostoevsky

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Peter Paul Fortress at St. Petersburg

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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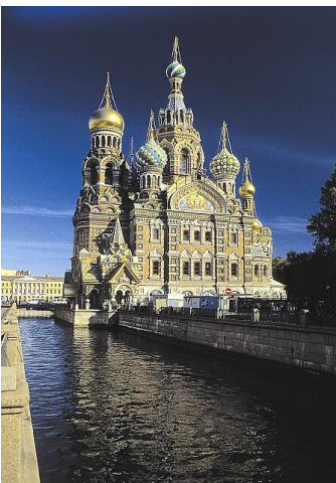


Neva River - Contemporary Photograph

Image online, courtesy the chaosgeneration.com website.

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Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood at St. Petersburg

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Mariinsky Theater

Image online, courtesy Palytra Travel.

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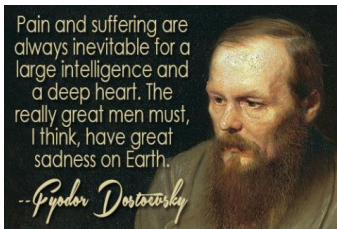


Winter Palace at St. Petersburg

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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THE REAL ALEX

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