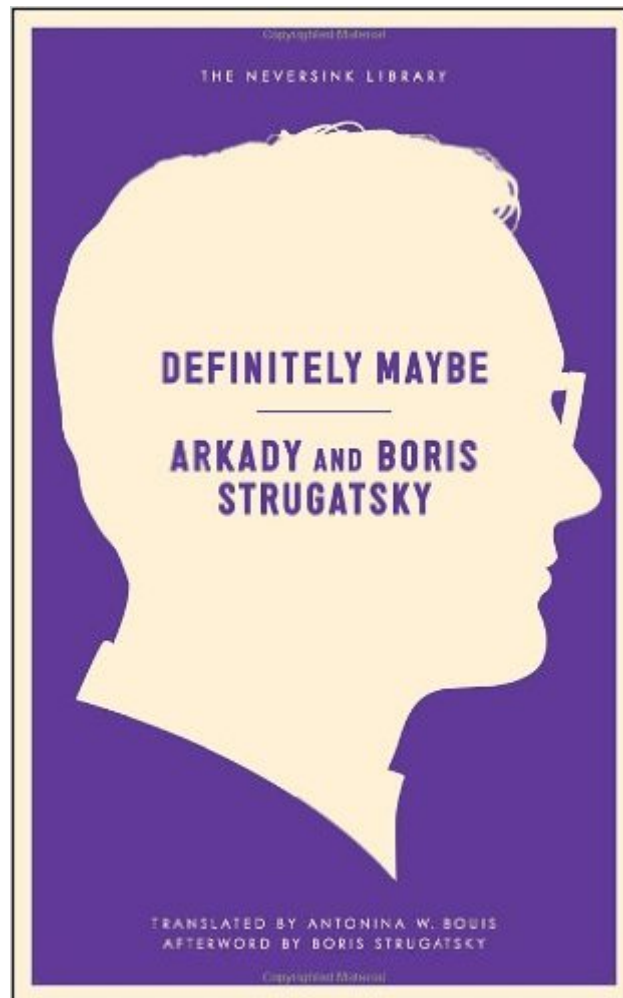


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# Definitely Maybe (Neversink)



## Synopsis

In its first-ever unexpurgated edition, a sci-fi landmark that's a comic and suspenseful tour-de-force, and puts distraction in a whole new light: It's not you, it's the universe! Boris and Arkady Strugatsky were the greatest science fiction writers of the Soviet era: their books were intellectually provocative and riotously funny, full of boldly imagined scenarios and veiled "but clear" social criticism. Which may be why *Definitely Maybe* has never before been available in an uncensored edition, let alone in English. It tells the story of astrophysicist Dmitri Malianov, who has sent his wife and son off to her mother's house in Odessa so that he can work, free from distractions, on the project he's sure will win him the Nobel Prize. But he'd have an easier time making progress if he wasn't being interrupted all the time: First, it's the unexpected delivery of a crate of vodka and caviar. Then a beautiful young woman in an unnervingly short skirt shows up at his door. Then several of his friends "also scientists" drop by, saying they all felt they were on the verge of a major discovery when they got "distracted". Is there an ominous force that doesn't want knowledge to progress? Or could it be something more "natural"? In this nail-bitingly suspenseful book, the Strugatsky brothers bravely and brilliantly question authority: an authority that starts with crates of vodka, but has lightning bolts in store for humans who refuse to be cowed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the second book by the Stugastsky brothers that I read in 2014. *Definitely Maybe* forms the

Yin to Hard to Be a Godâ€™s Yang. The novel trades fantastic frontiers for the living rooms of the Soviet Union's best scientific minds. Each are on the verge of a breakthrough but one thing leads to another and none find they can get anything done. The personalities of these academics are wonderfully developed. Furthermore, the researcher-to-researcher conversations ring true and remind me of dinner parties with my wifeâ€™s lab. The story is quite fine with an equal mix of humor and dread.

Although written in 1976, this novella feels timeless. A group of scientists- a physicist, mathematician, biologist, social scientist- each on the verge of a brilliant breakthrough in their respective fields, encounter puzzling roadblocks to their continuing their work. From aliens to entropy, they ponder what the nature of this roadblock may be, and how they will each choose to resolve it. It has a quintessentially Russian feel, and the authors' sophisticated, passionate, but wryly humorous writing is a delight. I'd give it a 9 out of ten. I can't wait to read more of their work! As it was written during the time of the USSR, it was subjected to censorship; however, it is available in an unexpurgated version. There is a brief discussion afterward about some of the censored bits... I found some of them pretty amusing.

A&B Strugatsky clearly wanted the world to know how oppressive their government was. They desperately invented sci-fi backstories to cover up true intentions. Every book is about common people being held down and enslaved by a higher power. If you've ever had a feeling of helplessness in the grand scheme of the world, read a few Strugatsky stories to realize there are others thinking the just the same.

I have read all of the books of Arkady and Boris Strugatski and they are all great fun and especially well written. Most of them were written during the communist Soviet Union so they have some sentences that were inserted in order for the books to be published during such dark times. Greatly recommend.

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