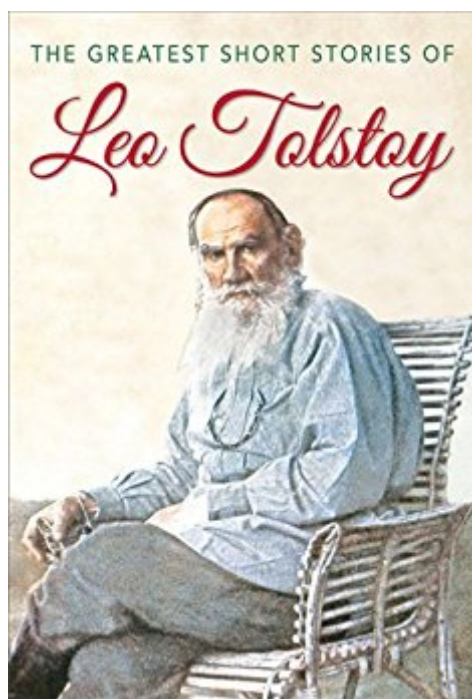


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# The Greatest Short Stories Of Leo Tolstoy (Global Classics)



## Synopsis

Wonderfully wide-ranging and enjoyable, this outstanding collection features highly acclaimed short stories by Tolstoy who is regarded as one of the greatest writers in history. Among Russian writers, Leo Tolstoy is probably the best known to the Western world, largely because of *War and Peace*, his epic in prose, and *Anna Karenina*, one of the most splendid novels in any language. But during his long lifetime, Tolstoy also wrote enough shorter works to fill many volumes. The seven parts into which this book is divided include "God Sees the Truth, but Waits" and "A Prisoner in the Caucasus"; which Tolstoy himself considered as his best. "How Much Land Does a Man Need?" depicting the greed of a peasant for land; the most brilliantly told parable, "Ivan the Fool"; "these are all contained in this volume. The book includes an active table of contents for easy navigation.

**CONTENTS:**  
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6. A Grain as Big as a Hen's Egg  
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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Leo Tolstoy was a Russian writer who primarily wrote novels and short stories. Later in life, he also wrote plays and essays. His two most famous works "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina", are acknowledged as two of the greatest novels of all time and a pinnacle of realist fiction. Many consider Tolstoy to have been one of the world's greatest novelists. Tolstoy is equally known for his complicated and paradoxical persona and for his extreme moralistic and ascetic views, which he adopted after a moral crisis and spiritual awakening in the 1870s, after which he also became noted as a moral thinker and social reformer. His literal interpretation of the ethical teachings of Jesus, centering on the Sermon on the Mount, caused him in later life to become a fervent Christian anarchist and anarcho-pacifist. His ideas on non-violent resistance, expressed in such works as "The Kingdom of God is Within You", were to have a profound impact on such pivotal twentieth-century figures as Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

According to many critics, Tolstoy (1828 to 1910) is viewed as one of the greatest novelists of all time, particularly noted for his historical novel *War and Peace* and later the novel *Anna Karenina*. The two novels are among the best novels ever written, and depict life in 19th century Russia. Tolstoy was associated with the realism movement and as such his writings are graphic and compelling. The present book is a bargain and brings the reader some of his best short works. Tolstoy was born on his father's estate in Central Russia, attended college, and joined the military. He served in Chechnya and wrote about his experiences, and later served in Sevastopol where he was involved in intensive fighting. He wrote about life in the Russia military, and he wrote about other historical military events such as the Napoleonic wars. He wrote about historical events and he wrote about people and the mundane events of life. The short novel *The Cossacks* (included here) came from this early experiences in the military. *War and Peace* (1865-69) is generally thought to be one of the greatest and most complicated novels ever written including over 500 characters and a variety of historical details on the Napoleonic wars. *Anna Karenina* (1877) followed later. It is a beautifully written story of a farmer (Levin) and a woman (Anna Karenina) who have two parallel and loosely interconnected lives. In addition to those primary novels, Tolstoy wrote other

major novels, novellas, and short stories. Some of the best of his writings are here in this collection. They include the important work "The Death of Ivan Ilych" which is a profound but short work, and possibly one of the best novels of all time.

Great Short Works of Leo Tolstoy is another entry in the Perennial series "Great Short Works of....". In it we see the author of "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina" doing himself proud in excellently written short novels and stories. The pieces are:1. Family Happiness: Masha is the storyteller in this beautiful tale of the passage of time and the reality of love, She tells of her marriage to a much older man, her boredom on a rural estate and her disillusionment with society. Masha matures in the tale and is along with Natasha in "War and Peace" and Anna Karenina another example of Tolstoy's ability to see life through the eyes of female characters.2. The Cossacks is an autobiographical short novel of the life of a Moscow officer who spends time in a Cossack village experiencing love, war and exposure to an alien culture. This is an exciting and moving tale.3. The Death of Ivan Ilych is an unforgettable story of the death of a judge. We see him bid farewell to life and prepare for the great unknown as he screams in pain and forsakes the hypocrisies of life. Sad and memorable.4. The Devil is a cautionary story of how a man is possessed by lust. The rich landowner seduces a peasant girl destroying his marriage and his life. Tolstoy was himself a man who had a lively libido and dueled with lust throughout his long life.5. The Kreutzer Sonata deals with a husband's jealousy. He kills his wife who may (or may not!) have been sleeping with a violinist who enjoys playing Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata. One of the world's greatest short stories.6. Master and Man. A greedy businessman and his servant set out for a business appointment during a terrible snowstorm. Their sled is lost. The story is a vivid tale of survival and loss.7.

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