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*From James von Geldern and Louise McReynolds
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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Entertaining Tsarist Russia: Tales, Songs, Plays, Movies, Jokes, Ads, and Images from Russian Urban Life, 1779-1917* (Indiana-Michigan Series in Russian and East European Studies):

This anthology introduces readers to Tsarist Russias emerging popular and commercial urban culture and the individuals and groups that produced and consumed it. The selections translated here illustrate in colorful detail how the experiences and the composition of Russian society and culture evolved from the late eighteenth century through the 1917 revolution, in response to economic, technological, and political changes. Fortunetelling and etiquette manuals, thieves tales, childrens literature, popular songs, war stories, womens novels, satires of life in America, and vaudeville skits are just a few of the genres represented.