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Autore	Plisetskaia Maiia Mikhailovna <1926->
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Nota di contenuto	The dacha and Sretenka Street -- What I was like at five -- Relatives -- Spitzbergen -- I study ballet -- Back in school and father's arrest -- My mother disappears -- Chimkent -- Concert for the Cheka -- Tchaikovsky's Impromptu -- The war -- My first year at the Bolshoi Theater -- The apartment on Shchepkinsky Passage -- Mastering the ABCs of the theater -- Raymonda -- Swan Lake -- Youth festivals -- My injuries, my healers -- Who'll get whom! -- Stalin's birthday -- I dance in Don Quixote -- I dance in Golovanov's opera -- Life on the road and the end of the Stalinist era -- My trip to India -- Persecution -- How I didn't go to London -- While the company was in London -- How I dressed -- What a person needs -- Shchedrin -- Life on Kutuzovsky Prospect -- I go to America -- Seventy-three days -- How we were paid -- Paris meetings -- Work with Yakobson -- Why I did not stay in the West -- Marc Chagall draws me -- November 20 -- How Carmen Suite was born -- Work with Roland Petit and Maurice Bjart -- A lyrical digression -- My ballets -- My ballets (continued) -- I want justice -- Work in Italy -- Work in Spain -- Untitled -- Years of wandering -- Curfew.

Maya Plisetskaya, one of the world's foremost dancers, rose to become a prima ballerina of Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet after an early life filled with tragedy and loss. In this spirited memoir, Plisetskaya reflects on her personal and professional odyssey, presenting a unique view of the life of a Soviet artist during the troubled period from the late 1930's to the 1990's. Plisetskaya recounts the execution of her father in the Great Terror and her mother's exile to the Gulag. She describes her admission to the Bolshoi in 1943, the roles she performed there, and the endless petty harassments she endured, from both envious colleagues and Party officials. Refused permission for six years to tour with the company, Plisetskaya eventually performed all over the world, working with such noted choreographers as Roland Petit and Maurice Béjart. She recounts the tumultuous events she lived through and the fascinating people she met-among them the legendary ballet teacher Agrippina Vaganova, George Balanchine, Frank Sinatra, Rudolf Nureyev, and Dmitri Shostakovich. And she provides fascinating details about testy cocktail-party encounters with Khrushchev, tours abroad when her meager per diem allowance brought her close to starvation, and KGB plots to capitalize on her friendship with Robert Kennedy. Gifted, courageous, and brutally honest, Plisetskaya brilliantly illuminates the world of Soviet ballet during an era that encompasses both repression and cultural détente. Still prima ballerina assoluta with the Bolshoi Ballet, Maya Plisetskaya also travels around the world performing and lecturing. At the Bolshoi's gala celebrating her 75th birthday, President Vladimir Putin presented her with Russia's highest civilian honor, the medal for service to the Russian state, second degree. Tim Scholl is professor of Russian language and literature at Oberlin College. Antonina W. Bouis is the prize-winning translator of more than fifty books, including fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs by such figures as Andrei Sakharov, Elena Bonner, and Dmitri Shostakovich.
