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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Some Historical Highlights -- 3. Two Key Words in the Vocabulary of Russian Masochism -- 4. Masochism in Russian Literature -- 5. Ontogeny and the Cultural Context -- 6. The Russian Fool and His Mother -- 7. Is the Slave Soul of Russia a Gendered Object? -- 8. Born in a Bania: The Masochism of Russian Bathhouse Rituals -- 9. Masochism and the Collective -- 10. Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Why, asks Daniel Rancour-Laferriere in this controversial book, has Russia been a country of suffering? Russian history, religion, folklore, and literature are rife with suffering. The plight of Anna Karenina, the submissiveness of serfs in the 16th and 17th centuries, ancient religious tracts emphasizing humility as the mother of virtues, the trauma of the Bolshevik revolution, the current economic upheavals wracking the country-- these are only a few of the symptoms of what The Slave Soul of Russia identifies as a veritable cult of suffering that has been centuries in the making. Bringing to light dozens of examples of self-defeating activities and behaviors that have become an integral

component of the Russian psyche, Rancour-Laferriere convincingly illustrates how masochism has become a fact of everyday life in Russia. Until now, much attention has been paid to the psychology of Russia's leaders and their impact on the country's condition. Here, for the first time, is a compelling portrait of the Russian people's psychology.

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