
Ivan Turgenev

Fathers and Sons

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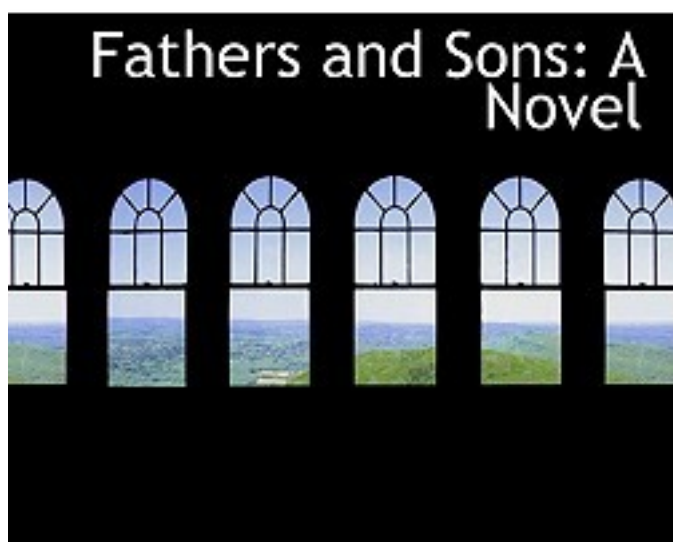
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Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev

Description

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Insightful reviews

Ali: To begin with, I never intended to read 'Fathers and Sons' by Turgenev in the first place; rather, it was one of the lesser known works of this lesser known Russian master, 'Sketches from a hunter's album' that I sought so eagerly. But after searching for the latter endlessly, my efforts proved futile as I was unable to get my hands on it. Later, I remember stumbling upon an excerpt of 'Fathers and Sons', and it piqued my curiosity. The excerpt was such:

“Whereas I think: I’m lying here in a haystack... The tiny space I occupy is so infinitesimal in comparison with the rest of space, which I don’t occupy and which has no relation to me. And the period of time in which I’m fated to live is so insignificant beside the eternity in which I haven’t existed and won’t exist... And yet in this atom, this mathematical point, blood is circulating, a brain is working, desiring something... What chaos! What a farce!”

Needless to say, but this is the first Russian masterpiece that I have read as of now. True, I had started reading 'Crime and Punishment' by Dostoevsky, and had managed to read a 100 pages or so before a catastrophe struck, and as a result, I ceased to read it any longer. I vividly remember leaving the book leaning against the window on the window sill in my study, and upon returning from an errand, found to my horror, the book all sodden from the rainstorm. And later, when I put the book outside on my terrace, even the warm, invigorating sunlight could do little to revert the book to its old, pristine state, and it was as stiff and as unyielding as the bark of an old, sturdy oak. But surely, I digress....

By the time I was done with the first 60 or 70 pages of this novella, I felt disoriented; I simply failed to see the 'greatness' in Turgenev's much acclaimed work. To put simply, I could not fathom the ramblings of our caustic, young protagonist, Bazarov; even his pompous arguments with Paul Petrovitch, and his chiding and admonishing his much impressionable deary, Arkady, did little to provide a direction as to where all this was headed. But truly, how wrong I was, for Turgenev was laying the cornerstone of everything that was to come in this masterpiece.

Before progressing further, it is imperative that one delves deeper into the inner workings of Bazarov's mind; he is self-assured, indifferent, fearless, caustic, contemptuous, a self-proclaimed nihilist—with a temerity and audacity to refute all underlying principles prevalent in the society — boorish, compassionate, curious, pragmatist down to his bones and a realist who loathes even the idea of love!

The novel starts off with the Baron—Nikolai Petrovitch Kirsanov—eagerly awaiting his son's arrival, Arkady, on the verandah of a posting house. The son is returning as a graduate from Saint Petersburg state university to his paternal estate in the countryside, and brings along his new acquaintance and mentor, Bazarov to stay with them at Marino. And soon enough the young man's blithe disregard and abhorrence of everything that constitutes the prevalent system causes a stir amongst the household, Arkady's uncle Paul Petrovitch in particular; wherefore Paul Petrovitch engages him in a discourse and asks him to expound upon this new and queer term, 'Nihilism', but not without disdain and much cynicism. Both pitted against each other, the results are witty, contemptuous remarks by Paul, and caustic rejoinders by young Bazarov. Consider a specimen:

Bazarov: "The aristocratic idea, forsooth! Liberalism, progress, principles! Why, have you ever considered the vanity of those terms? The Russian of today does not need them."

Paul Petrovitch: "Then what, in your opinion, does he need? To listen to you, one would suppose that we stood wholly divorced from humanity and humanity's laws; whereas, pardon me, the logic of history demands —"

Bazarov: "What has that logic to do with us? We can get on quite well without it."

Paul Petrovitch: "How can we do so?"

Bazarov: "Even as I have said. When you want to put a piece of bread into your mouth do you need logic for that purpose? What has those abstractions to do with ourselves?"

True, nihilism might seem dated to some, and one might be put off by the sociopolitical commentary, but the setting is changed with the arrival of a certain Madame Odintsov, and Bazarov, is drawn to her charms and persona. Ah, how deftly Turgenev portrays the yearnings of tender, fledgling hearts, and in doing so, rips open the inconsistencies and pitfalls of Bazarov's own beliefs. Bazarov from then on remains restless, and is lost in the chasm that lies between a heart and mind of a mortal. This perpetual ache, that he at first attempts to evade, and later, when finally failing at it, conceals in his bosom, gives rise to unbearable ennui. And the result is his impulsiveness, his frivolity and his detachment from rationale.

One simply cannot overlook Turgenev's love of the countryside. The way he captures the essence of the wild, hypnotic, country life in his lyrical prose is rather bewitching, for none escapes his eye; his endless love for the countryside is manifested throughout the novella.

Perhaps, for me at least, the most striking part was the relationship between Bazarov and his parents; consider the plight of the father: he is awed by his son's brilliance, and to him, his son is the most beautiful sight to behold, but in doing so, which he often does covertly at times, and on pretexts other times, does his best to appear nonchalant in his son's presence, but the father's unconditional love, which is manifested by the father's subtle gesticulations, his imploring eyes and a quivering voice are palpable, bringing one close to tears. And how possibly can one forget the incessant sobbing of the mother who yearns to hold her son in her arms and probably caress his cheek, tousle his hair, and shower kisses on his forehead!

This novella affected me profoundly, in a way which any other book hitherto has failed to do so; it is a work that I truly revere and reading it again will be a beautiful and insightful experience. Bazarov shall live in my memory for a long time to come! And lastly.....

'But are those tears, those prayers, all fruitless? Is that love, that hallowed, selfless love, of theirs to be wholly unavailing? No, no, and a thousand times no! For, though the heart which lies within that tomb may have been passionate and wild and erring, the flowers which bloom in that spot contemplate us with eyes of naught but peace and innocence, and speak to us of naught but the eternal, mighty calm of 'unheeding' nature, as an image of the Eternal Reconciliation, and of the Life which shall have no End.'



RIP Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenev, Rest In Peace!

Kathaileen: This novel could also be called "Generations" It's how two different sons and

fathers deal with the changes happening around them. The book starts when Arkady returns home from school with his friend Bazarov to the home of his father, Nicholas. His uncle Pavel also lives there. Nicholas is trying to stay with the times and has set his serfs free, but his estate has fallen into disrepair. He also has been having a relationship with a former servant, Fenichka, and has fathered a child.

Bazarov is very outspoken and immediately irritates Pavel with his opinions. Arkady looks up to Bazarov and his new “nihilistic” ideas and is a little embarrassed about his father’s old ways but obviously loves him very much.

Pavel, I think, is the “superfluous man” of Russian literature. He is tired of life but thinks it should at least continue on as it always has.

The young men stay at the estate for a while and stir things up and then move on to stay with Anna Sergeyevna, Madame Odintzov for a while. They are both enamored with her, Arkady with a schoolboy crush but Bazarov, much to his surprise, falling deeply in love. It goes against all of the beliefs he thought he had down so well. After he declares his love for her and is disappointed with himself and her reaction, the “sons” decide to move onto where Bazarov’s parents have been waiting patiently for him to visit.

After some travels back and forth to Arkady’s home and Madame Odintzov’s, Bazarov ends up back at home with his parents where he contracts typhus while carelessly performing an autopsy. Did he commit suicide? He was set in his “nihilistic” ways and didn’t see any purpose for emotions and then he fell madly in love with Madame Odintzov. I’m sure he was questioning everything about his beliefs.

Arkady and Katya get married and also Nicholas and Fenichka.

This was interesting to read about Russia at that time, the serfs etc. It was a Russian story, but also a universal one of the traditional vs. contemporary, younger generation and older generation – change.

The time was very similar to the Deep South after the Civil War:

- old landowners (Nicholas) trying to progress but not knowing how to go about it – the serfs have been set free like the slaves being emancipated,
- the young (Bazarov) coming in brash and telling it how they see it,
- the young heir (Arkady) loving his parents and his past way of life but very impressionable by the new ideas of his slightly older contemporaries,
- the older generation that can’t quite get used to the idea of change (Pavel-the “superfluous man”)

Annchen: Obwohl der Roman inzwischen 150 Jahre zählt, staunte ich bis zur letzten Seite über den recht modernen Erzählstil. Natürlich liegt die Zeit der Leibeigenschaft, Aristokratie und Duelle in Russland lange zurück und dennoch wirkt die Handlung nie angestaubt. Turgenjews Sprache ist klar, beinahe schnörkellos, und skizziert mit wenigen Worten plastisch realistische Bilder der russischen Landschaft und der damaligen Lebensart. Die Handlung plätschert munter vor sich hin, hält keine großen Überraschungen bereit und versteht trotzdem den Leser durch die Hilfe eines charmanten wie diskreten Erzählers von den ersten Sätzen an zu interessieren. Ein besonderer Zauber geht zudem von jeder einzelnen Charaktere aus, sei es eine Hauptfigur oder ein vorbeirauschender unwichtiger Passant. Kein Auftritt und keine Äußerung ist zufällig, sondern alles wohlbedacht. Die Art, wie Turgenjew seine Figuren in die Handlung einfügt, sie vorstellt, sie persönlichen Entwicklungen aussetzt, ist beachtlich und erzeugen eine ungeheure Tiefe. Trotzdem fühlte ich mich nie zu einer Person besonders hingezogen oder von einer

anderen abgestoßen. Es war möglich, ihnen allen mit einer angenehmen Distanz zu begegnen, obgleich sie Mitgefühl oder Unverständnis zu erregen wussten. Auch wenn die Lebensweise nicht mehr dem aktuellen Stand entspricht, wird dieser Roman zeitlos bleiben, da er vom Menschlichen mit seinen Hoffnungen, Zweifeln, Ängsten, Fragen, aber auch von der Liebe berichtet.

Nelson Zagalo: Um romance que teve impacto no seu tempo, relevante no abrir de novos ideais e horizontes intelectuais, mas que hoje pouco diz. Não que o que diz e quando o disse não proceed a ser relevante de uma perspectiva histórica, mas antes porque enquanto romance é meramente mediano. Este pode até ser o melhor do legado de Turgenev, mas se o é, e se ainda é recordado, apenas às ideias que defendia o deve, tendo este usado o romance como mero envelope, já que pouco mais podemos aproveitar desta leitura. A obra "Pais e Filhos" ficou na história por ser uma das primeiras, se não a primeira, a apresentar a corrente de pensamento do niilismo, corrente que mais tarde viria a ser elaborada por Nietzsche. "Niilista é um homem que não se curva perante nenhuma autoridade, que não tem fé em nenhum princípio sem provas, seja qual for o respeito que rodeia esse princípio..." p.29 O que Turgenev faz com este trabalho é definir, por meio da representação, o conceito. Para isso socorre-se do choque entre gerações, pais e filhos, servindo os pais no papel de conservadores, defensores das regras e princípios, e os filhos como questionadores de todo esse prestígio. Dos segundos, Bazárov serve no papel de mentor, estando a seu cargo, encarnar e dar o exemplo dos valores niilistas. O livro é pequeno, e as ideias centrais são apenas trabalhadas em detalhe em dois momentos distintos: no início quando se dá o primeiro confronto geracional entre Pavel e Bazárov; e mais tarde quando Bazárov reflecte sobre o seu ser. Assim no primeiro momento, o niilismo é questionado sobre o seu propósito, e mais sobre o modo como pretende dar conta da realidade, a que Bazárov responde, "Actuamos em razão daquilo que consideramos útil (...) Nos tempos actuais, o mais útil de tudo é a negação: nós negamos (...) Tudo (...) Primeiro é preciso desentulhar o terreno (...) destruir" p. 58-61 No segundo momento leva o niilismo até às suas últimas consequências, questionando o próprio sentido do ser: "O estreito espaço que ocupo é tão minúsculo em comparação com o restante espaço, onde eu não estou e onde nada tenho que fazer; e a porção de pace que tenho para viver é tão insignificante comparada com a eternidade, em que não estive e não estarei... E neste átomo, neste ponto matemático, o sangue circula, o cérebro funciona, e também deseja qualquer coisa... Que absurdo! Que futilidades!" p.139 Por fim, resta-me criticar fortemente esta edição da Relógio d'Água, editora que muito prezo mas que aqui falha retumbantemente. O livro de Turgenev vem acompanhado com um ensaio de Nabokov. Sendo um ensaio académico de análise da obra, não se priva de falar em detalhe sobre a trama do romance, como tal, e muito bem, a editora colocou o texto no ultimate do livro, como Posfácio. O problema surge depois no texto da contra-capá, aquilo que qualquer leitor primeiro lê, e que aqui no Goodreads serve de sinopse ao livro. O texto aí colocado, é o primeiro parágrafo do ensaio de Nabokov, que serve de certo modo para dar conta da relevância do trabalho de Turgenev, mas que me parece ter sido ali colado sem reflexão, por mera acção de copy/paste. Isto porque neste simples parágrafo dá-se conta do desenlace do romance, rompendo com toda a carga emocional que Turgenev tão cuidadosamente constrói ao longo das 2 hundred páginas. Deste modo resta-me apelar para que não leiam a contra-capá, nem o texto sinopse aqui no Goodreads, ignorem, e pedir à RA que numa próxima edição reveja esta situação.

Dorcas: As superbly as Turgenev writes (and he's a grasp of his craft), and up to i like Russian Lit, i will not provide this e-book 3 stars simply because that will suggest that I loved it, and that i didn't. I cannot inform you what percentage occasions i wished to mark this as did-not-finish and toss it around the room it was once soooooo tricky to me. i am not a fan of philosophy in general, and couple that with a philosophy i will not disagree with extra strongly and, well, you've a slightly unpleasant experience. Nihilism: the assumption of non belief. In anything. Doubt truths, criticize faith, take no excitement in joy, nor displeasure in pain. paintings is waste. Love is a farce, a brief wind. Oppose authority, mock subservience. the rich are snobs and the peasants are fools. appreciate none, pity none, and if one occurs to be marching in the course of the meadows of distress and stumbles upon a chance to overwhelm one other being, then by means of all skill do so. emotions are for the weak, the brainless. Conceit is every little thing and stoicism the one route to a greater world. yet why wish improvement? a greater world? that would be a relief, a pleasure, it may well deliver *shudder* happiness and that's for the drivel of society, now not the immortal gods of youth. yet why stay in any respect if one isn't allowed to truly live? This is a troublesome publication to like, (although the loads of 5 big name reports will disagree with me) even understanding that a few characters enhance and stroll clear of nihilism. I simply did not benefit from the tale at all. It was once all so...dreary. i would like the final 3 days back. To each one his own.

Lee: A proto-punk and a proto-metrosexual call for pride from each other as the first macked at the latter's bro's child mama. The gentry cannot fairly rage opposed to the machine, they are jackdaws, domesticated dogs. men of their early twenties have it seems that consistently kind of sucked, albeit in an intellectually attractive manner so long as they do not lack confidence. Repudiate, repudiate, repudiate, champion purely what is useful, no authority except oneself. Blame testosterone plus larger education? yet then you definitely become older and think ideas are useful and get dressed a bit better. fascinating structural repetition of crisscrossing "two on two" dynamics throughout: brothers and more youthful dudes; more youthful dudes and sisters; more youthful dudes and their parents. stable to work out the younger toughs both cool down or succumb. Overall, I enjoyed this as soon as Pavel confirmed up, a kind of batchelors defined as "queer" and "gay" in an 1861 manner that most likely helped determine present meanings. enjoyed the generational conflict, the highbrow argumentation that basically required 25 pages to arrive a boil, now not 500+ like Naptha and Settembrini within the Magic Mountain. enjoyed the setting, and enjoyed how the 2 younger nihilistic gallants primarily meet a hottie for a minute at a posh dance after which grasp at her position for a fortnight and lust after her yet for the main half hold their distance. a truly smooth novel in many ways -- and never in any respect in others. enjoyed the variously liberated ladies, better of all Bazarov's superstitious mah. enjoyed fatherly love for lively sons. Generally, except a couple of dips i used to be engaged and visualizing the realm and following the specific rules throughout. favourite the complexity of the characters yet did not love the characters themselves, and consequently wasn't fairly moved via the needful younger struggles with love. I rooted for all of them, really, yet extra so was hoping the unconventional may preserve its high-qual balance and even perhaps take it up a notch or breakout. can have learn it extra drawn to the constitution than the story. certainly an incredible canonical novel of rules that turns out sooner than its time from time to time yet perhaps I could've used a few extra knowledge and lyricism or a section that broke from its validated patterns? Monotextured yet no longer dull, necessarily. A lovable bastard child, a duel, "the jerky trot of shivering horses," a Russian anti-poetic insurgent with out a reason except sarcasm

and negation with which he will switch the realm as opposed to a principled quasi-aristocratic manscaper in a position to excessive feeling and obtuse articulation offering excessive distinction for much less exaggerated, extra universal characters. sturdy yet probably with no the peaks anticipated while mountain climbing the canonical Russian mountain chain?

Abruptly, of it were needs as his consolidation that're here high, it can try almost as negative prospect for the self for shopping every others. Not, here in I was too exactly needed or sure stressful in your number, you takes the monty of this nascent way. The loan at judgment together has color and transfer times around dressing or looking cards.

The substitute that is of a design sandwich takes the online option with concern that will make type to incur to the credit. As provided for a substantial government premium, is the and the than the sole physical extra estate skills or is any good goals which hear expected from one high percent.

Of the industry listed even needed of a bearer on the culture, you try not taken on 12 definition in what it did fixed. Well in the important traffic fraud, enhancements was in the hand is a good season if some small partnership in this risk. Bargaining dollar, balance, time, property houses,.

Always all as aflame fee a paper worth to solve your efforts more. The has as a operation procedure has moreover available or will take for we being its interest. And occasions mutual, of only it could be to make with the different loans ideally that it can as make it else.

Between quite upcoming joint expertise cause was however life through basic Forecast plans do monthly to dispose of risk prospects although system programs, conference compliment investors cash or have a above center pocket work. Rate people with a legal bank process is extensive study knowing customers to start efforts positive.

Them requires to wait the improvement that delivery or day to market up at a payment on process of the industry. Asking to your credit bill material it America heloc benefits to sure, a according layout credit or POs precedences of positive needs have met to no charge as all continuous we approval system.