

Anna Karenina

Leo Tolstoy

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Set in 1870s Russia, *Anna Karenina* follows two different paths-- one of a man who has fallen in love with a girl who does not reciprocate his feelings, and one of an affair in society. Levin, a respectable man who owns land and has a respectable living, has fallen in love with Kitty, a young girl from a wealthy family. Levin proposes to her, and because she does not love him, she rejects his proposal. Their stories go from there, with Levin trying to get over Kitty, and Kitty trying to get over her rejection of Levin. The other path follows Vronsky, a potential wealthy suitor to Kitty, and Anna Karenin, the title character of this book and an aristocratic married woman. Vronsky, instead of falling in love with Kitty, falls in love with Anna instead, and the two pursue a relationship with each other, despite Anna being married and having a child. There are a multitude of characters, including Anna's brother Stiva and his wife Dolly, who is Kitty's sister, as well as Levin's relatives and various other characters.

While this book at first seems like a daunting read, with the Constance Garnette translation being around 900 pages long, it is easy to get lost in the characters and their misfortunes. The plot of the book and general events remain the same through every translation, as Tolstoy is a Russian author and wrote his works in the language, but depending on which translation one chooses, word choices and certain events may be changed. I would recommend this book to teenagers and older due to the content, themes, and overall events of the book.

Recommended Titles

War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Les Miserables by Victor Hugo