## **CONTENTS**

| The Sparrow, the Cow, and the Cat 13            |
|---|
| A Commonplace Story 15                          |
| A Lesson on Dialectics 19                       |
| Tears and Laughters 21                          |
| A Debt of Gratitude 22                          |
| Just A Minute, Please! 26                       |
| A Never-Ending Story 30                         |
| Penkhos Karlik 31                               |
| The Cooler 33                                   |
| The Letter 36                                   |
| Nikifor Prozorov 38                             |
| A Coincidence 41                                |
| The Executioner 43                              |
| Dorji 44  |
| Major Tchouvachov, Protector of the Sciences 47 |
| The Complaint 51                                |
| The Faith of the Stalinist 53                   |
| Popaul 56                                       |
| Pack and Go! 57                                 |
| The Peasants 59                                 |
| Step to the Left, Step to the Right 61          |
| Stalin Does Better Than Cuvier 62               |
| Shortcuts 66                                    |
| Albinas 68                                      |
| Some Fine Psychologists 70                      |
| Savoir-Vivre <b>72</b>                          |
| The Cow 74                                      |
| The Bet 76                                      |
| A Good Joke 78                                  |
| Between Thugs 80                                |
| The Informer's Paycheck 83                      |

Paid Leave 85 The Pretty Polish Girl 87 Tcherepanov, the Worksite Brigadier 90 The Trunk 91 A Stupid Mistake 93 The Brain 95 The Cigarette Butt 96 The Lightbulb 97 The Superiority of Leninism over Tsarism 99 Man is not Equal to a Horse 100 The Cyclops 102 The Rotten Fish 103 104 Shame The Machine to Read One's Mind 107 The Heap of Garbage 110 The Price of a Mouthful of Bread The Sparrow on the Windowsill Volodia Book, He Never Steals A Good Guy 115 Shared Happiness Ah! Girls, Girls! 119 Another Planet 122 Twenty Years Later 124 125 The Japanese Son! 128 Yezhov 129 Socialist Legality 131 God Moves in Mysterious Ways 132 Szmul Szwarc 135 Le Louvre 137 Because Man's Hands are Like This 140

The Chinese Komsomol 141 Hunger 144 Cold 146 Reveille 148 Off to Work! 151 A Spring day 154 "You, You and You!!" 156 A Nail Stuck in Between Balls 157 "You're Perfectly Safe" 158 The Escape 159 The Secret Message 161 The Latrine 163 What About the Other Hand? 165 The Surprise of the Prosecutor 166 Toufta: Lying, Cheating, Forgery 167 What a Beautiful Utopia it was! 179

Autor's Dravings 171

Dear Reader (Jacques Rossi) 187
Postface (Sophie Benech) 192
Chronology 194