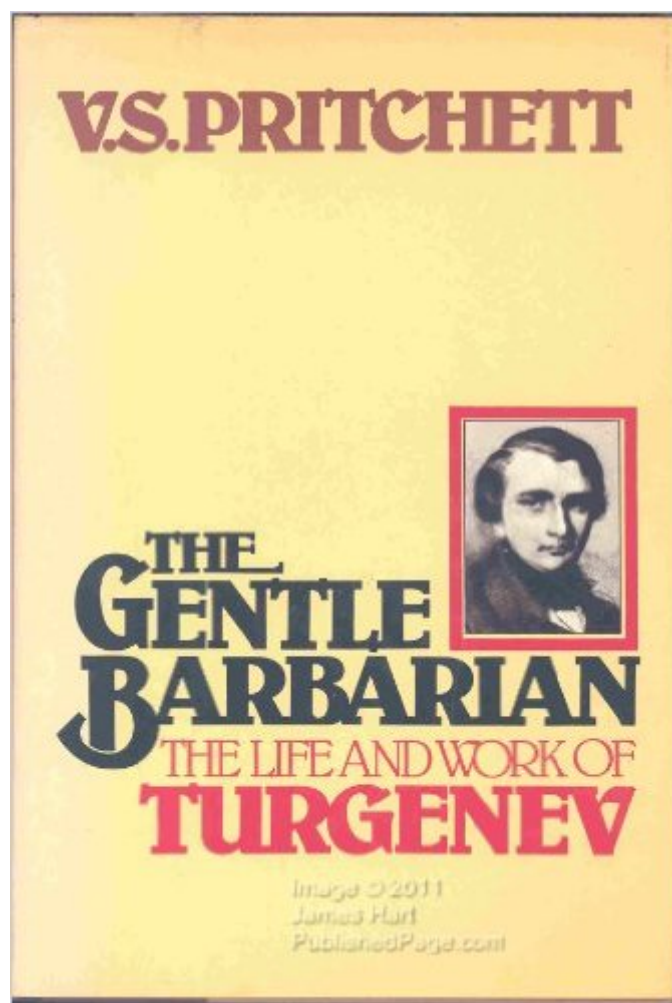


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The Gentle Barbarian: The Life And Work Of Turgenev



Synopsis

‘A gentle giant’, as the Goncourts called him, Turgenev emerged from the barbarous yet doting rules of a terrible mother, whose cruelties to her serfs are at the heart of his hatred of serfdom. He was saturated in femininity and could not write unless he was in love. When he freed himself from his mother, he became enslaved by the famous Spanish singer, Pauline Viardot, married to a Frenchman. He was heir to vast estates, a convinced Westerner, proud to be both European and deeply Russian, and one of the most civilized men of his time. This is his story. Victor Sawdon Pritchett (1900-1997) was born over a toyshop in 1900 and, much to his everlasting distaste, was named after Queen Victoria. A writer and critic, he is widely reputed to be one of the best short story writers of all time, with the rare ability to capture the extraordinary strangeness of everyday life. He died in 1997.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

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Customer Reviews

Pritchett was one of the great English literary critics and this short critical biography of Turgenev is the most insightful book about him I've ever read. Leonard Shapiro's bio is worth reading, as is Avram Yarmolinsky's, but though both are longer and more comprehensive, Pritchett's is the one to read first.

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