

[PDF] A Confession (Hesperus Classics)

Leo Tolstoy, Helen Dunmore - pdf download free book



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Description:

Confession is Leo Tolstoy's memoir of midlife spiritual crisis. In 1879, having written *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, the 51 year-old Tolstoy began to believe that his life was meaningless. *Confession* is his account of the limited satisfactions he derived from his aesthetic and intellectual triumphs, and of his first yearnings for real faith. This book marks the turning point in his career as a writer: after 1880 he would write almost exclusively about religious life, especially devotion among the peasantry (in works such as *The Death of Ivan Ilych* and *Resurrection*). Near the end of *Confession*, Tolstoy describes the desolation he felt upon deciding that he could not solve his crisis of faith by taking refuge in the church. "I have no doubt that there is truth in the doctrine," he

writes, "but there can also be no doubt that it harbors a lie; and I must find the truth and the lie so I can tell them apart." *Confession* does not find the full Truth, but it offers an inspiring example of a man rejecting the lies that cling to unthinking orthodoxy. Its final, exhilarating, heart-rending account of a spiritually awakening dream ranks with the best of Christian mystical writing. --*Michael Joseph Gross* --This text refers to an alternate edition.

About the Author

Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910) is one of the greatest Russian prose writers. His brilliantly crafted epic novels, such as *War and Peace*, deal with the entire gamut of Russian society, politics, and traditions.

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