

# Betrayal, Freedom and Violence in Alexander Pushkin's Select Works

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## **Abstract:**

**Alexander Pushkin was a Russian playwright, poet and novelist. He belonged to the Romantic era of the eighteenth century when an appreciation for nature, imagination and subjectivity were given. Alexander Pushkin was born in Moscow, Russia. Pushkin also belonged to the Golden Age of Russian Poetry. This paper studies his critically acclaimed works.**

**Key Words: Alexander Pushkin, The Captain's Daughter, Dubrovsky.**

## **I. Introduction**

Alexander Pushkin was a Russian playwright, poet and novelist. He belonged to the Romantic era of the eighteenth century when an appreciation for nature, imagination and subjectivity were given. Alexander Pushkin was born in Moscow, Russia. Pushkin also belonged to the Golden Age of Russian Poetry. Pushkin was a dramatist and short-story writer as well. He is considered as the founder of modern Russian Literature. Pushkin has written several poems, with *Poltava* being a famous one. *Poltava* is a narrative poem, published in 1829. Alexander Pushkin is famous for his novels, *The Captain's Daughter* and *Dubrovsky*.

## **II. *The Captain's Daughter***

*The Captain's Daughter* was published in 1836, and is a historical novel. It is also the only completed novel of Pushkin. Historical novels have frictional elements added to the storyline and the setting is real life events. Pyotr Grinyov is the child of an Imperial Army Officer. The Imperial Army here refers to the Russian Imperial Army, which was the armed land force authorised by the Russian Empire, and was active until the Russian Revolution of 1917. When Pyotr becomes seventeen years old, his father sends him to military service in Orenburg, Russia. During the journey, he loses his way and gets lost due to a blizzard. However, he is rescued by a stranger, to whom he gives his coat in order to show his gratitude. Pyotr is assigned under Captain Ivan.

Pyotr later falls in love with his daughter, Masha. However, Pyotr's father doesn't give him his consent to marry Masha. Their place is besieged by Yemelyan Pugachev, an insurgent. Captain Ivan and his wife are killed. However, Pyotr's life is spared because Yemelyan is a stranger who helped a lost Pyotr at the beginning of the novel. However, Pyotr is soon arrested for friendly relations with an insurgent. However, the Empress is convinced of his innocence and releases him. Betrayal, freedom and violence are the main themes of the novel.

## **III. *Dubrovsky***

*Dubrovsky* is an unfinished novel by Alexander Pushkin. Published in 1841, Andrei Dubrovsky is an old nobleman and despite being a nobleman, he is poor, and his land is taken forcibly by Kirila. Andrei soon passes away. Kirila is a rich and powerful aristocrat, who has a greedy nature. Andrei Dubrovsky has a young son named Vladimir. He decides to take revenge for the injustice experienced by his father. He brings together a group of serfs and they decide to steal from the rich and wealthy, and distribute the gains to the poor. Even though Vladimir is a robber, he is noble in his deeds. He soon meets Masha, who is the daughter of Kirila. It is however a tragic story.

Revenge and ethics are at the heart of the novel. The story is set in the 1820s. It is only after the death of Andrei that Vladimir starts his mission though. Corruption present among public authorities forms a core theme in the novel. This is why Vladimir had lost faith in the law, and decides to become a noble thief. Initially, in a bid to take revenge upon Kirila, he enters his house as a teacher. However, he finds himself falling in love with Masha, though she is betrothed to an old and rich man, against her wishes, due to the greed of a father. Betrayal, freedom and violence are the core themes of the novel.

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