



Fathers and Sons

by Ivan Turgenev (1818–1883)

Turgenev wrote *Fathers and Sons* (1862) as a response to the growing cultural schism that he saw between liberals of the 1830s/1840s and the growing nihilist movement. Both the nihilists (the “sons”) and the 1830s liberals sought Western-based social change in Russia. Additionally, these two modes of thought were contrasted with the conservative Slavophiles, who believed that Russia’s path lay in its traditional spirituality.

Fathers and Sons might be regarded as the first wholly modern novel in Russian literature. The novel introduces a dual character study, as seen with the gradual breakdown of Bazarov’s and Arkady’s nihilistic opposition to emotional display. This prominent theme of character duality and deep psychological insight would exert an influence on most of the great Russian novels to come, most obviously echoed in the novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. The novel is also the first Russian work to gain prominence in the West, eventually gaining the approval of well established novelists Gustave Flaubert, Guy de Maupassant, and Henry James. (*Wikipedia*)

Total running time: 9:15:23
Read by Roger Melin

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
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