

# THE CHERRY ORCHARD

A Dramatic Reading

by  
Anton Chekov



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THE CHERRY ORCHARD  
A Dramatic Reading

Anton Chekov

From the drama. ISBN 1-60045-049-0

My reading is arranged from “The Cherry Orchard,” considered to be Anton Chekov’s greatest play. The characters are: Mme. Lyubov Ranevsky; her brother, Gaev; her daughters, Varya and Anya; and Yermolay Lopahin, a merchant.

Mme. Lyubov and Anya have just returned from France. It is an early morning in May. The cherry orchard is in full bloom, and their delight at being back is modified only by the emptiness of their purses. Anya and Varya are in Anya’s room.

VARYA: Well, you’ve come, Anya. (Patting her) My darling sister is home again.

ANYA: I have had a time of it! I felt so sorry for Mamma—she cried.

VARYA: (Through her tears) Don’t speak, of it, don’t speak of it!

ANYA: She had sold her villa at Mentone, she had nothing left. We just had enough to get back. And Mamma doesn’t understand! When we had dinner she always ordered the most expensive things and gave the waiters a whole rouble.—Well, tell me—have you paid the arrears on the mortgage?

VARYA: How could we get the money?—In August the place will be sold. . .

Enter Lyubov, Gaev and Lopahin. Lopahin is speaking.

LOPAHIN: You are just as splendid as ever, Lyubov. Your brother, here, is always saying that I’m a money-grubber, but let him talk. Only I do want you to believe in me as you used to. My father was a serf of your father and of your grandfather, but you—you—did so much for me, that I love you as though you were my kin—more than my kin.

LYUBOV: I can’t stay still, I simply can’t—(Walks about) This happiness is too much for me—You may laugh at me, I know I’m silly—My own bookcase, my little table.

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