



THE FATAL EGGS

by Mikhail Bulgakov
translated by Michael Karpelson

Summary: In the turbulent years following the Russian revolution of 1917, the brilliant and eccentric zoologist Persikov discovers an amazing ray that drastically increases the size and reproductive rate of living organisms. At the same time, a mysterious plague wipes out all the chickens in the Soviet republics. The government expropriates Persikov's untested invention in order to rebuild the poultry industry, but a horrible mix-up quickly leads to a disaster that could threaten the entire world.

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Author bio: Mikhail Afanasievich Bulgakov was born in 1891 in Kiev. After graduating from the medical school at Kiev University in 1916, Bulgakov served as a field doctor in the Russian civil war. He began writing around 1916; by 1924, he had completed his first major novel, *The White Guard*.

Bulgakov faced extensive censorship and criticism for his allegedly anti-Soviet views, and many of his works remained unpublished until long after his death. *The Fatal Eggs* is the only one of Bulgakov's better known works that was published in its entirety during the author's lifetime. During his life, Bulgakov was best known for his plays, such as *Days of the Turbins*, based on *The White Guard*.

Until his death from an inherited kidney disorder in 1940, Bulgakov continued to work on plays, stage adaptations, and short stories, as well as his best known and final novel, *The Master and Margarita*. Today, Bulgakov is considered one of the most important Russian literary figures of the 20th century.

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