

# **Germany: A Winter's Tale**

By Heinrich Heine



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Admired by Marx, quoted by August Bebel in the Reichstag, published by Rosa Luxemburg on the eve of the Spartakist uprising, banned by the Nazis, re-written by Brecht and by Wolf Biermann, Heine's Germany: A Winter's Tale is one of the most political poems in European history. It is also one of the most entertaining, sometimes called 'the wittiest feuilleton in world literature'. Published four years before the revolutions of 1848, it reflects the extent of Heine's friendship with Marx, and takes beautifully-judged satiric swipes at Prussian expansionism, German Romanticism, liberal complacency and a swarm of Heine's fellow writers. A work of sly wit, magical realism and epicurean relish, polemic and fantasy, the poem looks forward prophetically to the German future. Heine's chief concerns - exile, war and revolution, art and propaganda, political repression and cultural identity, the threat of hyper-power hegemony - are as relevant today as they were one hundred and sixty years ago.



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## **Editorial Review**

About the Author

Heine (1797-1856) was a journalist, essayist, and one of the most significant German Romantic poets. He is remembered chiefly for his lyric poems, many of which were set to music in the form of lieder (art songs) by Germanic composers, including Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Hugo Wolf, Richard Strauss, and Richard Wagner.

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