

Title: The Death of Onegin: Reinterpreting the Finale of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*  
Author: Anna Tumarkin, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Stanza Thirty Six of Chapter Eight of Pushkin's novel in verse *Eugene Onegin* shows Onegin at a pivotal moment – a moment where he realizes that the choices he has made throughout his life were irreversible and condemning. Having lost his chance for genuine love by rejecting Tatiana in Chapter Four and having committed the ultimate moral crime by killing Lenskii in Chapter Six, Onegin brought himself to complete moral defeat and, eventually, to his moral “death” at the end of Chapter Eight.

Building on Belinskii's parallel between “a life without meaning” and “a novel without an ending,” this paper offers an interpretation of *Eugene Onegin*'s eighth chapter as a mirror image of the entire novel and a tale of payback for wrong choices and missed opportunities. I suggest that in this chapter Onegin undergoes a series of metamorphoses that take him through the events of the novel. These metamorphoses expose the wrongfulness of his choices and close the circle of his life with his final defeat at a symbolic but fatal “duel” with Tatiana that takes place in the final scene of the novel.